



Staff Liaison
Will Provost | (510) 215-4318
wprovost@elcerrito.gov

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AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION

Monday, May 18, 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. **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:
 - United Against Hate Week
 - October Arts Month
 - 4th of July
5. **ACC WORKPLAN**
Review the Arts & Culture Commission Draft Work Plan and accomplishments. Consider next steps, revisions needed, and adoption of the updated Workplan. (Attachment)

- 6. EL CERRITO POET LAUREATE CALL FOR POETS**
Receive an update and consider possible action items related to the Arts & Culture Commission's 2026 Call For Poets which was extended and closed on April 14, 2026.
- 7. FOURTH OF JULY/WORLD-ONE FESTIVAL REQUEST FOR SUPPORT**
For discussion and possible action, consider request for support for the City of El Cerrito/worldOne 4th of July Festival, worldOne Stage Performances, totaling \$12,000. (Attachment)
- 8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
Consider approval of the minutes of the March 23, 2026 meeting. (Attachment)
- 9. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**
Receive nominations and consider approval of a one-year term for Chair and Vice Chair of the Arts and Culture Commission.
- 10. UPCOMING ACC-AFFILIATED EVENTS**
Review and discuss upcoming events and programs supported by the Arts & Culture Commission, including:
 - El Cerrito Farmers Market Music, Tuesdays and Saturdays in 2026
 - City Hall Gallery Shows
 - Gail Morrison – May 1 - June 18, 2026
 - Susan Harris – June – July, 2026
 - El Cerrito Historical Society Photo Contest – October TBD
- 11. UPCOMING ITEMS**
 - Annual ACC Budget Presentation (June)
 - Community Center Mural Project Exploration Ad-Hoc Report (June)
 - ECCRU Partnership With Richmond Art Center Ad-Hoc Report (June)
 - City Hall Gallery Exhibition Call for Artists (Summer 2026)
 - Venue Database
 - Mini-Grant Guidelines and Grantee Requirements
- 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.



**DRAFT BIENNIAL WORK PLAN
FISCAL YEAR 2026/2027 – 2027/2028**

ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION

Staff Liaison

Will Provost | (510) 215-4318
wprovost@elcerrito.gov
City Manager's Office

Chair Renée LeVesque;
Vice-Chair Ruth Cazden;
Members Jenny Hammer, Courtney Helion,
Kim Settles, and Juno Rabinovici (Youth Member)

MISSION STATEMENT: It is the mission of the Arts & Culture Commission to advise the City Council of the needs of the artistic and cultural community; encourage and promote arts programs and events that engage community members and local businesses to build a flourishing and vibrant arts and cultural environment; provide advice to artists and arts/cultural organizations by sponsoring forums, programs, and events; carry out the Arts in Public Places program, and upon request, advise the City with respect to possible sources of funding.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND: The Arts and Culture Commission (ACC) consists of up to seven members who demonstrate a commitment to various arts disciplines, including but not limited to fine arts, visual arts, performing arts, literary arts, art history, and arts education. The ACC is charged with oversight of the Arts in Public Places Program, which requires certain development projects to contribute 1% of construction costs to public art, and is responsible for acquisition, funding, and placement of public art in the City on public property. The ACC also juries the City Hall Gallery Space, located on the second floor of City Hall at 10890 San Pablo Avenue.

History as described in 2017/18 Workplan: In 2002, a group of citizens petitioned the El Cerrito City Council to establish an arts and culture commission. Their proposal included the idea of advising the Council on arts and culture within the City and collaboration with existing organizations within the community: "By establishing an art and culture commission the City of El Cerrito would be providing support and encouragement for the growth of all arts. We would be joining the greater Bay Area in dedicating our time and involvement to the promotion of arts, artists and varied arts programs that would enrich our community and enhance our city." In 2003, the City Council created the Arts and Culture Commission. In 2013, the Commission adopted an Arts and Culture Master Plan to shape a vision for arts and culture in the City of El Cerrito.

FISCAL YEAR (2026/2027)

Goal or Objective	Proposed Activities	Funding and other Resources requested	Estimated Staff time needed	Timeline For Completion
No additional projects identified for Fiscal Year 2026/2027. Please see table for Ongoing Projects listed below.				

