



Staff Liaison
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AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION

Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Hana Gardens
10870 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 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. MINI GRANT REQUEST – MESSY ART DAY**
For discussion and possible action, consider request for \$1,500 in support for the El Cerrito Preschool Cooperative (ECPC) to host Messy Art Day set to take place April 19, 2026. (Attachment)
- 5. MINI GRANT REQUEST – EL CERRITO FREE FOLK FESTIVAL**
For discussion and possible action, consider request for support from applicant Bob Helliesen to provide mini-grant funding in an amount of \$1,250 to support the 2026 El Cerrito Free Folk Festival, to take place October 10, 2026. (Attachment)
- 6. COMMUNITY CENTER MURAL PROJECT EXPLORATION**
Discuss and consider forming an Ad Hoc Subcommittee to conduct research on public mural projects and make recommendations to the full commission on the

specifications for the artwork that should be pursued in a future call for artists to potentially paint a mural on the South wall of the El Cerrito Community Center building.

7. ECCRU PARTNERSHIP WITH RICHMOND ART CENTER

Hear a report from the Arts & Culture Commission’s Ad Hoc Subcommittee exploring a potential partnership or collaboration with the Richmond Art Center and consider possible action.

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
- 4th of July

9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Consider approval of the minutes of the November 24, 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
 - Keana Dollar-Dickerson – March - April 2026
 - Gail Morrison – May - July 2026
 - Susan Harris – TBD
 - Fairmont School 3rd Grade Students - TBD

11. UPCOMING ITEMS

- Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair (March/May)
- El Cerrito Poet Laureate Selection (May)
- Annual Workplan (May)
- Annual ACC Budget Presentation (June)
- City Hall Gallery Exhibition Call for Artists (Summer 2026)
- 4th of July Support

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.

From: noreply@civicplus.com
 To: [Will H. Provost](#); [Lina Huang](#)
 Subject: Online Form Submittal: Arts & Culture Commission Support Application Form
 Date: Saturday, November 22, 2025 9:48:23 PM

This sender is trusted.

Arts & Culture Commission Support Application Form

Contact/Applicant Name:	Iman Rasheed
Organization Name (if applicable):	El Cerrito Pre-School Cooperative
Contact Phone:	[REDACTED]
Contact Email:	messyartday@ecpckids.com
Contact Address:	7200 Moeser Lane
City/Zip	El Cerrito, 94530
Location of proposed event/project:	ECPC, 7200 Moeser land and adjacent Asbury street
Anticipated number of attendees?	1000
Date(s) & Time(s) of the event:	April 19th, SUNDAY, 9:30am - 4pm

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Include project description here:

Messy Art Day is a long-standing, hands-on celebration of creativity where young children—and their families—are invited to explore many forms of art and imaginative expression in an open, playful environment and make a fun MESS. This free community event welcomes families from El Cerrito and surrounding neighborhoods, and encourages curiosity, collaboration, and creative confidence.

Over the past 20 years, Messy Art Day has evolved into a cherished local tradition, drawing over 1,000 attendees from El Cerrito, Albany, and neighboring Contra Costa County communities and all over the Bay Area. The event transforms the ECPC school and a portion of Ashbury Avenue into a multisensory playground, featuring more than 20 interactive art stations such as mural painting, sculpture building, and recycled art projects.

These stations reflect ECPC’s play-based philosophy, which emphasizes learning through creative, hands-on experiences. The event is open to all and provides children the opportunity to explore and express themselves in a non-judgmental, inclusive environment. Messy Art Day also reflects El Cerrito’s commitment to sustainability, with many of the art stations using recycled and donated materials to reduce waste. This focus not only teaches environmental responsibility but also aligns with the community’s values of promoting eco-consciousness through the arts.

By offering a free or low-cost event, we ensure broad accessibility, allowing children and families from all backgrounds to participate, which strengthens community bonds and fosters creative collaboration.

