LIVERMORE
CALIFORNIA

COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS

AGENDA
TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2026

COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS REGULAR MEETING – 4:30 PM

MEETING PARTICIPATION INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT THE END OF THE AGENDA

CIVIC CENTER MEETING HALL
WILLIAM M. MENDENHALL COMMUNITY ROOM
1016 S. LIVERMORE AVENUE

Laurence E Milder, Chair
Natalia T Custodio, Vice Chair
Tauheeda Babar, Commissioner
Cathleen deOrnelas, Commissioner
Thomasin J Dewhurst, Commissioner
Robert Gausman, Commissioner
Rajagopal R Kowligi, Commissioner
Monya Lane, Commissioner
Tracy Sahn, Commissioner

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

Commissioner Tauheeda Babar
Commissioner Cathleen deOrnelas
Commissioner Thomasin J Dewhurst
Commissioner Robert Gausman
Commissioner Rajagopal R Kowligi
Commissioner Monya Lane
Commissioner Tracy Sahn
Vice Chair Natalia Custudio
Chair Laurence E Milder

3. OPEN FORUM

- In conformance with the Brown Act, no Commission for the Arts action can occur on items presented during Open Forum.
- To provide public comment, please submit a speaker card. When your name is called, walk to the lectern to address the Commission.
- Comments are limited to a maximum of 3 minutes per person, per item. The Chair may reduce the amount of time based on the number of persons wishing to speak.
- Open Forum will conclude after 30 minutes; however, if there are additional speakers, Open Forum will reconvene after Matters for Consideration.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

Consent Calendar items are considered routine and are acted upon by the Commission with a single action. Members of the audience wishing to provide public input must submit a speaker card.

4.1 Approval of Draft Minutes - December 16, 2025, Commission for the Arts Special Meeting

Recommendation:
Staff recommends the Commission for the Arts approve the draft minutes.

Attachments:
1. DRAFT Commission for the Arts - December 16, 2025 - Special Meeting Minutes

5. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

5.1 Review of Draft 2026 Commission for the Arts Workplan.

Recommendation:
Staff recommends the Commission for the Arts approve the draft 2026 workplan.

Staff Report
Attachments:
1. Draft 2026 Commission for the Arts Workplan

5.2 Update on outreach for the 2026 High School Junior and Senior Arts Awards.

Recommendation:
Staff recommends the Commission for the Arts receive an update on outreach activities for the 2026 High School Junior and Senior Arts Awards.

Staff Report
Attachments:
1. 2026 High School Junior & Senior Arts Awards Application
2. 2026 High School Junior & Senior Arts Awards Flyer

5.3 Election of 2026 Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

Recommendation:
Staff recommends the Commission for the Arts nominate and vote to select candidates for the positions of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Commission for the Arts.

Staff Report

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND MATTERS INITIATED BY STAFF AND COMMISSIONERS

7. ADJOURNMENT

To a regular Commission for the Arts meeting on Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 4:30 pm, Civic Center Meeting Hall, William M. Mendenhall Community Room, 1016 S. Livermore Avenue.

8. HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMISSION MEETING

You can participate in the meeting in a number of ways:

Open Forum is an opportunity for the public to speak regarding items not listed on the agenda. Speakers are limited to a maximum of 3 minutes per person. To address the Commission, you must submit a speaker card to the liaison prior to the start of that item. You should be aware that the Commission is prohibited by State law from taking action on any items that are not listed on the agenda. However, if your item requires action, the Commission may place it on a future agenda or direct staff to work with you and/or report to the Commission on the issue.

Other Agenda Items are also open for public input including Consent Calendar or Matters for Consideration items. These comments are also subject to the 3-minute limit.

Submission of Comments Prior to the Meeting:

Email Comments may be submitted by the public to the Commission for the Arts Liaison (arts@LivermoreCA.gov). Items received no later than 12:00 pm on the day of the meeting will be provided to the Commission and available on the City website prior to the meeting. These items will NOT be read into the record.

eComments may be submitted by the public using the eComment link here. Comments may

be up to 1000 characters in length and will be accepted up until 3:30 pm the day of the meeting. These items will NOT be read into the record and are viewable by the Commission and the public upon submittal.

