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AGENDA

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION

Monday, March 23, 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. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
Consider approval of the minutes of the January 21, 2026 meeting. (Attachment)
5. **MINI GRANT APPLICATION – FARMERS MARKET MUSIC**
For discussion and possible action, consider request for support from applicant Greg Pursely of the Regional Farmers' Market Association to provide mini-grant funding in an amount of \$1,500 to support music at the El Cerrito Farmers' Market through 2026. (Attachment)
6. **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
- United Against Hate Week

7. 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
 - Susan Harris – May – June 2026
 - El Cerrito Historical Society Photo Contest – October TBD
 - Gail Morrison – TBD
 - Fairmont School 3rd Grade Students - TBD

8. UPCOMING ITEMS

- Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair (May)
- El Cerrito Poet Laureate Selection (May)
- 4th of July Support (May)
- Annual Workplan (May)
- Community Center Mural Project Exploration Update (May)
- ECCRU Partnership with Richmond Art Center Update (May)
- Annual ACC Budget Presentation (June)
- City Hall Gallery Exhibition Call for Artists (Summer 2026)
- Venue Database
- Mini-Grant Guidelines and Grantee Requirements

9. 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.



Staff Liaison
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DRAFT MINUTES

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 Chair Renée LeVesque called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

1. **ROLL CALL – Present:** Chair Renée LeVesque; Vice Chair: Ruth Cazden; Members: Jenny Hammer, Courtney Helion, Kim Settles and Juno Rabinovici (Youth Member) **Absent:** None.
2. **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS, COUNCIL LIAISON AND STAFF LIAISON REPORTS**
 Staff Liaison Provost noted that City Staff presented an update to the City Council the previous evening on the current El Cerrito Library facility, its deficiencies, and how a new modern library could offer spaces for arts programming in El Cerrito. He also shared that the El Cerrito Poet Laureate Call for Artists has been released with applications being accepted through March 31, that the March Arts & Culture Commission meeting will take place in Hana Gardens due to work being done in the City Council Chambers, and that while he is on family leave Assistant City Manager Alexandra Orologas will be acting as Staff Liaison to the Commission.

 Commissioner Hammer highlighted that new upgrades being completed at the El Cerrito Veterans Hall building on Stockton Ave. will also offer enhanced venue space for events in El Cerrito.
3. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**
 El Cerrito resident John Stashik spoke to encourage the Commission to recognize El Cerrito native John Fogerty in some manner, for his contributions to music and the arts.

4. MINI GRANT REQUEST – MESSY ART DAY

The Commission heard a presentation from Iman Rasheed and Andrew Clausen outlining the El Cerrito Pre-school Cooperative's request for \$1,500 in support to host Messy Art Day set to take place April 19, 2026.

Moved/Seconded: Vice-Chair Cazden/Member Settles **Action:** Motion to approve of a mini-grant request from El Cerrito Pre-School Cooperative to support the 2026 Messy Art Day event in the amount of \$1,200 **Ayes:** Chair LeVesque; Vice-Chair Cazden; Members: Helion, Settles **Noes:** Member Hammer. Youth Member Rabinovici abstained from expressing support or opposition. Motion approved.

5. MINI GRANT REQUEST – EL CERRITO FREE FOLK FESTIVAL

Commissioners heard a presentation from Hali Hammer outlining plans for the 2026 El Cerrito Free Folk Festival, to take place October 10, 2026, and the request for \$1,250 in support to host the event.

Moved/Seconded: Member Hammer/Vice Chair Cazden **Action:** Motion to approve of a mini-grant request from the El Cerrito Free Folk Festival in the amount of \$1,250 to support the El Cerrito Free Folk Festival in 2026 **Ayes:** Chair LeVesque; Vice-Chair Cazden; Members: Hammer, Helion, Settles **Noes:** None. Youth Member Rabinovici expressed support for the motion. Motion approved.

6. COMMUNITY CENTER MURAL PROJECT EXPLORATION

The Arts and Culture Commission discussed forming an Ad Hoc Subcommittee to conduct research on public mural projects and to 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.