Have you done a similar event or project before?	Yes
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The Arts & Culture Commission cares about diverse audiences and environmental sustainability. Can you tell us how you will address those concerns?	<p>Messy Art Day is designed to be accessible and inclusive for all families, as it is free to attend and open to the public, making it possible for individuals from diverse backgrounds to participate. The event takes place in a public space, expanding onto Ashbury Avenue, which allows for greater engagement from the wider community, including those who may not have direct ties to ECPC. In terms of environmental sustainability, we place a strong emphasis on using salvaged, found materials and donated items that would otherwise be discarded.</p>
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This approach minimizes waste while fostering creativity in reimagining these materials for large-scale, interactive art stations. Additionally, many of our tools and equipment are reused year after year, further reducing the environmental impact. This commitment to sustainability is aligned with our philosophy of teaching children about resourcefulness and environmental consciousness through hands-on, art-based play. The grant funding would allow us to maintain and enhance these practices, ensuring we can continue to offer an eco-friendly, community-centered event that benefits a wide audience.

REQUEST

Type of Support Requested:	Financial Support
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Enter \$ Amount	1500
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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?

The basic budget provided by ECPC for Messy Art Day is \$2,000. This amount covers essential event costs, including basic art supplies, volunteer support, and the preparation of 20+ art stations on campus. The additional \$1,500 we are seeking through the grant will enable us to expand the number of stations, particularly along Ashbury Avenue, which is fully accessible to the public. These additional stations are vital for increasing engagement with older children and families, offering larger-scale art experiences and more opportunities for sensory exploration. The funds will be specifically allocated toward acquiring extra materials for these public-facing stations, ensuring that we can maintain a free or low-cost event that is inclusive for all families in the community.

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

[MAD Provisional Budget For Grant Submission 2026 - Grand Budget \(Provisional\).pdf](#) (attached)

Have you received funding from the ACC in the past?

Yes

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.

\$1000.

As we are trying to add more stations and experiences with the event expanding in the community and an expected increase in attendees for this year, as well as taking into account the economy pricing upticks, we are requesting for \$500 more than we asked for from last year. For example we saw that for just plain paper cup for drinks was \$17 last year but this year same ones cost \$45.

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

Yes

implemented. Please confirm that you agree to complete this requirement.

STAFF/PERSONNEL

paid staff 5

volunteers 61

If applicable, load additional documents here: [MAD 2026 - Overview and Intro.pdf \(attached\)](#)

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

MAD Provisional Budget For Grant
Submission 2026 - Grand Budget
(Provisional)



Area	Item	Price	Unit	Qty Needed	Cost
GENERAL					
Public Safety & Guest Services	Guest Wristbands	\$9.99	600	1	\$9.99
Public Safety & Guest Services	Handwashing Station & ADA Portapotty	\$650.00	1	1	\$650.00
Public Safety & Guest Services	Street Closure Permit	\$140.00	1	1	\$140.00
Event Supplies - General	Snacks	\$125.00	Various	1	\$125.00
Event Supplies - General	Hot Drink Cups	\$18.99	180	1	\$18.99
Event Supplies - General	MAD Shirts	\$300.00	30	1	\$300.00
Staffing	Volunteer Meal	\$300.00	Various	1	\$300.00
All Stations	Powdered Tempera Paint (3 Colors)	\$9.69	1 lb	90	\$872.10
MAD STATIONS					
Human Spin & Swing Art	Clean Mop Heads	\$16.99	3	1	\$16.99
Paint the House	Aluminum Trays	\$13.99	1	1	\$13.99
Paint the House	Hot Glue Sticks	\$18.97	85	1	\$18.97
Paint the House	Tape	\$26.98	30yd x3	1	\$26.98
House of Confetti	Confetti Tissue Paper	\$16.94	1 lb	4	\$67.76
House of Confetti	Plastic Furniture Wrap	\$36.48	1000'	1	\$36.48
Volcano	Brown Tarps	\$27.98	1 16x20	1	\$27.98
Volcano	Vinegar	\$11.99	1gal x4	4	\$47.96
Volcano	Baking Soda	\$10.99	13.5 lbs	12	\$131.88
Dino Splash	Small Inflatable Dino	\$14.99	1	1	\$14.99
Dino Splash	Large Inflatable Dino	\$19.99	1	1	\$19.99
Oobleck Pools	Cornstarch	\$54.27	50 lb	3	\$162.81
Crave the Shave	Shaving Cream	\$27.36	10oz x12	2	\$54.72
Sidewalk Chalk	Sidewalk Chalk	\$16.20	126 sticks	1	\$16.20
Texture Wall	Small Glue Bottles	\$9.99	6	6	\$59.94
Clean Mud	Toilet Paper	\$24.99	30 rolls	1	\$24.99
Clean Mud	Soap Bars	\$11.99	20	1	\$11.99
Cloth Weaving & Hanging Ribbons	Traffic Fencing	\$38.67	100 ft	1	\$38.67
Cloth Weaving & Hanging Ribbons	Flagging Tape	\$9.99	200'	2	\$19.98
Sock Drop	Paint Trays	\$14.99	50	1	\$14.99



ecpc's
**MESSY
ART
DAY**



EL CERRITO PRESCHOOL COOPERATIVE



Messy Art Day is our annual public festival-style event celebrating the heart of

ECPC's play-based philosophy

Helping children learn and grow through hands-on experiences and unlimited creativity. It's our love letter to the community.. and a recruitment/PR tool for ECPC