Submission of Comments During the Meeting:

Speakers are limited to a maximum of 3 minutes per person. To submit a comment, you must complete a speaker card for each item. Speaker cards are available in the Civic Center Meeting Hall lobby. Indicate on the card the item number you wish to comment on and submit the card directly to the liaison prior to the start of the item. You should be aware that the Commission is prohibited by State law from taking action on any items that are not listed on the agenda. However, if your item requires action, the Commission may place it on a future agenda or direct staff to work with you and/or report to the Commission on the issue.

If you would like to deliver written materials to the Commission for the Arts as part of your public comments, please provide 12 copies to the liaison with your speaker card.

The Commission Agenda and Agenda Reports are prepared by City staff and are available for public review on Thursday evening, prior to the Commission for the Arts meeting at 10162 South Livermore Avenue, Livermore. The Agenda is also available on the City's website, http://livermoreca.gov/agenda.

Under Government Code §54957.5, any supplemental material distributed to the members of the Commission for the Arts after the posting of this agenda will be available for public review at City Hall, 1052 South Livermore Avenue, Livermore, and included in the agenda packet available on the City's web site at http://livermoreca.gov/agenda.

PURSUANT TO TITLE II OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (CODIFIED AT 42 UNITED STATES CODE SECTION 12101 AND 28 CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS PART 35), AND SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973, THE CITY OF LIVERMORE DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, NATIONAL ORIGIN, ANCESTRY, SEX, DISABILITY, AGE OR SEXUAL ORIENTATION IN THE PROVISION OF ANY SERVICES, PROGRAMS, OR ACTIVITIES. TO ARRANGE AN ACCOMMODATION IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATEIN THIS PUBLIC MEETING, PLEASE CONTACT THE ADA COORDINATOR AT ADACOORDINATOR@LIVERMORECA.GOV OR CALL (925) 960-4170 (VOICE) OR (925) 960-4104 (TDD) AT LEAST THREE (3) BUSINESS DAYS IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING

LIVERMORE
CALIFORNIA

COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS
MINUTES
DECEMBER 16, 2025

SPECIAL MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER - The meeting of the Commission for the Arts was called to order by Chair Laurence E. Milder at 4:30 p.m., held in person at 1016 S. Livermore Avenue.

2. ROLL CALL - Present: Chair Laurence E Milder, Commissioner Cathleen deOrnelas**,** Commissioner Tauheeda Babar, Commissioner Thomasin Dewhurst, Commissioner Robert Gausman, Commissioner Monya Lane, Commissioner Tracy Sahn**.**

Absent: Vice Chair Natalia Custodio
Commissioner Rajagopal Kowligi

STAFF PRESENT – Management Analyst II Allen McFarland, Management Analyst I Leng Kutil.

3. OPEN FORUM

Chair Milder opened the public comment period.

There were no speakers, and the public comment period was closed.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

4.1 Approval of draft minutes – November 18, 2025, Commission for the Arts Special Meeting

Recommendation: Staff recommended the Commission for the Arts approve the draft minutes.

Chair Milder opened the public comment period.

There were no speakers, and the public comment period was closed.

Vice Chair Custodio arrived at 4:33 p.m. during the close of this item.

ON THE MOTION OF COMMISSIONER THOMASIN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GAUSMAN, AND CARRIED ON A 4-0 VOTE (WITH VICE CHAIR CUSTODIO NOT YET PRESENT AT THE MEETING AND COMMISSIONER BABAR, COMMISSIONER LANE AND COMMISSIONER DEORNELAS ABSENT AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING) THE COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS APPROVED THE MINUTES.

5. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

5.1 Appoint an ad hoc committee to review High School Junior and Senior Arts Awards applications.

Recommendation: Staff recommended the Commission for the Arts appoint an ad hoc committee to review High School Junior and Senior Arts Awards applications.

Management Analyst I Kutil gave the report.

Chair Milder opened the public comment period.

There were no speakers, and the public comment period was closed.

