



CITY *of* ESCONDIDO

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION

October 12, 2026 at 5:00 PM
Council Chambers: 201 North Broadway, Escondido, CA 92025

WELCOME TO YOUR COMMISSION MEETING

We welcome your interest and involvement in the legislative process of Escondido. This agenda includes information about topics coming before the Commission.

CHAIR

Nathalie Martinez

VICE CHAIR

Patricia Spann

COMMISSIONERS

Jacqueline Kelleher
Carol Rogers
Mimi Ovanessoff
Terri Ryan
Leila Sackfield

CITY CLERK

Zack Beck

HOW TO WATCH

The City of Escondido provides the following way to watch a Commission meeting:

In Person



201 N. Broadway, Escondido, CA 92025



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MEETING AGENDA

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

ORAL COMMUNICATION

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - NONE

CURRENT BUSINESS

1. ESCONDIDO CREEK TRAIL CALL FOR ARTISTS: RUBRIC UPDATE

Approve continuing the current Request for Proposals (RFP) process for the Escondido Creek Trail Art Projects. Changes to the approved RFP, to include updates to the rubric, would require a rejection of all proposals, a new draft of the RFP, approval of the process, and a call for proposals. Approve continuing the current Request for Proposals (RFP) process for the Creek Trail art projects.

Staff Recommendation: Approval (Sandra Aguilar, Economic Development)

Presenter: Sandra Aguilar, Economic Development, Management Analyst

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approval of the continuation of the current RFP process for the Escondido Creek Trail Art Projects.

2. FUNDING FOR ESCONDIDO EXPRESSIONS TRAFFIC SIGNAL BOX: CENTRE CITY HIGH SCHOOL

Request the Public Art Commission deny the installation of the Centre City High School design, by artist Sean Flannery, on a City traffic signal box as part of the Escondido Expressions Program. Installation of additional artwork on traffic signal boxes is not part of the 2027/2026 Public Art Annual Work Plan, and no funding is available for this project. Request the Commission oppose the installation of artwork on a single traffic signal box.

Staff Recommendation: Deny (Sandra Aguilar, Economic Development)

Presenter: Sandra Aguilar, Management Analyst, Economic Development

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Request the Commission deny further installations for Escondido Expressions. Staff recommends the Commission oppose the installation of the presented design on a city traffic signal box. Approval will require identification of a funding source, and



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location for installation. Funding for artwork previously installed on traffic signal boxes was part of the Escondido Expressions program. The Commission voted to not fund the program for the current fiscal year.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

STAFF LIAISON REPORT

[3. STAFF LIASION REPORT](#)

[4. QUEEN CALIFIA REPORT](#)

COMMISSIONERS REPORT

ADJOURNMENT

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

The City of Escondido provides two ways to communicate with the Commission during a meeting:

In Person



Fill out Speaker Slip and Submit to City Clerk

In Writing



<https://escondido-ca.municodem meetings.com/>

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED

If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact our ADA Coordinator at (760) 839-4643. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility. Listening devices are available for the hearing impaired – please see the City Clerk.





STAFF REPORT

October 12, 2026
Agenda Item No.: 01

SUBJECT:

Escondido Creek Trail Call for Artists: Rubric Update

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve continuing the current Request for Proposals (RFP) process for the Escondido Creek Trail Art Projects. Changes to the approved RFP, to include updates to the rubric, would require a rejection of all proposals, a new draft of the RFP, approval of the process, and a call for proposals. Approve continuing the current Request for Proposals (RFP) process for the Creek Trail art projects.

Staff Recommendation: Approval (Sandra Aguilar, Economic Development)

Presenter: Sandra Aguilar, Economic Development, Management Analyst

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approval of the continuation of the current RFP process for the Escondido Creek Trail Art Projects.

FISCAL IMPACT:

As part of the 2026/2027 Public Art Annual Work Plan, the Public Art Commission allocated \$310,000 for The Escondido Creek Trail Art Projects. Of those funds, \$285,000 are designated to be awarded to artists through the RFP process. The remaining funds, \$25,000, will be made available for unforeseen site preparation costs, which City staff will present to the Public Art Commission as needed for consideration and approval.... Any unspent project funds will roll over to the next fiscal year and be available for allocation toward future public art projects.

BACKGROUND:

On January 16, 2026, the Escondido Creek Trail Subcommittee convened to discuss the elements to be included in the Call for Artists Request for Proposals (RFP). The Subcommittee reviewed the proposed RFP award amounts and evaluation rubric. Based on the Subcommittee's direction, City staff prepared a draft RFP, which was subsequently reviewed by Neighborhood Healthcare staff.