About the Mess

How the mess started

- Started in 2008 to celebrate Bev Bos workshop and grew from there
- At its height: 1000+ attendees and 25+ stations
- 2020 and 2021 cancelled (thanks COVID) then revived at smaller scale in 2022 and 2023
- 2024: >900 inside school, more outside





Play Stations

The core of MAD

- Designated areas for each activity with various kinds of materials, big and small
- Some staffed, some covered by floaters
- Only kids 4-and-under + current students inside the school for MAD.

Work Stations

No mess here... Ideally...

- Guest Services and sign-ins
- Info Table and Merch
- Food Vendors, Etc





2026 Goals

Good clean messy goals!

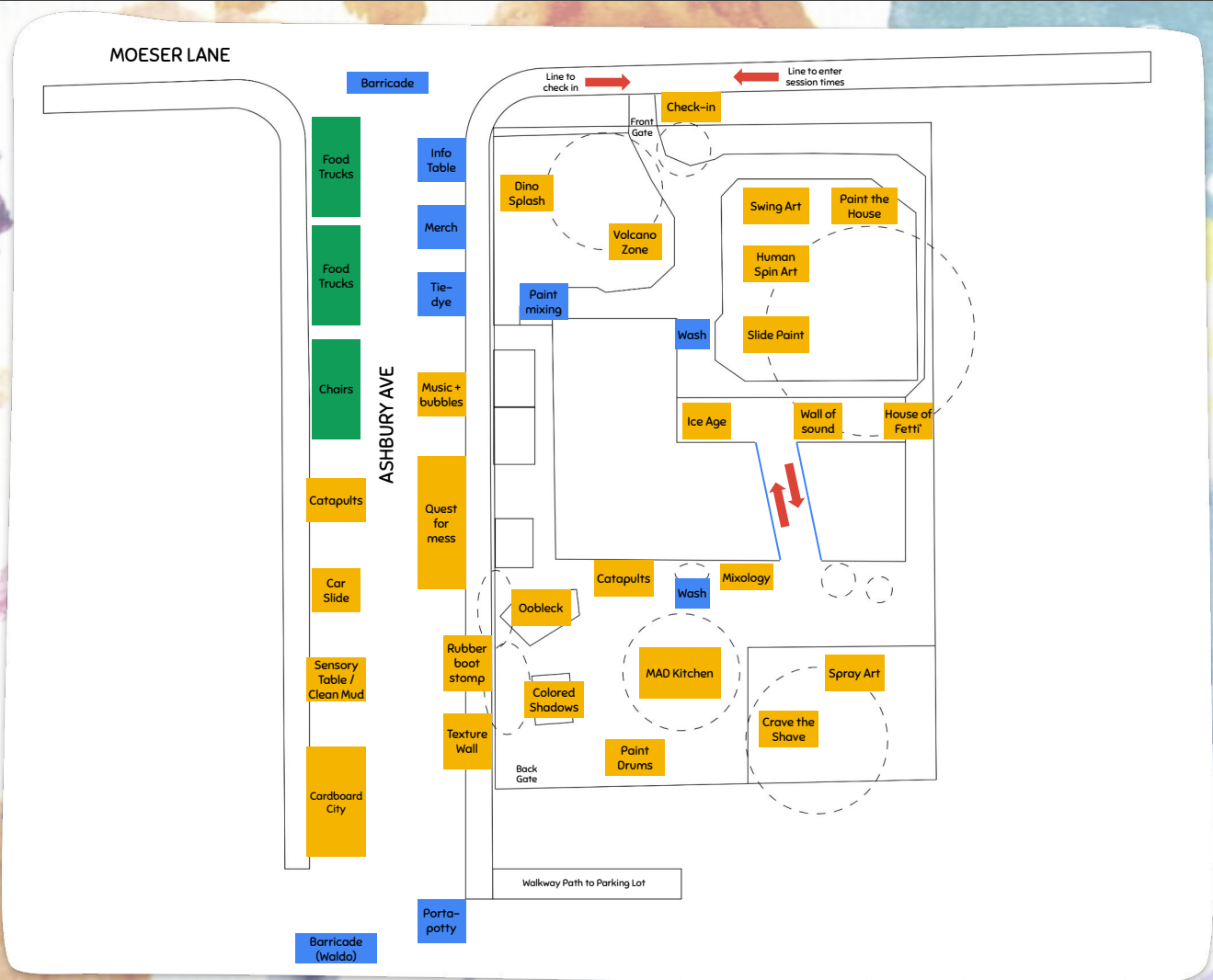


- **Recruitment** – Draw in new families (kids aged 1.5–4) and showcase the potential of a Parent–Run Co–Op
