



City of Santa Clara

Meeting Agenda

Cultural Commission

Monday, January 5, 2026

7:00 PM

Hybrid Meeting

The City of Santa Clara is conducting the Cultural Commission meeting in a hybrid manner (in-person and a method for the public to participate remotely).

Via Zoom:

<https://santaclaraca.zoom.us/j/82207705371>

Meeting ID: 822 0770 5371

Or join by phone: 669-900-6833

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. **25-1750** [Action on the Cultural Commission Regular Minutes of December 1, 2025](#)

Recommendation: Approve the Cultural Commission Regular Meeting Minutes of December 1, 2025

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

[This item is reserved for persons to address the body on any matter not on the agenda that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the body. The law does not permit action on, or extended discussion of, any item not on the agenda except under special circumstances. The governing body, or staff, may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed, and appropriate body may request staff to report back at a subsequent meeting.]

GENERAL BUSINESS

2. **25-1751** [Discussion and Potential Action on Cultural Commission Work Plan and Activities for FY 2025/26](#)

Recommendation: Discuss and potentially take action on the Cultural Commission Work Plan and Activities for FY 2025/26.

STAFF REPORT

COMMISSIONERS REPORT

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting of the Cultural Commission is scheduled for Monday, February 2, 2026.

MEETING DISCLOSURES

The time limit within which to commence any lawsuit or legal challenge to any quasi-adjudicative decision made by the City is governed by Section 1094.6 of the Code of Civil Procedure, unless a shorter limitation period is specified by any other provision. Under Section 1094.6, any lawsuit or legal challenge to any quasi-adjudicative decision made by the City must be filed no later than the 90th day following the date on which such decision becomes final. Any lawsuit or legal challenge, which is not filed within that 90-day period, will be barred. If a person wishes to challenge the nature of the above section in court, they may be limited to raising only those issues they or someone else raised at the meeting described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Clara, at or prior to the meeting. In addition, judicial challenge may be limited or barred where the interested party has not sought and exhausted all available administrative remedies.

If a member of the public submits a speaker card for any agenda items, their name will appear in the Minutes. If no speaker card is submitted, the Minutes will reflect "Public Speaker."

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), the City of Santa Clara will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities, and will ensure that all existing facilities will be made accessible to the maximum extent feasible. The City of Santa Clara will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities including those with speech, hearing, or vision impairments so they can participate equally in the City's programs, services, and activities. The City of Santa Clara will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all of its programs, services, and activities.

Agendas and other written materials distributed during a public meeting that are public record will be made available by the City in an appropriate alternative format. Contact the City Clerk's Office at 1 408-615-2220 with your request for an alternative format copy of the agenda or other written materials.

Individuals who require an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or any other disability-related modification of policies or procedures, or other accommodation, in order to participate in a program, service, or activity of the City of Santa Clara, should contact the City's ADA Coordinator at 408-615-3000 as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.



City of Santa Clara

1500 Warburton Avenue
Santa Clara, CA 95050
santaclaraca.gov
[@SantaClaraCity](https://twitter.com/SantaClaraCity)

Agenda Report

25-1750

Agenda Date: 1/5/2026

REPORT TO CULTURAL COMMISSION

SUBJECT

Action on the Cultural Commission Regular Minutes of December 1, 2025

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the Cultural Commission Regular Meeting Minutes of December 1, 2025

Prepared by: Robin Shaddle, Recreation Supervisor

Reviewed by: Kimberly Castro, Recreation Manager

Approved by: Damon Sparacino, Parks & Recreation Director

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Minutes - Cultural Commission Meeting December 1, 2025



City of Santa Clara

Meeting Minutes

Cultural Commission

12/01/2025

7:00 PM

Hybrid Meeting
Santa Clara Senior Center
Room 205
1303 Fremont Street
Santa Clara, CA 95050

The City of Santa Clara is conducting the Cultural Commission meeting in a hybrid manner (in-person and a method for the public to participate remotely).

Via Zoom:

<https://santaclaraca.zoom.us/j/82207705371>

Meeting ID: 822 0770 5371

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CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Diaz at 7:02 p.m.