On July 13, 2026, City staff brought the final draft RFP, which included a rubric, to the Public Art Commission for final approval. The RFP was approved. It was released on July 16, 2026.

[Escondido Creek Trail Projects Call](#)



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STAFF REPORT

City Staff received 39 proposals from 29 artists by the submission deadline of September 8, 2026. Artist proposals were provided to the Public Art Commissioners on September 11, 2026, and were also shared with Ellen Clark, the representative for Neighborhood Health Care (NHC). As the building owner, NHC retains the right to veto proposals it determines are not appropriate for the building.

After a collaborative discussion at the September 21, 2026, Public Art Commission meeting, the following six submissions were vetoed:

1. Along the Current by Riley Miller
2. Eye of the Egret by Kolten French
3. The Healing Stream by Kiana Honarmand
4. Untitled by Becca Dwyer
5. Flora and Fauna for Escondido by Roberto Salas
6. Untitled by Robin Riley

Proposed Evaluation Rubric

At the September 21, 2026, Public Art Commission Meeting, Commissioner Sackfield began a conversation regarding assigning scores to the proposals. She distributed a rubric update that she intended to use for her own ratings and offered it as a tool to be used by other Commissioners when evaluating proposals. The Commissioners shared concerns regarding ensuring consistency in the evaluation process which were echoed by other Commissioners. The Commission voted to discuss the scoring rubric at a future meeting.

Following the Commission's direction to discuss the scoring rubric, staff sought clarification from the City Attorney regarding the options available at this stage of the procurement process. Because the scoring rubric was included in the published RFP, the proposals must be evaluated using the criteria provided in the RFP. If the Commission determines that changes to the scoring rubric are desired, the current proposals would need to be rejected, the existing RFP closed, and a new RFP issued with the revised criteria.

The Commission is therefore being asked to vote on how they would like to proceed. The Commission may:

- (1) Proceed with evaluation of the proposals using the scoring rubric included in the published RFP. Final scores would be due to staff by October 30, 2026 to be compiled for review at the November 9, 2026 Public Art Commission Meeting.
- (2) Direct staff to reject all current proposals, close the existing RFP, and return with a new RFP incorporating revised evaluation criteria.



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ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Escondido Creek Trail: Proposed Public Art Proposal Evaluation Rubric

Template

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Proposed Public Art Proposal Evaluation Rubric

Purpose

This rubric is intended to provide a consistent and objective framework for evaluating public art proposals using the four scoring categories established by the City. The rubric does not add new selection criteria; it provides subcriteria and scoring anchors to assist Commissioners in applying the City's existing criteria consistently.

Total Possible Score: 100 Points

Evaluation Category	Maximum Points
1. Complete Proposal Package	10
2. Review of Past Work	25
3. Proven Ability to Execute Work of Similar Scale	25
4. Proposal Quality & Subject Matter	40

TOTAL	100
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1. COMPLETE PROPOSAL PACKAGE — 10 POINTS

Evaluate whether the applicant has provided the information necessary for the Commission to meaningfully evaluate the proposal.

Subcriterion	Points
Required application materials submitted	4
images, drawings, renderings or work samples provided	2
Artist statement/proposal narrative provided	2
Budget/cost information,	1
Other required information or additional documentation	1
TOTAL	10

Scoring Anchors

9–10 — Complete: All or virtually all required materials are provided and readily allow evaluation.

7–8 — Substantially Complete: Minor omissions that do not materially interfere with evaluation.

4–6 — Partially Complete: Multiple omissions, but sufficient information remains to evaluate the proposal.

1–3 — Significantly Incomplete: Important information is missing and substantially limits evaluation.

0 — Unable to Evaluate: Required information is sufficiently incomplete that the proposal cannot reasonably be evaluated.

2. REVIEW OF PAST WORK — 25 POINTS

Evaluate the quality and relevance of the artist’s demonstrated body of work. Focus on documented work rather than personal preference for a particular artistic style.

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Subcriterion	Points
Artistic quality and craftsmanship	13
Relevance of past work to proposed project	6
Creativity/originality demonstrated in past work	6

TOTAL	25
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Scoring Anchors

22–25 — Exceptional: Consistently demonstrates a high level of artistic quality, craftsmanship, originality and relevant experience.

18–21 — Strong: Demonstrates a strong body of work with substantial evidence of quality and relevance.

14–17 — Adequate: Demonstrates competent work and some relevant experience, with areas of limited evidence.

10–13 — Limited: Demonstrates some applicable skills or experience but provides limited evidence of the requested qualities.

