77 Fair Drive
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

City of Costa Mesa

Agenda Report

Arts Commission

Item #: 26-222 **Meeting Date**: 4/2/2026

TITLE:	**ARTS COMMISSION PRESENTATION TO CITY COUNCIL**
DEPARTMENT:	**PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**
PRESENTED BY:	**LAURETTE GARNER, ARTS SPECIALIST**
CONTACT INFORMATION:	**LAURETTE GARNER, ARTS SPECIALIST, (714) 754-5322**

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Arts Commission:

1. Review, discuss, and provide feedback on the annual Arts Commission presentation to City Council.

BACKGROUND:

In 2017, the Costa Mesa City Council unanimously approved the development of the City's first Arts and Culture Master Plan (ACMP). On March 16, 2021, the City Council awarded a contract to Arts Orange County to complete the ACMP. A subsection goal of the ACMP was to establish a City Arts Commission. On July 19, 2022, the City Council established a seven-member Arts Commission and Commissioners were appointed on September 20, 2022. the Commission held its first meeting on November 3, 2022.

The Arts and Culture Master Plan was created as a five-year plan and included a proposed budget for each fiscal year to be approved annually by City Council. The plan is currently in its fifth and final year. Staff issued an RFP in January 2026 and are in the process of selecting a consultant to implement an update to the ACMP.

The Arts Commission designee will present to the City Council to provide highlights of the Commission's accomplishments over the past year.

ANALYSIS:

Each year, the Arts Commission meets monthly to discuss the goals and objectives of the Arts and Culture Master Plan approved by City Council. The ACMP directly supports the City Council's core values of Innovation, Compassion, Inclusion and Collaboration and actively works to embody the City Council goals by strengthening public safety and improving upon the quality of life in Costa Mesa.

During this meeting, the eight to ten PowerPoint slide will be reviewed and discussed for Arts Commission feedback.

- Since the implementation of the ACMP and the hiring of the Arts Specialist in 2022, the following programs and goals from the five (5) year plan have been implemented and re-evaluated:
    - Annual Art Crawl Experience
    - Arts Grant Program with new guidelines and application
    - ARTventure juried art exhibition and awards ceremony
    - Revised guidelines and standards for The Exhibition space at the Costa Mesa Senior Center and for the Youth Art wall in the City Hall lobby
    - Free Park Performances at parks and city events
    - Free at Segerstrom Center Campus program
    - Poet Laureate Program
    - Created new guidelines for Utility Box Art Program
    - Implemented optional private property Mural Permit in TESSA
    - Updated Arts and Culture Calendar and Artist Directory
    - Hired consultant Arts Orange County to create an Art in Public Places Report to guide the public art goals in the ACMP

- Accomplishments for 2025 include:
    - Selection of new Poet Laureate for two-year term as Costa Mesa's first ever Poet Laureate position
    - Reviewed and approved twelve (12) new designs for the Utility Box Art Program
    - Reviewed and approved nine (9) grantees for the Arts Grant Program
    - Reviewed and made changes to the Arts Grant Program guidelines that included increases to arts grant amounts
    - Participation in a review panel to select poetry for a new public art initiative: Sidewalk Poetry project for implementation at Brentwood Park
    - Reviewed and approved a new Scope of Work for ACMP update
    - Discussion and review of the Art in Public Places Report as part of a larger plan to draft a public art ordinance for implementation in the future as a mechanism to fund public art projects

- In the upcoming 2026 year, the Arts Commission will continue evaluating the previous Arts and Culture Master Plan and plans to:
    - Assist in the implementation of a potential update and new Arts and Culture Master Plan for City Council review
    - Review and approve new poems for new Sidewalk Poetry Project for upcoming park renovations at Ketchum-Libolt and Shalimar Parks
    - Draft an official public art ordinance for City Council review
    - Review and make suggestions for optional TESSA mural applications for private property

  - Review and approve new designs for the Utility Box Art Program
  - Review and approve new Arts Grant program grantees

- Proposed budget priorities and recommendations (Attachment 1):
  - Reclassify the Arts Specialist position to the City's General Fund
  - Establish a dedicated Public Art Fund
  - Dedicate a portion of any Transient Occupancy Tax increase to the Public Art Fund
  - Increase the Cannabis Tax Allocation to fund the full implementation of the Arts and Culture Master Plan
  - Approve consultant, if selected by City Council, to work on a new ACMP update
  - Approve new budget framework to fund the interim period between the last year of the current ACMP and the implementation of the proposed update to the ACMP

ALTERNATIVES

City Council may provide feedback and direction on upcoming year's goals and objectives and budget priorities and recommendations.

FISCAL REVIEW

Funding requests will be discussed and considered during the City Council budget process.

LEGAL REVIEW

No legal review is required at this time.

CONCLUSION:

Staff recommends the Arts Commission:

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