- **FUN!** – Unique opportunity our kids and (gasp) us!
- **Community Service** – Opportunity for other families, including alumni and showcase ECPC’s Philosophy of process over product
- **Environmentally and fiscally responsible** – Staying on budget and cleaning up after ourselves



Play and Work Stations

MAD '25 Map



Paint
the
House



Swing
and Spin
Art





Slide Painting



Volcano Zone



Dino
Splash



House of
'Fetti



Wall of Sound



Ice Age





Mixology



Spray Art



Crave
the Shave



Paint Catapults



Paint
Drums





Oobleck



Colored
Shadows



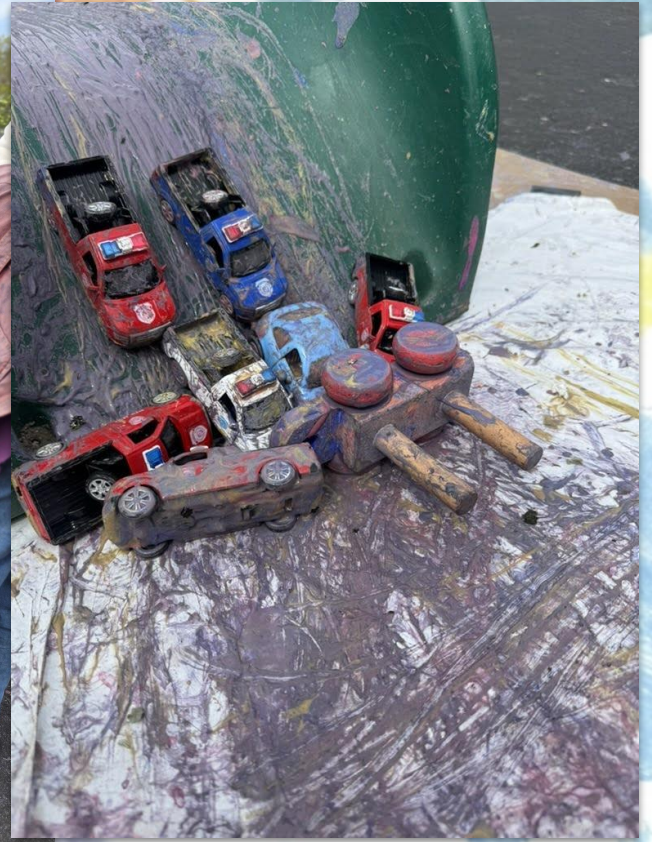
MAD
Kitchen



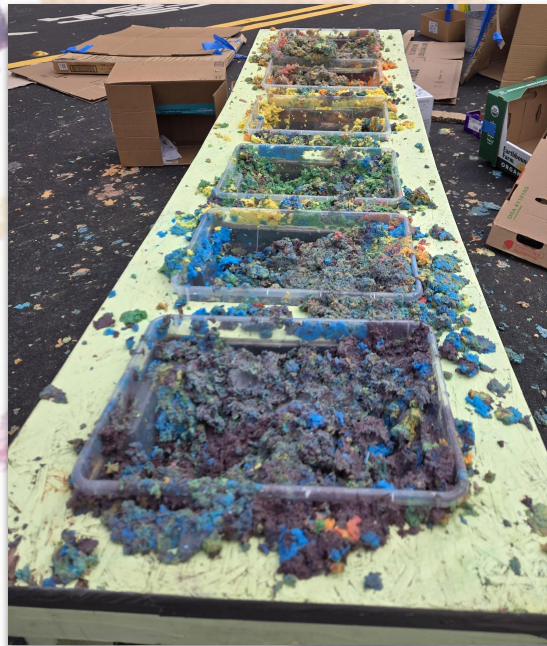
**Music &
Bubbles**



Car
Slide



Sensory
Table +
Clean Mud



Quest for
Mess



Rubber
Boot
Stomp

RUBBER BOOT
STOMP



Texture Wall



Cardboard
City





The MAD Weekend

MAD Weekend Schedule (WIP)