0–9 — Insufficient: Little or no demonstrated evidence of the artistic quality, relevance or professionalism sought.

3. PROVEN ABILITY TO EXECUTE WORK OF SIMILAR SCALE — 25 POINTS

Evaluate whether the artist has demonstrated the practical and professional ability to successfully complete a project comparable in size, complexity, materials and setting.

Subcriterion	Points
Previous experience with comparable scale and complexity	9

Experience with comparable materials/technical requirements	6
Experience working in public/civic environments	5
Evidence of successfully completed comparable projects	5
TOTAL	25

Scoring Anchors

22–25 — Exceptional: Extensive and directly comparable experience with successfully completed projects of similar or greater scale and complexity.

18–21 — Strong: Significant relevant experience with clear evidence of the ability to execute the proposed project.

14–17 — Adequate: Some relevant experience, although the proposed project may exceed or differ from demonstrated experience in certain respects.

10–13 — Limited: Limited experience with comparable projects or insufficient evidence of execution capability.

0–9 — Insufficient: Little or no demonstrated ability to successfully execute a project of the proposed scale or complexity.

4. PROPOSAL QUALITY & SUBJECT MATTER — 40 POINTS

Evaluate the proposed artwork itself, including its artistic concept, relationship to the site/project, subject matter, feasibility and long-term suitability.

Subcriterion	Points
Artistic concept and quality	10
Creativity/originality	10
Subject matter/community relevance	9
Feasibility and appropriateness	5
Durability, maintenance and long-term suitability	3
Clarity of proposal/presentation	3

TOTAL	40
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Scoring Anchors

36–40 — Exceptional: Highly compelling proposal demonstrating outstanding artistic concept, originality, site responsiveness, relevance and feasibility.

30–35 — Strong: Well-developed proposal demonstrating strong artistic qualities and clear responsiveness to the project.

24–29 — Adequate: Competent and viable proposal with some notable strengths and/or areas requiring further consideration.

16–23 — Limited: Proposal demonstrates some merit but has significant weaknesses in concept, relevance, site responsiveness or feasibility.

0–15 — Insufficient: Proposal provides inadequate evidence of artistic quality, relevance, feasibility or suitability.

Total Score	Descriptor	General Meaning
90–100	Exceptional	Proposal demonstrates exceptional artistic quality, strong relevant experience, clear ability to execute, and compelling alignment with the project/site.
80–89	Strong	Proposal demonstrates strong overall qualifications and a well-developed, viable concept

		with relatively few concerns.
70–79	Good / Competitive	Proposal meets the criteria well and demonstrates meaningful strengths, with some areas that may warrant further consideration.
60–69	Adequate	Proposal meets many basic criteria but has identifiable weaknesses, limitations, or unanswered questions.
50–59	Limited	Proposal demonstrates some relevant qualities but has significant weaknesses in one or more evaluation areas.
0–49	Insufficient	Proposal provides insufficient evidence of the qualities, experience, or feasibility necessary to satisfy the evaluation criteria.

COMMISSIONER SCORING GUIDELINES

To promote consistency and fairness, Commissioners should:

1. Apply the same criteria to every proposal.

Each application should be evaluated using a rubric regardless of the artist's identity, reputation, previous relationship with the City, or personal familiarity.

2. Evaluate evidence in the application.

Scores should be based on information contained in the submitted proposal and supporting materials, rather than assumptions about the applicant.

3. Separate artistic preference from evaluation criteria.

A Commissioner may have a personal preference for a particular artistic style, but the score should reflect the established criteria.

4. Distinguish artistic quality from feasibility.

A proposal can be artistically compelling while presenting execution challenges. Those considerations should be reflected in the appropriate categories rather than combined into a single subjective judgment.

5. Consider subject matter objectively.

"Subject matter/community relevance" should address the proposal's relationship to the stated purpose, site and public-art objectives—not whether an individual Commissioner personally agrees with, prefers or dislikes the subject.

6. Identify conflicts of interest.

Commissioners should disclose any actual or potential conflict of interest before evaluating an application and follow applicable City policies and law.

7. Do not introduce new criteria during scoring.

If a consideration is not addressed by the City's four categories or an adopted rubric, Commissioners should not independently create additional scoring criteria during the evaluation process.

8. Document significant scoring decisions.

Commissioners are encouraged to provide brief comments identifying significant strengths, concerns or questions, particularly when assigning unusually high or low scores.



