



CITY of ESCONDIDO

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION MEETING

January 26, 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

MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2026

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

ORAL COMMUNICATION

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Review and Approve November 17, 2025 Minutes

COMMUNITY REQUESTS

2. Escondido Art Association Kids Kaleidoscope
3. Escondido Library Mural Community Request

DEACCESSION

4. Artwork at the Library

PUBLIC ART ANNUAL WORK PLAN

5. 2026/2027 Public Art Annual Work Plan

STAFF LIAISON REPORT

6. Staff Liasion Report
7. Queen Califia's Magical Circle 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.municodemeeetings.com>

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED



CITY *of* ESCONDIDO

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION

MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2026

If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact our ADA Coordinator at 760-839-4869. 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 MINUTES

REGULAR SESSION

November 17, 2025 at 4:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER

4:30 P.M.

FLAG SALUTE

Chair Rogers

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Rogers, Vice Chair Spann, Commissioner Kelleher, Commissioner Martinez, Commissioner Ryan, Commissioner Paul

Absent: Commissioner Sackfield

ORAL COMMUNICATION

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Review and Approve September 8, 2025 Minutes

Motion: Kelleher, Second: Ryan; Approved: 6-0 (Sackfield - Absent)

ESCONDIDO EXPRESSIONS

2. Escondido Expressions Traffic Signal Box Program Phase 4.0

Motion: Spann; Second: Kelleher; Approved: 6-0 (Sackfield - Absence)

ARTS, CULTURE, AND CREATIVITY MONTH

3. Arts, Culture, and Creativity Month Grant Program 2026

Chair Rogers recused herself from the item and left the dais before the staff presentation



CITY of ESCONDIDO

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Motion to approve staff recommendation: Paul; Second: Kelleher; Approved 5-0 (Sackfield - Absent)

GRAND AVENUE ROUNDABOUT ART PROJECT

4. Grand Avenue Roundabout Art Project Qualified Artists and Updated Artist Selection Process

Chair Rogers recused herself from the item and left the dais before the staff presentation

Motion to approve staff recommendation: Martinez; Second: Ryan; Approved 5-0 (Sackfield - Absent, Rogers)

STAFF LIAISON REPORTS

5. Queen Califia's Magical Circle Data Report and Updates

Updates provided

6. Staff Liaison Report

Updates provided

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Rogers adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

CHAIR

CITY CLERK



Summary

The Escondido Art Association is requesting a grant of \$12,000 in support of our Kids Kaleidoscope - "Art is Fun" program and exhibition in March 2026 that offers a free professional gallery exhibition in our Grand Avenue Gallery that is dedicated to K-12th grade students in the Escondido Community Schools to showcase their work in The EAA gallery on Grand Avenue. Awards and scholarships are awarded to outstanding artwork and are juried by our joint panel of artists and teachers and offered at grade level categories up to college scholarship awards to graduating high school student artists. Participation in the Exhibition is free for students and attendance at the gallery is free and open to all visitors. The Kids Kaleidoscope - Art is Fun Exhibition opens March 14 and runs through April 4, 2026.



Background

The Escondido Art Association is one of the oldest continually operating arts organizations in Escondido, established in 1959, for 66 years it has been serving the artistic community of Escondido.

Artist Centered

We are an **artist centered** community organization, we are a certified 501(C3) non-profit organization, and our Mission is to serve our local Escondido community artists at all levels from professional artists to those just beginning their artistic journey. We nurture, promote, support, empower, and enrich artists and their creativity in our community through exhibition opportunities, children and adult art classes, demos, art forums and live presentations.

We are excited to be at the center of an Art Renaissance happening in Escondido as we grow and expand our exhibitions and the offerings of artwork across the city.

We present monthly themed exhibitions in our Grand Avenue Gallery, where we are proud to be part of the second Saturday Escondido Art Walk twelve months of the year and we also present quarterly Exhibitions in our Partnership Gallery at North Island Credit Union Gallery at 1230 Auto Parkway where we also hold weekly art classes.

Community Placement

In addition, we also manage, curate and present art in numerous locations and buildings throughout Escondido including our current Exhibition at The Escondido Library where we have a show of 17 works from local artists on display.

