



CITY OF MERCED

Merced Civic Center
678 W. 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340

Meeting Agenda

Arts and Culture Advisory Commission

Thursday, July 17, 2025

4:00 PM

City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor, Merced Civic
Center, 678 W. 18th Street, Merced, CA 95340

NOTICE TO PUBLIC

WELCOME

At least 72 hours prior to each regular Board/Commission meeting, a complete agenda packet is available for review on the City's website at www.cityofmerced.org or at the City Clerk's Office, 678 W. 18th Street, Merced, CA 95340. All public records relation to an open session item that are distributed to a majority of the Commission will be available for public inspection at the City Clerk's Office during regular business hours. Assisted hearing devices are available for meetings held in the Council Chamber.

PUBLIC COMMENT: OBTAIN SPEAKER CARD FROM THE BOARD/COMMISSION CLERK

Members of the audience who wish to address the Board/Commission are requested to complete a speaker card available at the podium against the back of the Council Chamber. Please submit the completed card to the Board/Commission Clerk before the item is called, preferably before the meeting begins.

Material may be emailed to (insert Board/Commission contact email) no later than 1 PM on the day of the meeting. Please specify which portion of the agenda you are commenting on, for example, Report item # or Public Comment. Your comments will be presented to the Board/Commission at the appropriate time. Any correspondence received after 1 PM will be distributed to the Board/Commission and retained for the official record.

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. ROLL CALL

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the public who wish to speak on any matter not listed on the agenda may speak during this portion of the meeting and will be allotted 3 minutes. State law prohibits the Board/Commission from acting at this meeting on any matter raised during the public comment period. Members of the public who wish to speak on a matter that is listed on the agenda will be called upon to speak during discussion of that item.

E. ACTION ITEMS

- E.1. [25-660](#) **SUBJECT:** Approval of Community Outreach Plan for 2025/26 Public Art Funding

REPORT IN BRIEF

Approve the development and rollout of a community outreach plan to gather the community's input on allocating \$75,000 in City Council-directed funding for 2025/26 public art projects, with a focus on identifying the types of projects residents are most interested in.

RECOMMENDATION

Arts and Culture Advisory Commission - Adopt a motion to approve the development and rollout of a community outreach plan to gather the community's input on allocating \$75,000 in City Council-directed funding for 2025/26 public art projects, with a focus on identifying the types of projects residents are most interested in seeing.

F. REPORTS

- F.1. [25-659](#) **SUBJECT:** Report on Status of Approved Art Projects

REPORT IN BRIEF

Provide an update on the status of approved public art projects, including expected timelines and details on when RFQs and RFPs will be issued.

RECOMMENDATION

Information Only.

DISCUSSION

RFQ for Brown Bag Concert Series -

- A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) will be issued on July 17, 2025, with a submission deadline of August 7, 2025.
- A subcommittee will review all submissions between August 8 and August 11, 2025.
- The Arts and Culture Advisory Commission (ACAC) will hold a special meeting to review submissions and select three performance artists or groups.
- Final selections will be presented to the City Council for review and approval at its meeting on October 6, 2025.
- The selected performances will take place at the newly renovated Bob Hart Square in downtown Merced. These events will feature

talented local and regional musicians and offer a welcoming space for the community to relax, recharge, and enjoy live music. Guests are encouraged to bring their own picnic or purchase food from nearby vendors. Please note that alcohol will not be served at these events.

- Evening performances are scheduled on the following dates at Bob Hart Square:
 - o November 13, 2025
 - o December 11, 2025
 - o January 8, 2026

RFQ for logo design for Downtown Arts District signage

- A request for Qualifications (RFQ) will be issued on July 24, 2025 and will close on August 29, 2025. This RFQ will invite graphic design artists to submit their qualifications for a public art signage project.
- A subcommittee will review submissions and recommend a selected design to the Arts and Culture Advisory Commission (ACAC) at its meeting on October 16, 2025. The ACAC will then present its recommendation to the City Council at the November 3, 2025, meeting.
- One artist will be selected and commissioned to create a logo and signage design that visually represents the Downtown Merced Arts District. The initial focus will be on developing a simple, single-color logo that can be incorporated into the City's standard street signage. This approach will allow for cost-effective production and scalability as the district grows.
- Arts District signs will be fabricated by the City's Public Works Sign Department.
- These signs will be installed along Main Street, from Martin Luther King Jr. Way to O Street, by the City's Public Works Street Crews.

RFP Art Mural To Be Installed Along the R Street and Fahrens Park Multiuse Path

- An RFP for muralists for the R Street multiuse path undercrossing will be issued on July 24, 2025 with a close date of August 29, 2025.
- A subcommittee will review submissions and make recommendations at the October 17, 2025, ACAC meeting
- The ACAC will recommend selections to the City Council on November 3, 2025.
- This mural will transform the frequently used pedestrian and bicycle path into a vibrant community space. The design should depict a lively scene, with interactive elements that create optical illusions such as a bear or Tullie Elk chasing a bicyclist or runners

sprinting through the tunnel. The goal is to foster a sense of pride and ownership within the community by celebrating local culture while making the space more welcoming and enjoyable for all.

RFP for a Recycled Item Sculpture at Fahren's Park

- An RFP for a sculpture artist for the Recycled Item Sculpture will be issued August 14, 2025 with a close date of September 30, 2025.
- A subcommittee will review the submissions and make recommendations at the October 16, 2025 ACAC meeting.
- The ACAC will recommend selections to the City Council on November 3, 2025.
- Recycled sculpture art, also known as trash sculpture, or garbage art, challenges our perception of beauty. By incorporating discarded objects found in the park the sculpture will repurpose our everyday waste.

RFP for Utility Box Refresh Project - Pending "Work in Lieu" Partnership

- This project is currently on hold while we work through the process of preparing the utility boxes for the next mural installation. Before we can move forward, the existing paint and decals need to be removed. Staff is coordinating with Public Works and outside partners to identify the most effective method for cleaning and prepping the boxes so we can resume the project.
- Staff will provide an update at the September 2025 ACAC Meeting.

IMPACT ON CITY RESOURCES

No impact on City resources at this time.

ATTACHMENT

None.

G. BUSINESS

G.1. [24-930](#)

SUBJECT: Request to Add Item to Future Agenda

REPORT IN BRIEF

Provides members of the Arts and Culture Advisory Commission to request that an item be placed on a future Arts and Culture Advisory Commission agenda for initial consideration by the Boards/Commissions.

G.2. [23-268](#) **SUBJECT:** Commission Comments

REPORT IN BRIEF

Provides an opportunity for the Chair and/or Member(s) to make a brief announcement on any activity(ies) she/he has attended on behalf of the Commission and to make a brief announcement on future community events and/or activities. The Brown Act does not allow discussion or action by the legislative body under this section.

H. ADJOURNMENT