STAFF REPORT

October 12, 2026
Agenda Item No. 2

SUBJECT:**FUNDING FOR ESCONDIDO EXPRESSIONS TRAFFIC SIGNAL BOX: CENTRE CITY HIGH SCHOOL****RECOMMENDATION:**

Request the Public Art Commission deny the installation of the Centre City High School design, by artist Sean Flannery, on a City traffic signal box as part of the Escondido Expressions Program. Installation of additional artwork on traffic signal boxes is not part of the 2027/2026 Public Art Annual Work Plan, and no funding is available for this project. Request the Commission oppose the installation of artwork on a single traffic signal box.

Staff Recommendation: Deny (Sandra Aguilar, Economic Development)

Presenter: Sandra Aguilar, Management Analyst, Economic Development

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Request the Commission deny further installations for Escondido Expressions. Staff recommends the Commission oppose the installation of the presented design on a city traffic signal box. Approval will require identification of a funding source, and location for installation. Funding for artwork previously installed on traffic signal boxes was part of the Escondido Expressions program. The Commission voted to not fund the program for the current fiscal year.

FISCAL IMPACT:

In the 2026/2027 Public Art Annual Work Plan, no funding was allocated for the Escondido Expressions Program. In fiscal year 2025/2026, the approved cost for a traffic signal box art installation was \$750.

BACKGROUND:

The Escondido Expressions Program ("Program") was implemented to enhance the visual character of Escondido's neighborhoods and commercial districts by transforming traffic signal control boxes into public art installations. The Program was intended to showcase local artists, discourage graffiti, and expand the City's public art collection through artwork that reflects the unique identity, creativity, and diversity of the community.



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All artwork must be original and created by the selected artist. Designs are required to comply with all applicable policies, standards, and guidelines established by the City of Escondido and the Public Art Commission. Selected artists are responsible for maintaining their artwork for a period of five years, including the repair of damage and removal of graffiti. Should an artist be unable to fulfill these maintenance obligations, the City reserves the right to remove or paint over the artwork. Failure to meet maintenance requirements may also result in the artist being deemed ineligible for future City public art opportunities. As part of the Annual Work Plan, the Public Art Commission voted to discontinue funding the program for fiscal year 2026/2027.

New Design

In preparation for the August 10, 2026, Public Art Commission meeting, City staff contacted artist, Sean Flannery, and requested that he develop a design to potentially replace existing artwork on a traffic signal box. He provided a design featuring Center City High School as his inspiration. He provided a design featuring Centre City High School as his inspiration. John Paul the Great Catholic University owns the property where the Center City High School building is located and approved the design. John Paul the Great Catholic University owns the property where the Centre City High School building is located and approved the design. The Commission voted to retain the existing artwork.

On September 21, 2026, the Public Art Commission expressed interest in discussing the proposed design for installation at a location in the City.

Program Status

As part of the Annual Work Plan, the Public Art Commission voted to discontinue funding the Escondido Expression program for fiscal year 2026/2027 to allow staff capacity to focus on other higher priority projects. Changes to the Annual Work Plan will decrease staff capacity on other Public Art Commission projects, and additional approvals may be required by City Council. Staff suggest that further funding of the Escondido Expressions Program continue when the discussions begin on 2027/2028 Public Art Work Plan.

ATTACHMENTS:

- a. Escondido Expressions Traffic Signal Boxes: Centre City High School Design
- b. Design featuring the Center City High School building

Attachment A

Escondido Expressions Traffic Signal Boxes: Centre City High School Design
Artwork by Sean Flannery



MEMORANDUM

October 12, 2026

TO: Public Art Commission

FROM: Sandra Aguilar, Management Analyst

SUBJECT: Public Art Liaison Report – October 2026

Art Solicitation Projects

Grand Avenue Roundabout Art Project: Preparation of the next Request for Proposals (RFP) requires additional legal and procurement review following the Commission's direction to add a step to the artist selection process. The City Attorney's Office is reviewing the procurement process to ensure alignment with current legal requirements, and public art staff is working with multiple departments to identify a path forward that meets those requirements and supports the Commission's project goals. Staff now anticipate presenting the revised RFP and process for Commission review at the December 14, 2026, Public Art Commission meeting.

2027 Arts, Culture, and Creativity Month: On August 28, 2026, the Escondido Public Art Commission opened its third consecutive year of Arts, Culture & Creativity Month grants, committing a total of \$85,000 to support free arts and cultural programs throughout the community during April 2027. Grants of \$1,000–\$10,000 are available to individuals, nonprofits, organizations, and businesses for projects ranging from performances and exhibitions to hands-on creative experiences and cultural traditions. This annual program helps expand access to the arts while supporting local artists, creative workers, and community organizations. Applications are due October 23, 2026.

