



City of Santa Clara

Meeting Agenda

Cultural Commission

Monday, August 4, 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/98272283531>

Meeting ID: 98272283531

Or join by phone: 669-900-6833

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

1. 25-853 [Action on Cultural Commission Regular Minutes of July 7, 2025](#)

Recommendation: Approve the Cultural Commission Regular Meeting Minutes of July 7, 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.]

2. 25-854 [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 scheduled meeting for Cultural Commission is on Monday, October 6, 2025 at 7:00 PM.

MEETING DISCLOSURES



City of Santa Clara

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

Agenda Report

25-853

Agenda Date: 8/4/2025

REPORT TO CULTURAL COMMISSION

SUBJECT

Action on Cultural Commission Regular Minutes of July 7, 2025

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the Cultural Commission Regular Meeting Minutes of July 7, 2025

Prepared by: Kimberly Castro, Recreation Manager

Approved by: Damon Sparacino, Parks & Recreation Director

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Minutes - Cultural Commission Meeting July 7, 2025



City of Santa Clara

Meeting Minutes

Cultural Commission

07/07/2025

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/98272283531>

Meeting ID: 98272283531

Or join by phone: 669-900-6833

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Chair Debra von Huene at 7:04 PM.

Present 5 - Vice Chair Candida Diaz, Chair Debra von Huene, Commissioner Kuku Das, Commissioner Louis Samara, and Commissioner Neetu Garg

Absent 2 - Commissioner Abinas Roy, and Commissioner Charles Pontious

A motion was made by Vice Chair Diaz and seconded by Commissioner Garg to excuse Commissioner Roy from the Cultural Commission meeting on July 7, 2025.

Aye: 5 - Vice Chair Diaz, Chair von Huene, Commissioner Das, Commissioner Samara, and Commissioner Garg

Absent: 2 - Commissioner Roy, and Commissioner Pontious

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. [25-715](#) Action on Cultural Commission Regular Minutes of June 2, 2025

Recommendation: Approve the Cultural Commission Regular Meeting Minutes of June 2, 2025

A motion was made by Commissioner Samara and seconded by Vice-Chair Diaz to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on June 2, 2025.

Aye: 5 - Vice Chair Diaz, Chair von Huene, Commissioner Das, Commissioner Samara, and Commissioner Garg

Excused: 1 - Commissioner Roy

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Pontious

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

None.

GENERAL BUSINESS

2. [25-714](#) Action to Recommend a New Cultural Commission Member to Serve on the Station Area Task Force

Recommendation: Recommend that the Commission review the request from the Community Development Department and appoint a commissioner to serve on the Station Area Task Force.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Diaz and seconded by Commissioner Samara to recommend Commissioner Garg to serve on the Station Area Taskforce.

Aye: 5 - Vice Chair Diaz, Chair von Huene, Commissioner Das, Commissioner Samara, and Commissioner Garg

Excused: 1 - Commissioner Roy

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Pontious

3. [25-716](#) 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 work plan for FY 2025/26. No action was taken on this item.

STAFF REPORT

Recreation Manager Castro announced the installation and reception for Nebula Rider on the City Hall Plaza on July 17, 2025 at 11 a.m. and the Concert in the Park on July 25 and the Street Dance on August 1.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Commissioner Garg watched fireworks on the 4th of July from the Ruby Hill neighborhood in San Jose.

Commissioner Das was welcomed to the commission.

Chair von Huene is looking forward to seeing Moulin Rouge in San Jose this week and Juliet next month.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting of the Cultural Commission is scheduled for Monday, August 4, 2025.

A motion was made by Commissioner Samara and seconded by Vice-Chair Diaz to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM.

Aye: 5 - Vice Chair Diaz, Chair von Huene, Commissioner Das, Commissioner Samara, and Commissioner Garg

Excused: 1 - Commissioner Roy

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Pontious

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.



Agenda Report

25-854

Agenda Date: 8/4/2025

REPORT TO CULTURAL COMMISSION

SUBJECT

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

COUNCIL PILLAR

Enhance Community Sports, Recreational and Arts Assets
Enhance Community Engagement and Transparency

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
- 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:
 - i. 1 winner per Council District, 1 group entry winner, 1 Best of the best
- E. 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 months
- B. Develop proposal to present to Commission on 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

At the April 7, 2025, meeting, the Cultural Commission discussed projects and adopted a work plan for FY 2025/26.

DISCUSSION

At the August 4, 2025, 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: Kimberly Castro, Recreation Manager

Approved by: Damon Sparacino, Director, Parks & Recreation

ATTACHMENTS

1. Cultural Commission Work Plan and Activities FY 2025/26



**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

1. Deliver and Enhance High-Quality Efficient Services and Infrastructure
2. Manage Strategically Our Workforce Capacity and Resources
3. Promote and Enhance Economic, Housing and Transportation Development
4. Enhance Community Sports, Recreational and Arts Assets
5. Ensure Compliance with Measure J and Manage Levi's Stadium
6. Enhance Community Engagement and Transparency
7. Promote Sustainability and Environment Protection

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.		Concerts in 2025 Central Park July 11 - Sona July 25 – Orchestra Borinquen Live Oak Aug. 15 – Hitmen Concerts 2026 TBD	Priorities 4 & 6 Summer 2025- \$32,648 (GFI- \$30,148 + \$2,500-1 stage)	Attendance Budget Feedback

Street Dance		August 1, 2025 Neon Velvet	Plan for bike parking, free water, perhaps chalk art space \$9,188 + 10,000 staffing + \$2,500 stage and \$1,700 road closures (\$23,388)	Attendance Budget Feedback
Plan and Host Friday Night Live Events			In Progress for fall event at	
Explore the feasibility of hosting a Group Wedding		Table for 2025	Priority 1	Attendance Budget Feedback
Secure sponsors for Cultural Commission special events in FY 2025/26		Add totals here for August meeting	Priority 6	
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		Reception for Nebula Rider 7/17 at 11am. Exhibition 7/16 – 11/14/2025	Priority 4 Outdoor Temporary Art Installation, allocate \$12,500 City	Outdoor Temporary Exhibit

			Hall Plaza \$1,000 reception	
Support Traffic Box Program	Diaz		Priority 4 Allocation to \$6,000 6 boxes \$1,000	6 Boxes get painted
Host Indoor Sculpture Exhibition		FY 2026/27	Priorities 4 & 6	Amount of entries Feedback Engagement
Host Halloween Home & Holiday Home Decorating Contest and Recognition 6 winner/Council District, 1 group entry winner, 1 best of the best	Garg	Get dates	Priority 6 Consider: Redefine Rules and Process for upcoming contests: Previous year winners are not eligible for the same prize two years in a row – to include adding rubric for contestants (community) for 2025.	# of Entries Feedback & Engagement

Update and maintain City interactive web-based public art map	Diaz/von Huene		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			Priority 4	
Develop proposal to present to Commission on which cultural holidays to celebrate and via what medium	Garg/Das			

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
Present accomplishments to City Council annually			Priority 6	
Develop, maintain, and grow partnerships and collaborations with external organizations.			Priority 6	

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		Priorities 4 & 6	Work with Parks & Recreation Department on community engagement and delivery of project.
--	-----------	--	------------------	--