Present 6 - Commissioner Abinas Roy, Vice Chair Candida Diaz, Commissioner Charles Pontious, Commissioner Kuku Das, Commissioner Louis Samara, and Commissioner Neetu Garg

Absent 1 - Chair Debra von Huene

A motion was made by Commissioner Samara and seconded by Commissioner Pontious to excuse Chair von Huene from the meeting.

Aye: 6 - Commissioner Roy, Vice Chair Diaz, Commissioner Pontious, Commissioner Das, Commissioner Samara, and Commissioner Garg

Absent: 1 - Chair von Huene

CONSENT CALENDAR

[25-1674](#) Action on the Cultural Commission Regular Minutes of November 3, 2025

Recommendation: Approve the Cultural Commission Regular Meeting Minutes of November 3, 2025

A motion was made by Commissioner Samara and seconded by Commissioner Garg to approve the minutes from the Nov. 3, 2025 meeting.

Aye: 6 - Commissioner Roy, Vice Chair Diaz, Commissioner Pontious, Commissioner Das, Commissioner Samara, and Commissioner Garg

Excused: 1 - Chair von Huene

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

None.

GENERAL BUSINESS

[25-1675](#) Discussion and Potential Action on Cultural Commission Work Plan and Activities for FY 2025/26

Recommendation: Discuss and potentially take action on the Cultural Commission work plan and activities for FY 2025/26.

The Commission discussed the Cultural Commission's Work Plan Goals and Activities for FY 2025/26 and no action was taken.

STAFF REPORT

Manager Castro presented an update on the Arts Master Plan Project. She will be meeting with the Purchasing Division to discuss the statement of work and schedule for noticing. The Commission was invited to participate in the Annual Holiday Tree Lighting event on Friday, Dec. 5, 2025.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Commission Pontious invited the Commission to attend the 2025 Historic Home Tour on Friday, Dec. 5 through Saturday, Dec. 6. Proceeds to benefit the Harris Lass Mansion. Commissioner Roy attended a Tech Expo in the city which had over 100 student attendees present.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Samara and seconded by Commissioner Roy to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Aye: 6 - Commissioner Roy, Vice Chair Diaz, Commissioner Pontious, Commissioner Das, Commissioner Samara, and Commissioner Garg

Excused: 1 - Chair von Huene

The next meeting of the Cultural Commission is scheduled for Monday, Jan. 5, 2026, 7 p.m.

MEETING DISCLOSURES

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Agenda Report

25-1751

Agenda Date: 1/5/2026

REPORT TO CULTURAL COMMISSION

SUBJECT

Discussion and Potential Action on Cultural Commission Work Plan and Activities for FY 2025/26

BACKGROUND

Annually, the Cultural Commission ("Commission") considers three to five specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and time-bound goals and/or activities for the fiscal year (FY). These goals are intended to focus the Commission's efforts and respond to City Council priorities within the existing budget direction and resource limitations. During the FY the Commission may regularly discuss, provide updates, assign subcommittees, and prioritize projects related to these goals.

At the April 7, 2025, regular meeting, Commissioners adopted work plan priorities and activities for FY 2025/26 related to the Commission's goals.

GOAL #1: Host and enhance multicultural events to encourage and acquaint Santa Clara residents with cultural diversity.

- A. Plan and implement Summer Concerts in FY 2025/26
- B. Street Dance 2025
- C. Plan and host Friday Night Live Events
- D. Explore the feasibility of hosting a Group Wedding
- E. Secure sponsors for Cultural Commission special events in FY 2025/26

GOAL #2: Develop and encourage interactive art opportunities to provide temporary, performing, cultural, and public art in the City.

- A. Advise and recommend public art to City Council for public benefit
- B. Support Traffic Box Program
- C. Host Indoor Sculpture Exhibition
- D. Host Halloween Home & Holiday Home Decorating Contest and recognition:
- E. 1 winner per Council District, 1 group entry winner, 1 Best of the Best
- F. Update and maintain City interactive web-based public art map

GOAL #3: Raise the visibility of commemorative months.

- A. Identify a space to curate and facilitate the celebration of commemorative month, and which cultural holidays to celebrate, and via what medium.

GOAL #4: Enhance communication and media strategy to increase community awareness of the Cultural Commission.

