



CITY *of* ESCONDIDO

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION

March 09, 2026 at 4:30 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

Carol Rogers

VICE CHAIR

Patricia Spann

COMMISSIONERS

Jacqueline Kelleher

Nathalie Martinez

Terri Ryan

Leila Sackfield

ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

Sarena Garcia

HOW TO WATCH

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

In Person



201 N. Broadway, Escondido, CA 92025



CITY *of* ESCONDIDO

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION

MEETING AGENDA

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

ORAL COMMUNICATION

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- [1.](#) Review and Approve January 26, 2026 Minutes

GRAND AVENUE ROUNDABOUT ART PROJECT

- [2.](#) **GRAND AVENUE ROUNDABOUT ART PROJECT: PROCESS REVIEW AND NEXT STEPS**

Request the Public Art Commission to receive and file.

Staff Recommendation: Receive and File (Economic Development: Sandra Aguilar)

Presenter: Sandra Aguilar, Management Analyst

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Receive and File.

PROCUREMENT POLICY

- [3.](#) **LOCAL ARTIST PREFERENCE**

Request the Public Art Commission provide direction regarding a local artist preference and the Grand Avenue Roundabout Art Project next steps.

Staff Recommendation: Provide Direction (Economic Development: Sandra Aguilar)

Presenter: Sandra Aguilar, Management Analyst

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Provide Direction.



CITY *of* ESCONDIDO

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION

ESCONDIDO EXPRESSIONS

4. ESCONDIDO EXPRESSIONS PHASE 4.1

Request the Public Art Commission approve the artists submissions for 14 locations in Phase 4.1, as recommended by the Escondido Expressions Subcommittee.

Staff Recommendation: Approval (Economic Development: Sandra Aguilar)

Presenters: Sandra Aguilar, Management Analyst and Nikolina Katanic, Economic Development Specialist

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve 14 artist submissions and locations.

EUHSD STUDENT MURALS

5. EUHSD STUDENT MURALS SUMMER 2026

Request approval of the top two submissions for the Escondido Union High School District Student Murals program to be installed at the Park Avenue Community Center, as recommended by the Grants Subcommittee.

Staff Recommendation: Approve (Economic Development: Sandra Aguilar)

Presenter: Sandra Aguilar, Management Analyst

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve the top two student mural submissions.

PUBLIC ART ANNUAL WORK PLAN

6. 2026/2027 PUBLIC ART ANNUAL WORK PLAN

Request the Public Art Commission provide direction to staff on the projects to be included in the 2026/2027 Public Art Annual Work Plan.

Staff Recommendation: Provide Direction (Economic Development: Sandra Aguilar)

Presenter: Sandra Aguilar, Management Analyst

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Provide Direction.



CITY of ESCONDIDO

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION

COMMUNITY REQUEST GRANTS

7. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA INDIGENOUS ARTS AND CULTURE FESTIVAL

Request approval of \$2,500 in funding for a bird singers group to perform at the Southern California Indigenous Culture and Arts Festival, as recommended by the Grants Subcommittee.

Staff Recommendation: Approve (Economic Development: Sandra Aguilar)

Presenter: Sandra Aguilar, Management Analyst

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Request approval of \$2,500 in funding for a bird singers group to perform at the Southern California Indigenous Culture and Arts Festival, as recommended by the Grants Subcommittee.

LIASION REPORTS

8. Staff Liaison Report

9. Queen Califia Report

PUBLIC ART EXPERIENCES

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.municodemeetings.com/>



CITY *of* ESCONDIDO

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION

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.





CITY of ESCONDIDO

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION MEETING

January 26, 2026 at 4:30 PM

MINUTES

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Chair Carol Rogers
Vice Chair Patricia Spann
Commissioner Terri Ryan
Commissioner Nathalie Martinez
Commissioner Jacqueline Kelleher
Commissioner Leila Sackfield

ORAL COMMUNICATION

Damon Blackman - Spoke in favor of Escondido artists being included in the Grand Avenue Roundabout Project

Mark Zimmer - Spoke in favor of Escondido artists being included in the Grand Avenue Roundabout Project

Ryan Ferguson - Spoke in favor of Escondido artists being included in the Grand Avenue Roundabout Project

James Stone - Spoke in favor of Escondido artists being included in the Grand Avenue Roundabout Project, recall the RFQ; and requested Escondido artists be included in the selection for 'Authentically Escondido' Request for Qualifications

Duffy Healey - Spoke in favor of Escondido artists being included in the Grand Avenue Roundabout Project and requested that the \$500,000 be allocated to multiple sculptures

Adrian Stewart - Spoke in favor of Escondido local artists and advancing local artwork

Colin Jemmott - Spoke in favor of Escondido artists being included in the Grand Avenue Roundabout Project

Annika Dorman - Spoke in favor of Escondido artists being included in the Grand Avenue Roundabout Project

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Review and Approve November 17, 2025 Minutes

Motion made by Chair Rogers



CITY of ESCONDIDO

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION MEETING

January 26, 2026 at 4:30 PM

Seconded by Vice Chair Spann

Approved 5-0 (Sackfield - Abstained)

COMMUNITY REQUESTS

2. Escondido Art Association Kids Kaleidoscope

Overview provided by Ginger Madison and Adrian Stewart, Escondido Art Association

Motion made by Chair Rogers to approve \$6,000 in funding

Seconded by Commissioner Kelleher

Approved 6-0

3. Escondido Library Mural Community Request

Presentation by Sandra Aguilar, Management Analyst, Economic Development

Artist Tim Toplov provided an update

Motion to approve \$4,500 made by Chair Rogers

Seconded by Commissioner Kelleher

Approved 6-0

DEACCESSION

4. Artwork at the Library

Presentation by Sandra Aguilar, Management Analyst, Economic Development

Motion made by Commissioner Sackfield

Seconded by Vice Chair Spann

Approved 6-0

PUBLIC ART ANNUAL WORK PLAN

5. 2026/2027 Public Art Annual Work Plan

Presentation by Sandra Aguilar, Management Analyst, Economic Development



CITY of ESCONDIDO

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION MEETING

January 26, 2026 at 4:30 PM

Commissioners to provide direction on projects for 2026-2027 workplan

Commissioner Ryan - Mall steps Giraffe, Washington pool benches; inquired about the maintenance funding for the Barnes and Noble mural

Commissioner Kelleher - Inquired about the Vital Gold project

Commissioner Sackfield - Continuing Art, Culture and Creativity month annually

Chair Rogers - Continuing Banner Program and EUHSD Student Murals

Commissioner Martinez - Continuing Art, Culture and Creativity month, Banner Program and EUHSD Student Murals

STAFF LIAISON REPORT

6. Staff Liasion Report

Updates provided by Sandra Aguilar, Management Analyst and Nikolina Katanic, Recreation Leader II of Economic Development

