



CITY OF GILROY
ARTS AND CULTURE
COMMISSION



SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026 | 6:31 PM

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL
7351 ROSANNA STREET, GILROY, CA 95020

Chair: Ruben Dario Villa

Vice Chair: Vacant

Commissioners: Camille McCormack, Makhan Gupta, Rabia Shahid, Subul Siddiqui, & Wendy Zamora

Executive Sponsor: Harjot Sangha, Assistant City Administrator

Staff Liaison: Kylie Katsuyoshi, Management Analyst Trainee & Stefan Mercer, Management Assistant



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Materials related to an item on this agenda submitted to the City of Gilroy Arts and Culture Commission after distribution of the agenda packet are available with the agenda packet on the City website at www.cityofgilroy.org subject to the Staff's ability to post the documents before the meeting.

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PUBLIC COMMENT GUIDELINES:

During the **PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA** portion of the meeting, each person wishing to speak should prepare a presentation of not more than three (3) minutes. Persons wishing to address the Commission are requested, but not required, to complete a Speaker's Card located at the entrances. Completion of this speaker's card is voluntary. All persons may attend this meeting and speak, regardless if a card is completed or not. Speaker's slips should be submitted to the Secretary **BEFORE** this portion of the

meeting begins. Anyone wishing to address the Commission on any other item on this **AGENDA** is requested, but not required, to fill out a speaker's slip as well and submit it to the Secretary **BEFORE** the Commission takes action on the item.

The agenda for this special meeting is as follows:

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **ROLL CALL**
3. **SECRETARY'S REPORT**
4. **ORDERS OF THE DAY**
5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - 5.1. **Approval of the Minutes from the April 14, 2026, Regular Meeting of the Arts and Culture Commission**
6. **PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**
7. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - 7.1. **Review of Fiscal Year 2026 and 2027 Work Plan**
 - 7.2. **For the Love of Gilroy Public Art Campaign and Unveiling Event**
8. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - 8.1. **Appointment of Vice-Chair of the Arts and Culture Commission**
 - 8.2. **Update on Art-Related Funds**
 - 8.3. **Discussion on Tabling at the Public Works Week Community Open House**
 - 8.4. **Discussion on Arts and Culture Commission Annual Presentation**
 - 8.5. **Discussion of the Civic Center Master Plan**
9. **GILROY ART-RELATED COMMUNITY EVENT UPDATES**
10. **COMMISSION COMMENTS**
11. **STAFF COMMENTS**
12. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEM REQUESTS**
13. **ADJOURNMENT**

FUTURE MEETING DATES

June 9, 2026 – Gilroy City Council Chambers – 6:30 PM

July 14, 2026 – Gilroy City Council Chambers – 6:30 PM
August 11, 2026 – Gilroy City Council Chambers – 6:30 PM
September 8, 2026 – Gilroy City Council Chambers – 6:30 PM
October 13, 2026 – Gilroy City Council Chambers – 6:30 PM
November 10, 2026 – Gilroy City Council Chambers – 6:30 PM
December 8, 2026 – Gilroy City Council Chambers – 6:30 PM

City of Gilroy
Arts and Culture Commission
Draft Minutes
Tuesday, April 14, 2026 | 6:30 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Villa at 6:30 PM.

2. ROLL CALL

Attendance	Attendee Name
Present	Commissioner Ruben Dario Villa Commissioner Subul Siddiqui Commissioner Camille McCormack Commissioner Makhan Gupta Commissioner Rabia Shahid
Absent	Commissioner Steven Porter Commissioner Wendy Zamora

3. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Staff Member Katsuyoshi reported that the agenda was posted on Friday, April 10th, 2026 at 9:56 AM.

4. Introduction of New Commissioners

1. Introduction of Commissioner Rabia Shahid and Commissioner Subul Siddiqui

Commissioner Siddiqui and Commissioner Shahid introduced themselves to the Commission.

5. ORDERS OF THE DAY

The Commission agreed to move item 9.1 after Item 7.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of the Minutes from the March 10, 2026 Regular Meeting of the Arts and Culture Commission

Motion: Approve

RESULT: Passed

MOVER: Commissioner Camille McCormack

SECONDER: Commissioner Makhan Gupta

AYES: Commissioner Ruben Dario Villa, Commissioner Subul Siddiqui, Commissioner Camille McCormack, Commissioner Makhan Gupta, Commissioner Rabia Shahid

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Steven Porter, Commissioner Wendy Zamora

7. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Chair Villa opened public comment at 6:41 P.M.

