



County of Santa Cruz

PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

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JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR OF PARKS

ARTS COMMISSION MINUTES May 5, 2025, 4:30 p.m. – 979 17th Ave., Santa Cruz

- I. Called to order at 4:32 p.m. Present: Niven, Phillips, Miranda, Leclerc, Singer, Kroslowitz, McGowen
Absent / Excused: Rogers, Stabile Vacant seats: 1
Staff: Sarah Shea, Kathy DeWild

- II. Approved Agenda - Motion/Second: Kroslowitz/Phillips
AYES: 7
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 2

- III. Oral Communications – None

- VI. Approved Consent Agenda - Motion/Second: Miranda/Kroslowitz
AYES: 7
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 2

V. Staff reports

Shaun Logan will complete the mural on the new restroom building at Hidden Beach this week. The mural features what a park visitor might see as they make their way down the path to the beach: Monterey Bay, the seawall, flowers, a breaking wave, foliage and a songbird. He also designed way-finding signs to direct park visitors to the beach, and beachgoers to the restroom facility. Mary Tartaro was recently approved as the public artist for the Ben Lomond Transfer Station. "Humongous Fungus" will feature nine mushroom-shaped sculptures of welded metal covered with steel mesh, fiberglass cloth, and resin, then overlaid with weather-resistant reclaimed materials. QR codes linking to a website specific to the project will provide visitors and school groups with fun facts about this awe-inspiring organism that reflects the intelligence of nature while linking its purpose to that of the facility. The call for AY 2026 nominations will go out again, as there were no new nominations received by the due date.

VI. Regular Agenda

A. Information and Discussion Items

1. Museum of Art and History Annual Report – The Director reviewed program highlights for the past year, as well as goals for 2026, and gave information about how the County funding has been allocated and spent.
2. Arts Council Santa Cruz County Annual Report – The Director reviewed program highlights for the past year, as well as goals for 2026, and gave information about how the County funding has been allocated and spent.
3. Public Art and Design Guidelines – Deputy Parks Director, Rebecca Hurley and Elissa Benson, Assistant County Executive Officer, provided feedback on the proposed update to the guidelines.
4. Chamber Arts Award Category – subcommittee report- no report was given.

B. Action Items

1. Voted to approve Selection Panel recommendation of public artist for the Juvenile Hall public art project.

Motion/Second: Kroslowitz/Singer

AYES: 7
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 2

2. Select recipients for the 2025 Spotlight Award – Kara Sakai, Priscilla Martinez, and Katie Simpson

Motion/Second: Miranda/Kroslowitz

AYES: 7
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 2

3. Appointed Chair and Vice-Chair of the Arts Commission for a term starting July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026 – Chair: Niven; Vice Chair: Miranda

Motion/Second: Philips/McGowen

AYES: 7
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 2

4. Approved rescheduling the July meeting date of the Arts Commission from July 7 to July 21, same time and location.

Motion/Second: Kroslowitz/Singer

AYES: 7
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 2

VII. Next meeting date: May 5, 2025 – 4:30-6:00 PM. Agenda items may include:

- Artist of the Year 2026
- Public Art & Design Guidelines
- Appoint Commissioners to serve on Live Oak Exhibits Panel - 2
- Appoint Commissioners to serve on the Pace Trail public art projects
- Update Spotlight rating form
- Legacy Award
- Percent for Arts in Private Development
- Chamber update

VIII. Adjournment – 5:52 PM

Motion/Second: Kroslowitz/Phillips

AYES: 7
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 2