Friday, April 17: Set Up Day 1

5pm – 9pm: 1 Shift

Saturday, April 18: Set Up Day 2

9:00am – 12:00pm: Shift 1

1:00pm – 4:00pm: Shift 2

Sunday April, 19: MAD DAY!

Overlapping shifts: 8:00am – 7:00pm

- 8:00am – 9:30am Finalize set up
- 9:30am Ashbury Opens
- 10:00am – 12:00pm Session 1 (Public)
- 12:30pm – 1:30pm ECPC-Only Session
- 1:30 – 3:30pm Session 2 (Public + ECPC)
- 4:00pm Ashbury Closes
- 3:30 – 7pm Clean up

Monday, April 20: Clean Up Day

10:00am – 1pm: Shift 1



EL CERRITO PRESCHOOL COOPERATIVE

ECPC

EST. 1940

From: noreply@civicplus.com
 To: [Will H. Provost](#); [Lina Huang](#)
 Subject: Online Form Submittal: Arts & Culture Commission Support Application Form
 Date: Thursday, November 20, 2025 2:38:10 PM

This sender is trusted.

Arts & Culture Commission Support Application Form

Contact/Applicant Name:	Robert Helliesen
Organization Name (if applicable):	El Cerrito Free Folk Festival
Contact Phone:	[REDACTED]
Contact Email:	[REDACTED]@yahoo.com
Contact Address:	[REDACTED]
City/Zip	Berkeley
Location of proposed event/project:	El Cerrito Community Center
Anticipated number of attendees?	330
Date(s) & Time(s) of the event:	Saturday, October 10, 2026

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Include project description here: The San Francisco Folk Music Club in partnership with the City of El Cerrito will present a one day music festival on October 10, 2026 from noon to 8:00 PM. The festival will include two stages for musical acts, a space for class instruction, areas for jamming and an open mike. Most of the program will be indoors. The performers and instructors are highly capable - either professionals of well qualified amateurs.

The festival was first held in 2009. It was presented in 2022, 2003, 2004 and 2025 in the El Cerrito Community Center. This site has worked very well - staff has been very helpful and the space has worked out.

This is totally a volunteer effort.

Have you done a	Yes
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similar event or project before?

The Arts & Culture Commission cares about diverse audiences and environmental sustainability. Can you tell us how you will address those concerns?

We make a special effort to invite performers and instructors with various backgrounds to appeal to diverse audiences. Our volunteers care about environmental sustainability, and our festivals have had low environmental impacts - little littering and a high level of respect for the city's property.

REQUEST

Type of Support Requested:

Publicity, Financial Support, City-owned discounted venue/space

Enter \$ Amount

1250

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?

Room rental (after discount) \$1300
Printing and advertising 350
Signage, etc. 240
Total costs \$1,890

ACC \$1,250
Donations \$640
Total receipts \$1,890

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

Field not completed.

Have you received funding from the ACC in the past?

Yes

If yes, provide the history of the past project/event, and how much you were

2017 \$750
2018 \$1000
2019 \$1,750
2020 no in-person festival due to Covid

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.

2021 no in-person festival due to Covid
2022 \$1,250
2023 \$1,000
2024 \$1,100
2025 \$1,200

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

STAFF/PERSONNEL

paid staff

0

volunteers

40

If applicable, load additional documents here:

Field not completed.

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DRAFT MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION

Monday, November 24, 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 6:00 p.m.