7. Queen Califia's Magical Circle Report

PUBLIC ART EXPERIENCES

Commissioner Sackfield - Shared about the CCAE concert series and February Voices of our city Choir

Commissioner Kelleher - Enjoyed Small business Saturday

Chair Rogers - Downtown Business Association submitting a grant for music on Grand

Commissioner Ryan - Thanked staff and commissioners for hard work and support

Future Agenda Items – Commissioner Kelleher, Commissioner Sackfield and Commissioner Ryan – Requested discussion of request for qualifications process and inclusion of the (3) Escondido Artists in the Grand Avenue Roundabout RFQ



CITY of ESCONDIDO

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION MEETING

January 26, 2026 at 4:30 PM

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

CHAIR

ASSISTANT CITY CLERK



STAFF REPORT

March 09, 2026
Agenda Item No.: 02

SUBJECT:

Grand Avenue Roundabout Art Project: Process Review and Next Steps

RECOMMENDATION:

Request the Public Art Commission to receive and file.

Staff Recommendation: Receive and File (Economic Development: Sandra Aguilar)

Presenter: Sandra Aguilar, Management Analyst

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive and File

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Public Art Annual Work Plan 2025/2026 set funding of the Grand Avenue Roundabout Art Project to \$550,000 for creation of one main sculpture and four companion pieces.

BACKGROUND:

On July 14, 2025, the Public Art Commission voted to approve the Public Art Annual Work Plan 2025/2026 (7-0). This included funding in the amount of \$550,000 for the Grand Avenue Roundabout Art Project to include a main sculpture in the Broadway and Grand Roundabout and four companion pieces to be placed in each district. On August 20, 2025, the Escondido City Council unanimously adopted the Public Art Annual Work Plan 2025/2026.

Initial Request for Qualifications

On December 3, 2024, the Grand Avenue Roundabout Subcommittee convened. Due to the scope and complexity of the project, the Subcommittee recommended a two-phase selection process consisting of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to select no more than 10 artists followed by a Request for Proposals (RFP) with the top three artists. This art project offers a unique opportunity to contribute a major legacy piece to the City's public art collection by a notable artist.



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Under the direction of the Public Art Commission, the RFQ phase was designed to identify and pre-qualify artists with demonstrated experience in delivering projects of similar scale, budget, and complexity. This stage focused on evaluating professional qualifications, past work, technical capability, and experience engaging communities in the development of public art. The opportunity was opened to artists across Canada, The United States and Mexico broadening the pool of candidates and increasing the likelihood of attracting artists with the necessary expertise in large-scale public art.

The Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was issued on January 21, 2025, and closed on February 28, 2025. City staff received 25 submissions which were reviewed by the Grand Avenue Roundabout Subcommittee. Following the RFQ review, 10 artists were selected for community input. Community meetings were held on April 8 and April 12, 2025, to gather public feedback on the top artists' styles, the interpretation of the theme *Authentically Escondido*, and define elements the community would like to see incorporated into the project. On May 29, 2025, before entering the RFP process, the Public Art Commission voted to restart the RFQ process due to a potential ethics concern.

Amended Request for Qualifications

On July 21, 2025, the amended RFQ was released. Amendments included a grading rubric for City staff, a sample agreement, and legal language to prevent conflicts of interest. All artists from the initial RFQ were notified, and many re-applied. City staff received 17 submissions. A team of four City staff reviewed and graded the submissions per the grading rubric:

Criteria	Points
Complete submission package	20
Review of Past Work	40
Proven ability to work with a public organization through a community engagement and public input process	40
Total Points Possible	100

On November 6, 2025, The scores and applications were provided to the Subcommittee. On November 13, 2025, the Subcommittee met and selected three artists they felt would be the best fit for the project. The following are the artists chosen:

- Ride Art
- The Germlusts
- Michael Stutz

On November 17, 2025, the artists selected were presented to the Public Art Commission and approved.



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STAFF REPORT

Project Timeline

The next step in the process is for the Public Art Commission to conduct public interviews with the three selected artists. Each artist will be asked the same four questions to ensure a fair and consistent evaluation process. Simultaneously, staff will gather public feedback on key concepts and ideas the community would like to see reflected into the final design. After reviewing the interviews and public input, the Commission will choose a final artist. The final artist will be presented to City Council for confirmation. If confirmed, the artist will then sign the agreement with the City to begin work.

Only the final artist will be invited to the RFP process. The RFP will focus on two key areas; the development of specific conceptual proposals tailored to the project site and community input. This two-step approach ensures that the selected concept will be developed by an artist with the capacity to successfully execute the project, while also allowing the final artwork to emerge through a thoughtful and collaborative design process with the community. At this stage. The artist will work closely with the Commission for design reviews and City staff for permitting and installation coordination. The artist will produce three designs for the community to vote on. All community feedback will be presented to the Art Commission for final recommendation, and the City Council for final approval.

The overall intent of this process is to support the creation of a high-quality, enduring public art piece that reflects both strong design and meaningful community engagement

ATTACHMENTS:

- a. City Staff Submission Artist Ratings

City Staff Ratings

Grand Avenue Roundabout Art Project

Artist	Affiliation	Final Score
Christopher Puzio	Puzio, Inc.	98.25
Micheal Stutz	Independent	95.25
Daniel Borins/Jennifer Marman	Team	92
Nick Athanasiou	Skunk Control Pty Ltd	89.5
Maria Titova	Farallon Design Studios	89
Johnny Bear	Johnny Bear Art	85
Pete Goldlust/Melanie Germond	The Germlusts	84.75
Jonathan Russel/Saori Ide	Ride Art	84.5
Vicki Leon	Independent	82
Nick Petronzio	Artscape Sculpture Studio	80.75
Sean Orlando	Engineered Artworks, LLC	77.5
MJ Brovold/Colin Jemmott	Glass House Artists	64
James Stone	Stone and Glass	59.25
Elizabeth & Duffy Healey	Team	58.5
Ilya Idelchik	Independent	52
Wendell Perry/Peter Mitten	Petter/Mitten Sculpture Team	45.75
Jose D. Trejo-Maya	Independent	43.5



STAFF REPORT

March 09, 2026
Agenda Item No.: 03

SUBJECT:

Local Artist Preference

RECOMMENDATION:

Request the Public Art Commission provide direction regarding a local artist preference and the Grand Avenue Roundabout Art Project next steps.

Staff Recommendation: Provide Direction (Economic Development: Sandra Aguilar)

Presenter: Sandra Aguilar, Management Analyst

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Provide Direction

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Public Art Annual Work Plan 2025/2026 set funding of the Grand Avenue Roundabout Art Project to \$550,000 for creation of one main sculpture and four companion pieces.

