



CITY *of* ESCONDIDO

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION

September 21, 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



CITY *of* ESCONDIDO

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION

MEETING AGENDA

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

ORAL COMMUNICATION

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- [1.](#) Review and approve August 10, 2026 Minutes.

CURRENT BUSINESS

- [2.](#) **PERMANENT ART COLLECTION DONATION**

Request the Public Art Commission approve the donation of the art piece Passageway to the Sun by William Sharer, an oil on canvas art piece, into the City's Permanent Art Collection and approve the loan of the piece to the California Center for the Arts.

Staff Recommendation: Approval (Sandra Aguilar, Management Analyst)

Presenter: Sandra Aguilar

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve the donation of oil painting Passageway to the Sun by William Sharer into the City's Permanent Art Collection and approve staff to loan the piece to the California Center for the Arts.

- [3.](#) **ESCONDIDO CREEK TRAIL CALL FOR ARTISTS PROPOSALS**

Request the Public Art Commission provide direction on the 20 mural proposals for the Neighborhood Health Care Building, located at 425 N. Date St.

Staff Recommendation: Provide Direction (Sandra Aguilar, Management Analyst)

Presenter: Sandra Aguilar, Management Analyst

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Provide direction



CITY *of* ESCONDIDO

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

STAFF LIAISON REPORT

4. ART LIAISON REPORT

5. 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.municodemeetings.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.





CITY of ESCONDIDO

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION MEETING

August 10, 2026 at 4:30 PM

MINUTES

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

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

ORAL COMMUNICATION

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Review and Approve July 13, 2026 Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Sackfield

Seconded by Commissioner Kelleher

Approved 7-0

CURRENT BUSINESS

2. ESCONDIDO EXPRESSIONS TRAFFIC SIGNAL BOX PROGRAM: PREVIOUS PHASES

Request that the Public Art Commission provide direction for the Escondido Expressions updates on the Sikes Theme Traffic Signal Box and Grand Avenue Theme Traffic Signal Box.

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

Presenter: Sandra Aguilar, Management Analyst, Economic Development

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Provide Direction



CITY of ESCONDIDO

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION MEETING

August 10, 2026 at 4:30 PM

Motion made by Commissioner Rogers for the Sykes box that we will not take the action at this time to fund that box

Seconded by Chair Martinez

Approved 7-0

Commission discussion regarding Grand Avenue Box

Motion by Chair Martinez to not put forward a call for artists at this time

Seconded by Commissioner Ryan

Approved 7-0

3. ESCONDIDO EXPRESSIONS TRAFFIC SIGNAL BOX PROGRAM: OLD ESCONDIDO

Request that the Public Art Commission approve a new design for the Escondido Expressions design at the traffic signal box located at 5th Avenue and Juniper Street.

Staff Recommendation: Approve (Sandra Aguilar, Economic Development)

Presenter: Sandra Aguilar, Management Analyst, Economic Development

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve

James Spann - Spoke in favor of keeping the box image

Motion by Commissioner Rogers to not de-commission traffic signal box

Seconded by Commissioner Ryan

Approved 7-0

4. 2027 ARTS, CULTURE, AND CREATIVITY MONTH

Request the Public Art Commission approve the 2027 Arts, Culture, and Creativity Grant Opportunity.

Staff Recommendation: Approval (Sandra Aguilar, Management Analyst)

Presenter: Sandra Aguilar, Management Analyst



CITY of ESCONDIDO

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION MEETING

August 10, 2026 at 4:30 PM

RECOMMENDATION: Approve

Motion by Commissioner Sackfield to accept the recommendation of staff for \$85,000 for grants and \$15,000 and instead call it Outreach and Engagement

Seconded by Commissioner Kelleher

Approved 7-0

STAFF REPORTS

5. STAFF LIASION REPORT

Updates provided by Sandra Aguilar, Management Analyst and Nikolina Katanic, Economic Development Specialist

6. QUEEN CALIFIA'S MAGICAL CIRCLE REPORT

Update by Nikolina Katanic, Economic Development Specialist

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Commissioner Sackfield - Attended the National Night Out and created a canvas with Commissioner Rogers noting a lot of multi generational participation from 2 to 82 years old; Center for the Arts had Chicano block party and print making workshop that are in museum; attended library opening; Hidden City Sounds this weekend; Commissioner Rogers won Change Maker at the North County Arts Awards

Commissioners Roges - Attended the North County Arts Awards and two Public Art Commission funded projects won awards: Hot Glass, Cold Beer - Best Art Culture and Creativity; The Creek Trail - Best Visual Arts

Commissioner Ryan - Shared Escondido magazine and will bring copies to next meeting

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

CHAIR

ASSISTANT CITY CLERK



STAFF REPORT

September 21, 2026

Agenda Item No.: 02

SUBJECT:

PERMANENT ART COLLECTION DONATION

RECOMMENDATION:

Request the Public Art Commission approve the donation of the art piece *Passageway to the Sun* by William Sharer, an oil on canvas art piece, into the City's Permanent Art Collection and approve the loan of the piece to the California Center for the Arts.

