

# CULTURAL ARTS COMMITTEE

## CITY OF PALM DESERT

### STAFF REPORT

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MEETING DATE: May 14, 2025

PREPARED BY: Erica Powell, Management Analyst

SUBJECT: REVISE PRIORITY ONE OF THE CULTURAL ARTS COMMITTEE'S  
FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 WORK PLAN

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#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Revise priority one of the Cultural Arts Committee's previously developed Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Work Plan and forward to the City Council for approval.

#### **BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:**

At its meeting on April 9, 2025, the Cultural Arts Committee (CAC) developed a focused work plan for Fiscal Year 2025–2026 to guide its public art initiatives which consisted of the following three priorities:

1. **San Pablo Phase 2 Roundabout – *Dueling Palms* by Kyle Absolom**  
Originally selected through the 2021 Call for Entries, *Dueling Palms* by Kyle Absolom was a highly rated proposal, and the City Council requested its installation at the San Pablo Avenue and College of the Desert roundabout. Staff has worked with the artist through the design development 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.

#### **Update to Priority #1:**

Since its April meeting, staff has initiated the process of recommending termination of the *Dueling Palms* proposal. However, staff recommends that the San Pablo Phase 2 Roundabout sculpture remain a top Committee priority. This revised scope would focus on developing and

issuing a new Call for Submissions and managing the selection and contracting process for a new artwork at this location.

**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.

**ATTACHMENT:**

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