BACKGROUND:

At the January 26, 2026, Public Art Commission meeting, the Commission voted to add an item to the agenda to discuss the potential establishment of a local artist preference policy.

Currently, the City does not provide a preference for local vendors or artists in its procurement or public art selection processes. Therefore, implementation of such a preference would require the development of a formal policy and approval by the City Council.

Should the Commission wish to move forward, several key considerations would need to be addressed:

1. Definition of "Local Artist"

Clear criteria would need to be established to define what qualifies an artist as "local." Potential qualifying factors may include:

- a. Primary residence within City limits
- b. Location of a registered business within City limits



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2. Duration of Residency or Business Presence

If residency or business location is used as qualifying criteria, the minimum length of time required to establish local status should be determined.

3. Application in Calls for Artists

The Commission should consider how a local artist preference would be incorporated into Calls for Artists. Options may include:

- a. Additional points applied to the scoring rubric
- b. Establishing a tie-breaker provision
- c. Creating a specific opportunity for local artists

4. Verification Requirements

The City would need to determine acceptable forms of documentation to verify local status.

Potential documentation may include:

- a. Government-issued identification showing a local address
- b. Business license or registration within City limits
- c. Utility bills or lease agreements demonstrating residency or business location

Staff seeks direction from the Commission on whether to further research and draft a proposed local artist preference policy for consideration and potential recommendation to the City Council.

Grand Avenue Roundabout Art Project Consideration

The Commission should also provide direction regarding the Grand Avenue Roundabout Art Project, which is currently in progress. If the Commission wishes to pursue a local artist preference policy, it should determine whether to continue the current project timeline under existing procedures or pause the process and restart the Call for Artists once a policy is formally adopted. Considerations may include project timelines, fairness to applicants, and the anticipated timeframe for policy development and City Council approval.

Staff seeks direction from the Commission on whether to further research and draft a proposed local artist preference policy for consideration and potential recommendation to the City Council, and how the Commission would like to proceed with the Grand Avenue Roundabout Art Project.



STAFF REPORT

March 09, 2026
Agenda Item No.: 04

SUBJECT:

Escondido Expressions Traffic Signal Box Program Phase 4.1

RECOMMENDATION:

Request the Public Art Commission approve the artists submissions for 14 locations in Phase 4.1, as recommended by the Escondido Expressions Subcommittee.

Staff Recommendation: Approval (Economic Development: Sandra Aguilar)

Presenter: Sandra Aguilar, Management Analyst and Nikolina Katanic, Economic Development Specialist

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve 14 artist submissions and locations.

FISCAL IMPACT:

As part of the Escondido Expressions Traffic Signal Box Program, an artist receives a \$750 stipend per traffic signal box painted. The total cost for Phase 4.1 of the Escondido Expressions Traffic Signal Box Program will be \$10,500.

BACKGROUND:

On July 14, 2025, the Public Art Commission voted to approve (7-0) the 2025/2026 Public Art Annual Work Plan which included a budget of \$15,627.75 for the continuation of the Escondido Expressions Program. On August 20, 2025, the Escondido City Council unanimously adopted the 2025/2026 Public Art Annual Work Plan.

The Escondido Expressions Program is designed to enhance Escondido's neighborhoods and commercial areas by transforming traffic signal boxes into works of art. The goals are to highlight local artists, deter graffiti, and expand the City's public art portfolio by creating scenes that reflect the vibrancy and diversity of local neighborhoods. The artwork must be original and created by the artist responsible for painting the box. The artwork must conform to all policies and guidelines established by the City of Escondido and the Public Art Commission. The artist agrees to maintain the artwork for five years and assumes all responsibility for repair and/or removal of graffiti. If the artist is unable to fulfill these maintenance responsibilities, the City reserves the right to paint over the artwork and may exclude the artist from consideration for future projects.



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Call for Artists

The Escondido Expressions Phase 4.1 Call for Artists was released to the public through various distribution channels including the City's website, emailed directly to previously selected artists and those on the interest list, and Public Art Commissioners professional networks. The timeline for the call for artists was as follows:

- September 3, 2025: Call for Artists is released.
- February 17, 2026, at 5 p.m. PDT: deadline for submissions.
- February 23, 2026: Escondido Expressions Subcommittee met to select top submissions and locations.

For this phase, the subcommittee released six broad themes without assigned locations. The themes were Old Escondido Homes, Groves and Bees, Bubbles and Soap, Sweets, Colorful, and Artist's Choice. The subcommittee selected the themes based on public comments.

Submissions

A total of 16 submissions were received from seven artists. The Escondido Expressions Subcommittee reviewed all submissions and selected 14 to move forward in the process. The subcommittee also evaluated and discussed the most appropriate locations for each of the 14 recommended submissions, which are presented below for consideration by the full commission.

1. *Groves and Bees* by Becca Dwyer. Location: S Escondido Blvd & W 13th Ave.
2. *Ibis* by Becca Dwyer. Location: El Norte Parkway and N Broadway.

This location is near Escondido High School at a stop light that the students use daily and in front of a senior living facility and a community garden.

3. *Ice Cream, You Scream* by Lauren Kleen. Location: E Lincoln Ave & N Fig St.
4. *Esco Yums* by Marti Daglio. Location: N Date St & E Valley Pkwy.
5. *Busy Bees* by Marti Daglio. Location: Woodward Ave & N Escondido Blvd.
6. *All-One: The Rainbow Bride* by Ernesto Borges. Location: Country Club Dr & Auto Park Way.



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7. *Palomar Observatory* by Sarah Bond. Location: E Valley Pkwy & Bear Valley Pkwy.
8. *Geometric Rainbow* by Sarah Bond. Location: W 9th Ave & Tulip St.
9. Donut Dreams by Sarah Bond. Location: W 9th Ave & S Escondido Blvd.
10. Soap Box by Steven Zamora. Location: W Mission Ave & Centre City Parkway.
11. Land of Sweets by Steven Zamora. Location: Morning View Dr & W El Norte Pkwy.
12. Built to Last by Sean Flannery. Location: E 5th Ave & S Juniper St.
13. Pollinate Your Community by Zane Kingcade. Location: Bear Valley Pkwy & Idaho Ave.
14. Golden Dreams by Zane Kingcade. Location: Auto Park Way & W 9th Ave

