



Sacramento Arts, Culture, and Creative Economy Commission Annual Report

January 2025 through December 2025



The Living Balance, Liv Losee-Unger of ORLUarts, Sutter's Landing Regional Park, 2025.

Photo: Courtesy of Matthew Flores

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Introduction: Establishment, Commissioners, and Staff

The City of Sacramento Arts, Culture, and Creative Economy Commission (ACCEC) was established in 2019 by ordinance 2019-0028 and is codified in Sacramento [City Code Chapter 2.84](#).

The commission consists of eleven members which are nominated by the Personnel and Public Employees Committee, councilmembers, or the mayor, and appointed by the mayor with the concurrence of a majority of the city council.

Current Sacramento Arts, Culture, and Creative Economy Commission - Commissioners

The following commissioners are currently serving on the commission.

- Luisa Lavulo (Chair)
- Nkiruka Ohaegbu (Vice Chair)
- Douglas Carter
- Jeff Eisenberg
- Carissa Gutierrez
- Walker Hershey
- Rosa Maria Orozco
- Wellington Smith
- Maya Wallace
- Dr. L. Steven Winlock

2025 Commissioners

The following commissioners served on the commission in 2025.

- Justina Martino (Chair)
- Luisa Lavulo (Vice Chair, Chair)
- Nkiruka Ohaegbu (Vice Chair)
- Roynell Anderson
- Jeff Eisenberg
- Carissa Gutierrez
- Walker Hershey
- America Lomeli
- Rosa Maria Orozco
- Wellington Smith
- Robert Tocalino
- Maya Wallace
- Dr. L. Steven Winlock

Sacramento Arts, Culture, and Creative Economy Commission - Staff

The commission is supported primarily by the following staff members.

- Ryan Meyerhoff, Senior Deputy City Attorney, Office of the City Attorney
- Megan L. Van Voorhis, Director, Convention and Cultural Services Department
- Jason Jong, Cultural and Creative Economy Manager, Office of Arts and Culture
- Mannylyn Timoteo, Administrative Analyst, Office of Arts and Culture

Sacramento Arts, Culture, and Creative Economy Commission - Staff Contact Information

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Purpose, Powers and Duties of the Sacramento Arts, Culture, and Creative Economy Commission

Purpose of the Sacramento Arts, Culture, and Creative Economy Commission

The purpose of the commission is to provide advice and recommendations to the city council for promoting, encouraging, and fostering the arts, innovation, and tourism in the city, and is further described in the Sacramento [City Code, Section 2.84.030](#).

Powers and Duties of the Sacramento Arts, Culture, and Creative Economy Commission

The powers and duties of the commission are as follows:

- A. Foster the value, development, participation, and support of the arts.
- B. Provide recommendations and advice to the city council, the city manager, and the Department of Convention and Cultural Services on all matters concerning the arts, including the cultural arts awards grant program, cultural economy grant program, art-in-public-places program, film program, and the city's cultural amenities.
- C. Provide recommendations and advice to the city council, the city manager, and the Department of Convention and Cultural Services on the allocation of funds in support of the arts, to establish firm and equitable standards for such allocations, and to evaluate those allocations annually.
- D. Develop an awareness in the business community, in local government, and in the general public of the value of the arts and culture to the city. Except for artwork given to or purchased by museums, to review and make recommendations upon all artwork to be acquired by the city either by purchase or gift.
- E. Seek state, federal, or private funds in support of the arts on behalf of the city.
- F. Act as a liaison between the city, local artists, cultural groups, and the community at large.
- G. Develop an awareness of the needs of artists and the community, and regularly update and evaluate progress against Creative Edge: Arts, Culture, and Creative Economy Plan, dated June 2018, or as subsequently amended, for the growth of the arts in Sacramento. The commission shall submit an annual written report to council about such progress.
- H. Explore the future of the aesthetic quality of life in the community, with vision and imagination, and periodically report and give recommendations to the city council.

