



City of Fresno

2600 Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93721
www.fresno.gov

Meeting Minutes

Parks, Recreation, and Arts Commission

Chair - Kimberly McCoy

Vice Chair - Laura Ward

Commissioner - Jose Leon Barraza

Commissioner - Rose Caglia

Commissioner - Jon Dohlin

Commissioner - McKay A. Duran

Commissioner - Kelly Kucharski

Commissioner - Scott Miller

Commissioner - Vincent L. Trillo

Monday, September 29, 2025

5:30 PM

**Council Chambers (In
Person and/or Electronic)
<https://www.fresno.gov/prac>
-meeting/**

Regular Meeting

The Parks, Recreation and Arts Commission (PRAC) met in regular session in the Council Chamber at Fresno City Hall on the date and time above written.

1. Call to Order

Chair McCoy called the meeting to order at 5:31 P.M.

2. 5:31 P.M. Roll Call

Present 9 - Chair Kimberly McCoy, Vice Chair Laura E. Ward, Commissioner Jose Barraza, Commissioner Rose Caglia, Commissioner Jon Dohlin, Commissioner McKay A. Duran, Commissioner Kelly Kucharski, Commissioner Scott Miller, and Commissioner Vincent L. Trillo

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair McCoy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approve Agenda

On motion of Commissioner Dohlin, seconded by Commissioner Miller, the AGENDA was APPROVED. The motion carried by the following

vote:

Aye: 9 - Chair McCoy, Vice Chair Ward, Commissioner Barraza, Commissioner Caglia, Commissioner Dohlin, Commissioner Duran, Commissioner Kucharski, Commissioner Miller and Commissioner Trillo

5. Approval of Minutes

5.-A. [ID 25-1278](#) Approval of the regular meeting minutes of September 15, 2025.

On motion of Commissioner Barraza, seconded by Commissioner Dohlin, that the above Action Item be APPROVED. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 9 - Chair McCoy, Vice Chair Ward, Commissioner Barraza, Commissioner Caglia, Commissioner Dohlin, Commissioner Duran, Commissioner Kucharski, Commissioner Miller and Commissioner Trillo

6. Discussion: Subcommittee Reports

6-A. Cultural Arts Grant Fund Subcommittee

Vice Chair Ward reported it has been a difficult few weeks for the cultural arts subcommittee, the Fresno Arts Council, and the Fresno arts and culture community. Acknowledge the concerns from those who hoped for action tonight on the 2025 EAAC art grant funding recommendations, as well as those who requested a pause and expressed frustration about whether their concerns are being addressed. Commissioners emphasized that while public comment is limited by the Brown Act, all feedback is heard and valued. Legal communications further restrict dialogue, but the City Attorney is in contact with the attorney who submitted a letter to PRAC. In response to public concerns about transparency, the subcommittee will begin holding publicly noticed and open meetings, even though not legally required, and may become a standing committee subject to the Brown Act through future action. The September 16, 2025, meeting minutes clarify the subcommittee's role and authority, which is limited to making recommendations to the full commission. To increase transparency around the grant scoring process, a public subcommittee meeting will be held in the coming weeks to review materials and allow public comment. Final recommendations will be presented to the full commission in October. The subcommittee will also participate directly in future grant panel reviews to

ensure those meetings are open to the public. Commissioners reaffirmed their commitment to improving the EAAC grant program annually and encouraged continued community engagement.

[ID 25-1325](#) Cultural Arts Subcommittee Meeting Minutes September 16, 2025.

7. Members Reports and Comments

COMMISSIONER BARRAZA REPORTS AND COMMENTS. Invited members of the public and commissioners to attend “Viva De La Raza”, an Indigenous Peoples’ Day celebration at Willow & Balch Park in Southeast Fresno. The event will feature art, music, and a diverse cultural setting.

CHAIR MCCOY REPORTS AND COMMENTS. Expressed gratitude to everyone who participated in the community mural retouch event held the past Saturday near Edison High School in West Fresno. The 93706 mural received updates with strong turnout from residents, including children who added their handprints. The event featured a DJ and saw people from across Fresno joining throughout the day. Highlighted the sense of unity and appreciation for the community’s efforts in revitalizing the mural.

VICE CHAIR WARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS. Noted that it’s a busy period for Measure “P” funded and supported arts and cultural events in the community. Announced attending “Museum Day” at the Fresno Art Museum, the “Reel Pride Film Festival”, and the “Guelaguetza Festival” in central Fresno. Encouraged continued public participation in the many upcoming events scheduled in the weeks ahead.

COMMISSIONER CAGLIA REPORTS AND COMMENTS. Shared reflections on a recent Fresno Arts Council event celebrating funding recipients. The gathering showcased a diverse range of organizations and artistic talents, including orchestras, stained glass, ceramics, and more. Informational materials about some of the featured groups were made available at the back table. Expressed heartfelt appreciation to the artists present and noted that the event bodes well for the vitality of the community.

COMMISSIONER KUCHARSKI REPORTS AND COMMENTS. Inquired whether the San Joaquin Parkway subcommittee had been dissolved. It was confirmed that the subcommittee is no longer active, with no updates or comments to report.

COMMISSIONER DOHLIN REPORTS AND COMMENTS. Reiterated appreciation for the Cultural Arts Subcommittee, Chair McCoy, the Fresno Arts Council, and the broader Fresno arts community for their passionate engagement in recent work. Acknowledged the range of opinions on outcomes but emphasized that the collective effort and dedication have contributed to a stronger final product.