This year to foster and encourage conversations about art we have also launched a new President's Art Forum Newsletter that is emailed biweekly to nearly 1,000 recipients. The remarkable fact is that this newsletter consistently achieves 60% plus readership showing the enormous demand for meaningful artistic discussions and engagement from the community in Escondido.

Renewed and New Local Partnerships

In 2026 we have intentionally reached out to renew and strengthen partnerships with other local arts and related organizations and partnered with community organizations such as Children's Discovery Museum, North County Society Of Fine Arts, John Paul University, The downtown business district Gathering on Grand, Deanna Smith's S.T.E.A.M. initiative and others.

Volunteers

At EAA We are 100% volunteer staffed, led. operated and administered by a team of some 25 dedicated volunteers who give their time and talent to our mission. Escondido Arts Association is led by a Board of local artist and community leaders and business leaders under it's new serving president Adrian Stewart who is himself a local artist and sculptor, but who also has two decades of experience managing and running arts organizations including the San Diego Repertory Theater, formerly in Horton Plaza.

Proposal

One of the key tenets in our mission is also to identify, engage, support and encourage young people who are just beginning their journey as artists from first art expression all the way to graduating seniors who are contemplating further study and education in art in all arenas. It's a critical role to support and encourage these young artists in this community.

We have dedicated our March 2026 Exhibition to a program titled Kids Kaleidoscope – “Art is fun”. This is a unique free opportunity for local students to submit their Art for curation into a free public exhibition in a professional gallery in the very center of Escondido on Grand Avenue.

The students are recruited through art teachers in local Escondido schools, and the students submit their work for jurying into the show. Once selected the artwork is received and then hung in the gallery. On Art Walk, the second Saturday, March 14 we hold a special opening reception where awards are presented to the students with their prizes and scholarship checks.

This opening is a very special event as of course parents and families join their students in the Gallery at the opening to celebrate their child's accomplishments, and we are delighted to have many visitors from all over Escondido often for the first time into our gallery and participating in Art Walk. It's a very special moment where we have our local artists commuting in our gallery with young people who one day will have their place as local Escondido Artists. It's a full circle.

Our project leaders for this program are Ginger Martinsen (Chair) and Veronica Anderson Cain (Vice Chair). Ms. Martinsen is an active artist and art educator in Escondido and teaches workshops in poetry and creative arts, connecting with local art communities and fostering youth art education.

Ginger Martinsen is a mama, artist, business and community leader who believes deeply in the healing power of the arts. For the past three years, she has led the Escondido Art Association's Kids Kaleidoscope gallery program,

Ginger holds a BA from UCLA in International Studies and Political Science, along with certificates from the University of Florida in Healing with the Arts and Yale University in The Science of Well-Being. Across all her work, she is guided by a belief that art is not only expressive, but restorative—capable of strengthening individuals and communities alike.

Personal outreach and communications into the Schools and to Art teachers in the community will be the key strategy for the engagement of the students as well as direct emailing past participants from last year. Assistance will also be provided to ensure the work is framed correctly and can be hung in our gallery hanging system.

Awards will be juried by a joint panel of Ginger Martinsen and Veronica Cain and will be presented to the students at the Opening Reception on March 14, 2026.

Impact of Program

One of the most important aspects of the Escondido Art Association's Kids Kaleidoscope program is the tangible impact it has on the development and education of young people in the Escondido Community.

The encouragement and affirmation of the students exhibiting their artwork in a professional gallery reinforces the power of art and creative self-expression in young people in the community of Escondido.

By encouraging young people who may be just starting their artistic journey we are opening opportunities for the development of that child at a critical beginning of their own exploration and expression.

In study, after study it has clearly been established that art and creative self-expression play a pivotal role in childhood development and advancement in their education and personal growth. In high school seniors it is even more important considering their future college education and potentially careers in the arts, it is a pivotal influence on encouraging that path.

In 2026 this opportunity is even more important with the dominance of digital communications advancements and the emergence of chat-based AI often resulting in young people diverting their attention away from the authentic value of art and creative expression through art. We have all seen the press on the early warning signs of the results of this on children's educational development in America.