ON THE MOTION OF COMMISSIONER DEORNELAS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SAHN, AND CARRIED ON A 8-0 VOTE (WITH COMMISSIONER KOWLIGI ABSENT) THE COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS ESTABLISHED THE AD HOC COMMITTEE TO REVIEW HIGH SCHOOL JUNOR AND SENIOR AWARDS APPLICATIONS.

ON THE MOTION OF COMMISSIONER LANE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DEWHURST, AND CARRIED ON A 8-0 VOTE (WITH COMMISSIONER KOWLIGI ABSENT) THE COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS APPROVED COMMISSIONERS DEORNELAS, SAHN AND GAUSMAN TO SERVE ON THE HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR AND SENIOR ARTS AWARDS AD HOC COMMITTEE WITH COMMISSIONER DEORNELAS TO SERVE AS CHAIR.

5.2 Discussion and direction regarding the Mini Grant Application Review ad hoc committee's funding recommendations and approval of two Mini Grants in the amount of up to $1,000 each.

Recommendation: Staff recommended the Commission for the Arts the Commission for the Arts review and discuss the ad hoc committee's funding recommendations and approve two Mini Grants in the amount of up to $1,000 for the following applications: Sindhu Natarajan - "The Shared Scale" EP - $1,000 Sunflower Hill - Soil and Plant Science Mural - $1,000

Management Analyst I Kutil gave the report.

Chair Milder opened the public comment period.

There were no speakers, and the public comment period was closed.

THE COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS RECEIVED THE AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

ON THE MOTION OF COMMISSIONER DEWHURST, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LANE, AND CARRIED ON A 8-0 VOTE (WITH COMMISSIONER KOWLIGI ABSENT) THE COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS APPROVED THE AD HOC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO AWARD $1,000 TO SUNFLOWER HILL.

THE COMMISSION HAD A BRIEF DISCUSSION ON EVALUATION OF THE SHARED SCALE MUSIC PROJECT AND THE EXPECTATIONS OF COMMUNITY BENEFIT.

ON THE MOTION OF COMMISSIONER SAHN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GUASMAN, AND CARRIED ON A 8-0 VOTE (WITH COMMISSIONER KOWLIGI ABSENT) THE COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS APPROVED THE AD HOC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO AWARD $1,000 TO THE SHARED SCALE PROJECT.

5.3 Calendar of Recurring Commission for the Arts Tasks and Events for 2026

Recommendation: Staff recommended the Commission for the Arts receive the report.

Management Analyst I Kutil gave the report.

Chair Milder opened the public comment period.

There were no speakers, and the public comment period was closed.

THE COMMISSION RECEIVED THE REPORT ON THE ARTS TASKS AND EVENTS FOR 2026.

5.4 Report and discussion to determine whether the Commission for the Arts should recommend the City establish visual and performing arts laureates

Recommendation: Staff recommended the Commission for the Arts receive an oral report from Commissioner Dewhurst and determine whether they would like to recommend the creation of visual and performing arts laureates; if the Commission decides to move forward, an ad hoc committee may be established for further study and planning.

Management Analyst II McFarland gave the report.

Chair Milder opened the public comment period.

There were no speakers, and the public comment period was closed.

ON THE MOTION OF COMMISSIONER LANE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SAHN, AND CARRIED ON A 8-0 VOTE (WITH COMMISSIONER KOWLIGI ABSENT) THE COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS APPOINTED VICE CHAIR CUSTODIO, COMMISSIONER DEWHURST, AND COMMISSIONER GUASMAN TO SERVE ON THE AD HOC COMMITTEE TO EXPLORE VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS LAUREATE.

5.5 Discussion and feedback related to the 2026 Commission for the Arts annual update to the City Council

Recommendation: Staff recommended the Commission for the Arts determine what information they would like to present to the City Council for the Commission's Annual Update on April 13, 2026.

Management Analyst II McFarland gave the report.

Chair Milder opened the public comment period.

There were no speakers, and the public comment period was closed.