- I. Advise on the fair distribution of arts in each council district and throughout the city's neighborhoods.
- J. Provide input to the city council regarding policies, programs, and services to further the purposes of the commission.
- K. Advise on the policies and processes where artwork is included in capital improvement programs and ensure that artists are involved as early as possible in the pre-design or design phases for each eligible construction project (as defined in section [2.84.045](#)).
- L. Advise on the guidelines and procedures for the art-in-public-places program, cultural economy grant program, cultural arts awards grant program, or other programs relating to the coordination, sponsorship, or support of art programs or the nature, selection, and placement of artwork.
- M. Provide recognition and increased opportunities for artists through art-in-public-places projects.
- N. Advise on the quality, quantity, scope, and style of art in public places.
- O. Provide input and advice on maintenance and curating standards for exhibits or artwork.
- P. Advise and assist the city in other activities as may be referred to it by the city council.
- Q. Provide for the nature, selection, and placement of public art under section [2.84.045](#).
- R. Annually, report to and make recommendations to the city council regarding the status of the arts, culture, and creative economy in the city and the activities of the commission. (Ord. 2024-0035 § I)

Message from the Chair, Sacramento Arts, Culture, and Creative Economy Commission

Over the past year, serving as Chair of the Arts, Culture, and Creative Economy Commission has felt both deeply personal and profoundly hopeful. As a mother in this community, I understand how important it is that our children grow up surrounded by creativity, culture, and spaces where every story is valued. I have watched our commissioners approach this work with open hearts—listening carefully, asking hard questions, and remaining committed to building an arts and creative landscape that reflects all of us. Together, we have made meaningful progress while honoring the voices of artists, culture bearers, entrepreneurs, and families who call this community home. I am proud of the care and intention behind our efforts this year, and I look ahead with optimism, believing that the foundation we are strengthening today will nurture opportunity, belonging, and inspiration for generations to come.

Luisa Lavulo

Chair, Sacramento Arts, Culture, and Creative Economy Commission

Key Accomplishments

This report, with highlights and key accomplishments, covers the period since the last report, January 2025 through December 2025.

Grants and Programs Review

- Received a presentation from OAC Grants and Programs Manager Melissa Cirone, reviewing recent arts education initiatives and youth programming, opportunities for artists and creatives such as CA Creative Corps, Seeding Creativity, and Emerging Curator Fellowship, placemaking initiative Florin Road Beautification Project, general operating support for nonprofit arts and cultural organizations through the Cultural Arts Award, and programs supported by American Rescue Plan Act Funds, including Creative Growth Fellowship, Arts Journalism, and nonprofit recovery grants (5/12/25).
- Received a presentation from OAC Grants and Programs Manager Melissa Cirone, reviewing the ARPA-funded Creative Growth Fellowship program, including an overview of the funding opportunity, grant guidelines, marketing and outreach efforts, panel review process, and resulting awards (11/3/25).
- Received an update and presentation led by Roshaun Davis, Executive Director of CLTRE, administrator of the EveryDay Creative program, which launched a second eight-month immersive program for Sacramento creative entrepreneurs developed in partnership with OAC, offering mentorship, tailored training, networking opportunities, a storefront residency, and access to financial support through grants or business investments (12/8/25).
- Received a presentation John Hamilton, Executive Director of Department of Sound, nonprofit partner with OAC in launching the 2025 Sound Business Summit music business and revenue generation workshop series for musicians, producers, and music managers (12/8/25).

Art in Public Places Review

- Received a presentation from OAC Art and Public Places (APP) Manager Donald Gensler, reviewing APP ordinance and policy, SB 456 overview, the City's historic public art collection, and recent and upcoming public art projects (4/14/25).
- Received a presentation and update on the development and release of GIS mapping tool, which allows users to search artwork, artists, and locations where city owned public art is installed (6/14/25).
- Received a presentation and recommended CCS approval of a proposed design and execute license agreement as part of Phase 2 for the Temporary Public Art Application (TPAA) pilot program for a temporary mural to be located at the Water Reservoir located next to the UC Davis Medical Center (11/3/25).
- Received a presentation and recommended CCS approval of a proposed design and execute license agreement as part of Phase 2 for the Temporary Public Art Application (TPAA) pilot program for a temporary mural to be located at Southside Park (11/3/25).

Special Projects and Initiatives

- Received a presentation from Visit Sacramento staff regarding the 2025 Cultural Tourism Symposium presented in partnership with OAC and the U.S. Cultural & Heritage Marketing Council, and opportunity to network and hear from organizations and people who are interested in or are deeply involved in the arts, culture, and tourism sectors (8/11/25).

Policy Review and Recommendations

- Reviewed and recommended approval of the 2024 ACCEC Annual Report and 2025 Workplan for forwarding to the Personal & Public Employees (P&PE) Committee for consideration and approval (2/10/25).
- Reviewed and discussed 2026 ACCEC Workplan Draft—including goals, objectives, actions, and outcomes—for future incorporation into the 2025 Annual Report (12/8/25).

