



Arts and Cultural Board Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, March 18, 2026 6:00 PM
Kyle City Hall, Minerva Falcon Community Room,
100 W. Center Street, Kyle, TX 78640

I. Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call

II. Approval of Minutes

1. Consider approval of the Arts and Cultural Board January 28, 2026 meeting minutes.
(Item Presenter: Tamara Aquino, Business & Strategic Planning Manager, Parks & Recreation)
[Exhibit 1 - Minutes](#)

III. Citizen Comment Period with Arts and Cultural Board

The Arts and Cultural Board welcomes comments from Citizens. Those wishing to speak are encouraged to sign in before the meeting begins. Speakers may be provided with an opportunity to speak during this time period on any agenda item or any other matter concerning Arts and Cultural Board business, and they must observe the three-minute time limit.

IV. Staff Reports and Presentations

2. Receive a report, hold a discussion, and provide staff feedback regarding general updates on department announcements, public art and cultural related items, procedures, maintenance, and projects, such as the roundabout art, traffic box art program, tiny art gallery, sky blooms art sculpture, artists meet and greet, and the public art master plan.
(Item Presenter: Will Atkinson, Parks Planning & Project Manager)
[Exhibit 1 - Staff Memo](#)
[Exhibit 2 - Presentation](#)
3. Receive a report, hold a discussion, and provide staff direction on the beautification efforts for the Kohlers Crossing Overpass project, including selection of preferred visual enhancement concepts for the retaining walls for Council consideration.
(Item Presenter: Lu Zhang, Assistant Director of CIP and Planning)
[Exhibit 1 - Staff Memo](#)
[Exhibit 2 - Presentation](#)

V. Adjourn

One or more members of the board may participate in the meeting by videoconference pursuant to Section 551.127, Texas Government Code, provided that a quorum of the board will be present at Kyle City Hall.

NOTE: There may be a quorum of the City Council of Kyle, Texas present at the meeting who may participate in the discussion. No official action will be taken by the City Council members in attendance.

Posted this 12th day of March, 2026, prior to 5:00 p.m.

ARTS AND CULTURAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The Arts and Cultural Board met in a regular scheduled meeting on January 28, 2026 at Kyle City Hall with the following present:

Board Chair Melissa Spence
Board Vice Chair Fabiana Melendez Ruiz
Board Member Rose Burke
Board Member Andrea MacRae
Rachel Acevedo, City Employee non-voting liaison
Chris Escoto, City Employee non-voting liaison
Tamara Aquino, City Employee non-voting liaison
Todd Bressi, Consultant, virtual

I. Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call

Board Chair Spence called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M. Board Chair Spence, Vice Chair Melendez Ruiz, and Board Member MacRae were present. A quorum was present. Board Member Gomez was absent due to illness. Board Member Burke arrived at 6:08 p.m. during Item No. 2.

Board Vice Chair Melendez Ruiz made a motion to excuse Board Member Gomez's absence. Board Member MacRae seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

II. Approval of Minutes

1. Consider approval of the Arts and Cultural Meeting December 17, 2025 meeting minutes.

(Item Presenter: Tamara Aquino, Business & Strategic Planning Manager, Parks & Recreation)

Board Vice Chair Melendez Ruiz made a motion to approve the minutes from December 17, 2025. Board Member MacRae seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

III. Citizen Comment Period with Arts and Cultural Board

Board Chair Spence opened citizen comments at 6:04 P.M. With no one wishing to speak, Board Chair Spence closed citizen comments at 6:04 P.M.

IV. Staff Reports and Presentations

2. Receive a report, hold a discussion, and provide staff feedback regarding general updates on department announcements, public art and cultural related items, procedures, maintenance, and projects, such as the roundabout art, traffic box art program, tiny art gallery, sky blooms art sculpture, and the public art master plan.

(Item Presenter: Chris Escoto, Deputy Director of Parks & Recreation)

Deputy Director Chris Escoto presented the report. Board Vice Chair Melendez Ruiz recommended the addition of a project manager to assist with project management services. No action taken.

V. Consider and Possible Action

3. Consider approval of a recommendation to City Council regarding the Arts Master Plan.

(Item Presenter: Chris Escoto, Deputy Director of Parks & Recreation)

Deputy Director Chris Escoto presented the report. Board Chair Spence made a motion to provide a recommendation to City Council for approval of the Kyle Public Art Master Plan. Board Member Burke seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

VI. Adjourn

With no other agenda items to discuss, Board Member MacRae made a motion to adjourn. Board Vice Chair Melendez Ruiz seconded the motion. Motion passed 4 - 0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 P.M.