Approvals

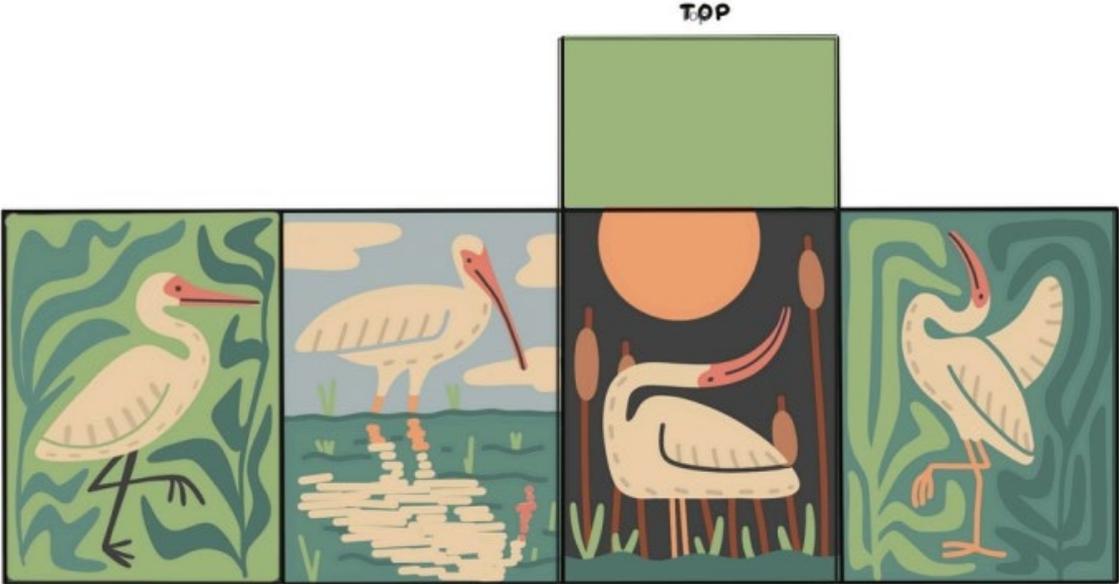
On March 9, 2026, the 14 submissions and locations will be presented to the Risk, Safety, and Compliance staff group. If there are no concerns about the selected locations or proposed artwork, the Public Art Commission can proceed with voting. The approved locations will be sent to the Escondido Police Department to ensure no artist encounters issues while painting.

ATTACHMENTS:

- a. Escondido Expressions Traffic Signal Boxes Phase 4.1- Top Submissions

Escondido Expressions Traffic Signal Boxes Phase 4.1- Top Submissions

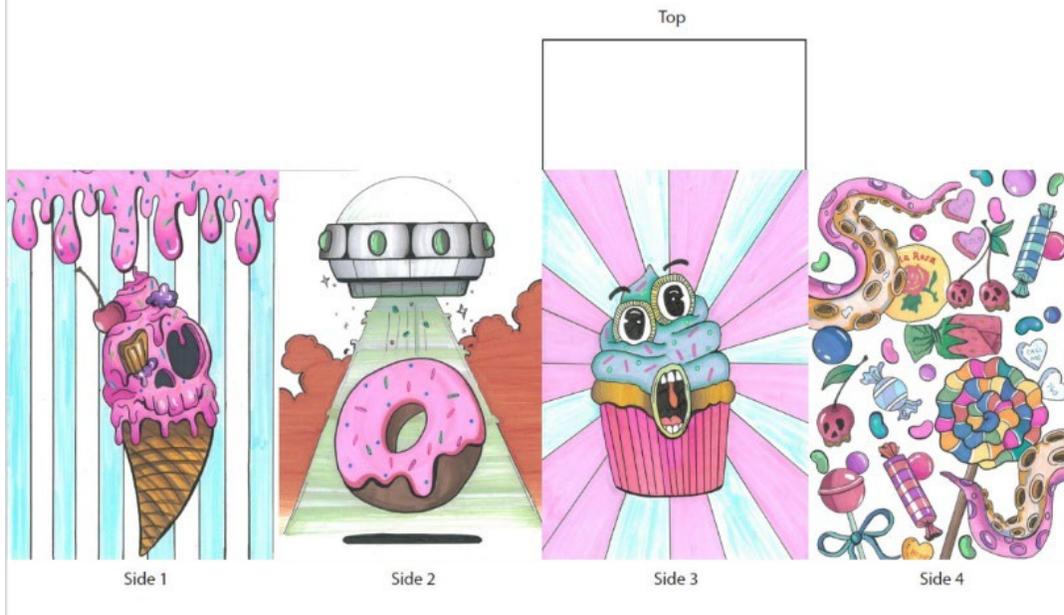
1. Ibis by Becca Dwyer. Location: N Broadway and El Norte Parkway



2. Groves and Bees by Becca Dwyer. S Escondido Blvd & W 13th Ave.



3. *Ice Cream, You Scream* by Lauren Kleen. Location: E Lincoln Ave & N Fig St.



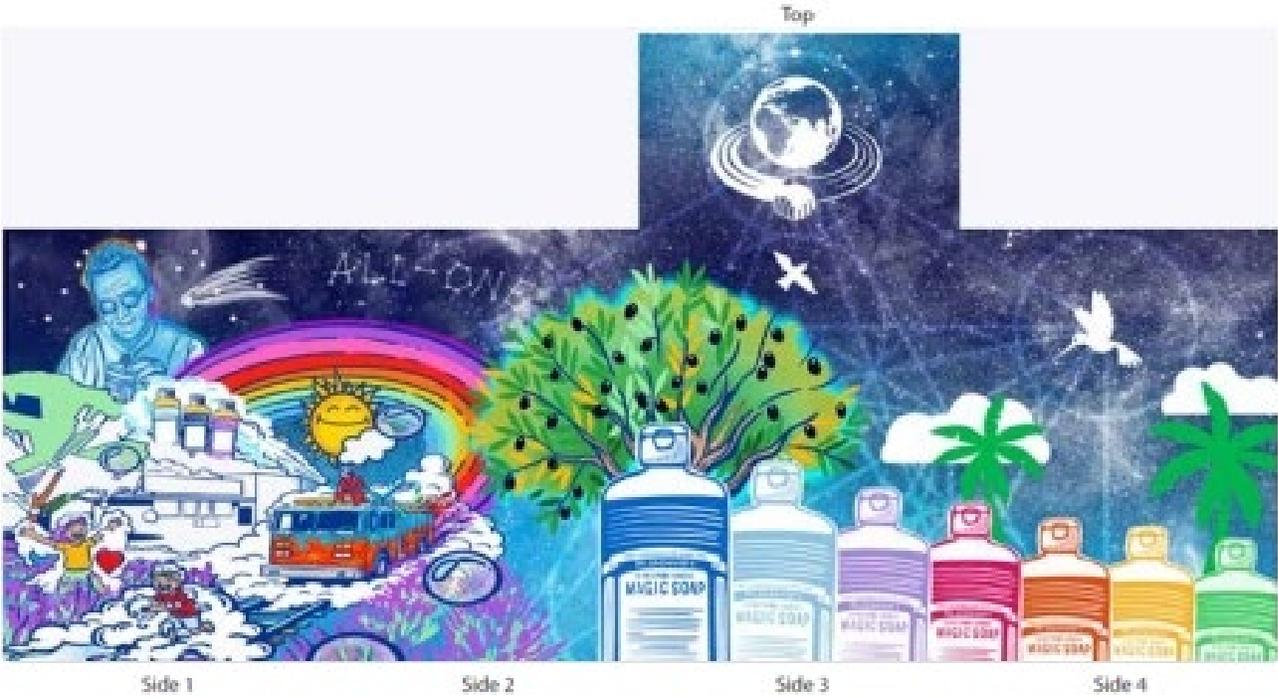
3. *Esco Yums* by Marti Daglio. Location: N Date St & E Valley Pkwy.



