
ARTS COMMISSION AGENDA

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 October 8, 2025 – 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Council Chamber Building, 421 Main Street, Conference Room 1

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Roll Call

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2.1 Approval of Arts Commission Minutes from the 07-09-25, 07-29-25, & 10-01-25 meetings.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT - *Members of the public may address the Commission at this time on any matter not already listed on the agenda, with comments being limited to three minutes or as determined by the Chair based on the number of speakers. The Commission cannot take any action at this meeting on requests made under this section of the agenda.*

4. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS *(updates & action if needed)*

- a.) City of Chico Arts Grants Ad Hoc Committee Report
- b.) Film Ad Hoc Committee Report
- c.) Grant Writing/Fundraising Ad Hoc Committee Report
- d.) Gala Ad Hoc Committee Report
- d.) Utility Box Ad Hoc Committee Report

5. ARTS COMMISSION LIAISON REPORTS *(if any updates)*

- a.) Chico Arts & Culture Foundation (CACF)
- b.) Downtown Chico Business Association (DCBA)
- c.) Media
- d.) City Newsletter
- e.) Public Works

6. FOLLOW-UP ON STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION-*Chair Pipkin*

7. REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS

- a.) City Clerk's Office – *Verbal Report*

8. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

The meeting will adjourn to the next regular Arts Commission meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 4:30 p.m.

Posted: 10-03-25 prior to 5:00 p.m. at 421 Main St. Chico, CA 95928 and www.chicoca.gov
Copies of the agenda packet are available for review at: City Clerk's Office, 411 Main St. Chico, CA 95928



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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 July 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 Commissioners Barsotti, Cerullo, Goodman, Posey, Vice-Chair Boring, and Chair Pipkin present. Commissioner Vaught was absent.

2. **CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion by Vice-Chair Boring was seconded by Commissioner Posey to approve the minutes for 04-09-25. The motion carried (6-0-1, Vaught absent).

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Treo Benajan addressed the Commission on this item.

4. **AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS (updates & action if needed)**

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

The Commission voted to review the 2025/2026 Arts Grants applications at a special Arts Commission meeting to be held on July 16, 2025, from 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm.

The Commission considered two requests for time extensions for 2024/2025 Arts Grants Projects.

A motion by Vice-Chair Boring was seconded by Commissioner Barsotti to approve the 2024/2025 Art Grant Project extension requests of Gateway Science Museum and Upstate Community Enhancement Foundation. The motion passed (6-0-1, Vaught absent).

- b.) **Film Ad Hoc Committee Report**

Commissioner Barsotti provided a brief update on activities of the Committee.

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

- d.) **Gala Ad Hoc Committee Report**

Chair Pipkin provided an update on the Gala plans and requested approval of the Committee's plans and the idea to feature the old COBA boards that were removed from Diamond Alley in a live auction at the Gala. The date for the Gala is scheduled for October 17th, and tickets will be \$40 with the goal of selling 100 tickets. Proceeds from this event will go into a special fund for Arts Commission projects. The event will include performances, a silent auction, raffle, no host bar, special Arts Commission merchandise, and recognition of past grant recipients, past Arts Commissioners, and Mayor's Achievement in the Arts Awards Winners.

In anticipation of incoming funds, Chair Pipkin presented the idea of creating a “sub-fund” with North Valley Community Foundation under the Chico Arts & Culture Foundation (CACF) fund for the Arts Commission fund raising activities. She stated that she and Mary Gardner with CACF had met with the North Valley Community Foundation to determine what would be necessary to create such an account.

City Clerk Presson stated that she was unaware that Chair Pipkin was working on the creation of a sub-fund under the CACF and noted that this action would first need to be reviewed by the City Attorney. She went on to say that she was planning on providing an update on the City Attorney’s review of the Commission’s association with CACF later on the agenda, however she would bring it up at this time. The City Clerk noted that CACF was created to be the fundraising arm of the Arts Commission, helping to implement the arts master management plan. In the actual CACF’s bylaws it states “...North Valley Community Foundation shall be the fiscal agent for the foundation and the funds shall be dispersed to the City of Chico for purposes stated in Paragraph 1, ...” upon the authorized signature of two board members, one signatory must be a Commissioner appointed to the board and member of the of the City of Chico Arts Commission.”

After an extensive review by Legal, it has now been noted that the funds raised since the creation of the foundation have always been dispersed by North Valley with just input made by CACF, which it is noted does include an Arts Commission representative. However, while there has been a Commission representative serving on the CACF Board, the bylaws clearly state that the funds were to come to the City of Chico Arts Commission for the creation of new projects and arts programming. Because none of the funds have ever been transferred to the City, the Arts Commission has never reviewed nor or participated as a legislative body in any art projects or programs funded by CACF. It is the City Attorney’s opinion that CACF is not in compliance with the bylaws because the funds that have been raised, have been distributed solely at the discretion of the Foundation. The City Clerk acknowledged that while CACF continues to do great things for the arts, they are not operating according to their bylaws.