Additional Special Presentations

- Received a presentation from staff with CA for the Arts, which promotes the annual recognition of April as Arts, Culture, & Creativity Month (ACCM) , a month of free events, resources, and advocacy opportunities across the state with the goal of engaging arts advocates and raising awareness of the impact of the arts within communities, including the production of the Arts and Culture Summit, which through OAC support, offered scholarships for Sacramento artists and cultural workers to attend (3/10/25).
- Discussed and prioritized the identified Goals and Objectives of the 2025 Workplan as contained within the 2024 ACCEC Annual Report (3/10/25).
- Received a special presentation and poetry performance from Andru Defeye, Sacramento Poet Laureate 2020-2024 (4/14/25).
- Received from the Office of the City Clerk an orientation for new commissioners, including a handbook, guide to meeting facilitation, and training resources (4/14/25)
- Reviewed and recommended City Council approve a proclamation acknowledging April 2025 as Arts, Culture, & Creativity Month (4/14/25).
- Received a presentation from organizers and performers of ALL IN: The Festival of Accessible, Theater Forum on Accessible Theatre, including information on professional development opportunities for attendees, supported in part by OAC (6/14/25).
- Received an update from Convention and Cultural Services Assistant Director Dustin Hollingsworth on the work of the Entertainment Services Division which serves the purpose of providing a single point of entry for entertainment permits, special event permits, and film permits, and to create a division dedicated to supporting entertainment throughout the City (8/11/25).

Commission Resources Expended

The estimated cost to support the Arts, Culture, and Creative Economy Commission in 2024 was \$33,989.

The estimated cost to support the Arts, Culture, and Creative Economy Commission in 2025 was \$24,512.

In 2024 the Arts, Culture, and Creative Economy Commission held ten (10) meetings, and in 2025 held ten (8) meetings. Below is a breakdown of expenditures made to support the commission during this review period.

The estimated cost per meeting is as follows:

	Meetings	Hours	Rate	Total
Staff report creation and review – department staff	8	3	varies	\$1,680
Staff report review – city attorney staff	8	3	\$216	\$5,184
Agenda review, preparation, and publishing – city clerk	8	10	\$35	\$2,800
Meeting presentation preparation	8	1	varies	\$560
Meeting attendance – department staff	8	2	\$70	\$1,120
Meeting attendance – city attorney staff	8	2	\$216	\$3,456
Meeting attendance – city clerk staff	8	4	\$58	\$1,856
Meeting attendance – IT staff	8	4	\$53	\$1,696
Meeting attendance – building security	8	4	\$33	\$1,056
Post meeting tasks: minutes, legislative document processing, attendance tracking	8	5	\$35	\$1,400
Commissioner stipend processing (quarterly)	n/a	12/year	\$42	\$504
Commissioner stipends (11 commissioners at \$50 per attended meeting)	varies	varies	\$50	\$3,200
TOTAL MEETINGS COST				\$24,512

Total Meetings Cost Notes:

Meetings are typically two (2) hours in duration; in 2025, this totaled approximately 16 hours of meeting time.

Commissioners receive a stipend of \$50 per attended meeting. Based on attendance in 2025, this totaled \$3,200, reflected above.

Workplan for Upcoming Year

The City of Sacramento's Arts, Culture, and Creative Economy Commission identifies the following five (5) Goals for calendar year 2026:

- **Goal 1:** Achieve greater clarity around ACCEC's purpose and role within the City of Sacramento government.
- **Goal 2:** Enhance community awareness and understanding of ACCEC as a supportive, accessible resource dedicated to arts and culture.
- **Goal 3:** Advocate for City of Sacramento policies and initiatives that value, support, and build the arts and cultural community and ecosystem.
- **Goal 4:** Collaborate with the Office of Arts and Culture to address a variety of infrastructure needs required to sustain a thriving and sustainable arts ecosystem.
- **Goal 5:** Work with the Office of Arts and Culture to review the impact of the Creative Edge Plan and develop plans for next-stage planning.

Recognizing the extensive and ongoing nature of this work, the Commission encourages consideration of the Workplan as an iterative roadmap for the next two years; through calendar year 2027. Each Goal, with accompanying Objectives, Outcomes, and Suggested Actions appear below:

Goal 1: Achieve greater clarity around ACCEC's purpose and role within the City of Sacramento government.