Melissa Spence, Board Chair

Prepared by:
Ivy Peart



Arts and Cultural Board Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Parks and Recreation
FROM: Will Atkinson, Parks Planning & Project Manager
MEETING: March 18, 2026

SUBJECT:

Receive a report, hold a discussion, and provide staff feedback regarding general updates on department announcements, public art and cultural related items, procedures, maintenance, and projects, such as the roundabout art, traffic box art program, tiny art gallery, sky blooms art sculpture, artists meet and greet, and the public art master plan.

SUMMARY:

Staff will provide general updates and reports on the following as detailed below.

- Roundabout Art
- Traffic Box Art Program
- Tiny Art Gallery Boxes
- Sky Blooms Sculpture
- Artists Meet and Greet
- Public Art Master Plan

OPTIONS:

Provide staff feedback.

RECOMMENDATION:

N/A

PRIOR ACTION/INPUT (Council, Boards, Citizens):

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT:

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|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. City Department: | Parks and Recreation Administration |
| 2. Project Name: | General Updates |
| 3. Budget/Accounting Code(s): | |
| 4. Funding Type: | |
| 5. Funding Source: | |
| 6. Current Appropriation: | |
| 7. Unencumbered Available Balance: | \$ - |
| 8. Amount of This Action: | \$ - |
| 9. Unencumbered Balance Remaining: | \$ - |
-
- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 10. Special Note/Comment: | This item is to receive a report, hold a discussion, and provide staff feedback regarding general updates on department announcements, public art and cultural related items, procedures, maintenance, and projects, such as the roundabout art, traffic box art program, tiny art gallery, sky blooms art sculpture, and the public art master plan. There is no fiscal impact at this time. |
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- | | |
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| 11. Prepared & Verified By: | Angel Avila, Budget Analyst 3-3-26 |
| 12. Reviewed & Approved By: | Dillon Saunderson, Budget Manager 3-3-26 |

STAFF CONTACT:

Name: Will Atkinson
 Title: Park Planning & Project Manager
 Email: watkinson@cityofkyle.com
 Phone: 512-985-8877



Monthly Report

Arts and Cultural Board - March Report



Overview

- Roundabout Art
- Traffic Box Art Program
- Tiny Art Gallery Boxes
- Sky Blooms Sculpture
- Artists Meet and Greet
- Public Art Master Plan
- Questions and Feedback

Roundabout Art

Status: **Paused**

- Item paused to allow City Council to evaluate various projects.
- Received a proposal for project management services to assist with procurement and contract management. Council contract consideration to follow.

Art Roundabout Locations

- Roundabout #3
 - Veterans/ US History theme to tie with red, white and blue proposed signage and Hero Memorial Park
- Roundabout #4
 - Per comment in Council Meeting on May 6, 2025, art to have a theme of Celebrate Local History to mark the farming / ranching nature/character of this area of Kyle
- Roundabout #9
 - Embrace Community Growth theme
- Roundabout #12
 - Flora / Fauna theme
- Roundabout #18
 - Flora / Fauna theme





Traffic Box Art Program

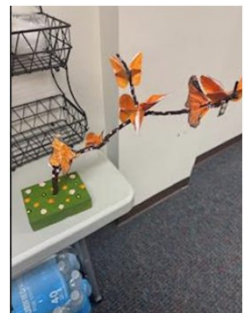
- Status: **Paused**
- Project on pause to wait for the adoption of the Arts Master Plan

Tiny Art Gallery Box



Status: In Progress

- Made contact with Hays CISD Director of Fine Arts to provide the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place sculptures from the Hays CISD District art show.
- Working with Hays CISD to complete paperwork
 - Still underway
- Staff has made contact with Library, KPD and Facilities to receive permission to display artwork
 - Library = Yes
 - City Hall = Yes
 - KPD (Public Safety Center) = Yes with conditions
- Expected to showcase Spring 2026





Sky Blooms Sculpture Update

Status: Complete

- Ribbon cutting on February 14.
- Approximately 80 attendees present.
- Vendors in attendance provided free flower bouquets and a paint and sip demo.





Artists Meet and Greet

- Saturday, April 11, 2026
- 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
- First Kyle Market Day
- Guest Artist (to be determined)
- Share the proposed Public Art Masterplan
- Coffee provided



Public Art Masterplan

Status: **In Progress**

History:

- In progress for final adoption
 - Parks and Recreation Final Recommendation, January 26
 - Arts and Cultural Board Final Recommendation, January 28
 - Final presentation and Resolution approval to City Council, April 21

Questions/Feedback





Arts and Cultural Board Regular Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Transportation & Public Works

FROM: Lu Zhang, Assistant Director of CIP and Planning

MEETING: March 18, 2026

SUBJECT:

Receive a report, hold a discussion, and provide staff direction on the beautification efforts for the Kohlers Crossing Overpass project, including selection of preferred visual enhancement concepts for the overpass retaining walls.