Learn more: <https://www.escondido.gov/DocumentCenter/View/10001/ACCM-2027-Packet?bidId=>

Career Impact WorkshopsCal State University San Marcos Interns

On September 23, 2026, Public Art staff met virtually with Cal State San Marcos Staff to go over details of the upcoming internship program. The public art program will receive two interns dedicated to assisting at Queen Calia's Magical Circle. The main objective is to expose students to careers in the art field and provide them with an enriching experience. Public Art staff and CSUSM staff are working together to build the curriculum for the interns which will include expanding open hours at the sculpture garden, creating additional educational materials, and assisting with the Career Impact Workshop preparations. They will also be key participants in the workshops. A detailed curriculum is expected to be finalized by December.

Career Impact Workshops: Mosaics

On September 15, staff met virtually with master mosaic artisan Lech Juretko regarding the hands-on workshop exploring the techniques, tools, and craftsmanship behind mosaic art. Students will learn about the mosaic restoration process and gain practical skills through demonstration and guided instruction. This workshop offers an opportunity to expand creative skills while gaining a deeper appreciation for the artistry and care involved in preserving mosaic artwork.

Next Meeting Agenda (Tentative)

The following items are anticipated to be on the next meeting agenda.

November 9, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

- Escondido Creek Trail Art Project
- Arts, Culture, and Creativity Month



Queen Calafia's Magical Circle Data Report and Updates

Item 4.

August Visitor Data

Open Days	Visitors (Logs)	Visitors (Geolocation data)	Private Tours
11	1139	529	0

Docent Information

Active Docents	New Docents	YTD Docent Hours	Private Tour Fees Collected
36	0	58	\$0

Program Updates

Windsor Community Group Cleaning

On Wednesday, September 23, from 9am to 11 am, 18 volunteers from the Windsor Community Group raked leaves, dusted stones, and wiped mirrors at Queen Calafia's Magical Circle. 248 pounds of debris was cleared thanks to their hard work and dedication. The cleanup is in preparation for the Queen Calafia's Magical Circle Anniversary Celebration, and the sculpture garden looks refreshed and cared for, reflecting the pride and generosity of our community.

Del Lago Academy: Presentation and Private Tours

On Thursday, October 1, 2026, Public Art Staff presented in front of 200 students at Del Lago Academy. Students have been studying Art as Advocacy this semester, and staff shared their knowledge on how Public Art is created in the City of Escondido. Following this presentation, on Friday, October 2, 2026, students toured Queen Calafia's Magical Circle and the Public Art in Grape Day Park with staff serving as docents. Students were very curious and engaged, asking several questions about Public Art in our City.

Fiber Expressions

Volunteer fiber artists decorated 8 tree trunks around Queen Calafia's Magical Circle as part of a temporary fiber exhibition called *Fiber Expressions*, designed to celebrate the month of October. Their work will be up for public viewing until Saturday, October 24, 2026. As installation has begun, several visitors have shared positive feedback and expressed appreciation for this project. On Sunday, October 25, 2026, LoveEsco, a community volunteer initiative, will lead a cleaning to remove any remaining fiber art from the trees.



Queen Calafia's Magical Circle Data Report and Updates

Item 4.

Queen Calafia's Anniversary Month (2026)

October marks both the anniversary of the opening of the sculpture garden and the birthday of Niki de Saint Phalle. To celebrate, several free events take place throughout the month. On Thursday, October 8, the Escondido Public Library hosted a special story time featuring *Meany Meany and the Stolen Toys*, a children's book created by Niki de Saint Phalle, the artist of Queen Calafia's Magical Circle.

Family Creativity Days began on October 10 with a successful day of hands-on activities for visitors of all ages. The series continues on October 17 and 24, when community partners will once again offer free, creativity-inspiring activities for families in and around Queen Calafia's Magical Circle. Participating organizations include Photographer's Eye, the Escondido Library, Barktorium, CoLabCrafts, UNCI, and musician Sophie Rae. For more information, visit: <https://www.escondido.gov/1294/Events>.

Docent Gathering: Birthday Celebration

Public Art staff have invited our volunteer docents and Public Art Commissioners to join us in celebrating the birthday of Queen Calafia's Magical Circle artist, Niki de Saint Phalle, at a special gathering on Monday, October 26, from 10 am to 12pm in the Parkview Room at City Hall. We are pleased to virtually welcome special guest speakers Kathryn Masuda and Olivia Willingham of the Atlanta Botanical Garden, who recently helped create *Niki in the Garden*, an exhibition featuring more than 40 works by Saint Phalle. Birthday cake and light refreshments will be provided.