City of Santa Clara

Meeting Agenda

Cultural Commission

Monday, October 5, 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: 669-900-683

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

CONSENT CALENDAR

1.A. 26-902 Action on the Cultural Commission Regular Minutes of August 3, 2026

Recommendation: Approve the Cultural Commission Regular Meeting Minutes of August 3, 2026

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. 26-955 Discussion and Potential Action on the Cultural Commission Work Plan and Activities for FY 2026/27

Recommendation: Discuss and potentially take action on the Cultural Commission Work Plan and Activities for FY 2026/27.

STAFF REPORT

COMMISSIONERS REPORT

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting of the Cultural Commission will be held on Monday, November 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.

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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.

26-902 **Agenda Date: 10/5/2026**

REPORT TO CULTURAL COMMISSION

SUBJECT
Action on the Cultural Commission Regular Minutes of August 3, 2026

RECOMMENDATION
Approve the Cultural Commission Regular Meeting Minutes of August 3, 2026

Prepared by: Robin Shaddle, Recreation Supervisor
Reviewed by: Kimberly Castro, Recreation Manager
Approved by: Damon Sparacino, Parks & Recreation Director

ATTACHMENTS
1. Cultural Commission Meeting August 3, 2026

Draft

City of Santa Clara

Meeting Minutes

Cultural Commission

08/03/2026 **7:00 PM** **Hybrid Meeting**
Santa Clara Senior Center
Room 205
1303 Fremont Street
Santa Clara, CA 95050

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CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair von Huene called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Present 7 - Commissioner Abinas Roy, Vice Chair Candida Diaz, Commissioner Charles Pontious, Chair Debra von Huene, Commissioner Kuku Das, Commissioner Neetu Garg, and Commissioner Ana Vargas-Smith

CONSENT CALENDAR

1.A. 26-703 Action on the Cultural Commission Regular Minutes of June 1, 2026

Recommendation: Approve the Cultural Commission Regular Meeting Minutes of June 1, 2026

Vice Chair Diaz made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Garg, to recommend approval of the June 8, 2026, Cultural Commission Minutes. The motion carried by the following votes:

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

Abstained: 2 - Commissioner Pontious, and Commissioner Vargas-Smith

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

The Chair opened the public presentation. Anna Guibao presented on behalf of the Spirituality Committee from St. Clare Parish, and proposed an event at the Statue of St. Clare in Civic Center Park, to celebrate the 175th anniversary of The City of Santa Clara and the 250th anniversary of the Mission of St. Clare de Asis.

GENERAL BUSINESS

2. 26-794 Discussion and Potential Action on the Cultural Commission Work Plan and Activities for FY 2026/27

Recommendation: Discuss and potentially take action on the Cultural Commission Work Plan and Activities for FY 2026/27.

Vice Chair Diaz made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Garg to allot an additional $1,310 to the Friday Night Live event on Friday, October 16, 2026, to add thirty minutes to the performance and to purchase two promotional street banners. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Commissioner Roy, Vice Chair Diaz, Commissioner Pontious, Chair von Huene, Commissioner Das, Commissioner Garg, and Commissioner Vargas-Smith

Information can be referenced in the "Commemorative Months Events and Activities FY2026-27-Post Meeting Material" attachment.

Vice Chair Diaz made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Pontious, to proceed with the recommendations from the Commemorative Months sub-committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Commissioner Roy, Vice Chair Diaz, Commissioner Pontious, Chair von Huene, Commissioner Das, Commissioner Garg, and Commissioner Vargas-Smith

Vice Chair Diaz made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Pontious, to allocate $200 for photo frames for the interactive Cultural Commission booth at the Holiday Tree Lighting event on Friday, December 4, 2026. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Commissioner Roy, Vice Chair Diaz, Commissioner Pontious, Chair von Huene, Commissioner Das, Commissioner Garg, and Commissioner Vargas-Smith

Vice Chair Diaz made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Roy, to allocate $1,500 to host an Indian Cultural Festival, held at the Community Recreation Center in February of 2027. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Commissioner Roy, Vice Chair Diaz, Commissioner Pontious, Chair von Huene, Commissioner Das, Commissioner Garg, and Commissioner Vargas-Smith

Vice Chair Diaz made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Pontious to allocate $1,000 to co-sponsor the Juneteenth concert with the Santa Clara City Library on June 19, 2027. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Commissioner Roy, Vice Chair Diaz, Commissioner Pontious, Chair von Huene, Commissioner Das, Commissioner Garg, and Commissioner Vargas-Smith

Information can be referenced in the “International Day of Yoga 2027 - Post Meeting Material” attachment.

