



Staff Liaison
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AGENDA

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

- 1. ROLL CALL** – 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**
- 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. EI CERRITO ART ASSOCIATION 2025 ART SHOW MINI-GRANT REQUEST**
For discussion and possible action, consider request for support from the El Cerrito Art Association to provide mini-grant funding in the amount of \$3,000 to support the El Cerrito Art Association's Annual Art Show in 2025. (Attachment)
- 5. CONTRA COSTA CIVIC THEATRE MINI-GRANT REQUEST**
For discussion and possible action, consider request for support from the Contra Costa Civic Theatre to provide mini-grant funding in the amount of \$2,000 to support the Come Together free concert event in February 2026. (Attachment)
- 6. EL CERRITO CREATIVE REUSE (ECCRU) ARTIST IN RESIDENCY REPORT**
Hear 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. (Attachment)

7. ECCRU RESIDENCY CALL FOR ARTISTS (CFA)

For discussion and possible action, consider approval a draft CFA to identify the next El Cerrito ECCRU Artist in Residence and consider recommendation for a Commissioner to serve on the interview panel. (Attachment)

8. 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 (Attachment)
 - 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

Consider approving expenditures not-to-exceed \$300 on October Arts Month posters/outreach.

9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Consider approval of the minutes of the June 23, 2025, meeting. (Attachment)

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 25, 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
- October Arts Month
- El Cerrito Free Folk Festival – October 19, 2025

11. UPCOMING ITEMS

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

12. 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.

Arts & Culture Commission Support Application

Reset Form

Contact/Applicant Name: _____	
Organization Name (if applicable): _____	
Contact Phone: _____	Contact Email: _____
Contact Address/City/Zip: _____	
Location of proposed event/project: _____	Anticipated number of attendees? _____
Date(s) & Times(s) of the event: _____	
Project Description (include project description below): _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	
Have you done a similar event or project before? Yes No	
The Arts & Culture Commission cares about diverse audiences and environmental sustainability. Can you tell us how you will address those concerns?*	
_____ _____ _____ _____ _____	

PLEASE COMPLETE PAGE 2

Arts & Culture Commission Support APPLICATION

REQUEST

Type of Support Requested:

Publicity Financial Support enter amount City-owned discounted venue/space

If discounted venue/space, have you already contacted the Recreation Department at recreation@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us to inquire about availability and discounted cost? If not, please do so before submitting this application. [Review application guidelines here.](#)

What is your basic budget, and how will it be spent?

Please attach your line-item budget (if requesting financial support)

Have you received funding from the ACC in the past? Yes No

If yes, provide the history of the past project/event, and how much you were awarded. If you are requesting more than what you were awarded in the past for the same project/event, please provide justification for the increase.

Upon implementation of project/event, you will be required to return to the ACC in person to provide a short verbal presentation on how the proposal was implemented. Please confirm that you agree to complete this requirement.

Yes No

STAFF/PERSONNEL: # paid staff _____ # volunteers _____

ECAA Budget Worksheet -- 07.29.2025

	2025 Budget	YTD 2025 Actual
Income		
Administrative		
Member Dues (\$40)	5,080.00	3,840.00
Donations from Members	2,000.00	705.00
Sales Donation from Other Shows	250.00	-
Annual Art Show		
Art Show Entry Fees Members (\$20 per piece)	5,900.00	-
Art Show Entry Fees Non-Members (\$25 per piece)		-
Art Show Entry Fees Bin Sales (\$10)		-
Art Show Sales Donation Members (20% of sales)	1,150.00	-
Art Show Sales Donation Non-Members (20% of sales)		-
Art Show Donation Bin Sales (20% of sales)		-
Merchant Award Donations	1,500.00	-
Brouwer Award Donation		-
Falconer Award Donation		-
Elizabeth Kavaler Memorial Award Donation	100.00	-
Public Donations	250.00	-
Total Annual Art Show	8,900.00	-
Miscellaneous		
Grant from El Cerrito Arts & Culture Commission		-
Total Income	16,230.00	4,545.00
Expenses		
Annual Art Show		
Awards at Art Show (1st, 2nd, 3rd, Brower, etc.)	2,375.00	-
Merchant Awards - Checks Written on their behalf	1,000.00	-
Judges' Fees	600.00	-
Hospitality - Art Show Set-Up & Reception (Glasses, etc)	1,500.00	-
Rental for ECCC Show Space (setup & take down)	3,335.40	2,132.60
Ribbons	300.00	-
Marketing and Advertisements	300.00	-
Printing (Show Catalog, Posters, Postcards)	2,000.00	-
Supplies (paint, holders, lables, 3x5 cards, ink, etc)	200.00	-
Website maintenance, new online forms, etc. as needed	2,100.00	837.50
Cash for Art Show		-
Total Annual Art Show	13,710.40	2,970.10
Other Art Shows		
Rental for 4th of July Booths	150.00	150.00
Administrative		
Akismet Scan Protection (April)		-
Chamber of Commerce Dues	143.00	143.00
Checks	150.00	-
Directors' Insurance	500.00	500.00
Domain Name Annual Fee (inc. Private Reg. Service)	1,654.00	-
Legal Fees (DMV Lawsuit)	2,000.00	2,000.00
Locker Rental at Community Center (Annual Fee)	468.00	-
Member Roster (printing, envelopes, postage)	350.00	357.61
Office Supplies	350.00	579.55

ECAA Budget Worksheet -- 07.29.2025

	2025 Budget	YTD 2025 Actual
PayPal Fees	500.00	177.00
Postage	250.00	-
Post Office Box	248.00	248.00
Rental Space from Community Center for Meetings	1,608.00	2,100.60
Software (WordPress, GoDaddy, Domain Name, all web licenses)	1,753.99	1,753.99
Square Reader charges	150.00	-
Survey (printing survey and letter, postage and envelopes)	150.00	-
Taxes	6.20	6.20
WPForms	79.00	79.00
Total Administrative	10,360.19	7,944.95
Miscellaneous		
2024 Art Show Sales Checks Cashed in 2025	-	162.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	-	-
Total Miscellaneous	-	162.00
Total Expenses	24,220.59	11,227.05

2025 Bank Reconciliation		
12/31/2024 Balance		11,636.30
+ Activity to Date		(6,682.05)
Ending Balance		4,954.25

Cash in Checking Account @ 04.22.2025		4,954.25
Check # 3002 - Brouwer Award		(50.00)
Available cash after pending transactions		4,904.25

From: noreply@civicplus.com
To: [Will H. Provost](#); [Lina Huang](#)
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Arts & Culture Commission Support Application Form
Date: Monday, August 11, 2025 9:48:38 AM

This sender is trusted.

Arts & Culture Commission Support Application Form

Contact/Applicant Name: Joel Roster

Organization Name (if applicable): Contra Costa Civic Theatre

Contact Phone: [REDACTED]

Contact Email: [REDACTED]@ccct.org

Contact Address: 951 Pomona Ave.