As the longest running arts organization in Escondido founded by artists for artists these young people are the path to our own future. Being entirely free to enter It is accessible to any young person in the community.

Even more impactful is the effect it has on the entire family of the student who are inevitably involved as their family attends with great pride a professional gallery exhibition of their child's artwork. The event brings people from all parts of the Escondido Community to Grand Avenue, to Art Walk and into our gallery often for the very first time. This drives economic benefits as well as social and community development for downtown Escondido.

The program and the opening reception also serves as a wonderful bridge, a meeting place, a nexus between the members of EAA as established artists in our Escondido community and their young peers who will one day become established artists themselves, it's a magical connection across generations and gives full tribute to the rich cultural and generational tapestry that makes Escondido so unique. It all happens in Kids Kaleidoscope.

We are requesting Grant support in the amount of \$12,000 to assist with marketing and promotions, awards and additional costs of presenting this program in our Grand Avenue gallery. Since it is entirely free to participants and to attendees it represents a significant loss of our monthly Exhibition revenues.

Timeline

Dates	Activity
Kid's Kaleidoscope Program Chairpersons and Admin Team formation	January 2026 - Completed
Grant Application	January 2026 Pending
Digital flyer and communications design, guidelines and web page creation	February 7, 2026
Outreach into teachers and schools to prep students for submission	February 7, 2026
Reminder campaign for pre-submission	February 14, 2026
OnLine Art Submission deadline	March 1, 2026
Selected Art notification	March 2, 2026
Take in of Art at Grand Avenue	March 7, 2026
Jurying of awards	March 9, 2026
Curation, labelling and hanging of show	March 9-11, 2026
Opening Reception invitations and announcements	March 10, 2026
Opening Reception & awards	March 14, 2026
Press releases and coverage of Awardees and event	March 16, 2026
Exhibition take down	April 4, 2026

Budget

Escondido Art Association		
2026 City of Escondido Arts, Culture & Creativity Grant Application		
Date Submitted: January 22, 2026		
Description	Amount	
Digital marketing graphic design services	\$ 2,000	
Marketing Display Signage design & production	\$ 2,500	
Printing	\$ 1,000	
Local Media advertising	\$ 1,000	
Artist awards & Scholarships	\$ 2,500	
Framing and Exhibition Supplies	\$ 400	
Opening reception	\$ 300	
Social media communications	\$ 500	
Gallery Operations	\$ 1,800	
Total	\$ 12,000	



Sandra Aguilar

Management Analyst I- Public Art

Yo hablo español

Economic Development | City of Escondido

January 21, 2026

Dear Ms. Aguilar.

I am confirming to you that as the elected and currently serving President of the Escondido Art Association I am authorized to submit this grant application on behalf of the organization.

Thank you for your consideration and for all the service you and your colleagues give to the Escondido community.

Yours sincerely,

Adrian Stewart

President

Escondido Art Association

120 West Grand Avenue

Escondido CA 92025

Addenda

Some of the

2025 Awardees

Escondido Art Association
Kids Kaleidoscope





Recent Article in Escondido Magazine on newly EAA serving president

Escondido artist & sculptor Adrian Stewart

14 ESCONDIDO MAGAZINE | WINTER 2025

15 36



STAFF REPORT

January 26, 2026
Agenda Item No.: 03

SUBJECT:**Escondido Library Mural Community Request****RECOMMENDATION:**

Request the Public Art Commission to approve funding for the Escondido Library Mural Community Request.

Staff Recommendation: Approve (Economic Development: Jennifer Schoeneck)

Presenter: Sandra Aguilar, Management Analyst

FISCAL IMPACT:

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

BACKGROUND:

On November 18, 2024, with the support of the San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians, the Public Art Commission approved the updated mural design for the Escondido Public Library. Funding for the mural was gifted to the City of Escondido by the Escondido Community Foundation. At this time, no Public Art funds have financed this mural.