1. **ROLL CALL – Present:** Chair Renée LeVesque; Vice Chair: Ruth Cazden; Members: Jenny Hammer, Courtney Helion, and Kim Settles **Absent:** Juno Rabinovici (Youth Member)
2. **COMMISSIONERS’ REPORTS, COUNCIL LIAISON AND STAFF LIAISON REPORTS**
 Staff Liaison Provost informed the Commission that the City had received the resignation of Commissioner Tyler Wilson since the last meeting due to personal reasons, he shared that California Senate Bill 456 was signed by the Governor enabling the City to move forward with a mural project in the future, and he invited Commissioners to attend the upcoming State of the City event on December 16 at 5 p.m. He also announced that he will be going on leave in January and that Assistant City Manager Alexandra Orogas will serve as the Staff Liaison while he is away.
3. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**
 None.
4. **EL CERRITO CREATIVE REUSE ARTIST IN RESIDENCE SELECTION**
 The Commission considered approval of the El Cerrito Creative ReUse (ECCRU) Selection Panel’s recommendation to appoint Susan Kuchinskas or Daniel Seifert as the ECCRU Artist in Residence for a 12-month term with a total stipend of \$2,000.

Moved/Seconded: Member Hammer/Settles **Action:** Motion to appoint Susan

Kuchinskas to the ECCRU Artist Residency for a 12-month term **Ayes:** Chair LeVesque; Members: Hammer, Helion, Settles **Noes:** Vice-Chair Cazden. Motion approved.

5. ECCRU PARTNERSHIP WITH RICHMOND ART CENTER

The Commission discussed exploring a potential partnership with the Richmond Art Center to support and enhance the El Cerrito Creative ReUse Artist in Residence Program.

Moved/Seconded: Vice-Chair Cazden/Chair LeVesque **Action:** Motion to form an ad hoc subcommittee to explore a potential partnership or collaboration with the Richmond Art Center **Ayes:** Chair LeVesque; Vice-Chair Cazden; Members: Hammer, Helion, Settles **Noes:** None. Motion approved.

Chair LeVesque and Vice-Chair Cazden will serve on the Ad Hoc Subcommittee and report back to the full commission on their findings.

6. CONSIDER ACCEPTING MOSAIC FROM ARTIST SYLVIA MORI

The Commission considered accepting a gift from the artist Sylvia Mori of a mosaic depicting El Cerrito City Council Member Janet Abelson who passed away in 2023, following 23 years of public service to the El Cerrito community.

Moved/Seconded: Vice-Chair Cazden/Member Helion **Action:** Motion to accept the gift and acquire the mosaic completed by Sylvia Mori **Ayes:** Chair LeVesque; Vice-Chair Cazden; Members: Hammer, Helion, Settles **Noes:** None. Motion approved.

7. EL CERRITO POET LAUREATE CALL FOR ARTISTS (CFA)

Commissioners reviewed a draft CFA to identify the next El Cerrito Poet Laureate.

Moved/Seconded: Vice-Chair Cazden/Member Settles **Action:** Motion to issue the Call for Artists as presented with staff having the ability to adjust the schedule as needed **Ayes:** Chair LeVesque; Vice-Chair Cazden; Members: Hammer, Helion, Settles **Noes:** None. Motion approved.

8. 2026 REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION

Commissioners reviewed a draft calendar and discussed approving the 2026 regular meeting schedule for the Arts and Culture Commission.

Moved/Seconded: Vice-Chair Cazden/Member Helion **Action:** Motion to approve the proposed 2026 regular meeting schedule that was presented after moving the January meeting to January 21 and moving the May meeting to May 18 with those meetings to be conducted in an alternate location if Council Chambers is not available. **Ayes:** Chair LeVesque; Vice-Chair Cazden; Members: Hammer, Helion, Settles **Noes:** None. Motion approved.

9. ACC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Commissioners reflected on and discussed October Arts Month and that planning

should start earlier in 2026.

10. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Moved/Seconded: Member Settles/Member Hammer **Action:** Motion to approve the minutes of the September 29, 2025 meeting **Ayes:** Chair LeVesque; Vice-Chair Cazden; Members: Hammer, Helion, Settles **Noes:** None. Motion approved.

11. UPCOMING ACC-AFFILIATED EVENTS

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

- City Hall Gallery Shows
 - Mindy Berardini – On Display Through December 12, 2025
 - Keana Dollar-Dickerson – March - April 2026
 - Gail Morrison – May - July 2026
 - Susan Harris – TBD
 - Fairmont School 3rd Grade Students - TBD

12. UPCOMING ITEMS

- Community Center Mural Ad Hoc
- Happy New Year! - Next Meeting January 2026

13. ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 7:13 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 November 24, 2025, as approved by the Arts and Culture Commission.

Will Provost, Staff Liaison