City/Zip: El Cerrito/94530

Location of proposed event/project: Contra Costa Civic Theatre

Anticipated number of attendees? 170

Date(s) & Time(s) of the event: February 14th, 2PM

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Include project description here: Come Together is a free concert provided by Contra Costa Civic Theatre on February 14th, 2026, with the purpose of highlighting community talent in El Cerrito. The concert will feature adult professional artists as well as youth groups from the area, performing a variety of musical acts.

Have you done a similar event or project before? Yes

The Arts & Culture Commission cares about diverse audiences and environmental Diversity in all aspects and regards is a primary concern for CCCT, reflected in our staffing, programming, and artists. The concert will feature an eclectic selection of music genres, performing artists, and specified outreach to target differing economic, cultural, and age groups. The concert is free (though tickets are required for entry), relying on community donations,

sustainability. Can you tell us how you will address those concerns?

which we believe will make the accessibility much easier for all income levels.

REQUEST

Type of Support Requested:

Financial Support

Enter \$ Amount

2000

If discounted venue/space, have you already contacted the Recreation Department at recreation@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us to inquire about availability and discounted cost? If not, please do so before submitting this application. Review [application guidelines here](#).

What is your basic budget, and how will it be spent?

Our budget for the event is \$3800, and the majority of that expense goes toward staffing for the day, as well as additional payment for professional musicians.

Please upload your line-item budget (if requesting financial support)

[Come Together Concert Budget.pdf](#)

Have you received funding from the ACC in the past?

No

If yes, provide the history of the past project/event, and how much you were awarded. If you are requesting more than what you were awarded in the past for the same project/event, please provide justification for the increase.

Field not completed.

Upon implementation of project/event, you will be required to

Yes

return to the ACC in person to provide a short verbal presentation on how the proposal was implemented. Please confirm that you agree to complete this requirement.

STAFF/PERSONNEL

paid staff 6

volunteers 4

If applicable, load additional documents here: *Field not completed.*

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

Contra Costa Civic Theatre

Budget Overview: COME TOGETHER (El Cerrito Concert)

February 14th, 2026

	Total
Revenue	
41000 EARNED INCOME	
41100 Advertising	\$ 150.00
41200 Concessions & Snack Bar	
41210 Concessions Revenue	\$ 2,200.00
41290 Concessions Expense	\$ (1,000.00)
Total 41200 Concessions & Snack Bar	\$ 1,200.00
41600 Production Revenue	
41610 Box Office	
41610.3 Special Event Income	
Total 41610 Box Office	\$ -
41690 Ticket Fees	
Total 41600 Production Revenue	\$ -
Total 41000 EARNED INCOME	\$ 1,350.00
42000 CONTRIBUTED INCOME	
42100 Corporate Contributions	\$ 1,000.00
42400 Individual Giving	
42400.4 Individual	\$ 5,000.00
Total 42400 Individual Giving	\$ 5,000.00
42500 In-Kind Donations	\$ -
Total 42000 CONTRIBUTED INCOME	\$ 6,000.00
Total Revenue	\$ 7,350.00
Expenditures	
50000 PERSONNEL EXPENSES	
51000 SALARIES & BENEFITS	
51100 Salaries	
51105 Executive Artistic Director	\$ -
51110 Directors	
51110.1 Director	
51110.2 Music director	
Total 51110 Directors	\$ -
51120 Designers	
51120.2 Lighting designer	\$ 400.00
51120.4 Sound designer	
Total 51120 Designers	\$ 400.00
51140 Builders and Technicians	
51140.3 Deck crew	\$ 350.00
51140.4 Sound Engineer	\$ 400.00
Total 51140 Builders and Technicians	\$ 750.00

Contra Costa Civic Theatre

Budget Overview: COME TOGETHER (El Cerrito Concert)

February 14th, 2026

	Total
51160 Front of House	\$ 100.00
Total 51100 Salaries	\$ 1,250.00
51200 Benefits & Payroll Expenses	
51240 Payroll Taxes	\$ 200.00
Total 51200 Benefits & Payroll Expenses	\$ 200.00
Total 51000 SALARIES & BENEFITS	\$ 1,450.00
52000 CONTRACTORS	
52200 Program Contractors	\$ 2,000.00
52200.5 Stage & Production Management	\$ -
Total 52200 Program Contractors	\$ 2,000.00
Total 52000 CONTRACTORS	\$ 2,000.00
Total 50000 PERSONNEL EXPENSES	\$ 3,450.00
60000 OPERATING EXPENSES	
60100 GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENS	
60135 Licenses & Taxes	
60135.2 ASCAP/BMI/SESAC	\$ 100.00
60135.3 Liquor Licenses	\$ 150.00
Total 60135 Licenses & Taxes	\$ 250.00
60140 Occupancy	
60149 Utilities	
60149.1 PG&E	\$ 100.00
Total 60149 Utilities	\$ 100.00
Total 60140 Occupancy	\$ 100.00
Total 60100 GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENS	\$ 350.00
Total 60000 OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 350.00
Total Expenditures	\$ 3,800.00
Net Operating Revenue	\$ 3,550.00
Net Revenue	\$ 3,550.00

FINAL REPORT FOR 2024/25 ECCRU ARTIST RESIDENCY

Lisa Zimmer-Chu

(photo 1) Recycling is complex, and I was honored for an extension to give the topic more time. I've cherished delving into recycling and how we manage waste in our consumptive society. It was a dream to do it from my artistic perspective! I learned a lot about the complexities of waste management from supportive, dedicated staff at the center. It was fun to spend time there with salvaging creds! It's a special community who takes the extra step to minimize their consumption footprint.

The Story of El Cerrito Recycling Center

(photo 2) I explored materials as they originate from earth. Contemplating those elements, I also considered geologic time. I observed that from the numerous collection bins at the center, the items that are truly recycled originate as 4 essential materials; wood/plants, metal, sand, and fossil fuel. But something that makes ECRC unique is that much is collected beyond what's recycled.

(photo 3) That was the story. I gathered stuff and made a 6-piece installation to be read as a whole; four are made with and about the four essential materials, one describes how much of those materials the community generates, and one is about the other services ECRC provides. Every piece is round, symbolizing the shape of the center, emphasizing the CYCLE, and in honor of my aspiration to participate in a circular economy.

Matter in Time

(photo 4) SEEDS OF TIME is a clock image made with handmade paper (wood/plants). It relates to time as we know it, showing the growth of a tree from a seed to maturity, which can happen in less than a human lifetime.

(photo 5) ROUND AND ROUND is made of metal, and spins to honor metals ability to be recycled indefinitely. As for their origins, they were "created within a star at the beginning phases of the universe"!