Moved/Seconded: Vice Chair Cazden/Member Helion **Action:** Motion to form an Ad Hoc Subcommittee to conduct research on public mural projects including for, but not limited to, the Community Center location. **Ayes:** Chair LeVesque; Vice-Chair Cazden; Members: Hammer, Helion, Settles **Noes:** None. Youth Member Rabinovici expressed support for the motion. Motion approved.

Commissioner Hammer and Chair LeVesque will serve on the Ad Hoc Subcommittee and report back to the full Commission on their research.

7. ECCRU PARTNERSHIP WITH RICHMOND ART CENTER

Commissioners heard a report from the Arts & Culture Commission's Ad Hoc Subcommittee exploring a potential partnership or collaboration with the Richmond Art Center. General direction was provided by the group encouraging the Ad Hoc Subcommittee to continue having additional exploratory conversations.

8. ACC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Commission heard brief updates from Staff Liaison Provost and participated in discussion related to planning, logistics, and expenditures for the ACC

calendar of events, including October Arts Month and the 4th of July.

Chair LeVesque also shared that the Human Relations Commission is exploring an idea to partner with the Arts & Culture Commission on an arts event for United Against Hate Week. She anticipates having more information about the proposal to share at an upcoming meeting.

9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Consider approval of the minutes of the November 24, 2025, meeting.

Moved/Seconded: Member Helion/Chair LeVesque **Action:** Motion to approve the minutes of the November 24, 2025 meeting **Ayes:** Chair LeVesque; Vice-Chair Cazden; Members: Hammer, Helion, Settles **Noes:** None. Motion approved.

10. UPCOMING ACC-AFFILIATED EVENTS

The Commission reviewed and discussed 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

Commissioners discussed the idea of developing a calendar of ACC-affiliated Arts events that would be available on the City's website for the community to access and review at any time and expressed interest in adding the topic to an agenda for discussion at a future meeting.

12. ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 7:42 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 January 21, 2026, as approved by the Arts and Culture Commission.

Will Provost, Staff Liaison

From: noreply@civicplus.com
 To: [Will H. Provost](#); [Lina Huang](#)
 Subject: Online Form Submittal: Arts & Culture Commission Support Application Form
 Date: Thursday, March 12, 2026 1:05:37 PM

This sender is trusted.

Arts & Culture Commission Support Application Form

Contact/Applicant Name:	Greg Pursley
Organization Name (if applicable):	Regional Farmers' Market Association
Contact Phone:	[REDACTED]
Contact Email:	[REDACTED]
Contact Address:	[REDACTED]
City/Zip	Pleasant Hill, Ca. 94523
Location of proposed event/project:	2000 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito El Cerrito Plaza Farmers' Market
Anticipated number of attendees?	1200
Date(s) & Time(s) of the event:	Every Tuesdays & Saturday to the end of the calendar year 2026

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Include project description here:	<p>Regional FMA goal is to make the El Cerrito Farmers' Markets one of the best markets in the East Bay. Part of a good market is having music, which tends to draw more customers and make the markets more vestive and inviting. The El Cerrito markets are growing.Growth happens through a greater variety of producers and good ambiance. Music is a great part of the ambiance of the market. The El Cerrito markets bring in money through the producers that paid a small fee to sell at the market. Regional take a percentage of those fees and put them back into the market to pay for promotional activities which includes Post Cards with coupons, Frequent Shopper Cards and Music. The music and the musicians that bring it, make a large part of the ambiance of the market.</p> <p>We would like to try and have music at every market day in 2026. This will cost about \$5,000.00 in 2026. which is about \$2,000.00 more then 2025. This would divert some money that could go to</p>
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other activities for the customers base.

Have you done a similar event or project before?

No

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

Farmers' market are about as diverse in attendance as you can get. We started EBT at the El Cerrito markets to help bring in lower income families and individuals as they can now access extra money through the Cal Fresh program. The farmers and food producers are all small businesses that are making part of their living by selling their produce and food products at the markets. For many of these producers, the El Cerrito Farmers' Market is their only outlet to sell their product. Regional FMA main Mission Statement is to give a place for Small Farmers, Independent Food Producers and Artisans to sell directly to the consumers!