- A. Present accomplishments to City Council annually
- B. Develop, maintain, and grow partnerships and collaborations with external organizations

GOAL #5: Prepare for Citywide Arts Master Plan Process.

- A. Develop public/private partnerships to invest and promote the Arts in Santa Clara
- B. Develop, promote, and implement Citywide Arts Master Plan alongside the City Council

DISCUSSION

At the January 5, 2026 meeting, the Commission may discuss, edit and prioritize projects and activities noted in the attached Work Plan (Attachment 1). The Commission may also identify subcommittees to work on the items. Through this item, the Commission may provide updates to the attached Work Plan.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The action being considered does not constitute a “project” within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(5) in that it is a governmental organizational or administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect changes in the environment.

FISCAL IMPACT

The annual budget allocated for Commission activities is \$57,541 in FY 2025/26. Project allocations are identified in the work plan (Attachment 1) and voted on by the Commission.

PUBLIC CONTACT

Public contact was made by posting the Cultural Commission agenda on the City’s official-notice bulletin board outside City Hall Council Chambers. A complete agenda packet is available on the City’s website and in the City Clerk’s Office at least 72 hours prior to a Regular Meeting and 24 hours prior to a Special Meeting. A hard copy of any agenda report may be requested by contacting the City Clerk’s Office at (408) 615-2220, email clerk@santaclaraca.gov or at the public information desk at any City of Santa Clara public library.

RECOMMENDATION

Discuss and potentially take action on the Cultural Commission Work Plan and Activities for FY 2025/26.

Prepared by: Robin Shaddle, Recreation Supervisor

Reviewed by: Kimberly Castro, Recreation Manager

Approved by: Damon Sparacino, Director, Parks & Recreation

ATTACHMENTS

1. Cultural Commission Work Plan and Activities FY2025/26



**City of
Santa Clara**

Cultural Commission

Work Plan Fiscal Year 2025/26

CITY CHARTER SECTION 2.120.140

The Cultural Commission shall consist of seven members, who shall not hold any paid office or employment in the City government and shall have the following powers, functions and duties:

- (a) Act in an advisory capacity to the City Council in all matters pertaining to cultural enrichment and beautification of the City, sister city relationships and international exchanges.
- (b) Encourage the beautification of the City and programs for the cultural enrichment of the City.
- (c) Foster cultural events, activities and displays that celebrate the City's native and historic cultures and present diversity.
- (d) Assist in the planning and supervision of international exchange activities with our sister communities, sharing friendship, skills and concerns.
- (e) Develop individual contacts designed to enhance international communication and understanding.
- (f) Encourage educational, cultural, sports, technical and governmental exchanges to help acquaint citizens of Santa Clara with cultural and political diversity abroad.
- (g) Perform other such duties and exercise such powers as the City Council may impose or require. (Ord. 1908 § 4, 7-16-13).

COUNCIL PRIORITIES

Excellent City Government: Valued City Services; Reliable Funding; Well-Managed Stadium; Trusted and Engaged City Government

Reliable Infrastructure: Resilient and Well-Maintained Infrastructure; Accessible Transportation Options

Outstanding Quality of Life: Affordable Housing and Supportive Services; Safe Community; Quality Parks Programming and Cultural Amenities

Thriving Community: Vibrant Local Community

COMMISSION PRIORITIES

1. Provide inclusive, diverse, multicultural programs for the Community.
2. Increase collaboration and outreach with the community, other civic and corporate Santa Clara organizations, and interdepartmentally to further the mission of the Commission and build on our knowledge base for future leadership.
3. Develop and preserve a variety of art forms and interactive, expressive, programming events that complement each other.