SUMMARY:

The City of Kyle's railway siding currently extends from Roland Lane to Center Street and causes significant traffic delays in the downtown area. This traffic concern identified the need for relocation of the railway siding.

The proposed new location for the City's railway siding will extend from north of Burleson Street to north of Kohlers Crossing. The railway siding will now block Kohlers Crossing in lieu of Center Street. This railway siding relocation plan, which was developed by Union Pacific following the new railway siding standards, determined that a longer railway siding track was required.

An overpass structure is necessary over Kohlers Crossing to eliminate the traffic delays expected due to the relocation of the railway siding and the corresponding train blockage at this location.

The City of Kyle entered an Interlocal Agreement with Hays County to plan the development of the Kohlers Crossing Overpass project. Hays County then contracted HDR, Inc. for the preliminary engineering and environmental assessments required for the project. On January 24, 2025, Hays County entered an agreement with TxDOT to complete the design of the overpass project, and TxDOT resumed the project in March 2025. The 30% design plans were submitted on July 31, 2025 while the final design plans are expected to be completed by August 2026.

The Kohlers Crossing Overpass project resulted in a partnership between the City of Kyle, Urban Pacific, Hays County, and TxDOT. This partnership can be summarized as follows:

- Union Pacific's scope of work includes ownership of the railroad track, reviewing plans, and overseeing construction.
- Hays County's scope of work includes coordinating the preliminary engineering and environmental assessments as well as providing general project management.
- TxDOT's scope of work includes developing the plans, specifications, and estimates.
- City of Kyle's scope of work includes right-of-way acquisition, utility relocation, and construction costs.

During the preliminary engineering phase, City Council requested that aesthetic improvements on the retaining walls of the overpass structure be considered. This request focused on an effort to provide visual enhancements for the pedestrians who will frequent the area. HRD, Inc. was tasked to include the overpass aesthetics in the final design. Three (3) mural visuals options have been developed by HDR, Inc. for the City of Kyle's consideration and final selection.

The implementation of the proposed aesthetic components causes no significant cost impact to the Kohlers Crossing Overpass project. The mural additions make minimal difference to the cost associated with the overall construction of the retaining walls.

The Art and Culture Board is asked to select one (1) or two (2) mural visuals options to be implemented on the overpass retaining walls. The final decision on these mural visuals must be completed as soon as possible to maintain the final design plans target completion date of August 2026.

OPTIONS:

The following design options have been proposed by HRD, Inc. for City of Kyle's review, discussion, and final selection.

1. Flora Design
2. Live Oak Tree Design
3. Vin Fiz Landing

PRIOR ACTION/INPUT (Council, Boards, Citizens):

- On November 15, 2016, City Council approved an agreement with Union Pacific for the preliminary engineering phase for the railway siding relocation project.
- On December 5, 2017, City Council approved a request to include the railway siding relocation project in the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) 2019-2022 Call for Projects.
- On June 5, 2018, CAMPO awarded the City of Kyle a \$15 million grant for the railway siding relocation project.
- On December 2, 2025, City Council selected the standard railway siding design by TxDOT to be implemented and requested visual enhancements be considered for the retaining walls of the overpass structure.

FISCAL IMPACT:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. City Department: | Transportation and Public Works |
| 2. Project Name: | Kohlers Crossing Overpass |
| 3. Budget/Accounting Code(s): | |
| 4. Funding Type: | |
| 5. Funding Source: | |
| 6. Current Appropriation: | |
| 7. Unencumbered Available Balance: | \$ - |
| 8. Amount of This Action: | \$ - |
| 9. Unencumbered Balance Remaining: | <hr/> \$ - <hr/> |
| 10. Special Note/Comment: | This item is to receive a report, hold a discussion, and provide staff feedback on the beautification efforts for the Kohlers Crossing Overpass project by selecting the visual enhancement concepts to be included on the retaining walls of the structure. There is no fiscal impact at this time. |
| 11. Prepared & Verified By: | Angel Avila, Budget Analyst 3-3-26 |
| 12. Reviewed & Approved By: | Dillon Saunderson, Budget Manager 3-3-26 |

STAFF CONTACT:

Name: Lu Zhang
Title: Assistant Director, CIP and Planning
Email: lzhang@cityofkyle.com
Phone: 512-906-7101

Kohlers Crossing Grade Separation

Visual Enhancements on Retaining Walls
Transportation & Public Works



Background

- The City's railway siding currently extends from Roland Ln to Center St and causes significant traffic delays in the downtown area. This traffic concern identified the need for relocation of the rail siding.
- The proposed new location for the rail siding will extend from north of Burleson St to the north of Kohlers Crossing.
 - Rail siding will block Kohlers Crossing instead of Center St
- The siding relocation plan, developed by Union Pacific following the new siding standards, determined that a longer siding track is needed.
- An overpass is necessary to eliminate the traffic delays on Kohlers Crossing due to the rail siding relocation and corresponding train blockage.