Staff Recommendation: Approval (Sandra Aguilar, Management Analyst)

Presenter: Sandra Aguilar

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve the donation of oil painting *Passageway to the Sun* by William Sharer into the City's Permanent Art Collection and approve staff to loan the piece to the California Center for the Arts.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The donation does not have an impact on Public Art funds.

BACKGROUND:

On September 2, 2026, at the City Council meeting, Mayor Dane White recognized William and Nancy Sharer and expressed the City of Escondido's appreciation for their donation of the artwork *Passageway to the Sun* by William Sharer. The artwork was accepted by the Mayor prior to undergoing the City's standard public art review and acceptance process. Public Art staff is coordinating with City Manager's Office staff to ensure the donation is appropriately documented and that the necessary administrative steps are completed.

The donors, William and Nancy Sharer, present this gift to the City with no stipulations regarding the conditions on future use of the image's likeness, photography or videoing. The art piece is valued at \$100,000 by the donors based off past sales of the artists' paintings and the size. The intent is for the artwork to be displayed for public viewing at the Center for the Arts, California, as there are 100,000 visitors in the space annually, and it would be easily accessible to the public. Upon completion of the required documentation and approval by the Public Art Commission, staff will proceed with execution of the loan agreement with the CCAEF. The loan agreement would allow the artwork to be on display until either party revokes the agreement.



CITY of ESCONDIDO

STAFF REPORT

ABOUT THE ART

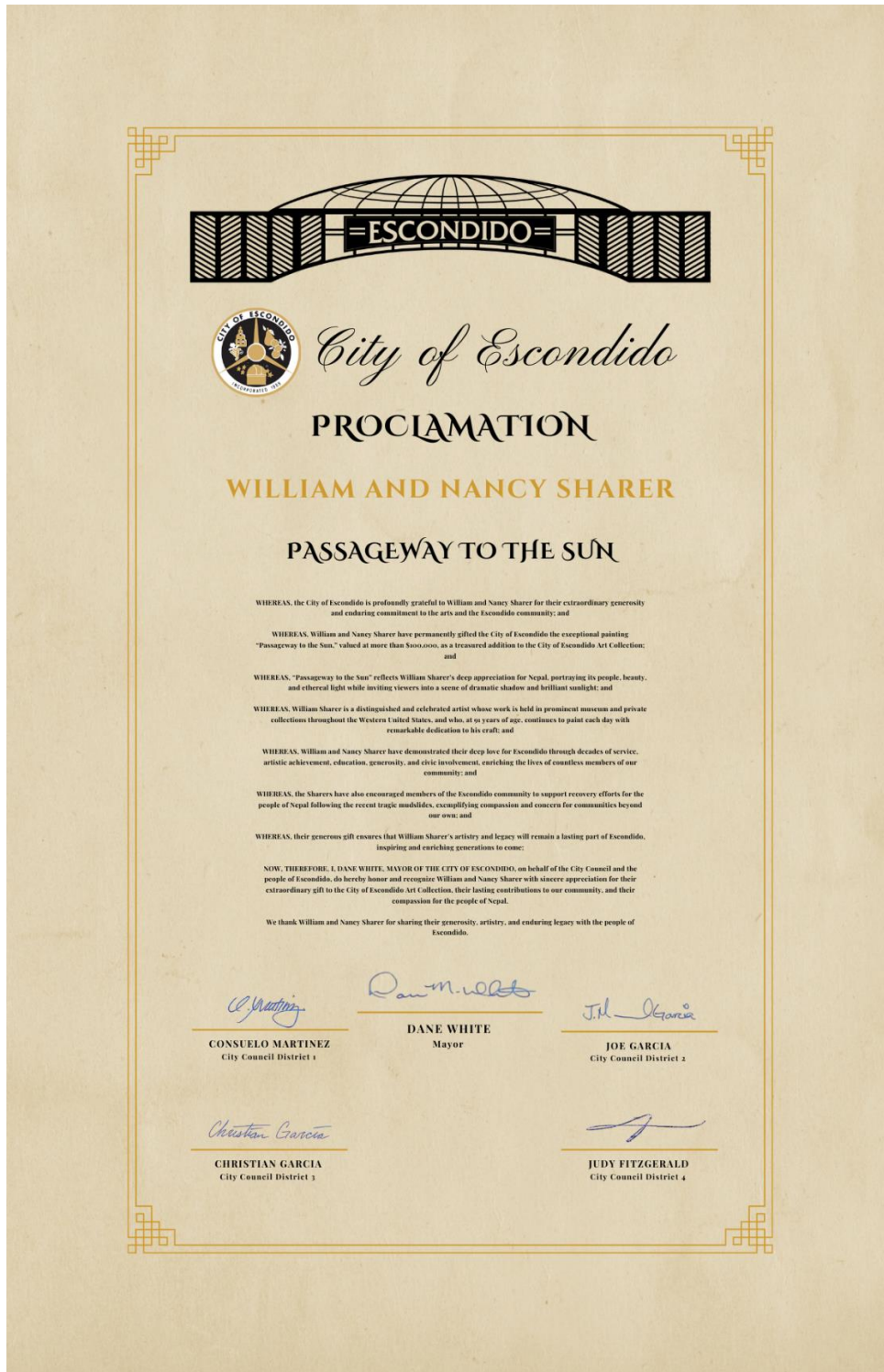
The artwork is oil on canvas, with a canvas size of 72" by 54". The piece, *Passageway to the Sun*, was painted by William, "Bill" Sharer. The painting is part of the collection of Bill's Nepalese paintings where he visited some years ago and fell in love with the Nepalese people and the extraordinary ethereal light of that place. In this painting he perfectly portrays the sense of dark cool shadows and the bright amber sunlight at the end of the passageway. The viewer feels almost pulled into the square at the end of the passageway. The passageway is darkest just before the light, an intentional metaphor.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

