



Staff Liaison
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AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION

Monday, September 29, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

El Cerrito City Council Chambers
10890 San Pablo Avenue
El Cerrito, CA 94530

(6:00 p.m) CONVENE REGULAR MEETING

- 1. ROLL CALL** – Chair Renée LeVesque; Vice Chair: Ruth Cazden; Members: Jenny Hammer, Courtney Helion, Kim Settles, Tyler Wilson and Juno Rabinovici (Youth Member)
- 2. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS, COUNCIL LIAISON AND STAFF LIAISON REPORTS**
- 3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**
Remarks are typically limited to three minutes per person, and may be on anything within the subject matter jurisdiction of the body. Remarks on non-agenda items will be heard first. Remarks on agenda items will be heard at the time the item is discussed.
- 4. EL CERRITO 2024/2025 POET LAUREATE REPORT**
Hear a presentation from 2024/2025 Poet Laureate Tess Taylor describing her accomplishments and reflections after completing her tenure as Poet Laureate.
- 5. ART IN PUBLIC PLACES PROGRAM DATABASE**
Hear a presentation from City Staff and provide input on an updated Art in Public Places Program database that provides information on Public Art that has been installed and developer contributions that have been received in relation to the Art in Public Places Program established in 2005. (Attachment)
- 6. MINI-GRANT PROGRAM DISCUSSION**
Review the current Arts & Culture Commission Mini-Grant Program Guidelines and an analysis of awards provided since 2020. Discuss and consider possible action to modify the Commission's approach to managing the mini-grant program

moving forward. (Attachment)

7. ACC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Hear updates, participate in discussion, and consider possible action items regarding planning, logistics, and expenditures for the ACC calendar of events, including:

- October Arts Month
 - 10/3 – ECCRU Artists City Hall Gallery Reception
 - 10/3 to 10/5 – El Cerrito Art Association Annual Art Show
 - 10/4 – Storytime with Oaktown Jazz at El Cerrito Library
 - 10/9 – Free Big Screen Classics, North by Northwest at Rialto Cerrito
 - 10/16 – Albany FilmFest in El Cerrito Social Justice Film Event
 - 10/19 – El Cerrito Free Folk Festival
 - 10/22 – The Annex Sessions: Los Nadies
 - 10/24 – Mindy Berardini City Hall Gallery Reception

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Consider approval of the minutes of the August 25, 2025, meeting. (Attachment)

9. UPCOMING ACC-AFFILIATED EVENTS

Review and discuss upcoming events and programs supported by the Arts & Culture Commission, including:

- El Cerrito Art Association Annual Art Show – October 3-5, 2025
- City Hall Gallery Shows
 - ECCRU Artists – August 25 - October 9, 2025
 - Closing Reception: October 3, 2025, 5-7pm
 - Mindy Berardini – October 15 - November 20, 2025
 - Reception: October 24, 2025, 5-7pm
 - Susan Harris – TBD
 - Keana Dollar-Dickerson – March 24 - April 30, 2026
 - Gail Morrison – May 11 - July 10, 2026
 - Fairmont School 3rd Grade Students - TBD
- El Cerrito Free Folk Festival – October 19, 2025

10. UPCOMING ITEMS







- Poet Laureate Call for Artists (November)
- El Cerrito Creative ReUse 2026 Artist Selection (November)
- **Next Meeting November 24, 2025**

11. ADJOURNMENT

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Staff Liaison Will Provost at (510) 215-4318. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title I). Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the members regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at www.elcerrito.gov/acc.

The Art in Public Places ordinance (adopted by the City Council on December 5, 2005) established the Art in Public Places Program. ECMC Section 13.50.030 details the Program’s contribution requirements, known as the “1% for Public Art”. Under the ordinance, private and municipal developments with development costs of two hundred fifty thousand dollars or more shall devote an amount not less than one percent of such costs for acquisition and installation of public art on the development site, up to one hundred fifty thousand dollars. Below is a listing of public art that has been installed and in-lieu payments that have been completed to-date in compliance with the ordinance.