8. City Administration and PARCS Staff Reports and Comments

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER MILLER REPORTS AND COMMENTS. Welcomed Assistant Director Shelby MacNab to the dais in place of Director Aguirre, who was in Monterey accepting an award on behalf of the City. Announced that the Fresno PARCS Master Plan and Measure “P” Transforming Parks and Communities received the 2025 Award of Excellence in the Implementation category from the California Chapter of the American Planning Association. This prestigious state-level recognition celebrates the City of Fresno’s commitment to equitable park development, community engagement, and long-term investment in public spaces. The award highlights the successful implementation of a visionary plan that is already transforming neighborhoods and enhancing quality of life throughout Fresno. Congratulations were extended to all involved, especially the Parks Department led by Director Aguirre.

PARCS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR MACNAB REPORTS AND COMMENTS. Provided an update on upcoming seasonal activities hosted by the PARCS Department, including fall “Movies in the Park”, “Pumpkin Painting”, and other events designed to bring families together and enjoy Fresno’s park facilities. The public was encouraged to follow PARCS on Instagram and Facebook at @PARCSFresno or call 621-PLAY to find activities happening nearby.

9. Unscheduled Communication

Upon call, the following members of the public addressed the Commission with unscheduled communication: Tom Derik, and Kiel Lopez-Schmidt.

10. Workshops

11. Discussion Items

12. Hearings

12.-A. [ID 25-1279](#) Hearing - Receive public input on Expanded Access to Arts and Culture Grant Program.

The above item was called to order at 5:51 P.M. and there was no presentation to the Commission. Upon call, the following members of the public addressed the Commission: Elizabeth Laval, Jackson Kytyle, David Boyd, Joe Catania, Stephen Wilson, Yery Olivares, Michele Ellis Tracy, Catherine Marchese, Parvin Malek, Elena Ybarra, Veronica Chavez, Christina Olague, Lilia Gonzalez Chavez, Andrea Mele, Julia Copeland, Nefesha Yisrael, Joseph Rios, Carolyn Thomas, Arianna Paz Chavez, Rhomie Thompson, Ellen Armour Stein, David Roberts, Elliot Balch, Bruce Kalkowski, Alicia Rodriguez, Johannus Reijnders, Nasreen Johnson, Monica Madrigal, Ome Lopez, Christina Soto, Kiel Lopez Schmidt, Smiley, Melanie Glass, Laura Porter, Des Washington, Haley White, Jennie Guerrero, Dave Brodie, Brandon Weis, Juan Karlo Muro, Dhani Del Toro, Julio Hernandez, Jess Fitzpatrick, Jazmen Moore, Grisante Avendano, Erin Burd, Jade McAfee, Amy Kitchner, Chen Chan Golston, and Andrew Janz. Public comment closed at 7:46 P.M.

Commission discussion on this item included: public participation demonstrating strong community engagement and advocacy; commendation for the arts community for their passionate and organized participation as a model of effective grassroots organizing; acknowledgment that the current process is still developing in its second year, and a request for patience to improve equity; encouragement for similar unity on other important issues; emphasis on the potential to close disparity gaps through collective action beyond the arts grant; volunteer nature of the commission's work and their ongoing efforts to resolve the matter and distribute funds; importance of remembering Measure "P's" origins, and its intent to address funding disparities in underserved areas; concerns that Southeast Fresno received only 3% of the current funding allocation, despite contributing tax revenue to Measure "P"; increase access, such as encouraging arts organizations to provide tickets or programming to schools in underserved areas; concerns about transparency and potential conflicts of interest, and clarification on the Fresno Arts Council's role in the grant selection process; current funding decisions follow rules approved by the City Council, and future rounds offer opportunities for public input and process improvement; past financial support and participation in local arts organizations and events, including Art Hop and workshops, in the interest of transparency; recognition that while flaws in the current system were identified, there is an opportunity to address them in future sessions; timeline for voting on recommendations,

and clarification the agenda-setting process will determine when that occurs; moving forward with the grant process while incorporating community feedback and addressing ongoing challenges; process is a work in progress and affirmation the commission's commitment to listening to the public and valuing their contributions to the arts community; uncertainty about whether there is a strong consensus to delay or move forward with the process and requests for clarification from the subcommittee; acknowledgement of Commissioner Ward for the leadership and extra effort in chairing the subcommittee and guiding the process; appreciation for the significant effort made by all commissioners across every subcommittee; and, importance of avoiding assumptions about divisions between emerging and established arts organizations.

- 12.-B.** [ID 25-1280](#) Hearing - Receive public input on allocations related to Measure P, updates to the Parks Master Plan and Cultural Arts Plan, and annual PARCS Department Budget and Capital Improvement Plans.

The above item was called to order at 8:01 P.M. and was presented to the Commission by. Upon call, no members of the public addressed the Commission: Public comment closed at 8:01 P.M.

Commission discussion on this item included: follow-up regarding a prior request to receive data on which commission recommendations were accepted or overruled by the City Council; and, confirmation that the information will be provided in a forthcoming tray memo, as previously noted, and will be available at the next meeting.

13. Adjournment

Chair McCoy adjourned the meeting in Memory of Dr. Francine Oputa, at 8:04 P.M.

The above minutes were approved by unanimous vote of the Parks, Recreation, and Arts Commission during the October 13, 2025, regular meeting.