William Sharer is an exceptional artist whose work has been in collections at respected galleries and museums across the Western United States and at 91 years young, he is still painting every day in his studio. After serving in the Marines during the Korean War, Bill returned home and completed his art training at the highly regarded American Academy of Art in Chicago. His work is in the collections of the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, Oklahoma City; Eiteljorg Museum, Indianapolis; Museum of New Mexico, Santa Fe and he is an awarded Artist of The Escondido Art Association, Esco Arts.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Proclamation
2. Image of the painting on display







STAFF REPORT

September 21, 2026

Agenda Item No.: 03

SUBJECT:

Escondido Creek Trail Call for Artists Proposals

RECOMMENDATION:

Request the Public Art Commission provide direction on the 20 mural proposals for the Neighborhood Health Care Building, located at 425 N. Date St.

Staff Recommendation: Provide Direction (Sandra Aguilar, Management Analyst)

Presenter: Sandra Aguilar, Management Analyst

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Provide direction

FISCAL IMPACT:

As part of the 2026/2027 Public Art Annual Work Plan, the Public Art Commission has allocated \$310,000 for The Escondido Creek Trail Art Projects. Of those funds, \$285,000 are to be awarded to artists through the RFP process. The remaining funds, \$25,000, may be available for unforeseen site preparation costs, which City staff will present to the Public Art Commission for consideration and approval, as needed. 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. The Subcommittee reviewed the proposed Request for Proposals (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.

The project was placed on hold to allow staff to prioritize other pressing projects. On July 13, 2026, City staff brought the draft RFP back to the Public Art Commission for final approval. The approved RFP was released on July 16, 2026. Prospective applicants submitted questions by the questions deadline of August 7, 2026, and City Staff posted the answers along with measurements, images and building schematics that were requested, all on the Call for Artists webpage.

[Escondido Creek Trail Projects Call](#)



CITY *of* ESCONDIDO

STAFF REPORT

City Staff received 39 proposals from 29 artists by the submission deadline of September 8, 2026. All the 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 any proposal it determines is not appropriate for the building. To maintain a collaborative process and ensure the selected artwork is a good fit for both the building and the community, NHC would like to review the current proposals with the Commission and discuss any proposals it is considering denying.

Following this discussion, Commissioners will independently score the proposals that remain under consideration. Scores are due to staff by October 5, 2026, and will be compiled by staff and published in the meeting agenda packet for October. The top three proposals will then be presented to the Commission at its October meeting, along with any comments from NHC. The Commission will make the final selection through a vote. The overall process is intended to be a collaboration between the Public Art Commission and Neighborhood Health Care, with NHC providing input regarding the suitability of the artwork for its building and the Commission making the final artwork selection.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Escondido Creek Trail Art Projects Call for Artists NHC Proposals

MEMORANDUM

September 21, 2026

TO: Public Art Commission

FROM: Sandra Aguilar, Management Analyst

SUBJECT: Public Art Liaison Report – September 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 anticipates presenting the revised RFP and process for Commission review at the December 14, 2026, Public Art Commission meeting.

Escondido Creek Trail Art Projects Call for Artists: On September 8, 2026, the Call for Artists closed with an overwhelming response. City Staff received 39 proposals from 29 artists. All the proposals were sent virtually to the Public Art Commissioners on September 11, 2026, with printed packets available for pick up to assist with the review process. Due to the high volume of interest, the Commissioner's rating period has been extended until October 5, 2026, with the final vote to take place at the Public Art Commission meeting on November 9, 2026.