Find the full requirements and information about eligible projects and exemptions at: https://library.municode.com/ca/el_cerrito/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT13STOTPUPL_CH13.50ARPUPL

Year Built	Address	Project Name	Development Valuation	1% for Public Art	Amount Paid	Art Contribution	Art Description	Picture of Art (if applicable)
2008	10890 San Pablo Ave	El Cerrito City Hall	\$ 6,910,000	\$ 69,100	N/A	Yes	Gallery Space	
2012	11450 San Pablo Ave.	El Cerrito Safeway	\$ 4,800,000	\$ 48,000	\$48,000	N/A		
2013	7501 Schmidt Lane	El Cerrito Recycling Center	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 20,000	\$24,000	N/A		
2016	11545 San Pablo Ave	Ross Dress for Less	\$ 900,000	\$ 9,000	\$9,000	N/A		
2017	10530-10532 San Pablo Ave	10530 San Pablo Mixed-Use Building	\$ 500,000	\$ 5,000	\$5,600	N/A		
2017	10636 San Pablo Ave	24 Hour Fitness	\$ 1,864,000	\$ 18,640	\$18,640	N/A		
2018	512 El Cerrito Plaza	Metro 510	\$ 13,698,000	\$ 136,980	\$150,000	N/A		
2021	10963 San Pablo Ave	Cerrito Vista	\$ 10,453,537	\$ 104,535	N/A	Yes	Sculptural Element Above Entryway	
2021	10300 San Pablo Ave	Credence	\$ 8,850,625	\$ 88,506	N/A	Yes	Art in Public Plaza	
2022	5805 Avila Street	Village 29	\$ 9,083,167	\$ 90,832	\$86,041	N/A		
2023	11600 San Pablo Ave	Mayfair Market-rate	\$ 31,572,927	\$ 315,729	N/A	Yes	Reflective Façade on East Side of Building	
2023	601 Lexington Ave.	601 Lexington Ave.	\$ 1,282,873	\$ 12,829	N/A	Yes	Art at Entrance on Lexington	
2024	729 Kearney St.	Little Lamb Bilingual Preschool	\$ 2,145,000	\$ 21,450	N/A	Yes	Artwork Along Fence	
2025	1715 Elm Street	1715 Elm Street	\$ 3,241,115	\$ 32,411	\$32,411	N/A		
2025	1711 Eastshore Blvd.	Security Public Storage	\$ 7,117,253	\$ 71,173	N/A	Yes	Mural along West Side of Building (voluntary)	
		Additional Developer Contributions			\$11,591	N/A		
Total					\$385,283			

Mini-Grants Awarded by Arts & Culture Commission, 2020 – 2025

Name of Recipient/program	Purpose of Grant	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
El Cerrito Preschool Cooperative	Annual Messy Art Day			\$750	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
El Cerrito Art Association	Annual Art Show Award	\$250		\$500		\$2,500	\$2,500
Rachel Melby	El Cerrito Makers Faire / Summer Kick-off						\$1,500
Free Folk Festival	Annual El Cerrito Free Folk Festival			\$1,250	\$1,000	\$1,100	\$1,200
Fairmont School	Peace Cranes for Ukraine			\$400			
Erin Merritt	Neighborhood Stories Performance		\$1,000				
Library Signage	Repaint El Cerrito Library Sign	\$3,000					
Kathy Doan	El Cerrito Community Orchestra April Event	\$300					
Community Orchestra Scholarships	Summer Orchestra Scholarship Program	\$1,500					
Total		\$5,050	\$1,000	\$2,900	\$2,000	\$4,600	\$6,200

Source: City of El Cerrito Analysis, 2025

Arts & Culture Commission Mini-Grant Program APPLICATION GUIDELINES

SUPPORTING THE ARTS IN EL CERRITO

The Arts and Culture Commission of El Cerrito (ACC), created in 2003, provides support through the “Art in Public Places Program” for individuals and organizations that are working to promote the Arts in our city. The ACC’s support takes a variety of forms, including publicity through the City’s website, social media, and publications; eligibility for discounted city owned venue space and financial support for specific events, projects, and arts activities in El Cerrito.

OVERVIEW OF MINI-GRANT PROGRAM

The mini-grant program was established by the Commission to provide focused support for initiatives that bring members of the El Cerrito community together through arts and culture events and programs. The annual funding allocated to the Mini-Grant Program as a whole is limited to a maximum of \$10,000 per fiscal year in total. This program does not fund installations or objects. Preference is given to proposals that are reimbursement-based and to individuals who live/work in El Cerrito. A goal of the ACC is to track the impact of sponsored events over time to inform future funding decisions. As such, after the sponsored event/program is completed, grantees shall return to the ACC to provide a short verbal presentation about the outcome of the event and the impact to the El Cerrito Community.