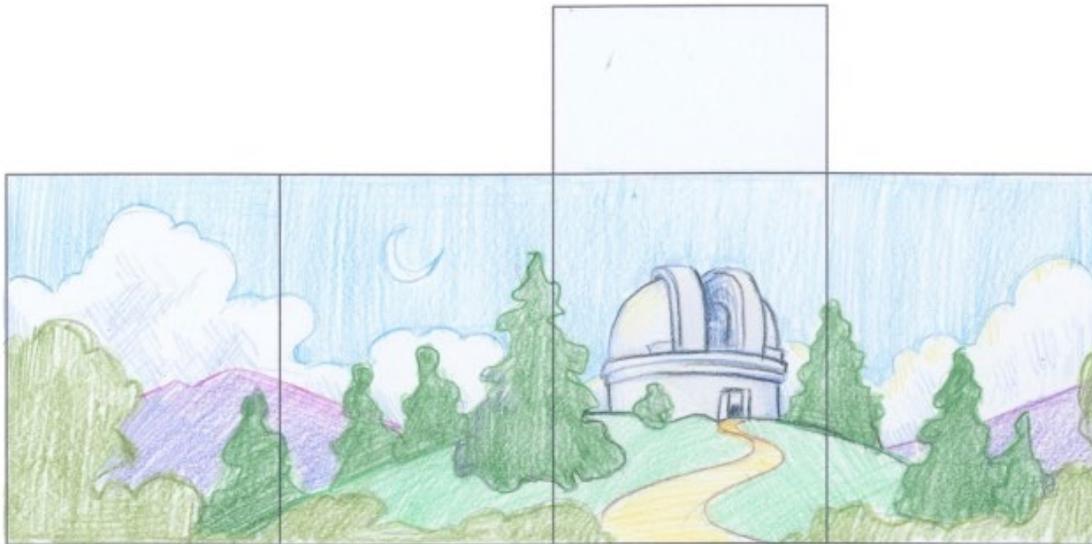
5. *Busy Bees* by Marti Daglio. Location: Woodward Ave & N Escondido Blvd.



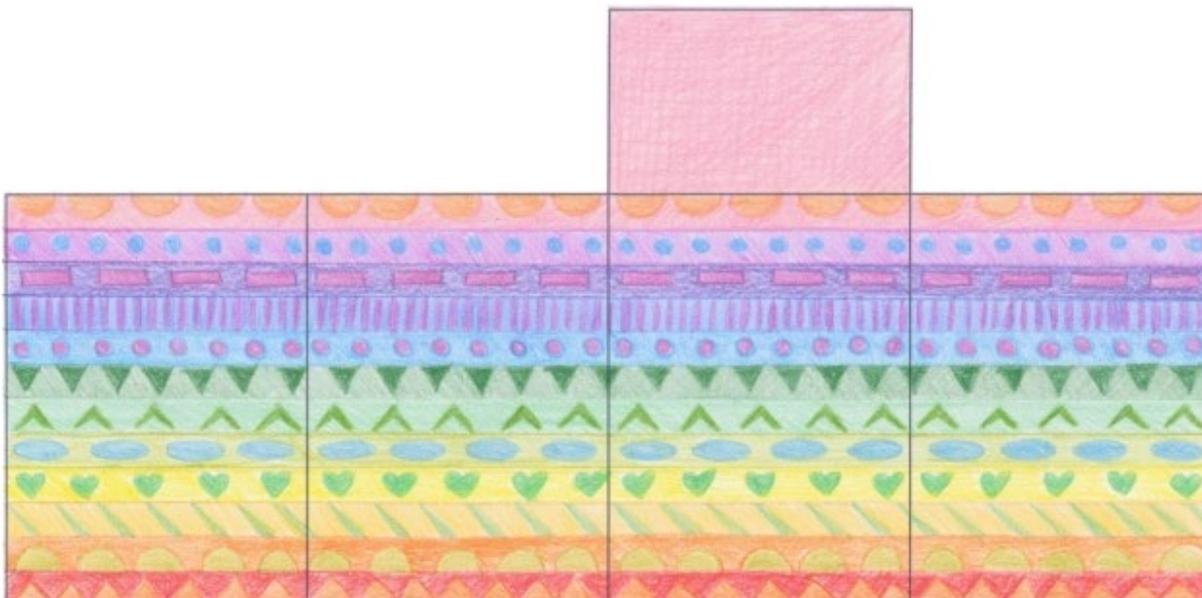
6. All-One: *The Rainbow Bride* by Ernesto Borges. Location: Country Club Dr & Auto Park Way.



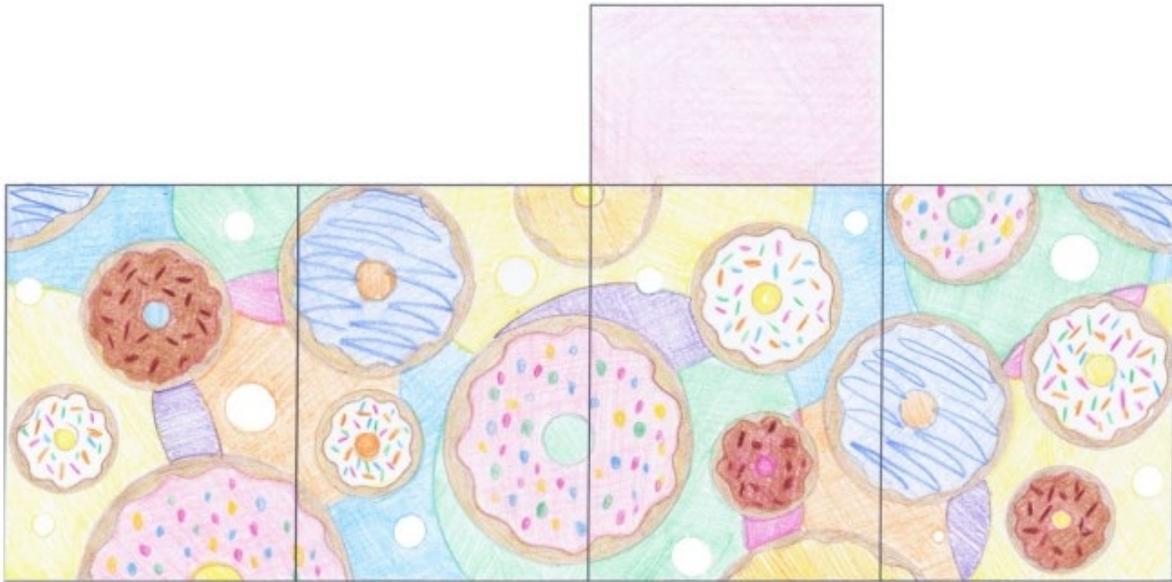
7. *Palomar Observatory* by Sarah Bond. Location: E Valley Pkwy & Bear Valley Pkwy.