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=>

Escondido's Permanent Art CollectionPublic Art Collection at the Escondido Library

On August 20, 2026, at the request of Public Library staff, Public Art staff visited the Escondido Library to take possession of small artwork owned by the City previously stored by the Escondido Library. In previous years, a number of smaller Public Art pieces had been stored or displayed at the Escondido Public Library. As part of the library's recent renovations, the artwork needed to be transferred to Public Art staff for inventory and management.

City staff inventoried 31 pieces in total. Over the coming months, staff will photograph and document each artwork, obtain appraisals as appropriate, and develop recommendations for the future of each piece. These recommendations will be presented to the Public Art Commission for review and direction.

City News Updates

Economic Development Business & News Updates: Escondido's Economic Development team has refreshed the content and look of their weekly e-newsletters to increase the outreach and utility for its subscribers. This newsletter is another way for the art community to keep up to date on Public Art events, Calls for Artists and other city news. Anyone interested in getting the most up to date information can sign up at the link here:

<https://demy9.share-na2.hsforms.com/2IYxIN8ZMTGWWtMp9k0axHA>

Next Meeting Agenda (Tentative)

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

October 12, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

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



Queen Calafia's Magical Circle Data Report and Updates

Item 5.

August Visitor Data

Open Days	Visitors (Logs)	Visitors (Geolocation data)	Private Tours
12	892	475	1

Docent Information

Active Docents	New Docents	YTD Docent Hours	Private Tour Fees Collected
36	+1	63.5	\$95.00

Queen Calafia Updates

Twilight Poetry at Queen Calafia's Magical Circle

On Friday, August 14, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Queen Calafia's Magical Circle hosted Twilight Poetry. This free, family-friendly community event featured spoken word and poetry readings by four published poets. A total of one hundred participants joined us throughout the evening, bringing a new audience to the sculpture garden and highlighting the potential of the space as a community arts gathering place. City staff would like to extend a special thank you to volunteer docent Katie Kemple for organizing this event and connecting poets and the poetry community to Queen Calafia's Magical Circle. Following the overwhelmingly positive response from participants and the San Diego poetry community, City staff are working with Katie to bring a second Twilight Poetry event to Queen Calafia's Magical Circle on October 10, 2026, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Summer Tunes with Ruth and Emilia

On Sunday, August 16, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Queen Calafia's Magical Circle hosted Summer Tunes with Ruth and Emilia. Ruth and Emilia are a Parent's Choice award-winning Children's Music Duo. Sixty-nine visitors joined us throughout the event to sing, dance, listen, and enjoy these family-friendly musicians for a special free performance. We received positive feedback from attendees and welcome the opportunity to host Ruth and Emilia again in the future.

UC San Diego Docent Gathering: Postponed

On Friday, August 28, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., our volunteer docent program was scheduled to tour the UC San Diego Stuart Art Collection by the invitation of the senior project manager of the collection. This tour includes *Sun God* by acclaimed artist Niki de Saint Phalle, a landmark public artwork that several docents have not previously viewed in person. However, due to extreme heat and unusually high humidity, the tour was postponed. Public Art Staff is currently working on scheduling a new date in October or November.



Queen Califia's Magical Circle Data Report and Updates

Item 5.

Magnificent Obsession: The Art of Antoni Gaudi and Niki de Saint Phalle

On Tuesday, September 1, Public Art Staff attended a talk on Niki de Saint Phalle by speaker Arline Paa. Mrs. Paa has been a great advocate of Queen Califia's Magical Circle and has developed a lecture over the years that discusses Saint Phalle with Antoni Gaudi and James Hubbell, all of whom are prominent mosaic artists. Mrs. Paa used to be on the speaker's bureau at Mira Costa Community College and presented this lecture throughout San Diego, including at UC San Diego campus. She now lives in the retirement community of La Costa Glen in Carlsbad and invited our docents to attend.

Queen Califia'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, the trees surrounding the sculpture garden will be decked out with fiber art. Fiber artists of all levels are invited to decorate the tree trunks as part of a temporary installation called Fiber Expressions. This installation will be on display only during the month of October. It will be up for public viewing from October 1 to 24, 2026, and the installation period will be from September 28 to October 10. Anyone who works with yarn, thread, fabric, or fiber is encouraged to participate. If interested in joining us, please fill out the online interest form on our website or email publicart@escondido.gov.

On Saturday, October 10, 17, and 24, staff will host Family Creativity Days. Community partners will offer free, creativity-inspiring activities for families in and around Queen Califia's Magical Circle. Participating organizations include Photographer's Eye, the Escondido Library, Barktorium, CoLabCrafts, UNCI, and musician Sophie Rae. Interested organizations are welcome to contact staff to learn about opportunities by emailing publicart@escondido.gov.