
ARTS COMMISSION MINUTES

City of Chico Arts Commissioners: Ciara Barsotti, Olivia Cerullo, Marquita Goodman, Katie Posey, Dustin Vaught
Vice-Chair Vianna Boring, and Chair Bonnie Pipkin

Meeting of April 9, 2025 – 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Council Chamber Building, 421 Main Street, Conference Room 1

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order by Chair Pipkin at 4:32 p.m. with all Commissioners present.
2. **CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion by Commissioner Posey was seconded by Vice-Chair Boring to approve the minutes for 02-05-25 & 03-01-25. The motion carried (7-0).

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Sterling Sparkle addressed the Commission on this item.

4. **BROWN ACT DISCUSSION** (*Debbie Presson, City Clerk & Elections Official*)

City Clerk Presson cautioned the Commission to be cognizant of their discussions with other Commissioners and to avoid speaking to or emailing more than two Commissioners at a time in order to avoid violating the Brown Act. She also noted that a more in-depth discussion of the Brown Act would be forthcoming at the Commission training that will be held in May.

5. **FOLLOW-UP FROM STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION**

Chair Pipkin reviewed the “to do” list from the strategic planning session and the Commission refined timelines, priorities, and assigned tasks.

➤ **Designated Commission Collaborations** – City Clerk Presson informed the Commission that Public Works Director Gustafson oversees the Bidwell Park & Playground Commission as well as the Airport Commission so any potential collaborations with those Commissions could be approached by the current Public Works liaisons. She went on to say that she could make other Department Heads aware that the Arts Commission is open to collaboration on any upcoming projects where art could be incorporated. Chair Pipkin will draft a letter to send to the other City commissions to indicate the Arts Commission’s desire for collaboration as situations present themselves.

➤ **Current Ad Hoc Committees**

The Commission reviewed the current Ad Hoc Committees and their membership. The Film Ad Hoc Committee was added, which is tasked with marketing Chico as a filming destination. Below is a list of the current Ad Hoc Committees and their members.

- Grant Writing/Fundraising – Boring, Pipkin, Vaught
- Gala – Boring, Cerullo, Pipkin
- Utility Box – Barsotti, Boring, Posey
- Film Ad Hoc (new) – Barsotti, Goodman, Vaught

➤ Liaisons

The Commission reviewed the current liaisons and discussed potential new liaisons. The Commission was in consensus that the social media and local media liaison positions should be combined as “Media Liaison”, and that while the CARD and Chamber liaison positions are important, those should be more mid-term goals as the Commissioners are all busy with other projects. The following is a list of the current liaison positions and their respective Commissioners.

- Chico Arts & Culture Foundation (CACF) – Pipkin
- Downtown Chico Business Association (DCBA) – Goodman & Pipkin
- Public Works – Posey & Vaught
- Media – Boring & Cerullo

➤ Projects

The Commission discussed the projects that were suggested during the strategic planning session and assigned Commissioners to work on the projects. Below is a list of the projects and the Commissioners who volunteered to work on them.

- Art Dates with Commissioner – Pipkin
- Artist Spotlights & Giveaways – Boring
- Park Anniversary – Cerullo
- Artist Sunday (black Friday) – Barsotti
- Christmas Tree (staff)
- Local Art Contest (Staff) – City Clerk Presson
- Newsletter – Barsotti
- Writing Contest in the Enterprise Record – Posey
- Evaluation & Assessment on Projects – Pipkin

Chair Pipkin presented a draft letter she proposed to send to the Council to request additional funding for the projects that were discussed at the strategic planning session.

A motion by Commissioner Vaught was seconded by Commissioner Barsotti to authorize Chair Pipkin to send the proposed letter to Council on behalf of the Commission with any minor changes deemed necessary. The motion passed (7-0).

6. ARTS COMMISSION SECTION FOR CITY OF CHICO NEWSLETTER

This item was discussed under the strategic planning follow-up, Commissioner Barsotti will coordinate with staff to provide content for the “arts” section of the newsletter. Pieces for this section should be “City art” related, a perfect topic for the next issue is the utility box project.

7. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS *(updates, appointments, & action if needed)*

a.) City of Chico Arts Grants Ad Hoc Committee Report

- Approve application updates
- Appoint new Commissioner
- TOT available funds estimate *(Verbal Report -Debbie Presson, City Clerk & Elections Official)*

The Commission reviewed the updates to the application and discussed scheduling a question & answer session for applicants. City Clerk Presson reported there is approximately \$44,000 available for the 2025-2026 grant cycle. Commissioner Vaught was appointed to the Arts & Culture Grant Ad Hoc Committee.

LuAnn Manss addressed the Commission on this item.

A motion by Commissioner Vaught was seconded by Commissioner Boring to approve the grant application updates and to direct staff to open the application period as soon as North Valley Community Foundation can update the website. The motion passed (7-0).

b.) Grant Writing/Fundraising Ad Hoc Committee Report - *None*

c.) Gala Ad Hoc Committee Report – *None*

d.) Utility Box Ad Hoc Committee Report

- Selection of Art Process Update – PowerPoint of art submissions (*Angie Dilg, Deputy Director-City Clerk's Office*)
- Possible Name Change
- Business Sponsor Packets
- Artist Agreement

Deputy Director Dilg and Commissioner Barsotti updated the Commission on the progress of the project and the art submissions for the utility box project were shown on the screen throughout the meeting. The Commission was presented with the updated business sponsor packet and the artist agreement that were approved by the City Attorney's Office. The Commission discussed the possibility of changing the name of the project and potential sponsors who have expressed interest in the project.

A motion by Commissioner Posey was seconded by Chair Pipkin to change the name of the Utility Box Project to "Power Up Public Art". The motion passed (7-0).

A motion by Commissioner Vaught was seconded by Commissioner Cerulo to approve the sponsorship packet and artist agreement. The motion passed (7-0).

8. ARTS COMMISSION LIAISON REPORTS (if any updates, appointments if needed)

a.) Chico Arts & Culture Foundation (CACF)

Chair Pipkin provided a brief report of the current projects that CACF is working on and upcoming activities. Chair Pipkin requested that Mary Gardner provide a brief report on CACF's work with Everhart Village.

b.) Downtown Chico Business Association (DCBA)

- Diamond Alley Art Boards

Chair Pipkin reported that the planning for ArtoberFest has started and asked Mary Gardner to provide an update on the Diamond Alley art board project. Ms. Gardner reported that the DCBA, in partnership with Butte College has expanded the project to all eight existing boards instead of four. She stated that the artists have been selected, and the project is moving forward.

c.) Public Works

Commissioner Posey reported that she and Commissioner Vaught have been visiting public art locations to assess the art and noted that the "Dancing Trout" fountain, the "Diamond Alley" Arches, "Annie's Glen" mural, and the "love" mural are all in critical need of repair and maintenance. Commissioner Posey stated that they had contacted Director Erik Gustafson regarding their most urgent concerns. It was noted that the "Love" mural is not a public art piece but rather private art in public view.

Mary Gardner addressed the Commission on this item.

9. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

The meeting was adjourned at 5:48 p.m. to the next regular Arts Commission meeting scheduled for Wednesday, July 9, 2025, at 4:30 p.m.

Approved: 7/9/25

Prepared by:

Stina Cooley
Stina Cooley, Administrative Specialist