FISCAL YEAR (2027/2028)

Goal or Objective	Proposed Activities	Funding and other Resources requested	Estimated Staff time needed	Timeline For Completion
No additional projects identified for Fiscal Year 2027/2028. Please see table for Ongoing Projects listed below.				

ONGOING PROJECTS

Project	Activities	Funding and other Resources requested	Estimated Staff time needed
Maintain Arts & Culture Signature Programs	Poet Laureate, ECCRU Artist in Residency, 4 th of July/worldOne Festival, Utility Box Public Art Program	Funding, excluding Staff time, provided by the Arts in Public Places Program, Public Art Fund (213)	40 hours
Increase Access/Inclusivity to Public Art in the Community	City Hall Gallery Space Call for Artists/Program. El Cerrito Art Organizations and Venues Database. Focus on promoting Mini-Grant Program. Maintain Public Art Fund Database for Increased Transparency.	Funding, excluding Staff time, provided by the Arts in Public Places Program, Public Art Fund (213)	35 hours
Leverage Partnerships with Other Organizations	Partnering with schools, library, community organizations and non-profits on community events/projects such as Messy Art Day, Free Folk Festival, EC Art Association Art Show, etc. Co-coordinate United Against Hate Week Event.	Funding, excluding Staff time, provided by the Arts in Public Places Program, Public Art Fund (213)	8 hours
Supporting the Local Artistic and Cultural Community	Events (Art/Music/Food/Culture), Gallery Space, Database, Sponsorship of 4 th of July Festival, October Arts Month, etc.	Funding, excluding Staff time, provided by the Arts in Public Places Program, Public Art Fund (213)	10 hours
Beautify El Cerrito	Utility Box Public Art Program, Pavement Art Program, Community Center Mural Project	Funding, excluding Staff time, provided by the Arts in Public Places Program, Public Art Fund (213)	25 hours

PRIOR FISCAL YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Goal/Objective	Activities Supporting Goal	Status
Maintain Arts & Culture Signature Programs	Poet Laureate, ECCRU Artist in Residency, 4 th of July/worldOne Festival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported Tess Taylor as 2025-2026 Poet Laureate • Supported Zona Sage and Lisa Zimmer-Chu as 2025-2026 ECCRU Artists in Residence • Released CFA and Selected new ECCRU Artist, Susan Kuchinskas, who began her term January 1, 2026 • Released Call for Poets for 2026 Poet Laureate • Provided financial support for the City of El Cerrito/worldOne 4th of July Festival, worldOne Stage Performances
Increase Access/Inclusivity to Public Art in the Community	City Hall Gallery Space Call for Artists/Program. El Cerrito Art Organizations and Venues Database. Focus on promoting Mini-Grant Program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheduled and Supported 6 Shows in the City Hall Gallery Space • Promoted and utilized mini-grant program to leverage efforts already underway in the community • Developed Public Art Fund Database for Increased Transparency
Leverage Partnerships with Other Organizations	Partnering with schools, library, community organizations and non-profits on community events/projects such as Messy Art Day, Free Folk Festival, EC Art Association Art Show, Makers Faires, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mini Grant applications approved for Messy Art Day, the EC Art Association Annual Art Show, the El Cerrito Free Folk Festival, and Music at the El Cerrito Farmers' Market
Supporting the Local Artistic and Cultural Community	Events (Art/Music/Food/Culture), Gallery Space, Database, Sponsorship of 4 th of July/worldOne Festival, October Arts Month, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed and Promoted October Arts Month highlighting local arts events • Hosted interactive booth at 4th of July/worldOne Festival
Beautify El Cerrito	Utility Box Public Art Program, Pilot Pavement Art Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed City's first Pavement Art project on San Pablo Ave. at Wall Ave.

Workplan adopted on _____, 2026 by the following vote:

Moved/Second: []

Ayes: []

Noes: []

Absent: []

Youth Member: []

From: noreply@civicplus.com
To: [Will H. Provost](#); [Lina Huang](#)
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Arts & Culture Commission Support Application Form
Date: Monday, May 11, 2026 1:54:19 PM

This sender is trusted.