1. Objectives:

- 1.1. Understand** the Purpose of the Advisory Body: "The purpose of the commission is to provide advice and recommendations for promoting, encouraging, and fostering the arts, innovation, and tourism in the city..."
- 1.2. Clarify** commissioner roles, responsibilities, and the desired impact of the commission.
- 1.3. Revisit** the commission's adopted race and cultural equity statement.
- 1.4. Learn** about city structure and processes, including governance, budgeting, and decision-making.
- 1.5. Build** collaborative relationships with the Mayor's office, Commissioner District council members, other City of Sacramento departments and commissions to understand how its role intersects with other departments and commissions.
- 1.6. Improve** internal ways of working among Commissioners and between the Office of Arts and Culture (OAC).
- 1.7. Encourage** interdepartmental support and alignment of arts and creative economy initiatives with broader city goals.

2. Action Steps:

- 2.1.** Receive annual Commission Orientation from City Clerk's Office –Timeline: Feb or Mar.
- 2.2.** Discuss ACCEC Racial and Cultural Equity Statement – Timeline: Mar.

- 2.3. Receive presentation and provide comment regarding OAC Workplan – Timeline: Mar, Aug.
- 2.4. Receive presentation and provide comment regarding OAC Grants and Programs (G&P) Program Update – Timeline: Apr, Sep.
- 2.5. Receive presentation and provide comment regarding OAC Art in Public Places (APP) Program Update – Timeline: May, Oct.
- 2.6. Commission to finalize and approve Annual Report and Workplan for current year
Timeline: Jan.
- 2.7. Commission to prepare and present Midyear Workplan Update – Timeline: Aug.
- 2.8. Commission to discuss and develop Annual Report and Workplan for upcoming year – Timeline: Oct-Dec.

3. Outcomes:

- 3.1. An **internally focused** outcome where Commissioners better understand their roles and responsibilities, thereby increasing ACCEC efficiency and effectiveness, ability to foster greater levels of collaboration, and capacity to support arts, culture, and the creative economy.

Goal 2: Enhance community awareness and understanding of ACCEC as a supportive, accessible resource dedicated to arts and culture.

1. Objectives:

- 1.1. **Increase** community engagement by pursuing opportunities for learning and listening that support the public in connecting with the commission's purpose and initiatives.
- 1.2. **Amplify** the roles and responsibilities of ACCEC commissioners, establishing them as visible, supportive advocates within the arts and culture community.
- 1.3. **Build** relationships with community partners, such as arts and culture organizations, small businesses, young people, and artists, as well as the general public, in order to advance ACCEC's goals and enhance its presence in the creative landscape.
- 1.4. **Encourage** the Convention and Cultural Services Department to ensure that its Race Equity and Culture Statement and values are upheld in programs, operations, and in all areas.

2. Action Steps:

- 2.1. Commissioners to annually attend at least three (3) events or activities within or relating to the Sacramento arts and culture community, reporting back learnings, experience, and findings during one or more ACCEC meetings – Timeline: Ongoing.
- 2.2. Commissioners to attend one or more OAC community engagement activities – Timeline: To be determined.
- 2.3. Commissioners to engage in increased social media activity, including providing announcement of Commissioner status, highlighting support and attendance at arts and cultural activities within Sacramento, as well as amplifying social media posts from OAC – Timeline: Ongoing.

3. Outcomes:

- 3.1. An **externally focused** outcome where community members experience an increased awareness and understanding of ACCEC's role and relationship to supporting arts, culture, and the creative economy, thereby supporting increased interaction and engagement with the Commission.

Goal 3: Advocate for City of Sacramento policies and initiatives that value, support, and build the arts and cultural community and ecosystem.

1. Objectives:

- 1.1. **Advocate** for increased visibility and growth of the arts and cultural sector by encouraging targeted communications highlighting the creative economy's value.
- 1.2. **Recommend** policies that ensure fair treatment, adequate compensation, and the sustainability of creative work across Sacramento's arts community.
- 1.3. **Foster** collaboration and generate new opportunities for creative professionals, create and strengthen partnerships between arts organizations, government agencies, and community stakeholders.
- 1.4. **Collaborate** with the Office of Arts and Culture to provide regular status updates on the progress of the Creative Edge Plan, its implementation of the Race Equity and Culture Statement and ensure its alignment with ACCEC's advocacy efforts.