Commissioner Garg made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Pontious to add the International Day of Yoga as an activity listed under Goal #1 in the Cultural Commission Work Plan Goals and Activities for FY2026/27. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Commissioner Roy, Vice Chair Diaz, Commissioner Pontious, Chair von Huene, Commissioner Das, Commissioner Garg, and Commissioner Vargas-Smith

STAFF REPORT

Recreation Supervisor Shaddle

The annual Street Dance will be held Friday, August 7, at Commerce Plaza, 900 Lafayette Street, includes the band, David Martin's House Party, 9 food trucks, the kettle corn booth, Sister Cities selling beer and wine, City Departments present as well as event sponsors. Event hours 6-9:30 p.m. Encouraged all to attend.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Commissioner Garg

Reported that she felt the Concert in the Park on July 24 was very loud and worried the concert at Live Oak Park on August 14 would be very loud for the neighbors nearby.

Commissioner Vargas-Smith

Attended the Celebrate Santa Clara Night Markets this summer and felt they were very successful, well attended, a positive experience for attendees, and a wonderful bonding opportunity for the community. Announced the Parade of Champions will be held on October 3, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Diaz made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Pontious, to adjourn the meeting on August 3, 2026, at 9:04 p.m.

Aye: 7 - Commissioner Roy, Vice Chair Diaz, Commissioner Pontious, Chair von Huene, Commissioner Das, Commissioner Garg, and Commissioner Vargas-Smith

The next meeting of the Cultural Commission will be held on Monday, October 5, 2026.

MEETING DISCLOSURES

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26-955 **Agenda Date: 10/5/2026**

REPORT TO CULTURAL COMMISSION

SUBJECT

Discussion and Potential Action on the Cultural Commission Work Plan and Activities for FY 2026/27

BACKGROUND

Annually, the Cultural Commission ("Commission") identifies three to five specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and time-bound goals and related activities to guide its work. The annual Work Plan is intended to focus the Commission's efforts, align with City Council priorities, and operate within the existing budget direction and resource limitations.

At the June 1, 2026 regular meeting, the Commission adopted the FY 2026/27 Work Plan goals and associated activities. Throughout the fiscal year, the Commission may review progress, adjust priorities, establish subcommittees, and provide direction to ensure implementation remains aligned with adopted goals and respond to emerging opportunities or constraints.

The adopted goals and current status of related activities are summarized below:

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

A. Provide input and collaborate with staff on the implementation of the Summer Concerts in the Park in FY 2026/27 - COMPLETED
B. Provide input and collaborate with staff on the implementation of the annual Street Dance in FY 2026/27: August 7, 2026 - COMPLETED
C. Provide input and collaborate with staff on the implementation of Friday Night Live Events - In Progress
D. Foster and advise staff on the implementation of the International Day of Yoga event - 6/20/27
E. Support the pursuit and engagement of sponsorships for Cultural Commission special events in FY 2026/27 - COMPLETED

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

A. Support, advise and evaluate submissions for the Traffic Box Program
B. Provide input, evaluate submissions, and advise staff on the implementation of a Public Art Exhibition (indoor or outdoor)
C. Provide advisory support and judge the annual Halloween Home & Holiday Home Decorating Contest and Recognition
D. Recommend entries on the City interactive web-based public art map
E. Provide input and recruit participants for Make Music Day June 21, 2027

GOAL #3: Raise the visibility of commemorative months.

A. Identify a space to curate and facilitate the celebration of Commemorative Months 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. Special Order of Business presentation to City Council annually to invite members to the Summer Concerts and Street Dance and brief overview of other activities supported by the Cultural Commission
B. Continuous identification, maintenance and development of partnerships and collaborations with external organizations
C. Active Commission Representation at Station Area Task Force meetings

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

A. Provide advisory support and collaboration on the development and implementation of the citywide Public Arts Master Plan alongside the City Council and staff

DISCUSSION

At the August 3, 2026, meeting, the Commission will review the FY2026/27 Work Plan (Attachment 1), discuss progress to date, consider edits, reprioritization of activities, or adjustments based on available funding and staff capacity.

The Commission may also identify subcommittees to advance specific projects regarding implementation strategies. Any modifications to the Work Plan will ensure continue alignment with Commission goals, City priorities, and budget constraints.

Through this agenda item, the Commission may provide updates and take actions to refine the Work Plan for the remainder of FY 2026/27.

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 adopted budget for FY 2026/27 Cultural Commission activities is $58,693. Funding allocations for individual projects are identified in the Work Plan and voted on by the Commission.

