



505 S. Garey Ave
Pomona, CA 91766

City of Pomona

Cultural Arts Commission

Draft Action Minutes

Chairperson Christian Ornelas
Vice-Chairperson Lisa P. Soseith
Commissioner Jovani Esparza
Commissioner Angel Arellano
Commissioner Dianna Batts
Commissioner Nancy A. Tessier
Commissioner Joshua Swodeck

November 24, 2025

5:30 PM

Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairperson Lisa P. Soiseth called the Cultural Arts Commission meeting to order at 5:37p.m. in the Council Chambers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chairperson Lisa P. Soiseth led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chairperson Christian Ornelas (late arrival at 5:57 p.m.)
Vice-Chairperson Lisa P. Soiseth
Commissioner Dianna Batts
Commissioner Nancy A. Tessier
Commissioner Joshua Swodeck
Commissioner Angel Arellano

Absent: Commissioner Jovani Esparza

Staff Present: Ata Khan, Office & Economic of Business Affairs Deputy Director
Jocelyn Ayala, Art in Public Places Program Manager
June Ku, Art in Public Places Program Coordinator
Alan Fortune, Associate Planner

PUBLIC COMMENT

Pawn, resident of Pomona, requested that the time and location of the Cultural Arts Commission meetings be posted.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

Commissioner Batts requested a status update and audit on the unfinished fountains on Second. Commissioner Swodeck stated that no more payments were made after work was paused.

Commissioner Arellano introduced himself to the commission.

CONSENT CALENDAR

None

PUBLIC HEARING

None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Approval of Release of Call for Art on Private Development (Siemens Manufacturing, 1237 East County Road)

Associate Planner Alan Fortune presented information regarding the Call for Art on Private Development with a maximum allocated budget of \$250,000.00. Staff conducted public outreach and collected 64 public comments regarding the project to be provided for the chosen artist. Program Manager Ayala clarified that the artwork would have to be free from any political agenda. Staff introduced a representative from Siemens to answer any questions.

Vice Chairperson Soiseth asked if the current landscaping can be removed. Associate Planner Fortune stated there are no restrictions to using or removing landscaping.

Vice Chairperson Soiseth requested further community engagement after the artist is selected and asked what type of housing is across from the site to which Associate Planner Fortune responded multi-family residential.

Vice Chairperson Soiseth asked if the site is en route to a school to be engaged by youth. Associate Planner Fortune responded that it may not be a high pedestrian-trafficked site as the area east to the site is mostly non-residential.

Chairperson Ornelas suggested a relief off the wall if sculptures are chosen.

Commissioner Arellano asked where the budget originates and Associate Planner Fortune explained the Art in Public Places fund.

Commissioner Swodeck asked to prioritize Pomona artist applicants by granting them extra points in the rubric. He also asked for additional language prioritizing artwork that can be visible from cars driving by, as it won't be in a high traffic area for pedestrians.

Associate Planner Fortune clarified there is no height limitation if the artwork is off the wall.

Vice Chairperson Soiseth added that the new rail line through San Dimas has a metal sculpture of horses that beautifully embodies movement which would also be good for this call for art, along with works that generate beautiful patterns and shadows.

Commissioner Swodeck asked if there are parameters for sculptures like there are for mural size, to which Project Manager Ayala responded no.

Chairperson Ornelas noted the presence of electrical wires and said that it would be good for sculptures to be lower than that in case they fall over.

Commissioner Swodeck noted it'd be beneficial to view the sculpture submissions in the context of the full space instead of by themselves.

Vice Chairperson Soiseth asked if fabrication would be on or offsite, to which Program Manager Ayala responded that it would be encouraged offsite.

A motion by Chairperson Ornelas, seconded by Vice Chairperson Soiseth, carried 5-1-0-1 to approve the release of Siemens Project RFP.

Chairperson Christian Ornelas – yes; Vice-Chairperson Lisa P. Soiseth – yes; Commissioner Jovani Esparza – absent; Commissioner Angel Arellano – no; Commissioner Dianna Batts – yes; Commissioner Nancy Tessier – yes; Commissioner Joshua Swodeck – yes.

IN OPPOSITION: None

IN SUPPORT: None

DISCUSSION TIME: 35 minutes (5:45 pm to 6:20 pm)

2. Review of Draft Art in Public Places Program Action Plan (2026-2030)

Program Manager Ayala recapped the previous week's community meeting which had an estimated attendance of 35 people. She then recited every community comment received at the event.

Program Manager Ayala presented the new draft of the revised action plan which is as follows:

- Introduction

- Statement of Intent
- LA28 x Pomona Olympics Statement
- Goal 1: People and the Creative Economy
 - a. Professional Development & Arts Programming
 - b. Artist in Residency
 - c. AIPP Internship
- Goal 2: Creative Placekeeping
 - a. Cultural Arts District
 - b. Development Projects
 - c. City Events
- Goal 3: Preservation of Public Art Collection
 - a. Artist Registry
 - b. Preservation & Management
 - c. Archival Documentation
- Goal 4: Program Administration
 - a. Staff
 - b. Inter-departmental Coordination

Chairperson Ornelas suggested vinyl wrapping on electrical boxes instead of painting for easier cleaning.

Commissioner Tessier complimented the staff and the state of the action plan.

Commissioner Arellano thanked staff for reading out each community comment line by line.

Commissioner Tessier asked if part of the AIPP fund could specifically fund smaller projects, as community pointed out that it is difficult to navigate the bureaucracy of calls to gain experience to be able to work on high budget projects.

Deputy Director Khan noted that partnerships with nonprofits would be key to help incubate emerging artists.

Commissioner Swodeck added the inclusion of the rotating walls project and centering photography.

Chairperson Ornelas added that community meetings should be held quarterly.

Commissioner Tessier emphasized the importance of commissioning well-known artists.

Deputy Director Khan mentioned potential collaborations with consulates for the 2028 Olympics and the idea of having cultural ambassadors for the art program.

Discussion only, no action taken.

IN OPPOSITION: None

IN SUPPORT: None

DISCUSSION TIME: 49 minutes (6:20 p.m. to 7:09 p.m.)

STAFF COMMUNICATION

Next community meetings on the draft action plan are on December 8th 6 PM at Council Chambers and on December 15th at 10 AM online.

The Library Board of Trustees and the Parks and Recreation Commission both unanimously agreed to the placement of Gary Lett's mural project at Civic Center. The project's next step is the Historic Commission's Administrative Review, then beginning the capital improvement project and going to council to start the bidding.

ADJOURNMENT

The Cultural Arts Commission meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Ornelas at 7:12 p.m. to the next regular meeting of December 28, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Prepared by,

Ata Khan
Deputy Director

June Ku
Program Coordinator