Arts & Culture Commission Support Application Form

Contact/Applicant Name: Christopher Jones, Recreation Director and Corey Mason, worldOnefestival

Organization Name (if applicable): City of El Cerrito and worldOnefestival

Contact Phone: (510) 559-7005

Contact Email: cjones@elcerrito.gov

Contact Address: 7007 Moeser Lane, El Cerrito, CA, USA

City/Zip: EL CERRITO

Location of proposed event/project: Cerrito Vista Park

Anticipated number of attendees? 9999

Date(s) & Time(s) of the event: 7/4/26, 11am to 5pm

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Include project description here: In 2022, thanks to the generosity of several sponsors, including a grant of \$20,000 from the City's Arts in Public Places Fund, the 4th of July Festival returned and was cost neutral to the City following the pandemic and the implementation of the City's fiscal recovery plan. In 2023 and 2024, the City contributed additional funding toward the festival, reducing the request from the Arts in Public Places Fund to \$12,000 to exclusively fund the worldOne stage performance fees.

In 2025, performance fees were raised from \$2,500 per group to \$3,000 in order to attract the same caliber of talent as past festivals, and the \$12,000 grant remained dedicated exclusively to covering those costs.

For 2026, we are again requesting \$12,000 from the Arts in Public Places Fund to exclusively fund worldOne stage

performance fees. This funding remains essential to securing high-quality multicultural performances that define the festival experience. The City continues its broader fundraising efforts to ensure the long-term sustainability of this beloved community event.

The City of El Cerrito/worldOne 4th of July Festival is admission free and draws over 10,000 attendees from El Cerrito and surrounding communities each year. It is the largest annual event in the city, celebrating Independence Day while promoting multicultural understanding and respect. The festival features the worldOne musical stage with performances spanning a wide range of national and international genres, alongside carnival rides, games, and an international food court. It also serves as a gathering place for local nonprofits and civic organizations to connect with residents, share their work, and build community awareness.

Have you done a similar event or project before?

Yes

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

The worldOne stage is an intentional celebration of multiculturalism and inter-generational entertainment bringing together diverse musical genres and audiences to El Cerrito's 4th of July Festival. This year's performances will feature an eclectic mix of American and global music including Keale (Hawaiian), Paul Yonemura & Friends (Jazz), Charlie Torch (Americana + Grass), and Bongo Sadibe & the Ton Tons (West African).

As a City event, the 4th of July Festival has environmental sustainability considerations at the forefront. Single use plastics are not allowed to be sold at the festival, recycling and composting is required, and a water-filling station will be available for use by the general public. Metal water bottles are on sale and will be available at the festival to encourage its use. Additionally, a bike valet service is provided at the Festival to encourage alternative transportation to driving.

REQUEST

Type of Support Requested:

Financial Support, City-owned discounted venue/space

Enter \$ Amount

12,000

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 projected total cost for the 2026 City of El Cerrito & worldOne Festival is \$172,000. The projected cost for the worldOne stage is \$71,430.

Expenses include performance fees, stage production, equipment & supplies, contracted vendor and rental fees (i.e. tables and chairs, generators, porta-potties, rides, supplies, extra labor, etc.) and City personnel (mainly Recreation, Police and Fire Employees).

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

[2026 4th of July Budget - ACC.pdf](#)

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.

The ACC has supported the City of El Cerrito & worldOne 4th of July Festival since 2022 when they awarded \$20,000 to the event. In 2023, the amount was \$10,000. In 2024 and 2025, the amount was adjusted to \$12,000 due to increased musician stipends which represents 100% of performer compensation. In 2026, the request remains at \$12,000.