Greg Felios - Gave praise to both Gilroy High School and Christopher High School for how well their choral programs are doing.

With no further speakers, Chair Villa closed public comment.

8. OLD BUSINESS

1. Review of Fiscal Year 2026 and 2027 Work Plan

The Commission reviewed the Fiscal Year 2026 and 2027 Work Plan. It was decided that a Sub-Committee would be created for the Multicultural Community Days project and that they would focus on that prior to broadening their efforts with multiple projects from the Work Plan. Commissioner Shahid and Commissioner Siddiqui both expressed interest in joining the Sub-Committee.

2. For the Love of Gilroy Public Art Campaign and Unveiling Event

The Commission discussed the timeline for the For the Love of Gilroy public art campaign. The proposed deadline for artwork will be December 2026, allowing the commission to prepare their recommendations for City Council during the January 2027 Arts & Culture meeting. The Commission's recommendations would then go before the Council in February 2027 with the unveiling event being held in April 2027. The Commission decided to push solidifying this timeline until the next meeting to allow more time to determine what would be the best way to proceed.

9. NEW BUSINESS

1. Presentation from the Gilroy Museum and Approve a Recommendation to Transfer \$2,103 in Interest Income from the Gilroy Museum Endowment Trust to the Museum Donation Fund

Susan Voss with the Gilroy Museum provided a report and presentation on the Museum's activities and accomplishments in 2025. The Gilroy Historical Society requested a recommendation be made to City Council to transfer interest income from the Gilroy Museum Endowment Trust to the Museum Donation Fund.

Motion

Approve the recommendation to transfer \$2,103 in interest income from the Gilroy Museum Endowment Trust to the Museum Donation Fund.

RESULT: Passed

MOVER: Commissioner Makhan Gupta

SECONDER: Commissioner Camille McCormack

AYES: Commissioner Ruben Dario Villa, Commissioner Subul Siddiqui, Commissioner Camille McCormack, Commissioner Makhan Gupta, Commissioner Rabia Shahid

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Steven Porter, Commissioner Wendy Zamora

2. Discussion of a Public Art Resource Document

The Commission agreed to move this item to the next meeting.

3. Update on Art-Related Funds

The Commission agreed to move this item to the next meeting.

4. Discussion of the Civic Center Master Plan

The Commission agreed to move this item to the next meeting.

10. GILROY ART-RELATED COMMUNITY EVENT UPDATES

No updates given.

11. COMMISSION COMMENTS

None.

12. STAFF COMMENTS

None.

13. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM REQUESTS

None.

14. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 PM.



City of Gilroy Arts and Culture Commission

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item Title: Review of Fiscal Year 2026 and 2027 Work Plan
Meeting Date: May 12, 2026
From: Kylie Katsuyoshi, Management Analyst Trainee
Department: Administration
Submitted by:
Prepared by: Kylie Katsuyoshi, Management Analyst Trainee

RECOMMENDATION

Commission discussion on work plan items.

BACKGROUND

At the February 11, 2025, regular meeting of the Arts and Culture Commission, the Commission adopted a work plan for FY26 and FY27. This will be an ongoing agenda item to discuss the work plan items, and to receive updates from any commissioner or committee.

ANALYSIS

None.

ALTERNATIVES

None.

FISCAL IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE

None.

Attachments:

1. Arts and Culture Commission Workplan - FY26 and FY27

2026 and 2027 Arts and Culture Commission Work Plan

Project Name	Work	Lead Commissioner	Sub-Committee Members	City Council Priority	Status
For the Love of Gilroy Event	Continue the successful pilot program into an annual event each year.			<i>N/A</i>	2026 event was successful. Planning and coordinating the event for 2027.
Multicultural Community Days	Explore hosting an event series featuring arts and culture presentations and displays of various cultures in the community, consisting of up to two events per fiscal year as a pilot program.		Commissioner Shahid Commissioner Siddiqui	<i>Neighborhood Equity</i>	Under discussion.
Fundraising Gala	Explore the opportunity to host a fundraising gala, aiming at one event during the workplan period.			<i>Financial Resilience</i>	Under discussion.
Update the Arts and Culture Strategic Plan	Update the strategic plan to identify strategies and goals for Gilroy's arts and culture into the future.			<i>Neighborhood Equity</i>	Under discussion.
Public Art Resource Document	Explore the viability of creating a public art resource document for future development, in conjunction with the Community Development Department.			<i>Neighborhood Equity</i>	Under discussion.

