

Municipal Art Committee

05/20/2025

Meeting Date

07/08/2025

Date Minutes Were Approved

Rhonda Bell

Rhonda Bell (Jul 11, 2025 10:12 PDT)

Chair

CERTIFICATION AND ATTESTATION

I hereby certify that the accompanying document is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the aforementioned meeting. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that the quorum was present.

Brittany Garcia

Brittany Garcia (Jul 10, 2025 08:21 PDT)

Staff Liaison





MUNICIPAL ART COMMITTEE
Tuesday, May 20th, 2025, at 6:00 P.M.
Regular Meeting
Avondale Visitor & Conference Center – Monument Hill Conference Room
11490 Civic Center Dr, Avondale, AZ 85323
Call to order 6:09PM
Physical Access to the Conference Room will be available 30 minutes prior to the meeting.

1. ROLL CALL AND STATEMENT OF PARTICIPATION BY THE STAFF LIAISON

Present: Gaven Mejia, Denise Thiel, Jan Graham, Rhonda Bell

Staff: Marissa Dailey, Stacy Swainston, Dominic DeCono, Brittany Garcia

Absent: Sara Ivey, Deanna Sapata

2. UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCE

The Committee does not comment on items raised during Unscheduled Public Appearances; however, staff maybe directed to report back to the Committee at a future date or to schedule items raised for a future agenda.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Municipal Art Committee will consider the approval of the minutes for the meeting on Tuesday, February 18th, 2025. The Committee will take appropriate action.

Motion: Jan Graham motions to approve the February 18th Meeting Minutes

2nd: Denise Thiel

Approved: 4-0

4. BOND ELECTION INFORMATION

City Staff will present information regarding the 2025 Bond Election. This item is for discussion only.

Dominic DeCono presents the information for the upcoming 2025 Bond Election.

Proposition 404 invests in Parks. \$68 million for Parks, Recreation & Libraries.

This would go towards new park shade, shade expansion, park/parking improvements, trail system improvements, and Civic Center Library improvements.

Proposition 405 invests in Public Safety. \$55 million for Public Safety.

This would go towards the Southern Avondale Fire/Police Station, new Public Safety Headquarters, Police Firearms Training Facility, Main Police Station Expansion, and City Court office expansion.

These bonds will not result in a City tax rate increase.

Board Members:

Chair – Rhonda Bell Sara Ivey
Vice Chair – Denise Thiel Deanna Sapata
Gaven Mejia
Janice Graham

Staff:

Marissa Dailey – Arts, Culture & Library Manager
Brittany Garcia – Administrative Assistant
Stacy Swainston – Parks, Recreation & Libraries
Assistant Director

5. COMPLETED PROJECT UPDATES

Staff will provide an update to the Municipal Art Committee on the finished Utility Box Wraps and the Confluence sculpture.

The committee is shown the photos of the completed Blank Canvas utility box wraps. Each of these Blank Canvas box wraps are on Van Buren, running from Central to Avondale Blvd.

The committee is shown the photos of the completed Confluence sculpture. This project was 8 months in the making and was recently installed at the beginning of May.

We are working with Keepsake Trophy to get consistent signage for each of the art works around the City. Staff has a recreation assistant who will be working on this project.

6. CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES

Staff will provide an update to the Municipal Art Committee on the Harmony of Rivers landscaping and Grid sculpture.

Staff provides the committee an update on the Harmony of Rivers landscaping. The committee previously approved to use \$40,000 towards landscaping. The Parks Manager began work on the landscaping Monday, May 19th. Irrigation does still need to be installed and the parks workers are looking into different plants and trees that can go around the artwork.

There was a repair that was made to the artwork due to a crack. It was under warranty, so the artist was able to fly back to Arizona for the repair.

Staff provides the committee with an update on the Grid sculpture. Trevor O'tool will be completing this artwork and having it installed by the end of November 2025. We will be doing an unveiling ceremony at Winterfest 2025.

7. PUBLIC ART PROPOSAL – COOPER'S HAWK

The Municipal Art Committee will consider a proposal for a mural at the new Cooper's Hawk restaurant at Park 10. The committee will take appropriate action.

