



City of Santa Clara

Meeting Minutes

Cultural Commission

04/06/2026

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>

Webinar ID: 822 0770 5371

Or join by phone: 669-900-6833

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Chair von Huene at 7:02 p.m.

Present 6 - Commissioner Abinas Roy, Vice Chair Candida Diaz, Commissioner Charles Pontious, Chair Debra von Huene, Commissioner Kuku Das, and Commissioner Louis Samara

Absent 1 - Commissioner Neetu Garg

A motion was made by Commissioner Roy and seconded by Commissioner Das to excuse Commissioner Garg from the meeting.

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Garg

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. [26-334](#) Action on the Cultural Commission Regular Minutes of March 2, 2026

Recommendation: Approve the Cultural Commission Regular Meeting Minutes of March 2, 2026

A motion was made by Vice Chair Diaz and seconded by Commissioner Samara to approve the minutes from the March 2, 2026 meeting.

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

Excused: 1 - Commissioner Garg

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

None.

GENERAL BUSINESS

2. [26-403](#) Review and Discuss Joining the Make Music Alliance in 2027 and Participating in Make Music Day on June 21, 2027

Recommendation: Discuss and provide direction on the City of Santa Clara's participation in the Make Music Alliance and Make Music Day on June 21, 2027.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pontious and seconded by Commissioner Das to take staff recommendation and table Make Music Day 2026 efforts and focus on participation in Make Music Day 2027.

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

Excused: 1 - Commissioner Garg

3. [26-337](#) Discussion and Potential Action on the 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 Work Plan and provided updates. No action was taken.

STAFF REPORT

Recreation Manager Castro presented a budget update on the Cultural Commission's budget, including how much has been spent year-to-date, how much is encumbered from prior fiscal year, and the available budget remaining. The budget does not include revenue brought in for sponsorships. Information can be referenced in the "Budget Update 04 06 26 - Post Meeting Material" attachment.

Art Master Plan RFP is scheduled to be sent out the week of April 6 to find a consultant to aid the City through the master plan process.

It was also shared that the City will be going under a Charter Review and Manager Castro encouraged the Commissioners to get informed on this.

Night Market events coming up in May, June and July. Two day events, Friday, 4-9 p.m. and Saturday, 2-9 p.m. and 900-1000 Lafayette St.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Commissioner Das invited Commissioners to attend the 26th annual iGurukul Cultural Extravaganza event on Sunday, April 12, at the College of San Mateo Performing Arts Center. More than 250 artists from all different cultures.

Commissioner Pontious visited Portland, Oregon and was amazed by all of the wall art/murals in the city. Expressed how nice it would be to implement that more in Santa Clara.

Chair von Huene shared about the Americans for the Arts Conference in New Mexico, June 2-5 and asked Commissioners to consider attending. She sang in a concert with Santa Clara Chorale in March with the theme Stardust. On May 16 she will performing in a Santa Clara Chorale concert at the Mission Santa Clara that includes a full orchestra.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Vice Chair Diaz and seconded by Commissioner Samara to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m.

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

Excused: 1 - Commissioner Garg

The next regular meeting of the Cultural Commission will be held on Monday, May 4, 2026 at 7:00 PM.

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."

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