Updated May 7, 2026



City of Gilroy Arts and Culture Commission

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item Title: For the Love of Gilroy Public Art Campaign and Unveiling Event

Meeting Date: May 12, 2026
 From: Kylie Katsuyoshi, Management Analyst Trainee
 Department: Administration
 Submitted by:
 Prepared by: Kylie Katsuyoshi, Management Analyst Trainee

RECOMMENDATION

Commission discussion and planning for the next For the Love of Gilroy Public Art Campaign.

BACKGROUND

The Arts and Culture Commission (ACC) has, with Council approval, an item on their work plan titled "For the Love of Gilroy Event", to continue the successful pilot program into an annual event each year. For this event, the Commission solicits two-dimensional art designs from local artists to be printed on banners and posted on streetlight poles along Monterey Road in Downtown Gilroy. At the January 5, 2026, City Council Regular Meeting, the Council instructed the ACC to create, in the next program cycle, two award categories: one for adults and the other for minors.

ANALYSIS

This agenda item is intended to facilitate brainstorming and discussion regarding the next For the Love of Gilroy program and the Commission's approach to creating two new award categories. The project timeline is below for reference.

2026	Marketing and outreach
2026	Open for submissions
December 2026	Close for submissions

January 2027	Art pieces go to the ACC
February 2027	Recommendation presented at a City Council Meeting
March 2027	Purchase the rights to the artwork and produce the banners
April 2027	Unveiling Event

ALTERNATIVES

None — there are no specific recommendations or actions proposed.

FISCAL IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE

None.

Attachments:

None



City of Gilroy Arts and Culture Commission

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item Title: Appointment of Vice-Chair of the Arts and Culture Commission

Meeting Date: May 12, 2026

From: Kylie Katsuyoshi, Management Analyst Trainee

Department: Administration

Submitted by:

Prepared by: Kylie Katsuyoshi, Management Analyst Trainee

RECOMMENDATION

The Commission appoints one of its members to the Vice-Chair position.

BACKGROUND

This agenda item is for the Commission to receive nominations and elect a Vice-Chair from among its members to fill the recent vacancy. There are no term limits or restrictions for those who have already served in this role from serving in those positions again, should the Commission elect to do so.

ANALYSIS

None.

ALTERNATIVES

None.

FISCAL IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE

None.

Attachments:

None



City of Gilroy Arts and Culture Commission

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item Title: Update on Art-Related Funds

Meeting Date: May 12, 2026

From: Kylie Katsuyoshi, Management Analyst Trainee

Department: Administration

Submitted by:

Prepared by: Kylie Katsuyoshi, Management Analyst Trainee

RECOMMENDATION

None - This is an informational item.

BACKGROUND

At the March 20, 2026, Arts and Culture Commission Meeting, the Commission requested information on the balance of the two art-related funds available to them.

ANALYSIS

The Commission has access to the following funds, and the amounts are as follows:

Fund Name	Current Balance	Available Balance
Arts and Culture Donations	\$87.45	\$87.45
Public Art Project	\$29,211.10	\$21,869.81

For the Public Art Project, a portion (\$7,341.29) of the current balance is held for dedicated, specific purposes, including the below:

- \$2,833.10 for a bench installation and plaque at Gilroy Sports Park.
- \$4,508.19 reserved for mural repairs, bench plaque repairs, and Gilroy Garlic Festival Founders Plaque repairs.

The Public Art Project Fund is a deposit account used for funding public art projects. It is funded through developer contributions, in-lieu fee payments, and negotiated payments.

The Arts and Culture Donations Fund consists of donations made to the Arts and Culture Commission. This fund holds the revenue collected through the bench plaque program and may be utilized by the ACC to carry out activities and projects identified in their work plan.

ALTERNATIVES

None - This is an informational item.

FISCAL IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE

None - This is an informational item.

Attachments:

None



City of Gilroy Arts and Culture Commission

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item Title: Discussion on Tabling at the Public Works Week Community Open House

Meeting Date: May 12, 2026

From: Kylie Katsuyoshi, Management Analyst Trainee

Department: Administration

Submitted by:

Prepared by: Kylie Katsuyoshi, Management Analyst Trainee

RECOMMENDATION

Commission discussion on potential tabling at the Public Works Week Community Open House.