2. Action Steps:

- 2.1. Commission to consider participation in California Arts Council's Sacramento Creative Economy Townhall activities – Timeline: Jan-Feb.
- 2.2. Commission to consider participation in annual Arts, Culture, and Creativity Month activities, including CA Arts & Culture Summit – Timeline: Feb-Apr.
- 2.3. Commission to consider participation in Cultural Tourism Symposium activities – Timeline: Jun-Aug.
- 2.4. Commission to consider participation in annual National Arts and Humanities Month activities – Timeline: Aug-Oct.
- 2.5. Receive presentations and provide comments regarding City policies and procedures relating to arts, culture, and the creative economy – Timeline: As available.

3. Outcomes:

- 3.1. ACCEC is seen as a valued resource, playing an increased role in enhancing cultural competence, fostering community engagement, and recognizing the economic and cultural contributions of the creative sector.

Goal 4: Collaborate with the Office of Arts and Culture to address a variety of infrastructure needs required to sustain a thriving and sustainable arts ecosystem.

1. Objectives:

- 1.1. **Develop** a broader understanding of arts and cultural community needs around safe, affordable, and sustainable spaces (including, but not limited to: brick-and-mortar arts and cultural facilities, workspaces for artists and creatives, and digital/virtual spaces).

- 1.2. **Engage** with regional experts in inclusive economic development, small business development, collective ownership, and community wealth-building to share valuable insights and strategies with community.
- 1.3. **Identify** city departments and community-based organizations in Sacramento working toward similar goals to find alignment and potential partnerships.

2. Action Steps:

- 2.1. Receive two to four to (2-4) presentations and provide comments regarding policies and practices relating to arts, culture, and creative economy infrastructure support, including, but not limited to: space/facility challenges, inclusive economic development, the development of cultural districts, individual artist support (including discipline-specific needs), nonprofit arts financing and capacity-building, and the intersection of arts, health and well-being – Timeline: To be determined.
- 2.2. Work with OAC to coordinate one to two (1-2) exploratory visits to a local artist or arts collective studio, visual arts exhibition or performing arts space, or other cultural arts venue – Timeline: Spring/Fall.
- 2.3. Consider scheduling one to two (1-2) presentations reflecting new models employed by external municipal and regional arts agencies which address and provide solutions to arts infrastructure needs.

3. Outcomes:

- 3.1. ACCEC serves as a convener of thought-leadership and a facilitator in identifying trends and opportunities to strengthen and advance Sacramento's arts ecosystem.

Goal 5: Work with the Office of Arts and Culture to review the impact of the Creative Edge Plan and develop plans for next-stage planning.

1. Objectives:

- 1.1. **Examine** the state of the nonprofit arts and culture ecosystem.
- 1.2. **Partner** with the Office of Arts and Culture to provide an updated assessment of progress towards achieving Creative Edge Plan goals.
- 1.3. **Explore** with the Office of Arts and Culture the feasibility for a new cultural planning process and/or opportunities to revisit, reaffirm, and/or update Creative Edge Plan goals and priorities.
- 1.4. **Support** the integration of community and artists' voice in cultural planning efforts, processes, or related assessment of the nonprofit arts and culture ecosystem.
- 1.5. **Identify** synergistic opportunities for collaboration or funding that may exist in aligned areas, such as education, healthcare, parks and recreation, youth engagement, or workforce development.

2. Action Steps:

- 2.1. Commission to consider the formation of a working group or formal ad hoc committee to work with OAC in revisiting, reaffirming, and/or updating Creative Edge Plan goals and priorities – Timeline: To be determined.

3. Outcomes:

- 3.1. ACCEC is guided by a clear strategic direction, informed by and responsive to a diversity of community voices and needs, thereby ensuring the sustainability, vitality, and protection of the local arts and culture ecosystem as a valued community and civic asset.

Resources Required for 2026 Workplan Goals, Objectives, and Outcomes

The Arts, Culture, and Creative Economy Commission is likely to continue meeting roughly the same number of times in 2026 as it did in 2025, so demands on Office of Arts and Culture staff and meeting support staff will be roughly the same in the upcoming year. Community engagement activities by individual Commissioners may increase, resulting in additional convenings in community and/or virtual settings.

Estimated 2026 Costs:

Commission and combined staff costs for meetings to be held in 2026: \$33,115