Any adjustments to project priorities or scope will be managed within the Commission’s existing adopted budget and available resources. No adjustment request is being made as part of this action.

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 2026/27.

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 FY 2026_27

City of Santa Clara

Cultural Commission

Work Plan Fiscal Year 2026/27

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) Perform other such duties and exercise such powers as the City Council may impose or require. (Ord. 1908 § 4, 7-16-13).

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 2026/27. The City's General Fund includes an annual allocation of $58,693 within the Parks & Recreation Department budget to support Cultural Commission activities. 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**
Provide input and collaboration with staff on the implementation of the Summer Concerts in the Park in FY 2026/27	Diaz/ Vargas-Smith/ Pontious	6/19- Faye Carol w/Library 7/10- Megatones; 7/17 Pop Rocks; 7/24 Patron Latin Rhythms; 7/31-Houserockers, 8/14 – Aja Vu @ Live Oak.	$32,258 + 3,000 Stage – Live Oak Flyer complete. 6/19 and 7/10, 7/24, & 7/31 concerts Central Park, behind Library **COMPLETED**	
Provide input and collaboration with staff on the implementation of the annual Street Dance in FY 2026/27	Garg/ Diaz/ Roy	Aug. 7, 2026 David Martin's House Party	1000 Lafayette $9,831 + 3,000 Stage Flyer complete, banners are up, Marketing started Banner at Marsalli Park **COMPLETED**	
Provide input and collaboration with staff on the implementation of Friday Night Live Events	Das/ Garg/ Diaz	MCCPA dates reserved tentatively 10/16 Save 10/9 JIC	10/16- Ashley Lopez - contact $3k, 1 hour show, 8 musicians, 16 dancers **CANCELLED**	Check dates in November Grupo Folklorio
Provide input and collaboration with staff on the implementation of International Day of Yoga event	Roy/ Garg			

Support the pursuit and engagement of sponsorships for Cultural Commission special events in FY 2026/27			$11,500 Street Dance (paid) $10,800 Concerts (all paid) **COMPLETED**	
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**
Support, advise, evaluate submissions and verify final product for the Traffic Box Program	Diaz/ Pontious/ Vargas-Smith		2 still to finish from 25/26 Allocate $6k for 26/27- 6 boxes Call for artists - late Sept	6 Boxes get painted
Provide input, evaluate submissions, and advise staff on the implementation of a Public Art Exhibition (indoor or outdoor)	von Huene / Garg/ Das	FY 2026/27	How much $ available to allot for this?	Amount of entries Feedback Engagement
Provide advisory support, develop rubric, judge, and deliver contest recognition to winners, for the annual Halloween Home & Holiday Home Decorating Contest and Recognition	Roy/ Garg/ Pontious	Release Contest Oct.7 Oct. 26 Deadline for submissions. Oct. 30 Judging due; Announcements & Signs out. Holiday – 11/23 Release Contest 12/18 Deadline for submissions 12/21 Judging due 12/22 Announcements	$70 Approx for signs 8 total signs needed per contest allocating $1200	# of Entries Feedback & Engagement 6 winner/Council District, 1 group entry winner, 1 best of the best

		made 12/22-12/23 Signs out		
Recommend entries with photos and location for the City interactive web-based public art map		On-going		
Curate concept and local partnerships, provide input and recruit participation for Make Music Day June 21, 2027	Pontious/ Roy/ Das			Make Music Day June 21, 2027
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	Garg/ Das/ von Huene		Coloring pages reposted Share with school district 26/27 school year	
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**
Special Order of Business presentation to City Council annually to invite members and the community to the Summer Concerts and Street Dance and		July 7, 2026 Council Presentation Accomplishments **CANCELLED**		

brief overview of other activities supported by the Cultural Commission		Dinner in New Year 2027 Brief accomplishments and promote concerts & street dance		
Continuously identify partnerships and collaborations with external organizations.		June – August 2026	Mission College Concert Series $1,000 Allocated **COMPLETED**	
Active Commission Representation at Station Area Task Force meetings	Garg			
GOAL #5: Prepare for Citywide Arts Master Plan Process.				
Activities	**Ad Hoc Sub-Committee**	**Timeline**	**Notes/Budget**	**Measurable Outcomes**
Provide advisory support and collaboration on the stakeholder/community engagement, development and implementation of the citywide Public Arts Master Plan alongside the City Council and staff	von Huene/ Pontious/ Garg		3 Proposals Submitted	Work with staff on community engagement.

FUTURE PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES FOR CONSIDERATION

October Agenda:
Budget Update – Allocations
Halloween Home Decorating
Public Art Master Plan Update
Arts Master Plan Update
Utility Box Art Program