BACKGROUND

In celebration of Public Works Week, the City of Gilroy invites students, families, and community members to a hands-on and interactive Public Works Open House. Explore how our Public Works teams keep Gilroy running and discover career pathways in local government. Join us to learn about water conservation, wastewater treatment, engineering, park and road maintenance, and other essential City services.

Public Works vehicles and equipment will be on display for close-up exploration and learning. Everyone is invited — students, families, community groups, and individuals of all ages are welcome to join us.

Event: Public Works Week Community Open House Date & Time: May 20, 2026 | 2:00 PM–6:00 PM

Location: City Hall / Civic Center Plaza located at 7351 Rosanna Street Public Works staff will be on-site to share demonstrations, answer questions, and highlight the important work they do every day.

ANALYSIS

The Public Works Department has invited City of Gilroy Commissions and Committees to table at this event. This item is for commissioners to discuss who would like to attend

and what topic or materials the commission would present.

ALTERNATIVES

None.

FISCAL IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE

None.

Attachments:

None



City of Gilroy Arts and Culture Commission

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item Title: Discussion on Arts and Culture Commission Annual Presentation

Meeting Date: May 12, 2026

From: Kylie Katsuyoshi, Management Analyst Trainee

Department: Administration

Submitted by:

Prepared by: Kylie Katsuyoshi, Management Analyst Trainee

RECOMMENDATION

Commission discussion on the Arts and Culture annual presentation to Council.

BACKGROUND

The Arts and Culture Commission provides an annual presentation to the City Council highlighting the Commission's accomplishments and activities. This item is for the Commission to organize responsibilities, content, and the date for the presentation.

ANALYSIS

None.

ALTERNATIVES

None.

FISCAL IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE

None.

Attachments:

None



City of Gilroy Arts and Culture Commission

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item Title: Discussion of the Civic Center Master Plan
Meeting Date: May 12, 2026
From: Kylie Katsuyoshi, Management Analyst Trainee
Department: Administration
Submitted by:
Prepared by: Kylie Katsuyoshi, Management Analyst Trainee

RECOMMENDATION

Commission discussion regarding the City of Gilroy Civic Center Master Plan.

BACKGROUND

This item was requested by Chair Villa. He would like to share the comments he submitted regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and discuss with the commission.

ANALYSIS

The purpose of this item is to provide the Commission with an opportunity to review Chair Villa's comments submitted to the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR), give the Commission with an opportunity to review the key issues raised, and consider whether additional Commission comments are desired.

ALTERNATIVES

None.

FISCAL IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE

None.

Attachments:

1. ChairVillaEIRComments.

Kylie Katsuyoshi

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2026 2:35 PM
To: Kylie Katsuyoshi; Stefan Mercer
Subject: EXTERNAL - Fwd: Comments on Public Review Draft EIR – Gilroy Civic Center Master Plan (SCH# 2025091066)

Ruben Dario Villa
“Mr. Fúchila”
Artist | Designer | Muralist

[REDACTED]
www.mrfuchila.com

Begin forwarded message:

From: Ruben Dario Villa [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Comments on Public Review Draft EIR – Gilroy Civic Center Master Plan (SCH# 2025091066)
Date: March 27, 2026 at 12:20:20 AM PDT
To: Ryan.Osenton@cityofgilroy.org
Cc: allcouncilmembers@cityofgilroy.org

Dear Mayor, City Council, and Staff,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the **Public Review Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the Gilroy Civic Center Master Plan.** These comments are submitted on behalf of community organizations and stakeholders engaged in arts, culture, and downtown vitality in Gilroy, including **SV Creates, Gilroy Foundation, Gilroy Downtown Business Association, Gilroy Arts Alliance, and Gilroy Arts Roundtable** among others.

We appreciate the City’s effort to plan comprehensively for the future of the Civic Center and downtown. The Civic Center will serve as a defining civic space for Gilroy for decades to come, and thoughtful planning now will help ensure the project successfully supports community use, cultural programming, and downtown vitality.

We also note the City Council’s recent approval of the Community Event Support Program. As the number of events continues to grow, it becomes increasingly important that civic spaces like Civic Park are designed to support recurring events efficiently—minimizing cost and logistical barriers while providing consistent, well-designed environments for safe community use.

As organizations and community leaders actively involved in arts, culture, and downtown programming in Gilroy, we are particularly interested in how the Civic Center’s design will support public events, cultural programming, and community gatherings over time.