(photo 6) THERE AND BACK is made of glass, and harkens the waves on the ocean. Though beach sand is not commonly used in glassmaking, sand is

often associated with the sea. Seaglass comes from broken pieces of waste that was not recycled, back to its ocean home to return to its original form.

(photo 7) DINOPASTI uses plastic made from fossil fuels that took millions of years to generate under exactly the right conditions. The toys bring light to a serious threat to our collective children's future – the extraction, production, and burning of fossil fuels. The industry continues to lobby to increase plastic production, of which millions of tons end up in landfills and may take 1,000 or more years to degrade.

(photo 8) PLAY IT AGAIN uses a film reel to reflect the volume of the four essential recycled materials that Contra Costa residents drop off at the center, how much is picked up curbside, and the total truly recyclable waste our community generates – or at least what it collects.

(photo 9) non-CYCLABLES uses a wheel to examine the destination of other waste items collected at the center (Garbage, ReUse, Hazardous Waste, Compost, Exchange, Safe Disposal).

Sharing the ECRC Story

(photo 10) My first public event for 2025 was the premier of the East Bay Go Green! Mobility Fair during Earth Month. I offered materials for participants to map their mobility footprint using symbols of places they can walk/to (on unused but nevertheless discarded shoe inserts) and/or places they can bike/to. Nearly all chose the biking option, using wheels made with CDs and cassette tape spokes.

(photo 11) When I applied for ECCRU I knew I wanted to offer an activity at the excellent World One Festival. Mural activist friends assisted me in working with the public to create a street mural embodying the spirit of the festival - MAKING THE WORLD ONE. It was a deeply satisfying day.

I've done a great deal of writing as an ECCRU resident (application, reports, presentations, communication, descriptions, proposals, promotion). Some was required, and artists do that all the time. Other writing I chose to do, using the platform of my residency to increase the quality of the ECCRU experience and visibility of the program. I want to reduce the non-studio work of future residents by establishing art partnerships in the community.

I believe applicants are attracted to residencies to focus on the creative work of an artist, as well as to find community, and for professional exposure (i.e. exhibits).

Amplifying the ECCRU Mission

(photo 12) I curated the "ROUND AND ROUND" exhibit at NIAD's Richmond gallery. It deepened my connection with NIAD, which has been a supportive local artist community for me. Exhibitors were NIAD artists, staff and volunteers, and included "MATTER IN TIME" as a cohesive installation. The show reached a diverse audience and generated a lot of interest in ECCRU.

(photo 13) At the start of the residency I'd imagined showing work in all kinds of spaces, but I discovered many limitations. The City Hall space seems the only real option, and while it's considered a gallery, display is limited to items hung on the wall. I am disappointed that my 6-piece installation, which includes two that hang from the ceiling, had to be broken up at opposite ends of the hall. Nevertheless, it's fun that the show is up for our final meeting, great that it coincides with arts month, and very satisfying to celebrate our residencies.

The idea for a partnership between ECCRU and the Richmond Art Center (RAC) is taking form and has been shared with Ruth and Renee. RAC staff, (2018 ECCRU artist) Erin McCluskey Wheeler, and I brainstormed that it might include; Outreach, Public Programs/Events, 10 Year Retrospective spring 2027, and a free class for artist residents in support of their work. It could provide professional support for artists and exposure to ECCRU, increasing its reach and thereby amplifying the mission of the program. It would be invaluable to ECCRU and future residents to have other options about where work can be shown (and seen), especially 3d work. I look forward to continuing this discussion with the ACC, and am happy to do so beyond my term.

(photo 14) MAKING THE WORLD ONE originated at our 2024 debrief, and is an example of the support given by City Staff - the project was born of an offer of chalk, cases of which had been stored for years. I enjoyed partnering with ACC at the festival, who sent a lot of happy families home with chalk. This was the debut of my finished banner, which will be available to future ECCRU residents to use when they do events.

It's been wonderful to co-reside with Zona! She came through with exactly the materials I needed to complete the banner. When I sought input from past ECCRU artists for the RAC proposal about their motivation for upcycling, she provided a compelling narrative that echoes that of a friend after my NIAD show - exactly as I went to search for my friend's text to describe a similar sentiment. The ECCRU mission to support local artists by establishing community was met by getting to serve with Zona.

I was drawn to the mission of ECCRU. I believe in the arts to help make the cultural changes we need to stop overwhelming our planet with the waste of our consumption, and am fortunate to live in a community that recognizes the unique perspective artists can give. I hope the work I have done helps amplify ECCRU's mission.

Thank you to the ACC and the ECCRU program for the opportunity. Onward with the mission!

Artist Residency

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El Cerrito Creative ReUse

















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Round and Round

curated by
Lisa Zimmer-Chu

April 5 -
May 2,
2025

NIAD Annex
551 23rd St,
Richmond, Ca 94804



ARTISTS:

DEATRA COLBERT
LUIS ESTRADA
SYLVIA FRAGOSO
FELICIA GRIFFIN
SHANA HARPER
PETER HARRIS
JEAN MCELVANE
CARLOTA RODRIGUEZ
JESUS SALAS
VINCENTÉ VALENZUELA
OCEAN ESCALANTI
KIEREN DUTCHER
OFRA FISHER
ANITA CARSE
LISA ZIMMER-CHU
ANDRES CISNEROS-GALINDO

About the Exhibition:

Round and Round celebrates the beauty of roundness, circularity and cycles. It's about continuity and repetition, motion, stages of life, generations, and seasons; regeneration and recyclability. It's decidedly nonlinear, nonhierarchical. Feminine. Circles are closed loops that embrace the center within.

Round and Round features work by NIAD artists, staff, and volunteers, including an installation by one who is a current ECCRU (El Cerrito Creative ReUse) artist resident titled Matter in Time, about the source and destiny of materials collected at the recycling center over the past year.

For more info and access requests: gallery@niadart.org



www.niadart.org

@NIADARTCENTER





2024/2025

ECCRU

EL CERRITO CREATIVE REUSE

ART EXHIBIT

EMBODYING THE SPIRIT OF
SUSTAINABILITY & ARTISTIC INNOVATION

Artists Zona Sage & Lisa Zimmer-Chu

AUGUST 25 — OCTOBER 9, 2025

Opening Reception
Friday, September 5
5:00-7:00

Mon & Wed 8:00-4:00
Tues & Thurs 8:00-6:00
Fri 9/5, 9/19, 10/3 8:00-4:00

Closing Reception
Friday, October 3
5:00-7:00

El Cerrito City Hall Gallery 10890 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito



The El Cerrito Creative ReUse (ECCRU) Artist Residency Program supports local artists who work with recycled materials. It encourages environmental stewardship – specifically, **resource conservation, recycling and upcycling** – in the community through art that inspires people to think about sustainability and consumption.