The City Attorney’s office is continuing with its review of the situation to determine the best path forward. The City Clerk stated that while she appreciates the work the foundation has been doing, it is probably best to avoid further clouding the issue by creating a “sub-fund” for use by the Arts Commission. It may be the City Attorney’s opinion to sever the ties with CAFC and let them continue to operate as their own entity as they have been. City Clerk Presson stated that if the Commission would like the City Attorney to take a closer look at the idea of the sub-fund under CACF, Chair Pipkin could provide a proposal so staff can provide it to the City Attorney for a legal opinion.

Chair Pipkin indicated that she would not want to see the separation of CACF from the City and that the sub fund would be put on hold.

Addressing the Commission on this item was Mary Gardner from CACF who indicated that the foundation would not have a problem with transferring the funds raised for the arts to the City.

The City Clerk said that she would get back to the Commission once the final recommendations were received from Legal on how to proceed.

A motion by Commissioner Posey was seconded by Commissioner Barsotti to approve the Gala plans, including the auctioning of the COBA board artwork that was removed from the parking structure in Diamond Alley with the stipulation that the location of the “fund” will be determined at a later time. The motion passed (6-0-1, Vaught absent).

e.) Utility Box Ad Hoc Committee Report

Commissioner Barsotti provided an update on the “Power up Public Art” project. The installation of the wraps has started, and the Committee continues to solicit sponsorships with nearly half of the boxes already sponsored. Individual stickers will be added soon identifying the sponsor and artist.

5. ARTS COMMISSION LIAISON REPORTS

a.) Chico Arts & Culture Foundation (CACF)

Chair Pipkin noted that the Arts Commission consulted on the Bikeway 99 bike path design when the grant was first received. With the Bikeway bridge completed staff will notify the Commissioners when the ribbon cutting will take place so they can attend.

b.) Downtown Chico Business Association (DCBA)

Chair Pipkin reported that the Artoberfest planning was well underway. She also said that the new COBA boards are being installed and invited the Commission to go and see them.

c.) Media

Commissioner Boring stated that the media liaisons should reach out to City Clerk Presson to set up a meeting with the media liaison and newsletter liaison to set up a plan and work on a process for requests for posts on social media. There is a process when utilizing the City's Public Information Officer (PIO) and in order to utilize the social media accounts effectively.

d.) City Newsletter

Commissioner Barsotti reported that she has been in contact with the City PIO and has provided information regarding the Gala, Mayors Awards, Arts Grants and the Power Up Public Art project. She mentioned that the Commission can indicate the topics they prefer to be covered, and the Liaison can work with the PIO to get an article in the newsletter.

e.) Public Works

Commissioner Posey reported that she and Commissioner Vaught met with Public Works Director Gustafson and Deputy Director Lipsky in May. She said that based on their discussions, public works has prioritized Annie's Glenn Tunnel, Diamond Alley Arches (check with artists regarding spare tiles), Spirit Flags (clean & check solar panels), and the Century of Flight (inspect for damage & pressure wash). They will be reviewing the new priority list.

City Clerk Presson responded to questions regarding the new art that will be installed on Park Avenue. She provided a brief update regarding the project, stating there was a delay in removal of the old art and the project is slightly behind schedule. Staff should have pictures of the project as it is being built in the artist's studio to share soon.

6. FOLLOW-UP ON STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION-*Chair Pipkin*

Chair Pipkin revisited some of the goals that were postponed and asked if any Commissioner's schedules had changed enough to take on another task.

The following items were updated with Commissioners volunteering for the projects.

Vice-Chair Boring - CARD liaison
Commissioner Barsotti - Artist Sunday
Commissioner Posey – Writing contest

Christmas Tree lighting/decoration – not an option

7. REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS

a.) City Clerk's Office – *Verbal Report*

8. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

The meeting was adjourned as 5:58 pm to the next special Arts Commission meeting scheduled for Wednesday, July 16, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.

Approved: _____

Prepared by:

Stina Cooley, Administrative Specialist

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

Special Meeting of July 29, 2025 – 3:30 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 3:35 p.m. with Commissioners Barsotti, Cerullo, Goodman, Posey, Vice-Chair Boring, and Chair Pipkin present. Commissioner Vaught was absent.
2. **ARTS & CULTURE GRANT CYCLE 2025-2026 PROJECT SELECTION**

Recusals:

Commissioner Cerullo recused herself from the review of the Inspire School of the Arts & Sciences and Legacy Theatre applications.

Commissioner Goodman recused herself from the review of the Legacy Theatre application.

Commissioner Boring recused herself from the review of the Museum of Northern California Art (MONCA) application.

It was noted that the total amount requested in the grant applications was \$82,638.50 and the amount available is \$38,435.00.

The Commission reviewed the applications received and discussed the merits of each of the proposed projects.