GENERAL CRITERIA

The event, project, or activity you propose must:

- 1) Be arts or culture related, to include music, film, dance, literature/poetry, and fine arts
- 2) Be held within the City of El Cerrito
- 3) Have El Cerrito Community Members be the intended primary audience
- 4) Be open and broadly accessible to everyone in the Community
- 4) Be free or very low cost to the attendees
- 5) Submit an application that is fully complete, that includes an itemized budget
- 6) Agree to return to the ACC to provide a short verbal presentation on how the proposal was implemented.

If requesting to use a [city-owned park or facility](#), you must contact the Recreation Department at recreation@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us well in advance of submitting your application to understand venue availability and the sponsorship (discounted) rates. The cost of the venue (and if required, staffing) must be in your proposed budget if you are requesting reimbursement for that piece of your proposal.

STEPS TO REQUEST SUPPORT FROM THE ACC

STEP 1: Contact staff liaison to the Arts and Culture Commission to discuss your proposed project at least three months prior to your start date.

STEP 2: As directed by the staff liaison, complete the application as detailed below.

STEP 3: Upon submission of the application, the staff liaison will contact you to schedule a presentation to the ACC.

STEP 4: Present your application in person at an ACC meeting,

APPLICATION

You can complete the application online at www.el-cerrito.org/ACCApplicationForm or by downloading

Arts & Culture Commission Mini-Grant Program

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

the PDF fillable form.

In your application, you will address the following:

- What are you proposing and how do you plan to implement it?
- Have you done a similar event or project before?
 - If yes, what worked well and what would you do differently this time?
- How many volunteers or other members of your program will be involved?
- How many attendees or how large an audience do you anticipate?
- How much are you asking from the ACC? If request is financial, you must enclose an itemized budget and detail how it will be spent.
 - If you've received funding from ACC in the past, please indicate the history for how much you were awarded. If you're requesting more than you were awarded in the past, please provide justification for the increase. From where else will you receive support?
- How will you address diverse audiences and environmental sustainability?

DUE DATE

The application is due at least three months in advance of your event, project, or activity to accommodate for enough review.

PRESENTING YOUR PROPOSAL TO THE ACC

If the Chair and Staff Liaison agree that your submittal meets all the requirements to have your proposal placed on its monthly agenda, you will need to present it to the Commission in person. The ACC typically meets at 6:00pm on the fourth Monday of every month. Presentations should last no more than five minutes and may include handout materials, PowerPoint, or other means of helping you make your case for support. When presenting or completing the application, do not assume the Commission is familiar with your proposal.

COMMISSION DECISION

The Commission may decide to accept or reject a proposal at the time of the presentation or may choose to review it further. If the Commission needs more information, the staff liaison will contact you with follow-up information.

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DRAFT MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION

Monday, August 25, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

El Cerrito City Council Chambers
10890 San Pablo Avenue
El Cerrito, CA 94530

(6:00 p.m) CONVENE REGULAR MEETING Chair Renée LeVesque called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

1. **ROLL CALL – Present:** Chair Renée LeVesque; Vice Chair: Ruth Cazden; Members: Courtney Helion, Kim Settles, and Juno Rabinovici (Youth Member)
2. **COMMISSIONERS’ REPORTS, COUNCIL LIAISON AND STAFF LIAISON REPORTS**
Staff Liaison Provost provided an update on California State Senate Bill (SB) 456, which is moving through the legislature and would exempt muralists from having a state contractors license to complete mural projects. This bill, if signed, would make it much easier for the City to complete mural projects in the future.
3. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**
El Cerrito Resident Buddy Akacic spoke in support of the efforts of the Arts & Culture Commission and expressed his interest in seeing greater collaboration with other groups, including seniors.
4. **EI CERRITO ART ASSOCIATION 2025 ART SHOW MINI-GRANT REQUEST**
Eileen Libby, President of the El Cerrito Art Association, presented a mini-grant funding request for Arts & Culture Commission support for the El Cerrito Art Association’s Annual Art Show in 2025.

El Cerrito Resident Jenny Hammer spoke in support of the El Cerrito Arts Association and urged the commission to increase the amount of support provided from past years.