Interested in becoming the City of El Cerrito's next ECCRU Artist in Residence? The El Cerrito Arts & Culture Commission anticipates releasing a Call for Artists (CFA) in September 2025 to select next year's artist. Find the CFA and learn more at elcerrito.gov/eccru



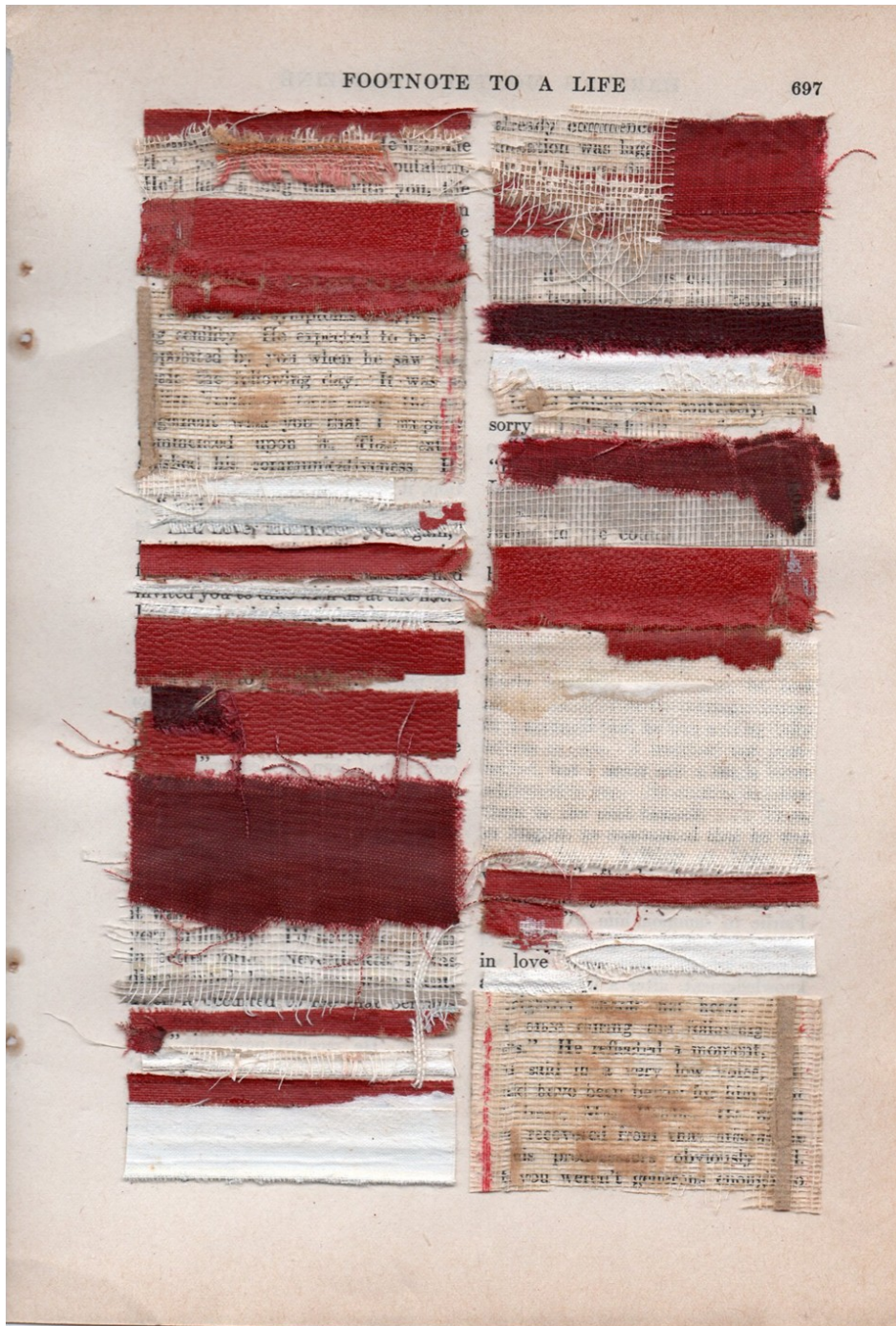


MAKING THE WORLD ONE
WITH MY OWN 2 HANDS