Background



- On 11/1/2022, the City entered an Interlocal Agreement with Hays County for the plan development of the Kohlers Crossing Overpass project.
- Hays County was determined to be responsible of contracting with HDR, Inc. for the preliminary engineering and environmental assessments required for the project.
- On 1/24/2025, Hays County entered an agreement with TxDOT to complete the design of the overpass project.
- TxDOT resumed the project in March 2025.
- 30% design plans were submitted on 7/31/2025.
- Final design plans are expected to be completed by August 2026.

Partnership



- Union Pacific: owner of the railroad track, review plans, and oversight of construction
- Hays County: PER & environmental assessments; project management
- TxDOT: PS&E plan development
- City of Kyle: ROW acquisition, utility relocation, and construction costs.

Previous Council Action



- 11/15/2016: City Council approved an agreement with Union Pacific for the preliminary engineering phase for siding relocation.
- 12/5/2017: City Council approved a request to include the rail siding in the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) 2019-2022 Call for Projects.
- 6/5/2018: CAMPO awarded the City of Kyle \$15M for the siding relocation project.
- 12/2/2025: City Council selected the standard pedestrian railing aesthetics designed by TxDOT to be implemented on the overpass structure.

Project Beautification



- On December 2, 2025, City Council also gave direction to seek aesthetic visual enhancement options for the overpass retaining walls.
- HDR, Inc. was tasked to include the overpass wall aesthetics in the final design.
- Three design options are available and included in this presentation for review.

Proposed Railroad Overpass Beautification Points



Action Needed



- Art and Culture Board to select one (1) or two (2) mural visuals, from the concepts included in this presentation, to be implemented on the overpass retaining walls of the Kohlers Crossing overpass.

Option 1: Flora Design

- Kyle, Texas is located on the historically rich Blackland Prairie and Hill Country intersection
- The area once featured immense meadows of wildflowers and grasses
- Diverse vegetation includes native plants such as, Agarita, Texas Bluebonnet, Milkweed, Indian Blanket, and Pecan Trees
- Preservation efforts for native habitats are an ongoing priority for the City of Kyle



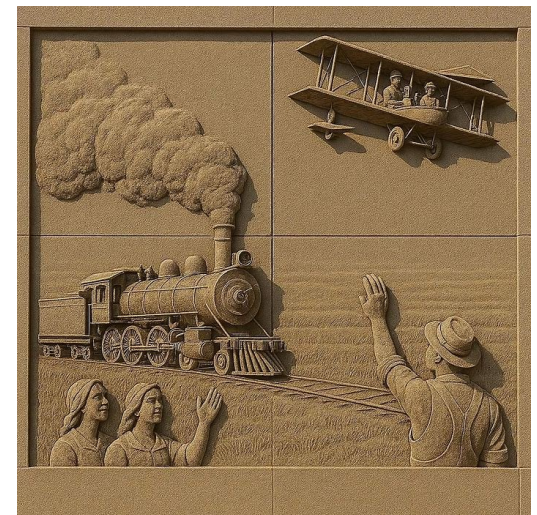
Option 2: Oak Tree Design

- In the 19th century, the International-Great Northern Railroad needed a station between Austin and San Marcos.
- Jay Gould, owner of the railroad, made a deal with property owners David Moore and Fergus Kyle in which 200 acres of land were auctioned off in the year 1880 under the Kyle Auction Oak tree.
- The giant live oak tree, which is still located on Sledge Street, was site of a public auction of town land from Kyle and Moore to Gould and his railroad.
- In 1881, the railroad donated 4 acres of land around the Kyle Auction Oak tree for a school: Kyle Seminary



Option 3: Vin Fiz Flyer Landing

- In 1911, Kyle Rogers set out to fly his airplane Vin Fiz Flyer in hopes to become the first aviator to complete a transcontinental flight in under 30 days. He decided to follow the railroad, which meant he would fly directly over Kyle, Texas.
- On October 29, 1911, at the North end of town, Mrs. Bunton caught the first glance of the Vin Fiz Flyer.
- At a height of 350 feet and speed of 60 miles per hour, one of the intake valves of the airplane blew out, completely breaking the engine.
- Rogers, in the uncontrollable airplane, noticed the perfect emergency landing pad - the fields of Kyle, TX, which is where Austin Community College Hays Campus is located today off Kohlers Crossing.
- On October 21, 1911, Rogers ascended once again, flying circles around Kyle for 20 minutes before continuing his journey. Kyle Rogers was the first aviator to complete a coast-to-coast airplane journey.
- The original Vin Fiz Flyer hangs at the Smithsonian Museum today.



Cost Impact



- No significant cost increase is anticipated.
- Mural additions make minimal cost difference to the costs of building the retaining walls.



Thank you!

Questions?