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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

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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**

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*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).*

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3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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*Treo Benajan addressed the Commission on this item.*

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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.

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*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).*

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- 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 17<sup>th</sup>, 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 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.

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*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.*

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

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*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).*

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**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***

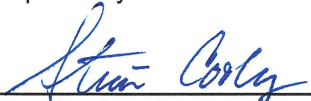
**8. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING**

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.

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Approved: 10/8/25

Prepared by:

  
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Stina Cooley, Administrative Specialist