Moved/Seconded: Vice Chair Cazden/Member Helion **Action:** Motion to approve a mini-grant request from the El Cerrito Art Association in the amount of \$2,500 to support the 48th Annual El Cerrito Art Association Annual Art Show **Ayes:** Chair LeVesque; Vice Chair Cazden; Member Helion. **Noes:** Member Settles. Motion approved. Youth Member Rabinovici expressed her opposition to the action.

5. CONTRA COSTA CIVIC THEATRE MINI-GRANT REQUEST

Contra Costa Civic Theatre Executive Artistic and Managing Director Joel Roster presented a mini-grant funding request for the Contra Costa Civic Theatre to produce the Come Together free concert event in February 2026.

The Arts & Culture Commission provided general direction to the applicant to refine the mini-grant application based on feedback received with the hope of agendaing the item at a later meeting.

6. EL CERRITO CREATIVE REUSE (ECCRU) ARTIST IN RESIDENCY REPORT

The Commission heard a presentation from 2024/2025 ECCRU Artists in Residence Zona Sage and Lisa Zimmer-Chu describing their accomplishments, reflections, and the art they created during their terms.

7. ECCRU RESIDENCY CALL FOR ARTISTS (CFA)

The ACC reviewed and discussed the draft CFA to identify the next El Cerrito ECCRU Artist in Residence.

ECCRU Artist Lisa Zimmer-Chu made comments encouraging the commission to include more information on the City Hall Gallery location and the gallery space's limitations in the next call for artists and to encourage the ACC to make changes to the CFA that would expand the visibility of the ECCRU residency.

Moved/Seconded: Vice Chair Cazden/Member Settles **Action:** Motion to approve of issuing the ECCRU Residency Call for Artists as presented while increasing the stipend amount to \$2,000 and limiting the eligibility to residents of El Cerrito, Richmond, Kensington, Albany, and Berkeley. **Ayes:** Chair LeVesque; Vice Chair Cazden; Members Helion, Settles. **Noes:** None. Motion approved. Youth Member Rabinovici expressed support for the action.

Member Helion volunteered to serve on the selection committee that will interview applicants.

8. ACC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Commission heard updates, participated in discussion, and considered possible action items regarding planning, logistics, and expenditures for the ACC calendar of events, including:

- October Arts Month
 - 10/3 – ECCRU Artists City Hall Gallery Reception
 - 10/3 to 10/5 – El Cerrito Art Association Annual Art Show
 - 10/4 – Storytime with Oaktown Jazz at El Cerrito Library
 - 10/9 – Free Big Screen Classics, North by Northwest at Rialto Cerrito
 - 10/16 – Albany FilmFest in El Cerrito Social Justice Film Event

- 10/19 – El Cerrito Free Folk Festival
- 10/22 – The Annex Sessions: Los Nadies
- 10/24 – Mindy Berardini City Hall Gallery Reception

Moved/Seconded: Member Settles/Vice Chair Cazden **Action:** Motion to approve the printing of the October Arts Month posters as presented with expenses not to exceed \$300. **Ayes:** Chair LeVesque; Vice Chair Cazden; Members Helion, Settles. **Noes:** None. Motion approved. Youth Member Rabinovici expressed support for the action.

9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Consider approval of the minutes of the June 23, 2025, meeting.

Moved/Seconded: Member Helion/Vice Chair Cazden **Action:** Motion to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2025 meeting **Ayes:** Chair LeVesque; Vice Chair Cazden; Members Helion, Settles. **Noes:** None. Motion approved. Youth Member Rabinovici expressed support for the action.

10. UPCOMING ACC-AFFILIATED EVENTS

Review and discuss upcoming events and programs supported by the Arts & Culture Commission, including:

- City Hall Gallery Shows
 - ECCRU Artists – August 25 - October 9, 2025
 - Receptions: September 5 and October 3, 2025, 5-7pm
 - Mindy Berardini – October 15 - November 20, 2025
 - Reception: October 24, 2025, 5-7pm
 - Susan Harris – TBD
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- October Arts Month
- El Cerrito Free Folk Festival – October 19, 2025

11. UPCOMING ITEMS

- Poet Laureate Presentation (September) + CFA (November 2025)

12. ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Renée LeVesque, Chair

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Arts and Culture Commission meeting of August 25, 2025, as approved by the Arts and Culture Commission.

Will Provost, Staff Liaison