Purpose of Comment

The purpose of these comments is to help ensure the Final EIR clearly describes how the proposed Civic Center will function once fully activated and to clarify key assumptions related to event programming, the intended role of Civic Park, and peak-use conditions.

+ + +

1. Civic Park Programming and Performance Infrastructure

The Civic Center Master Plan describes Civic Park as a flexible open space capable of hosting community gatherings such as farmers markets, performances, and civic events. However, the plan does not clearly define whether outdoor concerts or amplified music events are intended uses of the park. This creates uncertainty about whether the park’s design is aligned with its intended function.

Previous iterations of the Master Plan included a stage or designated performance area within Civic Park. It was only during recent public discussions associated with the Draft EIR that stakeholders became aware this element had been removed, reportedly due to acoustic considerations. In response, we re-engaged with participating organizations and community stakeholders to confirm whether there remains support for outdoor performance infrastructure. There is strong and consistent support for including a permanent stage or integrated performance platform as part of the park design.

If Civic Park is intended to function as a venue for performances, concerts, and cultural events—as described in the Master Plan—then the project should include a permanent stage or integrated performance platform as part of the park design.

Purpose-built performance infrastructure would allow the City to orient sound appropriately, reduce repeated temporary stage installations, and lower logistical costs for community event producers. It would also allow acoustic considerations to be addressed proactively through design rather than reactively through temporary solutions. From a practical standpoint, the presence—or absence—of basic performance infrastructure directly affects the feasibility and quality of civic programming.

While acoustic considerations present real design challenges, they are commonly addressed through site orientation, sound engineering, and operational guidelines. The removal of performance infrastructure, rather than its thoughtful design, risks limiting the Civic Center’s ability to achieve its stated goals of supporting community programming and cultural activation.

A clearly defined program, supported by appropriate infrastructure, will help ensure Civic Park becomes an intentional and well-activated public space.

Requested Clarification for the Final EIR

The Final EIR should clearly state whether Civic Park is intended to support outdoor performances and, if so, should reflect the inclusion of a permanent stage or integrated performance infrastructure as part of the project design.

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2. Operational Noise and Event Programming

The Draft EIR concludes that operational noise increases associated with the Civic Center redevelopment would be minimal and generally consistent with existing civic uses. However, the project description anticipates community programming and public gatherings.

If the Civic Center is intended to support events such as markets, festivals, and performances, the noise analysis should clearly reflect those uses. Event programming can introduce conditions that differ from typical daytime civic operations, particularly where amplified sound is involved.

Requested Clarification for the Final EIR

The Final EIR should clearly describe the assumptions used in the noise analysis, including the anticipated frequency, timing, and amplification of community events, to ensure the analysis reflects the reasonably foreseeable use of the civic campus.

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3. Transportation and Parking – Peak Use Conditions

The Draft EIR relies primarily on a Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) screening approach and concludes that the project would not result in significant transportation impacts. While consistent with current CEQA practice, this approach does not fully address how the Civic Center campus will function during peak-use conditions.

The Master Plan envisions a more active civic campus with expanded programming and community use. However, the analysis does not clearly describe how the site will operate during periods of higher activity, such as evenings, weekends, or special events when multiple uses may occur simultaneously.

Requested Clarification for the Final EIR

The Final EIR should clarify the assumptions used to conclude that project intensity would not increase and should include a qualitative discussion of how the Civic Center will accommodate peak-use conditions, including overlapping civic uses and community events.

+ + +

Conclusion

The Civic Center Master Plan represents a significant opportunity to shape the civic heart of Gilroy. Providing additional clarity around event programming, the intended role of Civic Park, and peak-use conditions will strengthen the Final EIR and help ensure the project's design aligns with its long-term civic goals.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Silicon Valley Creates

Alexandra Urbanowski, Executive Director

Gilroy Foundation

Jaclyn Muro, Executive Director

Gilroy Downtown Business Association

Amber Attebery, Co-Chair

Gilroy Arts Alliance

Marianne Eichenbaum, President

Sharon Albert, Vice President

Gilroy Arts Roundtable Steering Committee

La Ofrenda Festival / Casa de Cultura y Arte

Ruben Dario Villa, Executive Director

MANOS Folklórico

Mina Castañeda, Director

The Neon Exchange

Toni Bowles, CEO

Ruben Dario Villa

Chair, Arts and Culture Commission

Luis Ramirez

Commissioner, Parks and Recreations Commission