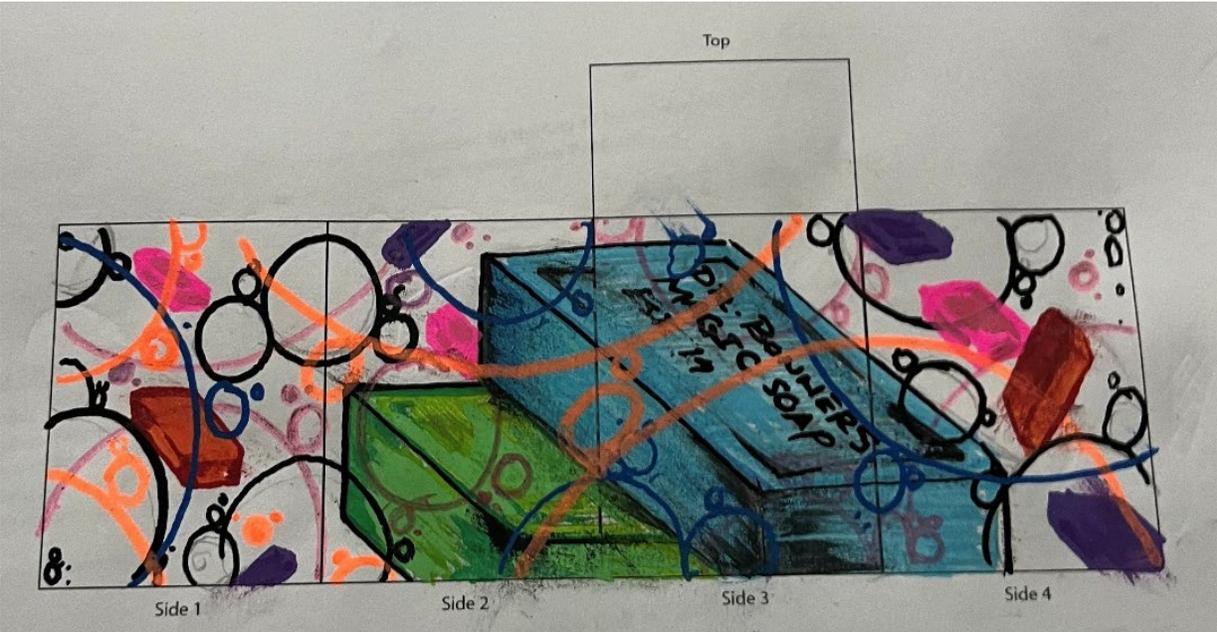
8. *Geometric Rainbow* by Sarah Bond. Location: W 9th Ave & Tulip St.



9. *Donut Dreams* by Sarah Bond. Location: W 9th Ave & S Escondido Blvd.



10. Soap Box by Steven Zamora. Location: W Mission Ave & Centre City Parkway.



11. Land of Sweets by Steven Zamora. Location: Morning View Dr & W El Norte Pkwy.



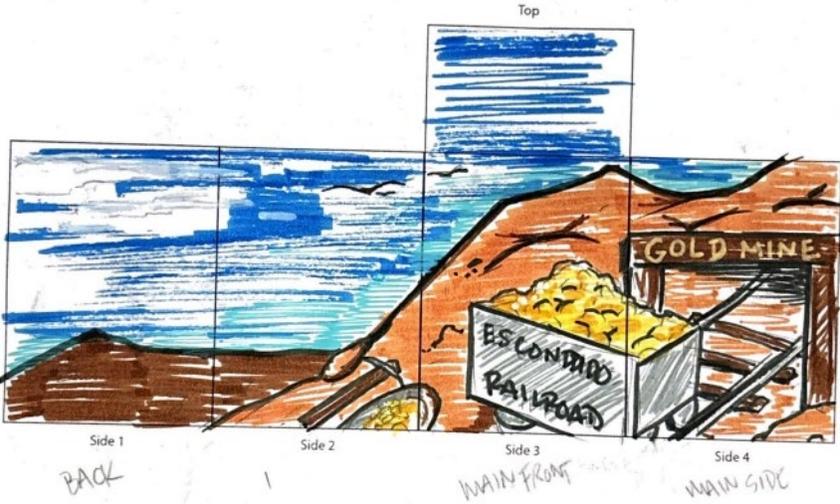
12. *Built to Last* by Sean Flannery. Location: E 5th Ave & S Juniper St.



13. Pollinate Your Community by Zane Kingcade. Location: Bear Valley Pkwy & Idaho Ave



14. Golden Dreams by Zane Kingcade. Location: Auto Park Way & W 9th Ave





STAFF REPORT

March 9, 2026
Agenda Item No.: 05

SUBJECT:

EUHSD Student Murals Summer 2026

RECOMMENDATION:

Request approval of the top two submissions for the Escondido Union High School District Student Murals program to be installed at the Park Avenue Community Center, as recommended by the Grants Subcommittee.

Staff Recommendation: Approve (Economic Development: Sandra Aguilar)

Presenter: Sandra Aguilar, Management Analyst

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve the top two student mural submissions.

FISCAL IMPACT:

As part of the 2025/2026 Public Art Annual Work Plan, the Public Art Commission has allocated up to \$15,000 for the Escondido Union High School District Student Murals program.

BACKGROUND:

On July 14, 2025, the Public Art Commission voted to approve (7-0) the 2025/2026 Public Art Annual Work Plan which includes art education. The Public Art Commission allocated up to \$15,000 for the continuation of the partnership with Escondido Union High School District to allow students, with supervision and assistance from their art teacher to paint murals on City buildings. This partnership will be entering its sixth year this summer.

Three locations were given as potential locations for murals. The Park Avenue Community Center has two possible locations: An exterior wall that faces south to the parking lot and access road, and a second wall located in their outdoor patio that also faces south. For these two locations, the theme of Flora and Fauna was proposed. The third location is the east facing wall of Washington Park Recreation Building near the entry door. Children at Play was the proposed theme. On February 3, 2026, City staff received 20 designs for consideration. On February 24, 2026, all designs were presented to the Grants Subcommittee.