On November 25, 2025, artist Tim Toplov met with City staff to review project details in preparation for beginning painting in January 2026. The artist began preparing the installation of the mural. During preparation, the artist identified and recommended an additional section of the wall for inclusion in the mural. He felt including this area would heighten the dimensionality and immersive feel of the artwork as well as add interest providing a more finished look to the mural. Because the roof has not been finished in this area, the artist believes the timing is perfect to add this section. The proposed addition does not change the design in any way and no new elements are being introduced. It is only expanding the approved design.

Increasing the area of the mural will increase costs for the artist. Tim Toplov is seeking \$3,500 of Public Art funds for the addition to this project. The funding will be used for extension of the rental equipment agreement, material costs for primer, paint and sealant, and labor costs.



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STAFF REPORT

ATTACHMENTS:

- a. Escondido Library Mural

Escondido Library Mural

1. Approved Design:



2. Current process versus rendering of additional section:





STAFF REPORT

Item 4.

January 26, 2026

Agenda Item No.: 04

SUBJECT:**Artwork at the Escondido Library****RECOMMENDATION:**

Request that the Public Art Commission deaccession Battle of San Pasqual and North by Northwest from the Escondido Library.

Staff Recommendation: Approve (Economic Development: Jennifer Schoeneck)

Presenter: Sandra Aguilar, Management Analyst

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

BACKGROUND:**Battle of San Pasqual**

On May 13, 2025, City Project Manager, Eduardo Vasquez, informed staff of a painting located on a wall scheduled for removal as part of the library renovation. The painting, The Battle of San Pasqual, is part of the City's Public Art Collection. The painting consists of five 4' x 6' panels. City Building staff carefully removed it from the wall.

On June 5, 2025, Public Art staff wrapped the panels in acid free paper and bubble wrap, and the painting was placed in a temperature-controlled storage space. The Escondido Library will no longer have a space to place this artwork and requests the Public Art Commission relocate the painting.

On September 9, 2025, Public Art staff received direction from the Public Art Commission to further research the piece and explore new locations for the painting. Staff recovered a plaque with the following inscription:

"Presented to Escondido Public Library. Battle of San Pasqual – December 1816. Donated by the San Pasqual Battlefield Volunteers Association."

Public Art staff spoke to Tom Vilicich, the President of the San Pasqual Battlefield Volunteers Association. He informed staff that their operations have shut down since the 2020 pandemic and the State Parks did not renew their contract. They have placed many of their artifacts in storage. They do not have the capacity to store the artwork and would love to see it relocated to a space where it will be viewed by the



CITY of ESCONDIDO

STAFF REPORT

public, as originally intended. Public Art staff spoke to the Escondido History Center staff, who expressed interest in adopting the item for public display inside the historic train station.

North by Northwest

On August 12, 2025, Robert Rhoades, Staff Liaison to the library, informed staff that the sculpture North by Northwest, by Ken Pinkerton, is currently located outside the building in the middle of a non-functioning fountain scheduled for removal as part of the Escondido Library Renovation. Public Art staff files state the following regarding the sculpture:

"North by Northwest, artist Ken Pinkerton (1983) Escondido Public Library located at 239 S Kalmia St. This sculpture greets patrons at the library entrance and features bold geometric shapes with free-flowing lines and angles. This art piece was a gift from Joyce and Irvin Malcom, supporters of the arts and the preservation of Escondido. They gifted other works of art to the City, including James Hubble's Fountain at the Trinity Episcopal Church (1989)."

On September 9, 2025, Public Art staff received direction from the Public Art Commission to further research the piece and explore placement options for the artwork.

