



City of Fresno

2600 Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93721
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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, October 13, 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

On motion of Commissioner Caglia, seconded by Commissioner Dohlin, Commissioner Kucharski's absence was EXCUSED. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair McCoy, Vice Chair Ward, Commissioner Caglia, Commissioner Dohlin, Commissioner Duran, Commissioner Miller, and Commissioner Trillo.

Absent: 2 - Commissioner Barraza, Commissioner Kucharski

Commissioner Kucharski subsequently joined the meeting at 5:51 P.M.

On motion of Commissioner Dohlin, seconded by Commissioner Caglia,

Commissioner Barraza's absence was EXCUSED. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair McCoy, Vice Chair Ward, Commissioner Caglia, Commissioner Dohlin, Commissioner Duran, Commissioner Miller, and Commissioner Trillo.

Absent: 2 - Commissioner Barraza, Commissioner Kucharski

Present 8 - Chair Kimberly McCoy, Vice Chair Laura E. Ward, Commissioner Rose Caglia, Commissioner Jon Dohlin, Commissioner McKay A. Duran, Commissioner Kelly Kucharski, Commissioner Scott Miller, and Commissioner Vincent L. Trillo

Absent 1 - Commissioner Jose Barraza

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair McCoy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approve Agenda

On motion of Commissioner Trillo, seconded by Commissioner Caglia, the AGENDA was APPROVED. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair McCoy, Vice Chair Ward, Commissioner Caglia, Commissioner Dohlin, Commissioner Duran, Commissioner Miller and Commissioner Trillo

Absent: 2 - Commissioner Barraza and Commissioner Kucharski

5. Approval of Minutes

5.-A. [ID 25-1364](#) Approval of the regular meeting minutes of September 29, 2025.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair McCoy, Vice Chair Ward, Commissioner Caglia, Commissioner Dohlin, Commissioner Duran, Commissioner Miller and Commissioner Trillo

Absent: 2 - Commissioner Barraza and Commissioner Kucharski

6. Discussion: Subcommittee Reports

6-A. Cultural Arts Grant Fund Subcommittee

Vice Chair Ward reported: The Cultural Arts Subcommittee has made recommendations on proposed EAAC grant allocation awards that will be discussed by the full commission at the item later on the agenda. We also held a public subcommittee meeting in these chambers on October 6, 2025, and the minutes from that meeting are included with today's agenda materials.

I hope that each member of this commission has been able to watch the video of that subcommittee meeting and has listened to the public comments with empathy and care. We received comments from a variety of perspectives, and the EAAC proposed grant allocations continue to stir deep emotion – a reflection that these grant funds, for both established and emerging applicants, touch on both dreams and livelihood.

I hope that my fellow commissioners, and the members of the public, took the time to analyze the documents that were included with that subcommittee meeting agenda, and the presentation materials included with today's agenda, to examine the zip codes and narratives about communities served by EAAC grant funding, that was taken into consideration when making the funding allocations proposed for consideration today. The subcommittee believes the recommended awards do recognize, reflect, and support the cultural, demographic, and geographic diversity of all parts of the City of Fresno. If equity concerns remain, I hope that we receive concrete and specific feedback about those concerns and how they can be addressed.

I also hope that the members of this commission have had a chance to review and consider the twelve appeals that were discussed at the subcommittee meeting on October 6, 2025. The subcommittee findings were that none of these twelve appeals met the narrow and opaque criteria in the current EAAC grant program guidelines, adopted by the Fresno City Council in Resolution 2025-19 on January 30, 2025, as follows: "Any applicant not recommended to receive an award may submit a written appeal to the arts council staff no later than 5:00 p.m. by the 10th calendar day following the release of the Intent to Award notification. Appeals must be based on the following criteria: clerical or technical error, and/or incorrect processing of

required application materials negatively influencing the panel's assessment of the applicants request for funding. Arts Council staff will present the appeals to the PRAC Subcommittee for review and recommendation to PRAC. The PRAC will make the final ruling."

The Cultural Arts Subcommittee did not change its recommendations on proposed EAAC grant award allocations following a review of the twelve appeals under the current appeal criteria, and a recommendation to PRAC that they did not meet the criteria for successful appeal. However, the subcommittee only has the authority to make a recommendation to the PRAC, and the ultimate decision on both appeals and the proposed EAAC grant awards is vested in the full commission – so please bring forward any questions and considerations on the twelve appeals you may have had when reviewing those materials, in our discussion on the proposed EAAC grant awards, so that the current EAAC grant program process is followed with respect to appeal adjudication.

Finally, I want to address something I have noticed over these last three meetings – with each public meeting since September 15th, some of the public comments have included misinformation and personal attacks that grow wilder and bolder each week and make me think that I am not the only one in these Council Chambers with a creative writing degree. What started with twisted words grew into very personal statements against individuals getting at their integrity and character, and most recently, allegations of illegal activity. The members of this commission are community volunteers, and, like the Fresno Arts Council staff, we are all private citizens – not public figures. We are your neighbors, and members of a shared community – again, let us return to a place where we can engage in difficult discussions with respect, and find a way to listen to each other even when we disagree, so that we can continue to make progress toward a shared goal of expanding access to arts and culture in meaningful ways throughout the City of Fresno.

[ID 25-1418](#) Draft Cultural Arts Subcommittee Meeting Minutes of October 6, 2025.