The subcommittee selected the outdoor patio wall as their preferred location. They selected artwork by two 10th grade Del Lago Academy students, Maya Spratt and Santiago Bernardes.



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Public Outreach

The subcommittee recommended gathering public input from community members who regularly visit and use the community center. Two information boards will be printed and placed at the community center to allow the public to review and vote. The mural that receives the most votes will be the selected mural for the wall.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. EUHSD Student Mural Submissions Finalists

EUHSD Student Murals

Park Avenue Community Center

Outdoor Patio Wall



Option 1: Untitled by Santiago Bernardes *Artist will render to be on the interior wall



Option 2: Untitled by Maya Spratt





STAFF REPORT

March 09, 2026
Agenda Item No.: 06

SUBJECT:

2026/2027 PUBLIC ART ANNUAL WORK PLAN

RECOMMENDATION:

Request the Public Art Commission provide direction to staff on the projects to be included in the 2026/2027 Public Art Annual Work Plan.

Staff Recommendation: Provide Direction (Economic Development: Sandra Aguilar)

Presenter: Sandra Aguilar, Management Analyst

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Provide Direction.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Funding for new art projects in the Public Art Annual Work Plan is allocated from Public Art Funds which are collected through developer fees.

BACKGROUND:

On May 20, 2024, the Public Art Commission approved the Public Art Strategic Plan and Annual Work Plan process to create and implement projects and programs in the areas of new art solicitation, new art education, and deaccessioning.

Annual Work Plan Timeline

The timeline for developing the annual workplan is as follows:

- January: The Public Art Commission appoints 2-3 Commissioners to the Annual Workplan Subcommittee.
- February–April: With assistance from City staff and direction from the Public Art Commission, the Subcommittee will develop the Annual Work Plan, which addresses the following focus areas: Art Solicitation, Art Education, and Deaccessioning.
- May: Through City staff, the Subcommittee presents the proposed Annual Work Plan to the Public Art Commission for review and approval.
- July: The Public Art Annual Work Plan is presented to the City Council for review and adoption.
- August: Implementation of projects included in the Annual Work Plan begins.



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2026/2027 Public Art Annual Work Plan

At the July 14, 2025, Public Art Commission meeting, Commissioners Rogers, Spann, and Sackfield were assigned to the Annual Work Plan Subcommittee.

At the January 26, 2026, Public Art Commission meeting, Commissioners were provided the opportunity to express support for projects proposed for continuation and to recommend new projects for inclusion. At the February 24, 2026, Annual Workplan Subcommittee meeting, the Subcommittee reviewed and discussed all proposed projects and programs and identified the following items for inclusion in the Annual Work Plan.

Proposed 2026/2027 Public Art Annual Work Plan

Ongoing Projects

- Grand Avenue Project: \$550,000
- Escondido Creek Trail: \$310,000

Program Changes

- Community Request Grants program renamed the Project Expansion Grant
- Art, Culture, & Creativity Month

New Projects

- Career Impact Workshops
- Tactical Urbanism: Curb Extensions
- Queen Califia's Magical Circle: Tours for Older Adults

Recommendations for Deaccessioning

- *On Those That Came Before Us* located in the shopping center at 1885 S Centre City Parkway
- *Plants of Paradise* by Christine Woods located at the corner of Grand Avenue and Escondido Blvd.

Program Changes

The Subcommittee discussed the current effectiveness of the Community Request Grants program. As a result of that discussion, they suggest the program be renamed the *Project Expansion Grant*. The Subcommittee determined one of the most impactful uses of these funds was demonstrated by the mural expansion project at the Escondido Library, where the Commission funded an additional portion of the mural. Moving forward, there is a preference to prioritize projects that are already underway and require additional funding to increase their scope and overall community impact.



CITY of ESCONDIDO

STAFF REPORT

The Subcommittee expressed that the April Arts, Culture, and Creativity month program should serve as the Public Art Commission's cornerstone event of the year. By pursuing fewer projects overall, the Commission can devote greater focus, planning, and resources toward the success of this month-long initiative. The Subcommittee believes this approach represents the most effective use of staff and Commission time. During the second year of project grant awards, a significant portion of the funded activities consisted of recurring events. The Subcommittee discussed the importance of taking a more proactive approach. For the upcoming year, the Subcommittee recommends issuing a solicitation that clearly defines the types of projects and programming the Commission seeks to support, to ensure alignment with the Commission's established priorities.

New Programs

Career Impact Workshops

To further expand opportunities for students and emerging artists to develop technical skills, the Subcommittee discussed the establishment of a new initiative titled *Career Impact Workshops*. Through this program, artists with specialized expertise would lead an art repair or restoration project while concurrently providing no-cost instructional workshops in the associated skillset to participating students. This approach is intended to support collaborative partnerships with multiple organizations while creating accessible pathways for aspiring artists to strengthen their craft and advance their professional development.

Tactical Urbanism: Curb Extensions

Tactical urbanism utilizes colorful artwork to improve street safety, enhance public spaces, and create a stronger sense of place. Traffic Engineering approached Public Art staff regarding three proposed tactical urbanism projects. The preliminary concept utilizes Public Art funding. The Public Art Commission and Traffic Engineering Departments will then partner to pursue grant funding opportunities to expand the number of curb extension murals and/or support ongoing maintenance of the curb extension murals. The Subcommittee reviewed the proposed concepts and agreed that adoption of the program aligns with already prioritized school-area improvements which were identified through traffic safety strategic planning. This project aligns with the City Council Priority Work Plan, the General Plan's Complete Streets and Mobility policies, the Housing Element's Safe Routes to School goals, and the Climate Action Plan target of increasing community walking and bicycling. The Subcommittee supports this approach as a cost-effective pilot program that enhances safety, encourages community participation, activates public space, and integrates art into functional spaces.



CITY *of* ESCONDIDO

STAFF REPORT

Queen Califia's Magical Circle: Tours for Older Adults

The Subcommittee also discussed expanding art education opportunities through potential partnerships with the Community Services Department. The opportunity for collaboration emerged during introductory staff meetings with the newly hired Manager of the Senior Center and Special Events. Many older adults who participate in the free nutrition program at the Park Avenue Community Center rely on walking for transportation and may face challenges accessing community art destinations, such as Queen Califia's Magical Circle. The Subcommittee expressed support for facilitating access by funding transportation costs. The Community Services staff would coordinate the transportation program. This partnership would broaden access to public art and cultural programming for seniors facing transportation barriers.

ATTACHMENTS

Tactical Urbanism: Curb Extension Examples



STAFF REPORT

March 09, 2026
Agenda Item No.: 07

SUBJECT:

Southern California Indigenous Culture and Arts Festival

RECOMMENDATION:

Request approval of \$2,500 in funding for a bird singers group to perform at the Southern California Indigenous Culture and Arts Festival, as recommended by the Grants Subcommittee.