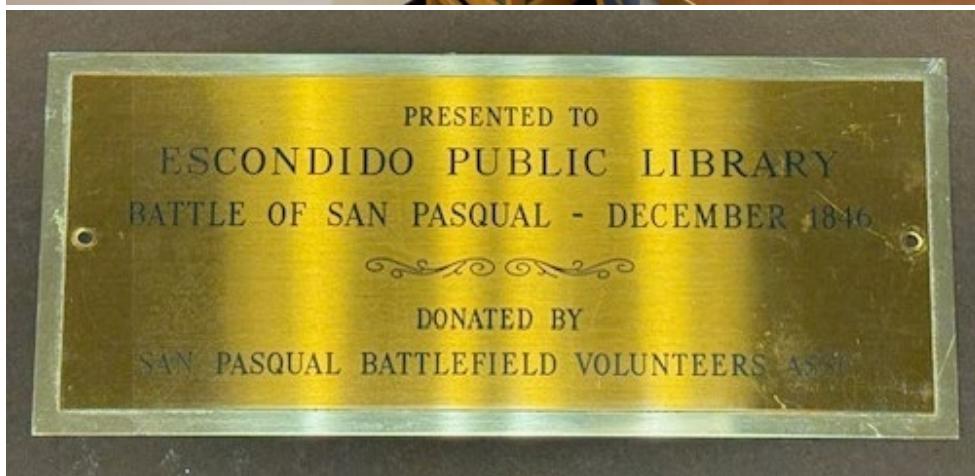
Staff learned that the artist, Ken Pinkerton, passed away in 2005. His wife also died in 2018. Public Art staff and City Staff overseeing the Escondido Library renovation inspected the sculpture carefully for damage. Due to weather, warping, and rust, the sculpture is beyond repair. It was determined that relocation efforts would destroy the integrity of the sculpture.

ATTACHMENTS:

- a. Artwork at the Escondido Library

Artwork at the Escondido Library

1. Battle of San Pasqual



2. North by Northwest, Ken Pinkerton, 1983.





STAFF REPORT

January 26, 2026

Agenda Item No.: 05

SUBJECT:

2026/2027 PUBLIC ART ANNUAL WORK PLAN

RECOMMENDATION:

Request that the Public Art Commission provide direction.

Staff Recommendation: Provide Direction (Economic Development: Jennifer Schoeneck)

Presenter: Sandra Aguilar, Management Analyst

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

BACKGROUND:

On May 20, 2024, the Public Art Commission adopted the Public Art Strategic Plan which includes an annually updated Work Plan. As directed by the Public Art Strategic Plan, the Public Art Commission establishes a subcommittee and creates an Annual Work Plan to fund new art, art education, and decommissioning.

The Public Art Annual Work Plan timeline is as follows:

- January - Public Art Commission appoints 2-3 members to the Annual Work Plan subcommittee and recommends projects for the subcommittee review for inclusion.
- March - The Public Art Commission provides additional direction as needed.
- May – Staff, on behalf of the Annual Work Plan subcommittee, presents a proposed plan for the Public Art Commission to review and approve.
- July – The Public Art Annual Work Plan is presented to Council for review and adoption.
- August - Solicitation and project work begins.

The Public Art Annual Work Plan shall include the following categories:

- Art Solicitation
- Art Education
- Decommissioning of existing art.

The 2025/2026 Work Plan included:

- Art Solicitation
 - Grand Avenue Roundabout Art Project
 - Escondido Creek Trail Art Project



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- Escondido Expressions Traffic Signal Box Program
- Community Requests
- Art Education
 - Art, Culture, and Creativity Month
 - Banner Program
 - EUHSD Student Murals
 - Queen Califia's Visitor Center
- Decommissioning
 - Mercado Grande Series by Tama Dumlaو
 - Pillars of the Community by Wick Alexander

The Public Art Commission appointed Commissioners Rogers, Spann, and Sackfield to the 2026/2027 Public Art Annual Workplan subcommittee. The subcommittee members will identify new and ongoing projects within the listed categories, incorporating input and discussion from the full commission.

ATTACHMENTS:

None



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

Public Art Commission

Staff Liaison Report

January 26, 2026

Projects Resumed

With the passing of SB 456, which took effect January 1, 2026, work on the planned projects in the 2025/2026 Public Art Annual Work Plan can resume.

Escondido Expressions Phase 4.0 and 4.1: At the Public Art Commission meeting on November 17, 2025, the Commission voted to approve six submissions and locations for Escondido Expressions Phase 4.0. Artists were instructed to delay painting until the SB456 went into effect. All six artists have signed their agreements, and three have begun painting. The Call for Artists for Phase 4.1 has been released for Escondido Expressions and will close on February 16, 2026.