7. Members Reports and Comments

COMMISSIONER CAGLIA REPORTS AND COMMENTS. Referenced comments made at the September 29, 2025, meeting by an individual involved in the Arch to Zoo project. Noted that similar challenges, such as criticism, misinformation, and delays, were experienced during that project

nearly 30 years ago. Emphasized the importance of continued dialogue to improve the process moving forward into next year.

8. City Administration and PARCS Staff Reports and Comments

PARCS DIRECTOR AGUIRRE REPORTS AND COMMENTS. Announced the PARCS Department has six Halloween-themed events scheduled for the week. All events are free and open to the community, and attendees are encouraged to check the department's calendar for details. Attended an awards ceremony in Monterey where the PARCS Department received a statewide award from the American Planning Association (APA) for the implementation of Measure "P". Expressed gratitude to the PARCS team, administration, and PRAC Commissioners for their support.

9. Unscheduled Communication

Upon call, the following members of the public addressed the Commission with unscheduled communication: Pedro Navaro Cruz, and Cesar Gomez.

10. Workshops

11. Discussion Items

12. Hearings

- 12.-A. [ID 25-1408](#)** Hearing - Consideration of the PRAC Cultural Arts Subcommittee list of recommended grantees, award amounts, project titles and a brief summary of the project location, scope, schedule and anticipated impact to PRAC and acceptance of the recommended grantees.

The above item was called to order at 5:48 P.M. and was presented to the Commission by Fresno Arts Council Executive Director Lilia Gonzales Chavez, and Program Manager Andrea Mele. Upon call, the following members of the public addressed the Commission: Jackson Kytte,Carolynn Thomas, Pam Whalen, Julia Copeland, Johannus Reijnders, Alicia Rodriguez, Hugo Morales, Christina Soto, Joel Pickford, Parvin Malek, Vivian Velasco Paz, Monica Madrigal, Nasreen Johnson, Grisanti Aventano, Smiley G, Veronica Chavez, Jazmen Moore, Christina Olayne, Amy Kitchener, Kiel Lopez-Schmidt, Ome Lopez, Derek Paton, Chris Pultz, Cesilia Acevedo, Dian Nixon, Jade McAfee, Elizabeth Laval, Arianna Paz Chavez, and Michelle Ellis Praisey. Public comment closed at 7:44 P.M.

Commission discussion on this item included: requirement for grant

applicants to attend workshops; clarification on the public panel process and its current status; budget allocation for support materials, PR, and communications; panelist recruitment, demographics, and impact on decision-making; grant distribution in unincorporated Fresno County and eligibility criteria; public comment regarding additional funding and budget presentation confusion; anticipated reduction in funding and number of grant recipients next year; accessibility and public recording of panelist review meetings; suggestions for improving transparency and public engagement in the review process; proposal to include cultural competency and budget literacy training for panelists; and, inquiry about repeated panelists from previous grant cycles.

On motion of Commissioner Caglia to Approve the EAAC Emerging Organizations General Operating Support as recommended by the Fresno Arts Council and the Cultural Arts Subcommittee, seconded by Commissioner Trillo. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 8 - Chair McCoy, Vice Chair Ward, Commissioner Caglia, Commissioner Dohlin, Commissioner Duran, Commissioner Kucharski, Commissioner Miller, and Commissioner Trillo.

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Barraza

On motion of Commissioner Dohlin to Approve the Emerging Organization Project Specific Support as recommended by the Fresno Arts Council and the Cultural Arts Subcommittee, seconded by Commissioner Caglia. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 8 - Chair McCoy, Vice Chair Ward, Commissioner Caglia, Commissioner Dohlin, Commissioner Duran, Commissioner Kucharski, Commissioner Miller, and Commissioner Trillo.

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Barraza

On motion of Commissioner Caglia to Approve the EAAC General Operations Support as recommended by the Fresno Arts Council and the Cultural Arts Subcommittee, seconded by Commissioner Trillo. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 8 - Chair McCoy, Vice Chair Ward, Commissioner Caglia,

Commissioner Dohlin, Commissioner Duran, Commissioner Kucharski, Commissioner Miller, and Commissioner Trillo.

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Barraza

On motion of Commissioner Dohlin to Approve the EAAC Project Specific Support as recommended by the Fresno Arts Council and the Cultural Arts Subcommittee, seconded by Commissioner Miller. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Chair McCoy, Commissioner Dohlin, Commissioner Duran, Commissioner Kucharski, Commissioner Miller, and Commissioner Trillo.

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Barraza

Recused: 2 - Vice Chair Ward, Commissioner Caglia

- 12.-B.** [ID 25-1366](#) Hearing - Receive public input on Expanded Access to Arts and Culture Grant Program.

The above item was called to order at 7:48 P.M. and was presented to the Commission by. Upon call, no members of the public addressed the Commission. Public comment closed at 7:48 P.M.

There was no Commission discussion on this item.

- 12.-C.** [ID 25-1367](#) 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 7:49 P.M. and was presented to the Commission by. Upon call, no members of the public addressed the Commission. Public comment closed at 7:49 P.M.

There was no Commission discussion on this item.

13. Adjournment

Chair McCoy adjourned the meeting in Memory of Dr. Francine Oputa, at 7:50 P.M.

The above minutes were approved by unanimous vote of the Parks, Recreation, and Arts Commission during the October 27, 2025, regular meeting.

