

Resolution Adopting the Ordinance

Whereas, The City Council believes that the arts serve an important role in establishing and enhancing the quality of life in the community; and

Whereas, the City Council believes that the arts instill in the community civic pride and a sense of cultural identity and serve to bring together the people of the city; and

Whereas, the City Council believes that the arts should be supported and sustained for the betterment of the community; and

Whereas, the City Council believes that public art and the performing arts have a multitude of benefits to the community and has supported public art and the performing arts through such projects as the Merced MultiCultural Arts Center, the murals on the MainPlace Merced Theatre, the murals on the G Street Undercrossing, the Merced Open Air Theatre and the Merced Theatre; and

Whereas, the City Council believes that the Merced County Arts Council has inspired and nurtured the arts in the community for four decades, and that the City of Merced Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission should work in collaboration with the Merced County Arts Council and other community arts groups; and

Whereas, the City Council believes that an Arts and Culture Advisory Commission can further the Council's goal of promoting public art and cultural activities within the City, provide oversight in public art and enrich the community's appreciation of arts and culture.

Chapter – ARTS AND CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION

Sections:

I. Purpose.

The purpose of the Arts and Culture Advisory Commission is to serve as an advisory body to the City Council on matters having to do with public art, art projects, cultural program and activities and the promotions of the arts within the City of Merced. In forming the Arts and Culture Advisory Commission, it is the intent of the City Council to foster the arts in the City of Merced, and to help implement policy, programs, and standards for public art.

II. Establishment.

Pursuant to Section 700 of the Charter, there is hereby established an Arts and Culture Advisory Commission which shall consist of seven (7) voting members. Six (6) voting members of the commission shall be from the established City Council voting districts and the seventh member shall be appointed at large. All seven (7) voting members must be qualified electors of the City of Merced.

A. Members shall have knowledge, expertise or experience in one of more of the following areas:

1. Visual, performing, literary, music or other types of art
2. Planning, historical, preservation, architectural background
3. Economic development, business, marketing, public relations
4. Member of artistic, cultural, community organization
5. Educational partner

B. A majority of the voting members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.

C. In accordance with Section 702 of the Charter, members shall be appointed by at least four (4) affirmative votes of the City Council and subject to removal by motion of the City Council adopted by at least five (5) affirmative votes.

D. The City Council may appoint an additional four (4) members to sit on the commission as ex-officio, nonvoting members. Said ex-officio, nonvoting members may be non-city residents who live within the City of Merced's sphere of influence who demonstrate expertise in any number of art disciplines, or other areas of expertise or knowledge.

III. Terms.

A. In accordance with Section 702 of the Charter, the Arts and Culture Advisory Commission members shall serve for a term of four (4) years and until their respective successors are appointed and qualified.

B. Notwithstanding subsection A of this section, the members of the Arts and Culture Advisory Commission shall, on the first meeting following the establishment of the commission, draw lots to determine the three (3) initial members that will serve for a term of two (2) years.

IV. Meetings.

Regular Arts and Culture Advisory Commission meetings shall be held on _____ at _____ or as otherwise set by resolution of the City Council. The meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Section 704 of the Charter.

V. Officials.

A. In accordance with Section 704 of the Charter, the members of the Arts and Culture Advisory Commission shall, as soon as practical following the first day of July, organize by electing two (2) of the seven (7) voting members to serve as chair and vice-chair at the pleasure of the commission.

B. Notwithstanding subsection A of this section, the members of the Arts and Culture Advisory Commission shall, on the first meeting held following the establishment of the commission, elect a chair and vice-chair to serve until their successor is elected following the first day of July.

VI. Jurisdiction of the Commission.

The Arts and Culture Advisory Commission shall have the responsibilities as provided below:

- A. Provide recommendations to the City Council and other appointed bodies and City departments for the following:
1. Displays of art within a public facility, or any public art within the City, or exterior space for outdoor visual art, or promote the arts for city beautification and to enhance the quality of life;
 2. Programs that promote art or enhance cultural development;
 3. Act as a resource to the community and local arts and culture for mentorship, internships, facilitating process, marketing and advocating;
 4. Coordinate and collaborate with the Merced County Arts Council, and other individuals and groups, both private and public, to support, promote, enhance and recognize artistic endeavors and cultural activities that are reflective of the community across all cultures, races and stages of life;
 5. Recommend funding options that maximize opportunities for sustainable projects that incorporate preventative maintenance for public arts projects and cultural activities throughout the City;
 6. Recommend the establishment of artistic standards across disciplines; and
 7. Such other duties as the City Council may proscribe.