THE COMMISSION RECEIVED THE REPORT AND DISCUSSED THIS ITEM. STAFF WAS DIRECTED TO PREPARE A DRAFT PRESENTATION FOR COMMISSION REVIEW AT A FUTURE MEETING.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND MATTERS INITIATED BY STAFF AND COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Sahn reported that she met with Christine Waters of the Livermore Arts Association to open a line of communication and encourage information-sharing regarding upcoming programs and events so they can be shared with the Commission. Commissioner Sahn also noted an upcoming reading by author David Sedaris in Berkeley and encouraged attendance as a notable literary arts event in the region.

Commissioner Dewhurst reported that the airport mural project is now installed at the intersection of Discovery Drive and West Jack London Boulevard near the Livermore Municipal Airport. She also shared that JMC Cellars has expressed interest in organizing a recurring annual summer arts fair and requested information on available grant opportunities and the application process. Additionally, Commissioner Dewhurst shared that Christian Youth Theater had inquired about Commission grants and that she provided an overview of the grant process and timelines.

Vice Chair Custodio shared that she attended Holiday in the Vineyards events at several local wineries, where she observed live music performances by local musicians and ensembles. She highlighted the value of integrating arts programming with local businesses and the Livermore Valley Wine Country. Vice

Chair Custodio also mentioned plans to attend a performance of *A Christmas Carol* at the Lesher Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek.

Chair Milder shared holiday greetings in recognition of Hanukkah and distributed small holiday gift bags prepared by his family, which included traditional items and information about the holiday.

7. ADJOURNMENT - at 5:16 p.m. to a regular Commission for the Arts meeting on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at 4:30 p.m., William M. Mendenhall Community Room, Civic Center Meeting Hall, 1016 S. Livermore Avenue.

LIVERMORE
CALIFORNIA

COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS STAFF REPORT **ITEM NO. 5.1**

DATE: January 27, 2026

TO: Chairperson and Members of the Commission for the Arts

FROM: Allen McFarland, Management Analyst II

SUBJECT: Review of Draft 2026 Commission for the Arts Workplan.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends the Commission for the Arts approve the draft 2026 workplan.

DECISION TYPE

Administrative

SUMMARY

The Commission for the Arts is asked to review and approve the draft 2026 workplan. The draft workplan is a comprehensive representation of continuing goals and priorities, new ideas, objectives, and strategies from staff, and feedback received from the Commission.

DISCUSSION

As an advisory body of the City of Livermore, the Commission for the Arts is required to have an approved workplan in place that will guide and provide direction for the work that will be completed each calendar year. Staff is tasked with reviewing existing workplans and the progress towards goals and objectives, soliciting feedback from the Commission, and ensuring alignment with the City's strategic plan and direction; collectively, this information is used in the creation of a draft workplan for the Commission's review and approval.

Staff has reviewed the current and recent work of the Commission for the Arts, evaluated how it aligns with the City's current strategies, and at the special meeting of November 18, 2025, the Commission provided feedback on the existing plan and ideas for the future workplan. These steps have culminated with the creation of the attached draft 2026 Commission for the Arts workplan. This draft plan recognizes the important role of the Commission and leverages the significant contributions that the Commission can make towards enhancing the arts environment within the City.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft 2026 Commission for the Arts Workplan

Prepared by: Allen McFarland
Management Analyst II

CITY OF LIVERMORE CALIFORNIA

Library

Staff Liaison
Allen McFarland

DRAFT ANNUAL 2026 WORK PLAN

AND 2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS

Chairperson **TBD**; Vice Chairperson **TBD**; Commissioners: **Tauheeda Babar, Natalia Custodio, Cathleen deOrnelas, Thomasin Dewhurst, Robert Gausman, Rajagopal Kowligi, Monya Lane, Laurence Milder, Tracy Sahn**

Projects should be consistent with the City of Livermore 5-Year Strategic Plan and the Advisory Body's Duties and Responsibilities, and a budgeted project.

