

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
DISTRICT 56  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Brian Rickel at 6:05PM with the following participants:

Present Committee Members: Chair, Brian Rickel  
Vice Chair, Aaryn Val  
Julee Cooper  
Sally Guttridge  
Mike Mangonon  
Man Phan

Absent Committee Members: Pablo Espinoza

City Staff/ Presenters: Sara Rodrigues, Economic Development Analyst  
Jodie Moreno, Community Events Program

Public: Manager

13 members of the public

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

- a. Agenda was approved. *(Guttridge/Val) passed unanimously.*

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- a. Deborah George, an arts teacher with 30 years at EGUSD, spoke on behalf of “Day of La Concha,” scheduled for April 12, 2026. She also shared her involvement in encouraging high school teachers to submit student designs for the Giant Pumpkin Festival art project.
- b. Markos and Teresa, representatives of ARTners, reminded the Commission of their upcoming events (“Day of La Concha” and Día de los Muertos), expressed interest in participating in the mural festival, and shared appreciation for past event grant support.
- c. Tracy Daniels, representing Art Exploration, spoke about the organization’s mission to support seniors and individuals with special needs through art. She requested to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting to give a presentation.
- d. Bret Bartholomew introduced himself and shared information about the media-related services he provides, as well as the boards he serves on.
- e. Jodie Hill, a parent, educator, and member of Musical Mayhem Productions, emphasized that MMP is an economic driver and expressed the need for a permanent performing arts space.

- f. Laura Sanchez, a supporter of Musical Mayhem Productions, spoke about the positive impact the organization has had on her son and highlighted the importance of investing in the arts.

#### **4. APPROVAL OF PAST MEETING MINUTES**

- a. December 2025 minutes were approved. *(Phan/Gutteridge) passed unanimously.*

#### **5. REGULAR AGENDA ACTION ITEMS**

##### **a. Art-related Non-profit Grant Applications- Jodie Moreno**

- A total of 64 applications were submitted by Elk Grove nonprofits for the Event Sponsorship Program (the most ever received). Of those, 60 were deemed eligible; 10 were art-related and included in the meeting packet for review.
- The total program budget is \$80,000 in cash and \$200,000 in in-kind services.
- Grant applications will reopen in January 2027 for the July 1, 2027 – June 30, 2028 funding cycle.
- The ACE Commission voted to designate representatives to review the art-related applications and provide funding recommendations to be considered. Gutteridge, Rickel, and Val were voted to serve on the subcommittee. *(Phan/Mangonon) passed unanimously.*
- **Public Comment**
  - Bret Bartholomew offered his consulting services related to grants.
  - Tracy Daniels requested additional grant information, which Rodrigues will provide.
  - Markos and Teresa expressed their gratitude to the City for its continued support of Day of the Dead and Day of La Concha through the event grant program.

#### **6. GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE**

##### **a. Staff Liaison Update**

##### **i. Arts, Culture, and Creative Economy Strategy**

- Rodrigues thanked the Commissioners who attended the City Council meeting to approve Cultural Planning Group as the contracted consultant supporting the City's strategy. The City Council approved Cultural Planning Group, and staff will partner with them over an 18-month period: 12 months for strategic planning and drafting, followed by 6 months of implementation.

##### **ii. Hello-Goodbye artwork installation**

- To address vandalism to the art piece, the City has amended the artist's contract to include repairs. The artist has provided a fabrication schedule to recreate the hands for the sculpture using the same material as the faces, with completion anticipated by May 31.

##### **iii. Luke Bryan Concert 5/16**

- On Friday, May 15 (5–9 PM), the City will host a Music on Main event at the Plaza featuring country music. Explore Elk Grove is coordinating with local businesses to offer special promotions they can publicize over the weekend as well.

- Luke Bryan will perform in Elk Grove on May 16. The event spans both County property (parking) and City property (venue). Parking opens at 2 PM, the concert area opens at 5 PM, music begins at 6 PM, and Luke Bryan performs from 9:30–11 PM.
  - VIP tickets are sold out, but general admission remains available. A minimum of 15,000 tickets must be sold, with a maximum capacity of 20,000.
  - The event presents a significant economic development opportunity and helps position Elk Grove as a destination capable of hosting major events.
- iv. **Elk Grove Anniversary Photography Competition**
- A total of 168 photos were submitted.
  - Subcommittee members Rickel and Guttridge narrowed the entries to 20 finalists, which were showcased at the Fine Arts Center and later at the Illumination Festival
  - Over 600 votes were cast across three judging categories: Amateur Youth, Amateur Adult, and Professional, resulting in 8 award-winning photos.
  - Approximately 60 people attended the reception, and there was strong interest in hosting the competition again.
- v. **Elk Grove Mural Festival**
- Paint the Grove will take place on June 1-6 in Main Street (between Waterman Rd and Hwy 99)
  - Rodrigues reviewed the four planned events: VIP Reception, Street Art 101, Mural Tour, and Local Artist Battle, and highlighted sponsorship opportunities for those interested.
  - Commissioners requested ½ tables be reserved for local Art organizations and ½ to artists for the Art Battle event and Rodrigues requested recommendations for local organizations and artists to be invited to table.
  - Mangonon suggested connecting with EGUSD Art Show organizers to explore potential collaboration for the Street Art 101 event.
  - It was recommended that e-bikes be prohibited during the Mural Tour and that coordination occur with the Bikes and Trails Committee and the Police Department.
  - SMUD and/or PG&E were suggested as potential sponsors for lift equipment.
  - A member of the public asked about the final artwork from the Art Battle; it was suggested that the pieces could be auctioned.
- vi. **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Puzzle**
- A total of 1,000 puzzles have been shipped and sold, with an additional 5,000 currently in transit.
  - Dowell, the artist, may attend future events to help promote puzzle sales.
  - Once received, puzzles will be available for purchase at City Hall and at select upcoming City events.
- vii. **Booth Opportunities/Sundae Funday**

- There will be no Sundae Funday event this year.
  - Rodrigues is seeking commissioners to staff the ACE Commission table at the upcoming Festival of the Arts on April 25, from 10 AM–5 PM. Rickel, Phan, and Mangonon agreed to cover in shifts.
  - Rodrigues also provided a list of additional tabling opportunities.
  - Rodrigues said she'd check in on opportunities at the Giant Pumpkin Festival and Straus Festival
  - Rickel volunteered to staff a table at the Day of La Concha event
- ii. Volunteer Appreciation Reception
- Save the Date: April 27, 2026 (5:30–6:30 PM networking; 6:30 PM program).
  - Rodrigues added the event to Commissioners' calendars.
  - Rodrigues reminded Commissioners that all names are announced during the event, so representation is appreciated. Finger foods will be served, and a small token of appreciation will be provided for their volunteer service to the City.
  - Kristyn Nelson will share additional event details as the date approaches.

## **7. COMMISSION COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

### a. Future agenda items

#### i. Other agenda items at the request of the Commissioners

- Rickel requested a presentation of the previous feasibility study for the Performing Arts Center.
- Rickel also requested a vote to select a Recorder.
- Guttridge requested presentations from Art Explorations, ARTners, and Deborah George.

### b. Commission Comments

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

- a. The Elk Grove Arts and Creative Economy Commission Meeting of February 26, 2026, was adjourned at 7:49PM. *(Phan/Val) passed unanimously.*