FINAL REPORT FOR 2024/25 ECCRU ARTIST RESIDENCY

Zona Sage

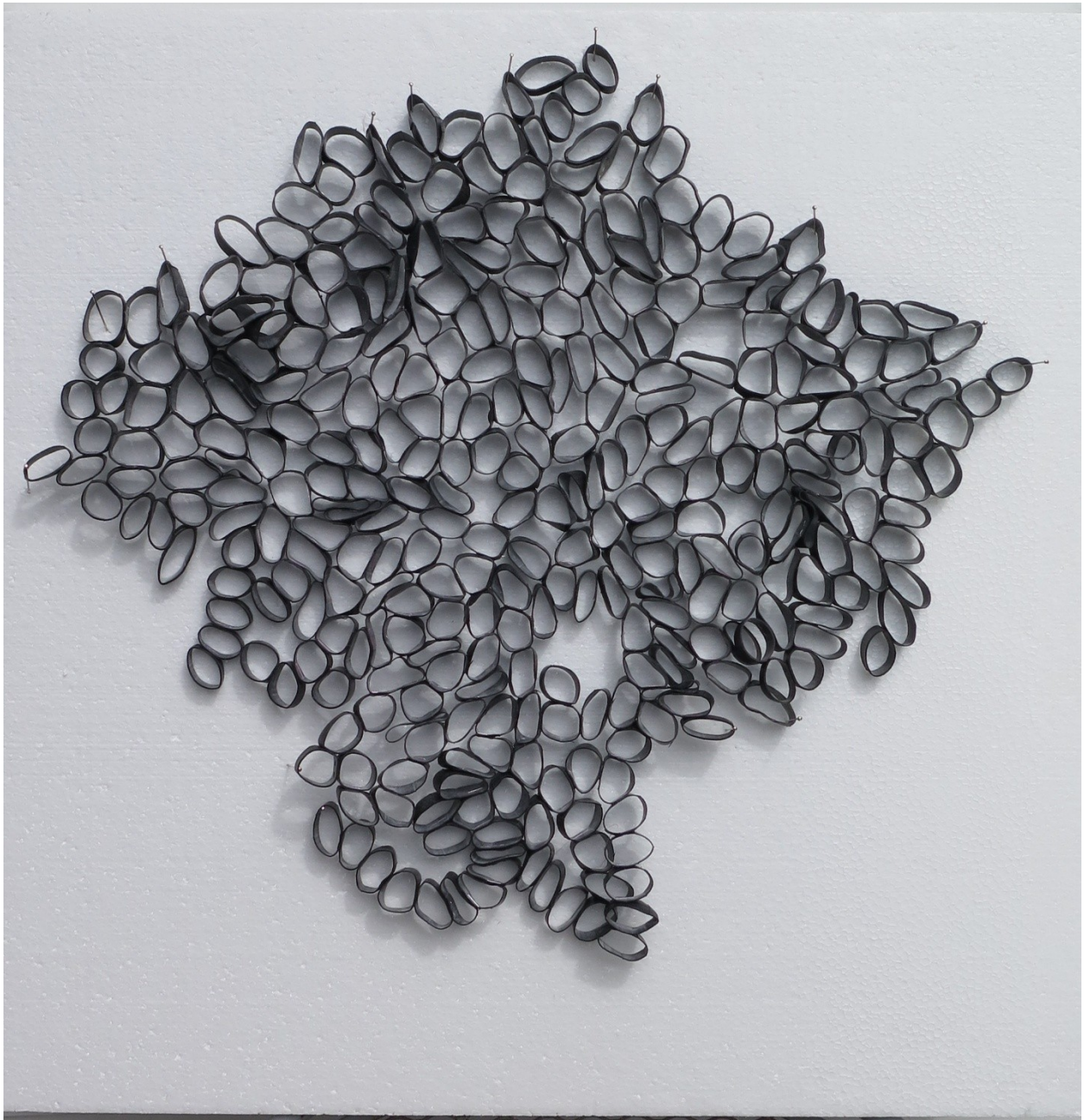




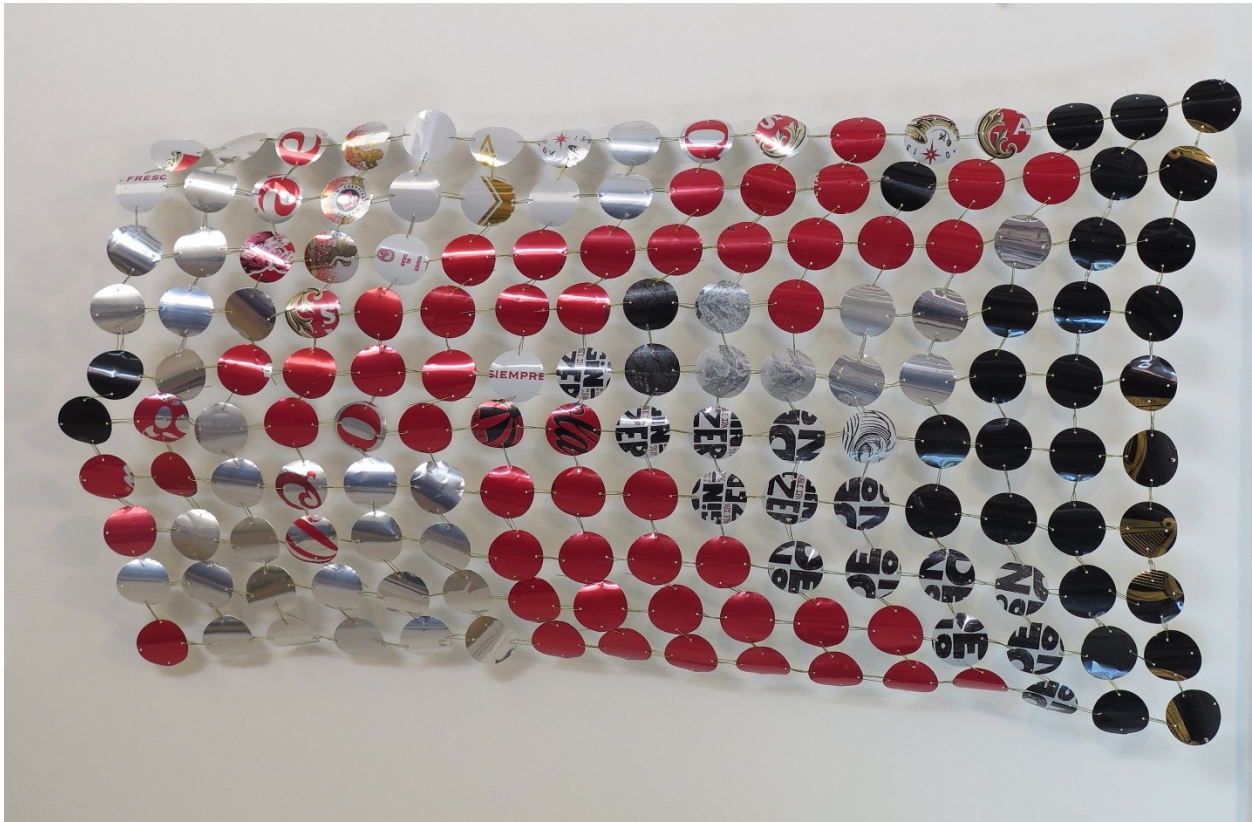
ELEGY FOR ALMA and FOOTNOTE TO A LIFE are from a series I did of pages from a 1934 Haper's magazine. Each page is machine stitched, with some of the pieces having additions of fabric and book scraps. Several in the series will be in the exhibit.



