County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES
979 17TH AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062
(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD: (831) 454-7978

JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

ARTS COMMISSION – AGENDA

Monday, November 9, 2026 | **Live Oak Library Annex/Activity Room**
3:00 p.m. | **979 17th Avenue**
Regular Meeting – Annual Planning Meeting | **Santa Cruz, CA 95062**

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS OR APPROVAL

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: Any person may address the Commission during its Oral Communication period. Speakers must not exceed two (2) minutes in length, or the time limit established by the Chair, and individuals may speak only once during Oral Communications. All Oral Communication must be directed to an item listed on today's Consent Agenda, yet to be heard on Regular Agenda, or a topic not on the agenda that is within the jurisdiction of the Commission. Commission members will not take actions or respond immediately to any Oral communication presented regarding topics not on the agenda but may choose to follow up later, either individually or on a subsequent Commission Agenda. Oral communications will normally be received by the Commission for a period not to exceed thirty (30) minutes. If, at the end of this period, additional persons wish to address the Commission, the Oral Communication period may be continued to the last item on the agenda.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Approve meeting minutes from September 14, 2026 .....Pages 2-3

V. STAFF REPORTS

VI. REGULAR AGENDA

A. Information/Discussion Items

1. Arts Commission Attendance – 2025 and 2026 .....Pages 4-5
2. Public Art & Design Guidelines
3. Public Art in Private Development

B. Action Items

1. 2027 Public Art Plan.....Page 6
2. 2027 Arts Commission meeting schedule .....Page 7
3. 2025/26 Biennial Report.....Pages 8-10
4. Appoint one* Commissioner to the Waterslide Public Art Project Panel
5. Appoint two Commissioners to the Mesa Village Public Art Project Panel
6. Appoint three Commissioners to the Rail Trail Public Art Advisory Panel

VII. AGENDA / MEETING FOR: January 25, 2027 – 4:30 PM

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

***replacing Charlie Singer, who resigned from the Commission**

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JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR OF PARKS

ARTS COMMISSION MINUTES
September 14, 2026 – 4:30 p.m. – 979 17th Ave., Santa Cruz

I. Called to order: 4:42 p.m. Present: Niven, Phillips, Kroslowitz, Miranda, Leidenthal, Rogers, McGowen, Gonzalez
Absent / Excused: Leclerc Vacant seats: 1 Staff: Kathy DeWild

II. Approved Agenda - Motion/Second: Kroslowitz/Rogers
AYES: 8
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 1

III. Oral Communications – None

VI. Approved Consent Agenda - Motion/Second: Phillips/McGowen
AYES: 8
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 1

V. Staff reports

VI. Regular Agenda

A. Information and Discussion Items

1. Arts Commissioners reported on their meetings with appointing Supervisors regarding the updated Public Art and Design Guidelines, as well as the proposed Public Art in Private Development program.
2. Commissioners discussed potential next steps for the updated Public Art & Design Guidelines and the proposed Public Art in Private Development program.

B. Action Items

1. Appointed Commissioner Gonzalez to serve on the Government Center Exhibits Panel.
Motion/Second: Phillips/McGowen
AYES: 8
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 1

2. Approved RFQ rather than RFP as the first step in the artist selection process for the Rail Trail public art project.
Motion/Second: Rogers/Phillips
AYES: 8
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 1

VII. Next meeting date: November 9, 2026 – 3:00 PM.

VIII. Adjournment – 5:40 p.m.
Motion/Second: Kroslowitz/McGowen
AYES: 8
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 1

ARTS COMMISSION - Attendance 2025

P = Present **E** = Excused Absence **U** = Unexcused Absence **V** = Vacant **R** = Resigned **C**=Canceled/No Quorum P*=Late Arrival to Meeting P+=Left Early T= Term ended

Meets selected Mondays at 4:30PM, 979 17th Ave.	**Jan. 27**	**Feb.**	**Mar. 3**	**Apr.**	**May 5**	**June**	**July 21**	**Aug.**	**Sept. 8**	**Oct. 6**	**Nov. 17**	**Dec.**
DISTRICT 1 – SUPERVISOR KOENIG												
Karen Kroslowitz	E		P		P		P		P	P	P	
Sonia Leclerc	P		P		P		P		E	P	P+	
DISTRICT 2 – KIMBERLY DE SERPA												
Brenda Rogers	P		P*		E		E		P	P	E	
Charlie Singer	P		P		P		P		P	P	P	
DISTRICT 3 – SUPERVISOR CUMMINGS												
Sean McGowen	Appt. 1/28/25		P		P		E		P	P	P	
Valeria Miranda	P		P		P		P		E	P*	P	
DISTRICT 4 – SUPERVISOR HERNANDEZ												
VACANT SEAT	VACANT SEAT											
Judy Stabile	P		P		E		P		P	E	P	
DISTRICT 5 – MONICA MARTINEZ												
Lynda Phillips	P		P		P		P		P	P	P	
Margaret Niven	P		P		P		P		P	P	P*	