Cooper's Hawk has proposed a mural on their private property going up on McDowell. Jan asks if the mural fits in well with the location of the new restaurant. Staff answers that the area is still being developed and there are more restaurants and businesses that will be going into that area. Jan also asks if the business will be assuming all responsibility for the cost and maintenance. Staff answers that yes, the business will be taking full responsibility for this art piece. Rhonda Bell really likes the vibrancy of the mural and thinks this will be a good selfie piece and pop in the area.

Motion: Rhonda Bell motions to approve the artwork for Cooper's Hawk Restaurant

2nd: Denise Thiel

Approved: 4-0

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8. **PUBLIC ART PROPOSAL – FIRE STATION #171**

The Municipal Art Committee will consider a proposal for the mural at Fire Station #171. The committee will take appropriate action.

Staff lets the committee know that they have reached out to the artist selected for the Fire Station #171 mural to update his current design to feature more Avondale sights, such as the Estrella Mountains.

Motion: Denise Thiel motions to table this vote for another meeting.

2nd: Jan Graham

Approved: 4-0

9. **PUBLIC ART PROPOSAL – DONATELA PARK**

The Municipal Art Committee will consider a proposal to put public art at the new Donatela Park. The committee will take appropriate action.

Staff informs the committee that the City is interested in having Public Art put at the new Donatela Park. The park is going to be located off of Palm Lane and 113th Ave. Construction will be starting shortly for this project. There is no concept to be approved yet.

Motion: Denise Thiel motions to approve to have artwork at Donatela Park

2nd: Jan Graham

Approved: 4-0

10. **PUBLIC ART PROPOSAL – BLVD PEDESTALS**

The Municipal Art Committee will consider a proposal to move forward with an artist from the BLVD Pedestals Call to Artists. The committee will take appropriate action.

The committee had been sent the submissions for the BLVD Pedestals Call to Artists and will discuss their opinions.

Staff and City Management recommendation is in favor of the DiBari concept.

Denise Thiel liked the DiBari submissions and the concept for the area.

Jan liked the cowboy rabbit from Paul Orzech, she thinks it is whimsical.

Gaven liked DiBari and Paul Orzech. He thinks the Paul Orzech ones resonate with Avondale most out of the two.

The committee does agree that most of the artwork did not resonate with them too heavily for the BLVD.

Motion: Denise Thiel motions to have a special meeting to discuss more BLVD Pedestal options.

2nd: Jan Graham

Approved: 4-0

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Gaven Mejia
Janice Graham

Staff:

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11. PUBLIC ART PROPOSAL – WESTERN AVENUE PLAZA

The Municipal Art Committee will consider a proposal to move forward with an artist from the Western Avenue Plaza Call to Artists. The committee will take appropriate action.

The committee is shown a rendering of the new Western Avenue Plaza, as well as the different artists that submitted concepts.

The committee as a whole agrees for Paul Orzech's concepts and to move forward with him as the artist for the Western Avenue Plaza.

Motion: Jan Graham motions for Staff reach out to Paul Orzech to have community outreach
2nd: Denise Thiel
Approved: 4-0

12. ACHIEVING ARTISTS HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST RECAP

Staff and Committee will discuss the 2025 Achieving Artists High School Scholarship Contest. This item is for discussion only.

Staff and the committee comes up with a list to improve the contest next year:

- Include ambient music to enhance the atmosphere throughout the event.
- Provide an opportunity for the artists to briefly speak about their work.
- At the conclusion, invite all participants to come on stage.
- Ensure certificates are prepared for all individuals who submitted work, not just the winners.
- Place an announcement in the West Valley View to recognize the winners.
- Increase promotional efforts and begin advertising the event earlier.
- Add this event to the November agenda for earlier planning and coordination.
- Enhance stage presence with additional elements such as pop-up displays or more participants on stage.

13. COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMENTS

The Municipal Art Committee and Staff may provide brief comments on current events and issues. This item is for information only. Items requiring discussion, deliberation, or legal action must be placed on a future Committee meeting agenda.

Staff has been working with Planning and Engineering to proof the public art application for businesses that are coming to Avondale.

Marissa is working on an inventory with the art work across the City. We will be having a recreation assistant that will be working on this project.

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14. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be in person on Tuesday, August 19th, 2025 for discussion and action.

Motion: Jan Graham motions to adjourn

2nd: Denise Theil

Approved:4-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:46pm.

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