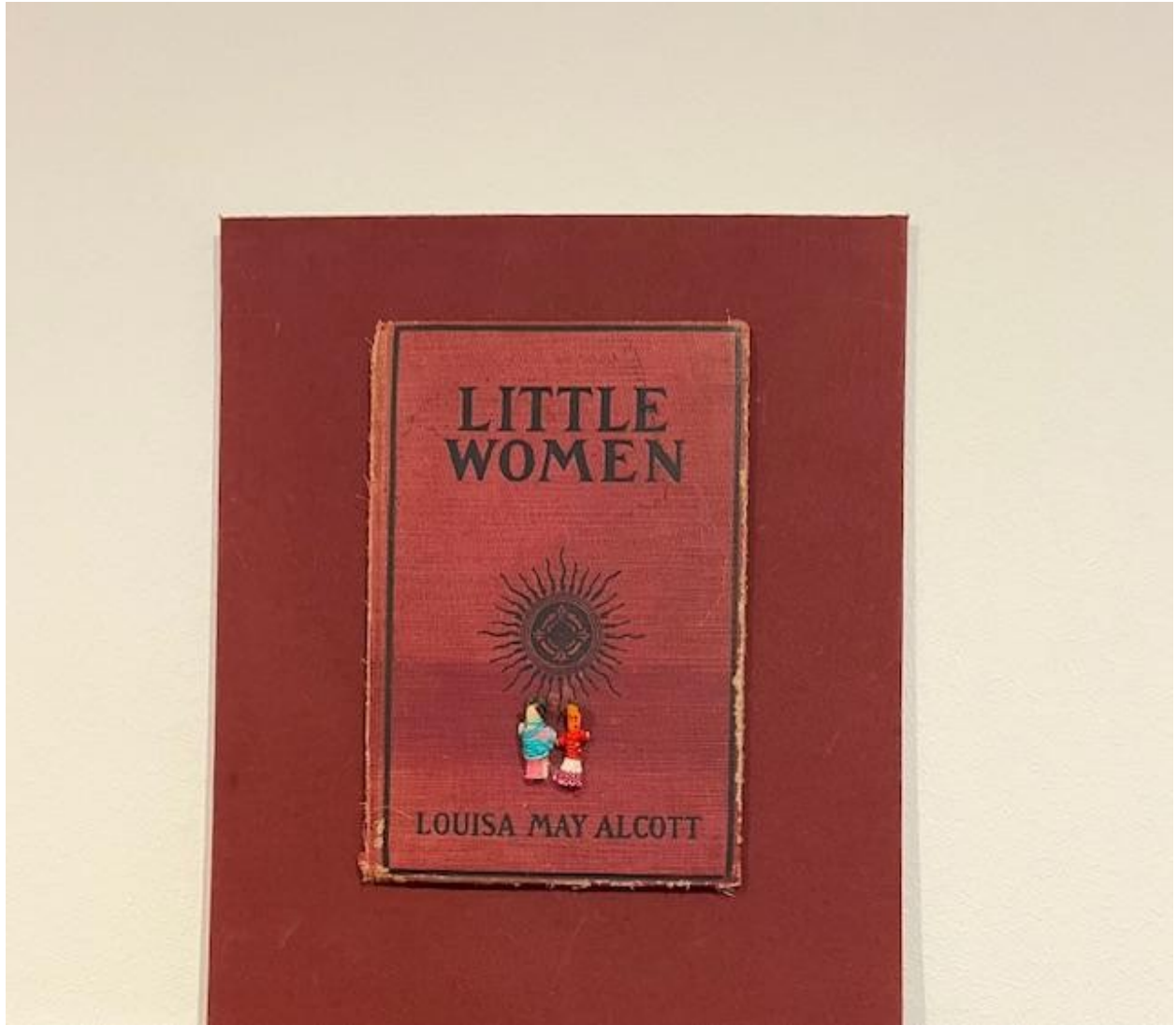
RED BOOK QUILT is a piece made from book covers, machine and hand sewn together.



RECYCLE is made from bicycle inner tubes. It was on exhibit at the recent ACCI show in Berkeley, Joie Debris. Because of the restrictions concerning methods of mounting artwork in City hall, it will not be in this exhibit.



RED RIVER is made from drink cans, cut into circles and joined with copper wire. It may be in the exhibit if it is possible to use the City's hanging mechanisms.



LITTLE WOMEN uses the book cover with two “worry dolls” stitched on. The book cover is attached to another book cover. Many of the pieces in this exhibit are mounted in this fashion...books and pages mounted on book covers.



UNITED STATES OF SCRAP is a mixed media piece, with book parts, canvas, cord, tea bags, various fabrics and hand stitching.



CALL FOR ARTISTS
City of El Cerrito, California
El Cerrito Creative ReUse (ECCRU) Artist Residency Program

Deadline: October 15, 2025
<http://www.elcerrito.gov/ECCRU>

The City of El Cerrito invites artists to apply for a 12-month residency taking place at the El Cerrito Recycling + Environmental Resource Center (“RERC” or “Center”).

The purpose of the program is to support local artists who work with recycled materials, and to encourage environmental stewardship – *specifically resource conservation, recycling and upcycling* – in the community through art that inspires people to think about sustainability and consumption.

The El Cerrito Creative ReUse (“ECCRU”) Artist Residency provides the artist with: a stipend, access to materials at the RERC for use in artistic projects, an on-site storage bin for materials, and support for an exhibition at the end of the residency. Artwork will be created in the artist’s own workspace, which is not provided. We encourage artists working in all mediums to apply, including but not limited to, painters, textile artists, musicians, performers, photographers, printmakers, those working in film and video, and conceptual and installation artists.

Eligibility

The ECCRU Artist must:

- Be either a resident of or work in Contra Costa County or Alameda County
- Be at least 18 years old
- Demonstrate a commitment to upcycling and creative reuse

Additional Considerations:

- Artists must attend a tour of the RERC - see website for available dates:
<https://www.elcerrito.gov/955/Programs>.
- Artists must demonstrate that creation of the artwork will be conducted in a safe workspace with the proper tools required for the chosen mediums. If deemed appropriate, the Artist must conduct a site visit to their workspace as part of the interview process.

Length of Term

The ECCRU Artist Residency is a 12-month term. However, at the discretion of the El Cerrito Arts and Culture Commission (“ACC” or “Commission”), the term may be extended.

Honorarium

The Artist will receive a stipend of \$750 every six months of the residency (\$1,500 for the 12-month term).

At the discretion of the Arts and Culture Commission, the Commission may choose to cover expenses for a gallery exhibition of works created during the residency at a cost not-to-exceed \$250.

About El Cerrito and Our Recycling + Environmental Resource Center

The City of El Cerrito is located in western Contra Costa County and forms part of the highly urbanized area along the eastern shore of San Francisco Bay. This 3.9 square-mile city has a pleasant climate year-round, and the hilly areas of El Cerrito provide spectacular views of its famous neighbor, San Francisco. El Cerrito’s 25,000 residents enjoy over 100 acres of open space (known as the Hillside Natural Area), as well as 45 acres of parks, 18 acres of school recreational areas, and 38 acres of other amenities, including the Ohlone Greenway, a pleasantly landscaped area that runs along the BART right-of-way the length of the city and is popular with walkers, runners and bicyclists. El Cerrito’s major commercial corridor runs the length of San Pablo Avenue, a multi-jurisdictional state highway.

The RERC is a unique community resource that provides El Cerrito and area residents and businesses a convenient location to recycle a wide range of conventional and hard-to-recycle items, to exchange reusable items and to obtain information about other environmental concerns and efforts. The Center strives to be a one-stop shop for residents and businesses interested in sustainability topics from energy efficiency, to Earth Day, to transportation, and more.

The RERC serves as the City’s environmental heart, and also as an example of green building for residents and businesses alike. Operated by the City’s Operations & Environmental Services Division, the center was founded as E.C.ology by community volunteers in 1971 and the City took over its operation in 1977. The Center was rebuilt in 2011-2012 to serve as the sustainability hub for the City’s environmental mission and programs, and is home to the City’s Operations & Environmental Services Division and curbside recycling operation.

ECCRU Artist in Residency Program

The ECCRU Program was approved by the El Cerrito Arts and Culture Commission (“ACC”) in 2015. The Program is funded by the Art in Public Places Program, established with the passage of the City’s Public Places Ordinance (Section 13.50 ECMC).

A summary of the El Cerrito Art in Public Places Program is included on page 7.