ARTS COMMISSION - Attendance 2026

P = Present **E** = Excused Absence **U** = Unexcused Absence **V** = Vacant **R** = Resigned **C**=Canceled/No Quorum P*=Late Arrival to Meeting P+=Left Early T= Term ended

Meets selected Mondays at 4:30PM, 979 17th Ave.	**Jan.**	**Feb.**	**Mar. 2**	**Apr.**	**May 4**	**June**	**July 6**	**Aug.**	**Sept. 14**	**Oct.**	**Nov. 17**	**Dec.**
DISTRICT 1 – SUPERVISOR KOENIG												
Karen Kroslowitz			P		P		P		P			
Sonia Leclerc			P		P		P		E			
DISTRICT 2 – SUPERVISOR DE SERPA												
Brenda Rogers			P		P		P		P			
Charlie Singer		R										
Robin Leidenthal	Appt. 06/29/26						P		P			
DISTRICT 3 – SUPERVISOR CUMMINGS												
Sean McGowen			P		P		E		P			
Valeria Miranda			P*		P		P		P			
DISTRICT 4 – SUPERVISOR HERNANDEZ												
Judy Stabile	R											
VACANT SEAT												
Jessica Gonzalez	Appt. 12/16/25		P*		P		E		P			
DISTRICT 5 – SUPERVISOR MARTINEZ												
Lynda Phillips			P		P		P		P			
Margaret Niven (chair)			P		P		P		P			

Santa Cruz County Arts Commission Public Art Plan – 2027

DRAFT

Project	Construction Budget	Estimated $ Available for Public Art	Original Source of Funding	Public Art Process Start Date	Construction Start Date	Public Art Completion Date	Selection Process
The Farm Park	$6,000,000 (1)	$120,000	RDA	Started	TBD	TBD	Open Competition
Juvenile Hall	$15,000,000	$150,000	SB-81 State Funds and County Capital Funds	Started	2026	2027	Open Competition
Ben Lomond Transfer Station	$5,725,000	$114,500	Bond Funded	Started	Spring 2026	Spring 2027	Open Competition
Swim Center Waterslide	$1,400,000	$28,000	Parks Capital Funds	Winter 2026/Early 2027	Feb/Mar 2027	Spring 2027	Open Competition
Winkle Park	$	$	Parks Capital Funds	Early 2027	TBD	TBD	Open Competition
Mesa Village Park	$	$	Measure Q Funds	Early 2027	TBD	TBD	Open Competition
Rail Trail Segments 10 & 11	TBD	$500,000	RTC & ATP Grants	Summer 2026	Winter 2027	2030	Open Competition
Rockview	$502,600	$10,052	Parks Capital Funds	TBD	TBD	TBD	Open Competition

(1) There is no longer any RDA funding for the construction of these parks; the figure shown in "Original Budget" for these projects is only provided as a reference to show how the amount available for Percent for Arts was determined. Funds for public art have been encumbered in the Public Art account, and artwork planned for the garden has been fabricated and installed by the artist.

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ARTS COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE

DRAFT

The meetings are generally on the first Monday, every other month. The commission may meet at an alternate location or time specified in the public notice. Additionally, the commission may call for special public meetings in order to timely conduct commission business.

Meetings are held in person in the Simpkins Swim Center Community Room, or Live Oak Library Annex Activity Room - 979 17th Ave., Santa Cruz.
For questions, please email kathy.dewild@santacruzcountyca.gov

2027 Schedule

MONDAY	**January 25, 2027**	**4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**
MONDAY	**March 1, 2027**	**4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**
MONDAY	**May 3, 2027**	**4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**
MONDAY	**July 12, 2027**	**4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**
MONDAY	**September 20, 2027**	**4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**
MONDAY	**November 8, 2027**	**3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

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ARTS COMMISSION
2025-2026 BIENNIAL REPORT

DRAFT

ROLE OF THE COMMISSION

For the benefit of the citizens of the County of Santa Cruz, the Arts Commission is responsible for advising and making recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and the Parks Department staff on all matters relating to the encouragement and coordination of artistic and cultural affairs within the County. In addition, the Commission:

1. Identifies and addresses the unmet needs of cultural and artistic life in Santa Cruz County.

2. Serves as advocates for the arts, soliciting multiple sources to support artistic and cultural programs in Santa Cruz County.

3. Communicates and cooperates with the County of Santa Cruz, Department of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services and related Commissions, community and private resources and arts-related groups performing as contractors, in order to ensure coordination of arts and cultural activities.

4. Assembles and makes available to the public up-to-date information relating to Santa Cruz County's artistic and cultural resources.

