

**CULTURAL ARTS COMMITTEE
CITY OF PALM DESERT
STAFF REPORT**

MEETING DATE: April 9, 2025

PREPARED BY: Erica Powell, Management Analyst

SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURAL ARTS COMMITTEE FY 2025-2026
WORK PLAN

RECOMMENDATION:

Identify and establish three to five priorities for the Cultural Arts Committee's FY 2025-2026 work plan.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

For FY 2024-2025, the Cultural Arts Committee (CAC) established a comprehensive work plan to focus its efforts for the year. The three priorities included in the work plan included:

- **2025/2026 El Paseo Sculpture Exhibition**
- **San Pablo Phase II Roundabout Sculpture: *Dueling Palms* by Kyle Absolom**
- **2025 Desert X Sponsorship**

Next Steps

Staff is proposing the following three priorities for inclusion in the FY 2025-2026 workplan. CAC members are encouraged to review these proposed priorities and present their individual FY 2025-2026 priorities during the meeting for discussion. Proposed priorities should take staff time and budget into consideration. During the meeting, members will select three to five priorities for the 2025-2026 work plan which will be forwarded to the City Council for review and final approval.

1. San Pablo Phase II Roundabout: *Dueling Palms* by Kyle Absolom

Dueling Palms sculpture by Kyle Absolom is planned for installation at the San Pablo Avenue and College of the Desert roundabout. Originally proposed in the 2021 Call for Entries, this artwork was highly regarded, leading the City Council to request its installation at this location. Staff is working with the artist, and the project is in the final design phase.

2. Public Art Programming Subcommittee

Establish a subcommittee of up to three Committee members, to develop initiatives that increase community engagement with public art. This subcommittee will identify programming opportunities and explore partnerships and outreach strategies to expand public participation. Recommendations will be presented to the full committee for review and approval.

3. Utility Cabinet Beautification Review and Refresh

Assess existing utility cabinet artwork to determine necessary removals, replacements, or maintenance. A strategic plan will ensure equitable distribution of art-wrapped cabinets while attracting diverse artists. This plan will outline priority locations, artist selection processes, and budget requirements, with a phased implementation balancing maintenance and new installations.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Funding for the CAC's FY 2025-2026 Work Plan priorities will be included in the FY 2025-2026 Public Art Budget for the City Council's consideration.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Palm Desert City Council Approved Cultural Arts Committee FY 2024-2025 Work Plan