GOALS

The Santa Clara Cultural Commission has defined its goals for the FY 2025/26. The annual budget projected for Commission activities for FY 2025/26 is \$57,541. These goals incorporate the combined theme of civic leadership, multicultural diversity, visible public art, and improved communication with the community as the fundamental platform upon which more cultural and arts activities can take place in Santa Clara. The goals are as follows:

GOAL #1: Host and enhance multicultural events to encourage and acquaint Santa Clara residents with cultural diversity.				
Activities	Ad Hoc Sub-Committee	Timeline	Notes/Budget	Measurable Outcomes
Plan and implement Summer Concerts in FY 2025/26 6:30 – 8 p.m.	Samara/Diaz/Roy	Concerts in 2025 Central Park July 11 - Sona July 25 – Orchestra Borinquen Live Oak Aug. 15 – Hitmen	Priorities 4 & 6 Summer 2025- \$32,648 (GFI- \$30,148 + \$2,500-1 stage)	Attendance Budget Feedback
		Concerts 2026: 7/10; 7/17; 7/24; 7/31, 8/14 @ Live Oak	Put concert info in bill insert.	
Street Dance	Samara/Diaz/Roy	August 1, 2025 Neon Velvet August 7, 2026	2025 Complete	Attendance: 3,000

Plan and Host Friday Night Live Events		Hold until FY 2026/27	In Progress	
Explore the feasibility of hosting a Group Wedding		Hold until FY 2026/27	Priority 1	

Secure sponsors for Cultural Commission special events in FY 2025/26		2025: Concerts in the Park: \$12,500 2025: Street Dance: \$11,750	Priority 6 Release package January/February	
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GOAL #2: Develop and encourage interactive, art opportunities to provide temporary, performing, cultural, and public art in the City.

Activities	Ad Hoc Sub-Committee	Timeline	Notes/Budget	Measurable Outcomes
Advise and recommend public art to City Council for public benefit	von Huene/Garg	Reception for Nebula Rider 7/17 at 11am. Exhibition 7/16 – 11/14/2025 Extended through 2/14/2025 Reallocate up to \$500 for vinyl banners to advertise exhibition.	Priority 4 Outdoor Temporary Art Installation, allocate \$12,500 City Hall Plaza \$1000 reception	Outdoor Temporary Exhibit
Support Traffic Box Program	Diaz	Held Zoom meeting with artists Oct. 22, 2025 2-are ready to start, 2 in agreement process, 2 in insurance stage	Priority 4 Allocation to \$6,000 6 boxes \$1,000	6 Boxes get painted

Host Indoor Sculpture Exhibition		Hold Until FY 2026/27	Priorities 4 & 6	Amount of entries Feedback Engagement
Host Halloween Home & Holiday Home Decorating Contest and Recognition	Garg – Halloween Pontious – Halloween Roy – Halloween	Release Contest Oct.7 Oct. 27 Deadline for submissions. Oct. 30 Judging due; Announcements & Signs out. Holiday – 11/24 Release Contest 12/19 Deadline for submissions 12/21 Judging due 12/22 Announcements made 12/22-12/23 Signs out	Priority 6	# of Entries Feedback & Engagement
Update and maintain City interactive web-based public art map	Diaz/von Huene/Samara		Priority 4	

GOAL #3: Raise the visibility of commemorative months.

Activities	Ad Hoc Sub-Committee	Timeline	Notes/Budget	Measurable Outcomes
Identify a space to curate and facilitate the celebration of Commemorative Months and which cultural holidays to celebrate and via what medium	Das/von Huene/ Garg	December 16 – Special Order of Business at Council – Human Rights Month – 7:00 p.m.	Priority 4 Photo booth props for Tree Lighting.	Library and School District will circulate the coloring pages in the month of December.

GOAL #4: Enhance communication and media strategy to increase community awareness of the Cultural Commission.

Activities	Ad Hoc Sub-Committee	Timeline	Notes/Budget	Measurable Outcomes
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Present accomplishments to City Council annually	von Huene		Priority 6	
Develop, maintain, and grow partnerships and collaborations with external organizations.	von Huene/Pontious		Priority 6 Mission College for Summer Concerts.	

GOAL #5: Prepare for Citywide Arts Master Plan Process.

Activities	Ad Hoc Sub-Committee	Timeline	Notes/Budget	Measurable Outcomes
Develop private/public partnerships to invest and promote the Arts in Santa Clara	von Huene		Priorities 4 & 6	

Develop, promote, and implement Citywide Arts Master Plan alongside the City Council	von Huene/Pontious Garg		Priorities 4 & 6 Staff has meeting with procurement SOW process.	Work with Parks & Recreation Department on community engagement and delivery of project.
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