We believe that part of what we do is also to help musicians have a place to come to and ply their trade.

Most farmers' market associations no longer give any starting money to these musicians. So many times when they go to a farmers' market they are hoping that they make enough money in tips only to pay for their gas and living cost. Regional give them a small starting fee that help them feel more confident that they can make a living.

REQUEST

Type of Support Requested:

Financial Support

Enter \$ Amount

\$1,500.00

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?

We are setting aside \$10,000.00 to be used for Customer Post Cards Coupons, Frequent Shopper Cards and Musicians. To have music all year long would cost us \$5,000.00. We can only use about \$3,500.00 for musicians otherwise it would pull away from the other promotional activities. All of the \$1,500.00 that we might receive from you would go directly to Musicians and let the Farmers' Market have music throughout the year.

Please upload your line-item budget (if

[El Cerrito Music 2026.xlsx](#) Attached

requesting financial support)

Have you received funding from the ACC in the past?	No
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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.	<i>Field not completed.</i>
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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
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STAFF/PERSONNEL

# paid staff	0
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# volunteers	0
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If applicable, load additional documents here:	<i>Field not completed.</i>
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El Cerrito Farmers' Mkt Music 2026

El Cerrito (\$50)

El Cerrito (\$50)

Date	Tuesdays	Date	Saturdays
		1/3	Shivan Bonanno
1/6	Dave Land	1/10	Dave Land
1/13	Oscar Reynolds	1/17	
1/20	Fred McCarty	1/24	Dave Land
1/27	Dave Land	1/31	Fred McCarty
2/3	Oscar Reynolds	2/7	Shivan Bonanno
2/10	Dave Land	2/14	Suzanna Holland
2/17		2/21	Andy Drake
2/24		2/28	Dave Land
3/3		3/7	Victoria Fowler
3/10	Suzanna Holland	3/14	Rabia Yamazawa
3/17	Fred McCarty	3/21	Shivan Bonanno
3/24	Dave Land	3/28	Dave Land
3/31	Benjamin Glasglow	4/4	Season of Us
4/7	Season of Us	4/11	Benjamin Glasglow
4/14	Dave Land	4/18	Shivan Bonanno
4/21	Fred McCarty	4/25	Fred McCarty
4/28	Oscar Reynolds	5/2	
5/5	Rabia Yamazawa	5/9	Rabia Yamazawa
5/12	Dave Land	5/16	Dave Land
5/19	Fred McCarty	5/23	Andy Drake
5/26	Stephanie Woodford	5/30	Shivan Bonanno
6/2	Benjamin Glasglow	6/6	Fred McCarty
6/9	Rabia Yamazawa	6/13	Stephanie Woodford
6/16	Fred McCarty	6/20	Victoria Fowler
6/23	Dave Land	6/27	Dave Land

El Cerrito

El Cerrito

Date	Tuesdays	Date	Saturdays
6/30	Stephanie Woodford	7/4	Closed
7/7		7/11	Rabia Yamazawa
7/14	Suzanna Holland	7/18	Dave Land
7/21	Fred McCarty	7/25	Shivan Bonanno
7/28	Dave Land	8/1	Stephanie Woodford
8/4	Benjamin Glasglow	8/8	Victoria Fowler

8/11	Dave Land	8/15	Dave Land
8/18	Fred McCarty	8/22	Benjamin Glasglow
8/25	Stephanie Woodford	8/29	Fred McCarty
9/1		9/5	
9/8		9/12	Suzanna Holland
9/15	Oscar Reynolds	9/19	Rabia Yamazawa
9/22		9/26	
9/29		10/3	Dave Land
10/6		10/10	
10/13		10/17	
10/20		10/24	Shivan Bonanno
10/27		10/31	
11/3		11/7	
11/10		11/14	
11/17		11/21	
11/24		11/28	
12/1		12/5	
12/8		12/12	
12/15		12/19	
12/22		12/26	
12/29			