Staff Recommendation: Approve (Economic Development: Sandra Aguilar)

Presenter: Sandra Aguilar, Management Analyst

FISCAL IMPACT:

On July 14, 2025, the Public Art Commission adopted the 2025/2026 Public Art Annual Work Plan. The 2025/2026 Public Art Annual Work Plan was approved by the City Council on August 20, 2025. Funding in the amount of \$50,000 was designated to the Community Grants Program.

BACKGROUND:

On December 9, 2025, organizers of the Southern California Indigenous Culture and Arts Festival (“SCIA”) reached out to staff regarding eligibility for a Community Request Grant. On December 15, 2025, the Grants Subcommittee convened to review their submission for a Community Request Grant. Following the review, the Subcommittee requested that the organizer provide additional information for further consideration.

On February 24, 2026, the Grants Subcommittee reconvened and reviewed the additional information provided by the event organizers. After careful consideration, the Subcommittee recommended supporting one group of singers and dancers with a total grant of \$2,500.

ATTACHMENTS:

- a. SCIA Supporting Documents



Economic Development Department
 201 North Broadway, Escondido, CA 92025
 Phone: 760-839-4522
 publicart@escondido.gov

**Public Art Commission
 Staff Liaison Report
 March 9, 2026**

Art Solicitation Projects

Escondido Expressions Phase 4.0: At the Public Art Commission meeting on November 17, 2025, the Commission voted to approve six submissions and locations. All six artists have signed their agreements, three boxes have been completed, two artists have begun painting, and one artist will be starting shortly.

Escondido Creek Trail Art: The call will be soliciting artists for three art pieces; channel murals, sculpture, and the mural on the Neighborhood Health Care building to be completed by December 2026. City staff met with The Escondido Creek Conservatory on February 4 to discuss all the City projects happening on the Escondido Creek Trail and will be incorporating some of their historic knowledge in the call for artists.

Art Speaks, Escondido Community Foundation

Threshold Five, a sculpture located in Kit Carson Park: The project has received all permits from the engineering department. The artist has received the agreement, and City Staff is pending insurance documents to be able to sign the agreement. The artist and contractor will be meeting later this week onsite to place stakes and start the planning installation. Installation is anticipated to take two weeks. An

Kumeyaay Creation, Mural at Escondido Library: The artist, Tim Toplov, began work in January and estimates the work will be finished in March, with the goal of completing the mural installation prior to the grand reopening event for the Escondido Library. The mural expansion funded by the Public Art Commission has been completed.

April is Arts, Culture, and Creativity Month

City Staff is working with each of the 12 grant recipients to collect the documentation needed as part of the agreement. All recipients have been notified, and agreements are in the process, delayed due to missing items have been common. Five grant agreements have been signed and received payment, three are pending signature, two are pending items, and two have been unresponsive to items needed. City staff anticipate that all agreements and funds will be dispersed by the end of March.

Public Art Commission
Staff Liaison Report
Page 2

Marketing materials have been shared with the grant recipients and the community. Street banners are scheduled to go up Monday, March 16, 2026.

Community Grants

Esco Alley Art Outdoor Gallery: On February 2, 2026, Neighborhood Health Care staff, Esco Alley Committee, Construction staff, and City Staff met on-site to discuss the project and coordinate installation plans. On February 27, Esco Alley Art committee, Neighborhood Healthcare staff, and City staff met once again to go over the timeline and detail. Installation of the project is estimated to start on April 4, with the unveiling scheduled for April 18, 2026.

EAP Kids Kaleidoscope: Plans for this project are underway. The agreement with the EAP is under review.

Public Art Maps

There was an issue with the Public Art Maps C.R.E.A.T.E. tool which has now been resolved. City Staff is in the process of making all the updates submitted and anticipating the work to be done in April.

Bringing Our Herd Together

In preparation for the Grand Opening of Elephant Valley, community partners were invited to paint an 11" elephant statue to represent them. Staff named it Eduardo the Elephant, and he was painted to represent Public Art. He held a paint brush in his trunk representing the power of art to paint the future and how we hold the power to create our destiny. Commissioner Ryan and artist Suzanne stopped by and were invited to add to his canvas.

Escondido Compact Career Day

As part of career chats, City Staff went to Hidden Valley Middle School. 100 middle school students learned what the Public Art Commission does, how we have opportunities in Escondido to make art through calls for artists, about Queen Califia's Magical Circle, and more.

Del Lago Interns

Two students, Kim and Alex, have chosen to complete their 6-week internship with Public Art. They are working on marketing materials for April is Arts, Culture, and Creativity month to be distributed to their classmates.

Next Meeting Agenda (Tentative)

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

- Grand Avenue Roundabout Art Project
- Escondido Creek Trail
- Public Art Annual Work Plan
- Pillars of the Community



January Visitor Data

Open Days	Visitors (Logs)	Visitors (Geolocation data)	Private Tours
11	962	NA	0

February Visitor Data

Open Days	Visitors (Logs)	Visitors (Geolocation data)	Private Tours
9	338	NA	0

Docent Information

Active Docents	New Docents	YTD Docent Hours	Private Tour Fees Collected
30	0	116	0

Queen Califia Updates

CSUSM Spring 2026 Service-Learning Fair

Two of our Community Services staff and Public Art Staff represented the City of Escondido Volunteer Program at CSUSM on February 3rd, highlighting the docent program at Queen Califia's Magical Circle. Several students stopped by our booth, curious to learn more.

Trip to the Balboa Art Conservation

Two Public Art Commissioners and City Staff took a trip to the Balboa Art Conservation Center on February 4th. We took a tour around the conservation labs and learned more about how conserving QCMC would look like with their help. We are excited to potentially start a partnership with them and look forward to updating you with more information once the time comes around.

Update on Tea with the Queen

Our Tea with the Queen on Sunday, February 8, 2026, at QCMC was a great success. We had a total of 63 guests RSVP and join us for a morning of art appreciation and brunch, catered by the Grand Tea Room. A portion of all proceeds supported our Preservation Fund.



Queen Calafia's Data Report and Updates

Quarterly Docent Gathering Mosaic Talk

On Friday, February 20, 2025, volunteer docents met at City Hall to discuss mosaic art. Our gathering began with a presentation from City Staff on the history of mosaics, leading into how QCMC artist Niki de Saint Phalle approached the field of mosaics. Following the presentation, docents were led into a Q&A with Lech Juretko, a former mosaic artist for QCMC and longtime assistant to the late Niki de Saint Phalle. To thank our volunteers for their commitment, all docents who RSVP'd received heart-shaped letters and chocolate. We are grateful for their continued enthusiasm and engagement and are looking forward to next quarter's gathering.