Duties and Requirements of the ECCRU Artist:

1. During their residency, Artist will create artwork primarily using materials they find at the RERC Center.
2. Artist will conduct at least two workshops or other educational programs at the RERC or other City facility or school. These can be conducted in-person or virtually.
3. Artist shall give reasonable access to the ACC, City staff, or other person or group approved by the ACC to document the creative process.
4. Halfway through the residency term, the Artist will give a presentation to the ACC demonstrating their progress and plan for the remainder of the residency
5. At the end of the residency, the artwork will be shown at an exhibition, with the duration and location of the show depending on the availability of City space and the nature of the work.
6. Artist may donate to the City one piece created during the ECCRU Residency.
7. At the end of the residency, Artist should return unused found items to the RERC.

Provided to the ECCRU Artist:

1. The City and RERC shall provide access to donated material at the RERC, other than things identified as off-limits by the City in the program guidelines or as verbally directed by any staff at the RERC.
2. The ACC shall provide a locked bin for storage and/or sorting located at the RERC.
3. Stipend: \$1500 for 12-month term.
4. Support to host an exhibit and/or reception for the Artist

Acquisition, Donation, Display, and Retention of Artwork:

1. Artist retains copyright of their artwork, and rights granted by the Visual Artists Right Act and the California Art Preservation Act.
2. ACC shall have the option to purchase additional artwork at its discretion for the City's collection.
3. The ACC/City shall have all rights over exhibition, placement, and any other use of donated and purchased artworks.
4. In the event that the ACC/City determines that any artwork should be sold or otherwise disposed of, the ACC shall give the Artist first rights to purchase it back at a price to be determined by the ACC.

Selection Process

A selection panel will evaluate the application materials and select finalists for interviews in October and November 2025. The panel may also seek more detailed proposals and, if deemed appropriate, may conduct a site visit to the artists' workspaces.

The panel may consist of one member of the ACC, one RERC staff member, a local artist and/or a member of the El Cerrito Environmental Quality Committee. Selection criteria will include:

- Applicant's professional qualifications as an artist
- Demonstrated commitment to resource conservation, recycling and creative reuse through art

- Experience in art and/or environmental education
- Artistic merit as evidenced by the submitted materials
- Appropriate studio workspace for the artist's chosen medium(s) and demonstrated ability to work safely with required tools and materials
- Proven ability to undertake successful creative, innovative, and effective approach in comparable projects
- Meet the El Cerrito Art in Public Places Program's guidelines for artwork
- Excellent communication skills
- Demonstrated ability to work creatively with groups of different ages and backgrounds
- Experience with and dedication to use of non-toxic and sustainable art methods
- Ability to meet deadlines
- Artist must be at least 18 years of age and either live or work in Contra Costa or Alameda County
- Priority will be given to working and/or teaching artists

The City of El Cerrito and the ACC are committed to reflecting the diversity and cultural richness of our City in selecting the ECCRU Artist. The selection committee will also identify artists who have a demonstrated interest in and commitment to community outreach and education. References provided will be contacted during the selection process.

Based on the applications and review of support materials, references and interviews, the ECCRU Artist will be recommended by the selection panel and approved by the ACC. City Staff will assist the Artist with the contract, any required insurance coverage, and all activities undertaken at the RERC. The ACC reserves the right to reject any application.

Application Requirements

Submissions must be provided online only. If this proves to be a hurdle, please contact Lina Huang at luhuan@elcerrito.gov or at (510) 215-4371 to make necessary arrangements.

To apply, the applicant must provide the following information in the online application portal accessible on the ECCRU website: elcerrito.gov/ECCRU

- 1) Completed application
- 2) Professional Resume and Exhibition List: Please do not send more than three pages. Please arrange your exhibition list by year and indicate solo versus group shows.
- 3) Images and image list:
 - a. Please submit 10 images. Please use good quality images no larger than 2 MB each. Images must be accompanied by an image list in a text file with title, date, size, media and, if applicable, description and/or conceptual intent. Additional information, if applicable, could include site, commissioning person or agency, and budget. Installations or 3-dimensional work may be illustrated by multiple images.

b. Video & Audio:

You may submit a maximum of two video or two audio files. You may submit a combination of images, video, and audio as long as the total number of files does not exceed 10. We accept MPEG-4 video files and all standard audio files. Each video and/or audio clip must be no longer than one minute, and each must be accompanied by a description in the image list.

4) Proposal:

Proposals should not exceed two pages and should address the following:

- a. Describe your goal - a succinct statement of what you hope to accomplish.
- b. Describe specific projects you have in mind, if any, and how you would go about executing them.
- c. Describe the types of materials you are most interested in and indicate whether you anticipate wanting to request donations of specific materials from the public towards your artwork.
- d. Describe your anticipated fabrication methods, and your experience with those methods.
- e. Describe how your goal and proposed projects meet the selection criteria specified above.

5) Two professional references

Application materials will not be returned. Please do not send additional materials, such as letters of recommendation, newspaper clippings, postcards, etc. You may mention them in your cover letter and we will ask for them if needed.

Note: Proof of current residency or employment in Contra Costa or Alameda County will be required of the selected artist.

Estimated Timeline

The schedule is contingent upon the City's project schedule and may be changed at any time.

September 3, 2025	Call for Artists Released
October 15, 2025	Applications Due
Week of November 3	Panel Reviews Applications, Conducts Interview Process with Selected Candidates
November 24, 2025	Panel Candidate Recommendation to ACC
December 2025	Contract Process Completed
January 1 – December 31, 2026	Dates of ECCRU Artist in Residence Appointment
TBD with selected artist:	Dates of Exhibition and/or Workshop(s) and/or Demonstration(s) and/or Presentation(s)

**Deadline**

Proposals are due by 4 p.m. on Wednesday, October 15, 2025.

Inquiries

All questions regarding this Call for Artists are to be directed to Will Provost, Assistant to the City Manager, City of El Cerrito, 10890 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito, CA 94530. (510) 215-4318. Email: wprovost@elcerrito.gov

El Cerrito Art in Public Places Program

In 2005, the El Cerrito City Council adopted an Art in Public Places Ordinance (Section 13.50 ECMC). The purpose of the ordinance is to establish guidelines, procedures, and standards for the integration of public art into new private and public development and redevelopment projects. In order to realize the vision of enhancing art in public places, new projects with development costs of \$250,000 or more shall devote an amount not less than 1% of the development costs to the acquisition and installation of public art.