5. Is responsible for Arts Council oversight for the Board of Supervisors and conducts an annual review in June.

6. Helps facilitate public and private partnerships for the Arts in Santa Cruz County.

MEETINGS AND STRUCTURE

The Arts Commission meets no more than six times each fiscal year, with meeting dates to be determined by the Commission based on program needs. Meetings are generally held at 4:30 p.m. in the Community Room or Activity Room at the Simpkins Family Swim Center/Live Oak Library Annex.

The Arts Commission is made up of ten members, two nominated by each Supervisor, which operates using the Sturgis Rules of Order and a structure that includes a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson. Staff support is provided by the Department of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services.

ATTENDANCE

Exhibit 1 (two pages) displays the attendance of the Commissioners for the past 24 months.

2025-26 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Arts Awards and Recognition:

- Selected the 2026 and 2027 Artists of the Year Held *Profile Performance* events for the 2025 Artist of the Year, Janet Johns and the 2026 Artist of the Year, Micha Scott.
- Selected awardees of the "Spotlight Award" for 2025 and 2026, an award established in 2023 to honor local emerging artists, which includes an exhibition of their work on the 5th floor of the County Government Center.
- Developed and approved the Legacy Award, a new award which recognizes and honors individuals who have made a significant, lasting impact on the arts in Santa Cruz County through a lifelong commitment to artistic practice, teaching, or leadership in the performing, literary, or visual arts.

Public Arts Programs:

- Developed the 2026 and 2027 Public Art Plans
- Public Art projects were installed at Floral Park, the Children's Crisis Support Center (The Hope Forward | Esperanza Adelante Youth Crisis Center), the Pace Family Wilderness Trails, the Sobering Center, and the Green Valley Multi-use Pathway.
- Voted to recommend to the Board of Supervisors the Art Panel's selection of artists for the Ben Lomond Transfer Station, Behavioral Health Bridge Housing, and Juvenile Hall, and began the public art process for all three.
- Appointed Commission representatives to serve on upcoming public art panels.

County Art Collection and Exhibitions:

- Continued art exhibitions at the County Government Center and Simpkins Family Swim Center; appointed an Arts Commissioner to serve on the selection panel for the 2025 and 2026 exhibitions screening.

Commission Business:

- Held annual planning meeting.
- Reviewed Arts Council activities.
- Reviewed Museum of Art and History activities.
- Formed subcommittee to review and make recommendations to the Commission for a Public Art in Private Development program.
- Reviewed and Approved draft program for Public Art in Private Development: recommend that the Board of Supervisors adopt the proposed program and funding mechanism.
- Approved updates to the Public Art & Design guidelines; recommend that the Board of Supervisors accept the proposed revisions.
- Appointed Commissioners to work with the Santa Cruz Co. Chamber of Commerce staff to establish an award centered on the arts. The chamber ultimately introduced in 2025 the Cultural Impact Award to honor individuals, businesses, nonprofits, or organizations that make outstanding contributions to the arts, heritage, and cultural fabric of Santa Cruz County. The first recipient of the award was Santa Cruz Shakespeare.

2027-2028 GOALS

Arts Awards and Recognition:

- Continue Art Exhibits in the County Government Center; appoint Arts Commissioner to serve on the selection panel for 2027 and 2028 exhibitions.
- Select the Artist of the Year 2028 and 2029 and hold Artist of the Year 2027 and 2028 "Profile Performance" events.
- Select awardees of the "Spotlight Award" for 2027 and 2028.
- Select recipient for the Arts Legacy Award
- Appoint Arts Commissioner to serve on the Santa Cruz County Poet Laureate panel for 2029-30 position.

Public Art Programs:

- Develop the 2028 and 2029 Public Art Plans.
- Continue and complete the public art process for Juvenile Hall, Ben Lomond Transfer Station, and the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing project.
- Begin the public art process for the Rail Trail sections 10 & 11, the Simpkins Swim Center Waterslide, Mesa Village, Winkle Park, and Rockview.
- Implement future phases of the *Outside the Box* program.

County Art Collection & Exhibtions:

- Rotate pieces in the County Art Collection.
- Secure donations of art from previous Artists of the Year.
- Develop funding plan for professional assessment of collection, including public, restoration/repair of damaged work, and appropriate storage for the collection.
- Develop collection stewardship plan.
- Continued art exhibitions at the County Government Center and Simpkins Family Swim Center/Library Annex; appoint an Arts Commissioner to serve on the selection panel for the 2027 and 2028 exhibitions screenings.

Information and Communication:

- Reinstate all-commissions annual meeting (e.g. County Arts Commission, City Arts Commissions)

Commission Business:

- Review Arts Council Santa Cruz County activities.
- Review the Museum of Art and History activities.

Future Planning:

- Conduct annual Arts Commission planning meeting
- Continue work towards Equity and Inclusion - The Arts Commission commits to making our programs more equitable and inclusive, especially as they relate to the list in "Role of the Commission" at the top of this document.

Recommendations:

- Support the MAH and Arts Council in identifying dedicated sources of funding to support the arts in Santa Cruz County.