Escondido Creek Trail Art: Work on the Call for Artists for this project has now resumed. A Call for Artists has been written by staff with details reviewed by the Subcommittee. It will be released in the coming weeks with the goal of the three art pieces; channel murals, sculpture, and the mural on the Neighborhood Health Care building to be completed by December 2026.

Art Speaks, Escondido Community Foundation

Escondido Creek Trail Murals: On October 22, 2025, Public Art staff were alerted that the mural "Resilience" had been defaced. The City Manager was notified, and multiple City departments coordinated to investigate the incident, quickly clean up the mess, and implement additional security measures. The Escondido Community Foundation was debriefed on the situation. The mural was power washed, and the artists' contractor Gloria Rocha has made repairs. A section of the Creek Trail fence was repaired to further prevent access, and City staff are working on additional signage to place near the mural.

Threshold Five, a sculpture located in Kit Carson Park: The project is currently being reviewed by the Engineering Department with the artist making plan adjustments as needed. The artist has met with Park staff on site to discuss logistics for installation of the sculpture. The sculpture is complete and ready for installation. Once the plan review is complete, an installation date will be set.

Kumeyaay Creation, Mural at Escondido Library: The artist, Tim Toplov, began work earlier this month on the mural. He estimates the work will be finished in early March, with the goal of completing the mural installation prior to the grand reopening event for the Escondido Library.

Grand Avenue Roundabout Art Project

At the November 17 meeting, the Public Art Commission selected the top 3 artists from the Request for Qualifications. The artists are now proceeding to the Public Input stage. On January 29, 2026, the artists will be interviewed by the commissioners. All artists will be asked the same questions. Afterwards, on behalf of the Commissioners, City staff will collect public input regarding which artist style they like the most and what qualities they would like to see from the selected artist.

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. City staff anticipate that all agreements and funds will be dispersed by the end of February.

Next Meeting Agenda (Tentative)

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

- Escondido Expressions Phase 4.1
- Grand Avenue Roundabout Art Project (Final Artist Selection)
- Escondido Creek Trail
- EUHSD Student Murals
- Public Art Annual Work Plan



Queen Califia's Magical Circle Data Report and Updates

Item 7.

November Visitor Data

Open Days	Visitors (Logs)	Visitors (Geolocation data)	Private Tours
10	1,388	Not Available Currently	0

December Visitor Data

Open Days	Visitors (Logs)	Visitors (Geolocation data)	Private Tours
7	769	Not Available Currently	1

Docent Information

Active Docents	New Docents	YTD Docent Hours	Private Tour Fees Collected
30	+0	116	\$50.00

Queen Califia Updates

Quarterly Docent Gathering Geologist Talk

On Monday, December 8, 2025, volunteer docents met with Eugene Cinacenelli, Geologist and member of the Palomar Gem & Mineral Club, for our quarterly docent gathering at Queen Califia's Magical Circle (QCMC). Mr. Cinacenelli identified the rocks and minerals at QCMC for us, which the docents will be able to relay to our curious visitors. The docents were thrilled to learn more from such a reliable resource.

Update on Extended Holiday Hours

During our special Holiday Hours for Thanksgiving week, we were able to keep QCMC open for four days and recorded a total of 606 visitors. Rain prevented opening for our scheduled Christmas and New Years hours.

MiraCosta College MLK Serve Day

On Saturday, January 19, 2026, community members and students of MiraCosta College joined us at QCMC. They assisted in raking and sweeping leaves, dusting our sculptures, and wiping down dirt on our black and white maze wall as part of a special MLK Serve Day Project. By the end of the project, the group filled nearly 70 garbage bags with leaves and fallen branches.



Queen Califia's Magical Circle Data Report and Updates

Item 7.

Tea with the Queen

Join us for a Galentine's Day at Queen Califia's Magical Circle on Sunday, February 8, 2026, from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Enjoy a morning of tea, finger sandwiches, and desserts while you enjoy the sculpture garden with your friends. Activities include shopping with a local vendor, a keepsake photo, postcard and more. Tea Attire is encouraged. Tickets are \$30 per person and can be purchased by calling the Grand Tea Room at 760 233 9500. A portion of all proceeds will go to the Preservation Fund.