The Commission considered and disqualified the following three applications:

- *Chico Children's Museum for not attaching the budget for their project prior to the application deadline.*
 - *Mi Escuelita Maya Preschool for not attaching the budget for their project.*
 - *Sound Source because the proposed project was for fund raising purposes, which is not a qualifying project under the grant guidelines.*
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A motion by Chair Pipkin was seconded by Vice-Chair Boring to fund the remaining applications at 52.9% so that all the projects received some funding. The motion passed with the following breakdown:

- 1078 Gallery to receive \$1,059.00 for the “2nd Annual Northern California Mock Cat Show” (6-0-1, Vaught absent).
 - Chico Art Center to receive \$2,646.00 for the “Artist Cafe” project (6-0-1, Vaught absent).
 - Chico State Enterprises to receive \$1,072.00 for “Nexo Entre Raíces (Nexus Between Roots) Exhibition & Visiting Artist Talk” (6-0-1, Vaught absent).
 - Chico Theater Company to receive \$2,646.00 for the “Roof Replacement” (6-0-1, Vaught absent).
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- Downtown Chico Business Association to receive \$2,646.00 for “ARTober FEST: Celebrating Art, Culture, and Community in Downtown Chico” (6-0-1, Vaught absent).
- Friends of the Chico Community Ballet to receive \$2,646.00 for “A Very Chico Nutcracker 2025” (6-0-1, Vaught absent).
- Inspire School of Arts & Sciences to receive \$2,646.00 for “Big Fish Design Mentorship” (5-0-1-1, Vaught absent, Cerullo disqualified).
- KZFR Community Radio to receive \$2,646.00 for “Chico Speaks” (6-0-1, Vaught absent).
- Legacy Theatre Group (Legacy Stage) to receive \$2,646.00 for “Shakespeare in the Park 2026” (4-0-1-2, Vaught absent, Cerullo & Goodman disqualified).
- Little Red Hen to receive \$2,646.00 for “The Business of Being an Artist” (6-0-1, Vaught absent).
- Maker Radio to receive \$2,646.00 for “Makers Muse 2025” (6-0-1, Vaught absent).
- Movement Arts of Chico to receive \$2,540.00 for “Capoeira Arts Therapy” (6-0-1, Vaught absent).
- Museum of Northern California Art (MONCA) to receive \$2,370.00 for “Foyer Sound Panels” (6-0-1-1, Vaught absent, Boring disqualified).
- Pedal Press Youth Shop to receive \$2,295.00 for the “Pedal Press Youth Shop” (6-0-1, Vaught absent).
- Stonewall Alliance to receive \$2,646.00 for “To Be Seen: Uplifting LGBTQIA2S+ Art & Honoring Trans Lives Lost” (6-0-1, Vaught absent).
- Upstate Community Enhancement Foundation to receive \$2,646.00 for “Chico Fab Lab Fundamentals Community Workshop” (6-0-1, Vaught absent).

3. MAYOR’S ACHIEVEMENT IN THE ARTS AWARDS SELECTION – *Continued to a special meeting with the date to be determined.*

4. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m. to the next regular Arts Commission meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at 4:30 p.m.

Approved: _____

Prepared by:

Stina Cooley, Administrative Specialist

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

Special Meeting of October 1, 2025 – 4:30 p.m.
Council Chamber Building, 421 Main Street, Conference Room 1

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Boring at 4:31 p.m. with Commissioners Barsotti, Cerullo, Vaught, and Vice-Chair Boring present. Commissioners Goodman, Posey, and Chair Pipkin were absent.

2. **MAYOR’S ACHIEVEMENT IN THE ARTS AWARDS SELECTION**

Commissioner Vaught recused himself from discussion of the nomination of Save the El Rey.

The Commission discussed the nominees for Outstanding Arts & Culture Organization or Business. The nominees were Chico Fab Labs, Maker Radio, Music Teachers Association of California (MTAC)-Youth Orchestra, and Save the El Rey.

Luann Manss addressed the Commission on this item.

The Commission voted 3-1 to honor Music Teachers Association of California – Youth Orchestra as Outstanding Arts Organization for 2025

The Commission discussed the nominees for Outstanding Artist or Arts Organization Leader. The nominees were Tatiana Allen, Martin Chavira, Dana Moore, and Valerie Rose.

The Commission voted 3-1 to honor Dana Moore as Outstanding Organizational Leader for 2025.

The Commission discussed the nominees for Outstanding Patron of the Arts. The nominees were Chico Creative Reuse, Monica McDaniel, Corey Smith, and The Theide Family.

The Commission voted 4-0 to honor Monica McDaniel as Outstanding Patron of the Arts for 2025.

3. **FALL FOR THE ARTS GALA UPDATE**

Commissioner Cerullo provided an update on the Fall for the Arts gala. Each Commissioner was asked to sell four tickets and gather three auction items. City Clerk Presson asked about the auctioning of the COBA boards at the event. She was informed that the decision had been made to not include them due to some issues. City Clerk Presson said she would reach out to Chair Pipkin clarifying that the Arts Commission took formal action (6-0-1, Vaught absent) to authorize the auctioning of the City owned COBA boards and that the legal department had thoroughly researched the COBA program and authorized the

sale of City property at this event. Once a formal action has been taken by a majority vote, that action can only be amended by the full Commission.

4. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m. to the next regular Arts Commission meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 4:30 p.m.

Approved: _____

Prepared by:

Stina Cooley, Administrative Specialist