

CITY OF PALM DESERT STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: June 12, 2025

PREPARED BY: Erica Powell, Management Analyst

SUBJECT: CULTURAL ARTS COMMITTEE 2025-2026 WORK PLAN

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the Cultural Arts Committee's Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Work Plan.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

On May 14, 2025, the Cultural Arts Committee (CAC) developed a work plan consisting of the following three priorities to guide its FY 2025-2026 public art initiatives:

1. **San Pablo Roundabout, Phase 2: Request for Qualifications (RFQ)** – This capital improvement project will focus on developing and issuing a new RFQ and overseeing the selection and contracting process for a new sculpture at this location.
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.

Strategic Plan:

The CAC's FY 2025-2026 Work Plan is in line with the Arts & Culture Mini-Vision contained in the Strategic Plan, which states:

"Arts and culture give a community its soul. Palm Desert is the cultural core of the Coachella Valley. Cultural tourism drives economic growth in Palm Desert. The community is host to internationally recognized cultural events that bring significant economic benefits to the City. Palm Desert is a leader in arts education, ensuring a well-rounded population that possesses high levels of creativity and critical thinking skills."

Appointed Body Recommendation:

At its regular meeting of May 14, 2025, the Cultural Arts Committee recommended the City Council approve the FY 2025-2026 Work Plan as presented.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Funding for the priorities listed in the CAC's FY 2025-26 Work Plan will be included in the FY 2025-26 Public Art Budget Proposal for the City Council's consideration on June 26.

ATTACHMENT:

CAC Staff Report – May 14, 2025