The Program dictates that public art shall:

- Be designed and constructed by a visual art professional who is not a member of the Project architect, engineering or landscape architect firm
- Require a low level of maintenance
- Relate in terms of scale, material, form and content to the immediate surroundings
- Meet all applicable building code requirements

The following guidelines should be taken into consideration for any public art placed within the City of El Cerrito:

1. **Quality:** The work should be of the highest standard with regard to workmanship, materials, assembly, content, placement, and appropriateness in theme and character as determined by the ACC.
2. **Elements of Design:** consideration should take into account that public art, in addition to meeting aesthetic requirements, also may serve as focal points, modifiers, definers of public spaces and/or creates identity within the public realm.
3. **Context/Style and Nature:** Works of art must be compatible in scale, material, form, and content with their surroundings. Consideration should be given to the architectural, historical, geographical, and social/cultural context of the site. Works may be participatory in nature.
4. **Diversity:** The Arts in Public Places program should strive for diversity of style, scale, media, artists—including ethnicity and gender—and equitable distribution of artworks throughout the City.
5. **Originality:** edition of one or part of a limited edition
6. **Conservation:** consideration should be given to structural and surface integrity, permanence, and protection against theft, vandalism, weathering, excessive maintenance, and accessibility requirements.
7. **Public Safety and Accessibility:** Each work shall be evaluated to ensure that it does not present a hazard to public safety and complies with all applicable building codes and accessibility requirements.
8. **Public Liability:** artworks should be examined for unsafe conditions or factors that may bear on public liability.



CITY OF EL CERRITO
OCTOBER ARTS MONTH

PRESENTED BY THE EL CERRITO ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION

OCT 3 **EC CREATIVE REUSE ART RECEPTION**
EL CERRITO CITY HALL GALLERY SPACE

OCT 3 **EC ART ASSOC. 48TH ANNUAL SHOW**
THRU 5 EL CERRITO COMMUNITY CENTER

OCT 4 **STORYTIME WITH OAKTOWN JAZZ**
EL CERRITO LIBRARY

OCT 9 **"NORTH BY NORTHWEST"**
RIALTO CINEMAS CERRITO

OCT 16 **"STRIPPED FOR PARTS" FILM**
ALBANY FILMFEST @ RIALTO CERRITO

OCT 19 **EL CERRITO FREE FOLK FESTIVAL**
EL CERRITO COMMUNITY CENTER

OCT 22 **THE ANNEX SESSIONS: LOS NADIES**
EL CERRITO NATURAL ANNEX

OCT 24 **MINDY BERARDINI GALLERY SHOW**
EL CERRITO CITY HALL GALLERY SPACE

FOR MORE INFO VISIT
ELCERRITO.GOV/ARTSMONTH





Staff Liaison
Will Provost | (510) 215-4318
wprovost@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us

This information can be interpreted for you free of charge. Visit City Hall at 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, CA 94530 or learn more at www.el-cerrito.org/LanguageAccess

Esta información se puede interpretar gratuitamente. Visite el Ayuntamiento en 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, CA 94530 o obtenga más información en www.el-cerrito.org/LanguageAccess

这些信息可免费为您解释。请访问位于 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, CA 94530 的市政厅，或访问 www.el-cerrito.org/LanguageAccess 了解更多信息

DRAFT MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION

Monday, June 23, 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 6:03 p.m.

- 1. ROLL CALL – Present:** Chair Renée LeVesque, Vice Chair Ruth Cazden
Members: Courtney Helion and Juno Rabinovici (Youth Member)
Absent: Kim Settles.
- 2. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS, COUNCIL LIAISON AND STAFF LIAISON REPORTS**
Commissioner Cazden noted her attendance at the June 17, 2025 City Council meeting where the City Council received the ACC's Biennial Workplan and list of accomplishments, highlighting that the City Council did not have any specific questions regarding the Commission's Workplan. Commissioner Helion remarked on the success of the Summer Kick-off and Makers Faire event that took place on June 7 and was supported by the ACC. Staff Liaison Provost highlighted the City Council's adoption of the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget at their June 17 meeting, maintaining General Fund reserves above \$20 million, and separately invited Commissioners and members of the public to attend an Open House event on June 25 for the Richmond St. Complete Streets Improvement Project.
- 3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**
El Cerrito Resident Jenny Hammer stated her interest in learning more about the City's plans for Centennial Wall, including the recent project that has been undertaken to plant vines as an environmental approach to graffiti prevention and past interest from the ACC to paint a mural at that location.

4. **ART IN PUBLIC PLACES PROGRAM DATABASE**

Commissioners heard a presentation from City Staff and provided input on the development of an Art in Public Places Program database that provides information on Public Art that has been installed and developer contributions that have been received by the City in relation to the Art in Public Places Program established in 2005.

The ACC discussed uploading the final database to the website and utilizing it as a tool to increase transparency and engagement with public art throughout the community. Feedback was provided to staff for refinements to the database before finalizing it.

Resident Jenny Hammer spoke in support of the database and adding more detail, including pictures, of public art that has been installed so that it's clear to community members how projects are meeting these requirements.

5. **ACC CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

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

- 4th of July / ACC Tabling – Commissioner's volunteered to table at the 4th of July event and to create outreach collateral to promote ACC initiatives and programs at the event.
- October Arts Month
 - 10/19 - El Cerrito Free Folk Festival
 - City Hall Gallery Show and Reception

The ACC discussed next steps to identify events to include in the Commission's October Arts Month flyer and outreach effort for 2025.

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Consider approval of the minutes of the May 29, 2025, meeting.

Moved/Seconded: Member Helion/Vice Chair Cazden **Action:** Motion to approve the minutes of the May 29, 2025 meeting **Ayes:** Chair LeVesque; Vice Chair Cazden; Members Helion. **Noes:** None. Motion approved. Youth Member Rabinovici expressed support for the action.

7. **UPCOMING ACC-AFFILIATED EVENTS**

The ACC reviewed the upcoming events and programs supported by the Arts & Culture Commission, including:

- City Hall Gallery Shows
 - Ruby Ramirez – June 2 - August 14, 2025
 - Gallery Reception July 25, 5 p.m.
 - Susan Harris – August 25 – September 30, 2025
 - Mindy Berardini – October 1 - November 4, 2025
 - ECCRU Artists – November 10 – January 22, 2025
 - Keana Dollar-Dickerson – March 24 – April 30, 2026
 - Gail Morrison – May 11 – July 10, 2026
 - Fairmont School 3rd Grade Students - TBD
- 4th of July Performances at worldOne Festival – July 4, 2025

- October Arts Month
- El Cerrito Free Folk Festival – October 19, 2025

8. UPCOMING ITEMS

- **Next Meeting August 25, 2025**
- October Arts Month Planning (August/September)
- El Cerrito Creative ReUse Residency Presentation + CFA (August 2025)
- Poet Laureate Presentation (September) + CFA (November 2025)

ACC Commissioners discussed their interest in agendaing an item in August or September to review the Mini-Grant Program, grants that have been awarded, and any refinements that are needed to keep improving the program. Commissioners also expressed interest in discussing a transparent cap on mini-grant awards to ensure the Public Art Fund's long-term sustainability.

9. ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 7:00 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 June 23, 2025, as approved by the Arts and Culture Commission.

Will Provost, Staff Liaison