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	80
# volunteers	20
If applicable, load additional documents here:	<i>Field not completed.</i>

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

City of El Cerrito & worldOne 4th of July Festival
2026 Estimated Revenue | Fiscal Year 2026-27

Category	Notes	Amount
Advance Sales		
Vendor/Information Booths	Fees from community and commercial vendors	\$14,000.00
Food Booths	Fees from food and beverage vendors	\$7,000.00
Car Showcase	Participant entry fees	\$200.00
Day of Revenue		
Rides & Beverages	On-site ride tickets and beverage sales	\$44,000.00
Fundraising		
City Contribution	Seed Funding from the City of El Cerrito General Fund and/or 4th of July Fund Balance	\$50,000.00
Sponsorships	Corporate and community sponsorships	\$43,000.00
Donations	Individual donations	\$1,800.00
City Art in Public Places Grant	City funding supporting public art	\$12,000.00
Total Revenue		\$172,000.00

City of El Cerrito & worldOne 4th of July Festival
 2026 Estimated Expenses | Fiscal Year 2026-27

Category	Notes	Amount
worldOne Stage		
Performance Fees	Artist and performer contracts	\$13,200.00
Production & Support	Audio crew, production management	\$14,600.00
Stage Rental & Equipment	Stage structure, sound system & related	\$16,000.00
Stage Costs Subtotal		\$43,800.00
Festival Cost Share (30% of Costs* Below)		\$27,630.00
worldOne Total	<i>Only Stage Costs included in total below</i>	\$71,430.00
Permits	ABC Permit	\$100.00
Equipment Rentals*	Generators, golf carts, ice trailer, bike racks, payment terminals, vehicle safety barriers, tables and chairs	\$16,000.00
Attractions & Entertainment	Carnival rides, carnival booths, inflatables	\$36,000.00
Site Amenities*	Porta-potties, street banners, water station	\$7,500.00
Services*	Security, contract maintenance, bike valet services	\$26,000.00
Supplies*	Event materials, signage, consumables	\$10,000.00
Staff*	City staff time, event day coordination	\$32,600.00
Expense Grand Total		\$172,000.00



Acting Staff Liaison
Alexandra Orologas | (510) 215-4302
aorologas@elcerrito.gov

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DRAFT MINUTES

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 Chair Renee LeVesque called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

1. **ROLL CALL** – Chair Renée LeVesque; Vice Chair: Ruth Cazden; Members: Jenny Hammer, Courtney Helion (arrived at 6:05 p.m.), Kim Settles and Juno Rabinovici (Youth Member)
2. **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS, COUNCIL LIAISON AND STAFF LIAISON REPORTS**
Interim Staff Liaison Orologas provided high-level updates on the Fiscal Year 2026–2028 budget process, the recent community budget workshop, the El Cerrito Poet Laureate call for artists, and the establishment of a Library Task Force.
3. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**
No public comment.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
Moved/Seconded: Member Helion/Vice Chair Cazden **Action:** Motion to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2026 meeting. **Ayes:** Chair LeVesque; Vice Chair Cazden; Members: Hammer, Helion, Settles **Noes:** None. Motion approved.
5. **MINI GRANT APPLICATION – FARMERS MARKET MUSIC**
Commissioners discussed a 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.

Moved/Seconded: Vice Chair Cazden/Member Settles **Action:** Motion to approve the request for support from applicant Greg Pursley of the Regional Farmers' Market Association to provide mini-grant funding in the amount of \$1,500 to support music at the El Cerrito Farmers' Market through 2026, with acknowledgement of the Arts & Culture Commission's support and sponsorship through visual signage that includes the Commission's logo and verbal recognition during concerts. **Ayes:** Chair LeVesque; Vice Chair Cazden; Members: Hammer, Helion, Settles Noes: None. Motion approved.

6. **ACC CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

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

- October Arts Month
 - Discussed reaching out to businesses, library events needing to go through approval six months in advance, possible Richmond Arts Center collaboration, Free Folk Festival table, Museum "Petting Zoo," and El Cerrito High School existing music events.
- 4th of July
 - Discussed musical choices, stipends to musicians. May – discussion on role of the City/Commission with Public Art Funds with the forthcoming request for support.
- United Against Hate Week
 - Human Resources Commission representatives plan on attending May meeting regarding a potential collaboration.

7. **UPCOMING ACC-AFFILIATED EVENTS**

The Commission review and discussed 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

8. **UPCOMING ITEMS**

- Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair (May)
- El Cerrito Poet Laureate Selection (May)
- 4th of July Request for Support (May)
- Annual Workplan (May)
- Human Relations Commission Collaboration (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

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