City of Livermore Five-Year Strategic Plan

Rules of Procedure

DRAFT 2026 WORK PLAN

	Strategic Plan Project	Duty/Responsibility	Proposed Activities	Timeline For Completion
1.	**Art Grants Program Administration and Continuous Process Review** *Inclusive & Inviting Spaces & Places (P4)* *Implement the Newly Adopted Creative Livermore Cultural Arts Vision (G2) / Ensure Access to Art Experiences and Cultural Programming is Available Across the Entire Community (O1)*	Continuous review of the grants application procedure to reduce obstacles and simplify procedures for applicants.	1. Establish ad hoc committees to review Mini Grant, Project & Program Grant, and Unsolicited Grant applications. 2. Full Commission review and approval of Mini Grant applications. 3. Full Commission review and recommendation for approval of Project & Program Grant and Unsolicited Grant applications. 4. Review of application forms and related information – partner with staff to provide suggestions and ideas for simplification and modernizations.	2026/Ongoing

	Strategic Plan Project	Duty/Responsibility	Proposed Activities	Timeline For Completion
2.	**Identify Public Spaces for New or Improved Art** *Inclusive & Inviting Spaces & Places (P4)* *Further Enhance Livermore's Unique Sense of Place (G1) / Enhance and Celebrate Livermore's Unique Community Character (O1)* *Implement the Newly Adopted Creative Livermore Cultural Arts Vision (G2) / Work with Community Partners to Identify the Need for Arts Spaces and Solutions for Providing Such Space (O2)*	Help enhance Livermore's art environment through the establishment of new art access locations as identified by the Commission or solicited from the community.	1. Partner with City staff (with input from other stakeholders as appropriate) to recommend public places and spaces for artwork to be displayed. a. Conduct an inventory of existing spaces and places where art is already displayed including utility boxes; work with staff to present this as a GIS layer on a map; recommend any changes to the existing art (updates, replacement, etc.) b. Create an overlay of new potential public spaces and places, with input from staff and key stakeholders (identified in collaboration with staff), with a focus on major thoroughfares, City entrances/exits, and buildings including libraries, garages and airport hangars. c. Provide recommendations on themes and types of art (painted art such as murals, wraps, sculptures, performances and events, etc.) for each place/space/thoroughfare, with input from staff and key stakeholders. 2. Recommend prioritization of updated and new art based on strategic importance of location and funding availability.	2026/Q3
3.	**Stakeholder Outreach** *Inclusive & Inviting Spaces & Places (P4)* *Implement the Newly Adopted Creative Livermore Cultural Arts*	Draft a consistent and cohesive approach for Commissioners to connect with key stakeholders in the community to seek input	1. Ad hoc committee will work with staff to create an introductory communications script to be used when meeting with key stakeholders in the community. 2. Establish an ongoing reporting process/feedback loop.	2026/Q1 – Model Completion

	Strategic Plan Project	Duty/Responsibility	Proposed Activities	Timeline For Completion
	Vision (G2) / Work with Community Partners to Identify the Need for Arts Spaces and Solutions for Providing Such Space (O2)	on public art activities as described under item 2 above, and to educate on the role of the Commission in general.		2026/Ongoing – Model Implementation
4.	**Community Outreach and Communication** *Inclusive & Inviting Spaces & Places (P4)* *Further Enhance Livermore's Unique Sense of Place (G1) / Enhance and Celebrate Livermore's Unique Community Character (O1)*	Expand engagement and the City's art reach by establishing/expanding methods to create awareness of arts and grants opportunities within the City of Livermore.	1. Create a communications plan/strategy that involves stakeholders, artists, organizations, and community members, and makes them aware of grant and collaboration opportunities. 2. Support arts outreach in the community through the role of Commissioner. 3. Review and provide feedback on staff created communications and campaigns related to new and existing arts offerings.	2026/Q2 – Support Creation of Communications Plan/Strategy 2026/Ongoing – Implement New Plan and
5.	**Developer Initiated Art Project Review and Recommendations** *Inclusive & Inviting Spaces & Places (P4)* *Implement the Newly Adopted Creative Livermore Cultural Arts Vision (G2) / Assist the Commission for the Arts in Developing Goals and Objectives for Use of the Public Art Fund and Associated Programs (O3)*	Provide support for Developer Initiated Art projects.	1. Review developer-initiated art proposals. 2. Provide recommendation of approval to the City.	2026/Ongoing
6.	**City Owned Artwork Plan** *Inclusive & Inviting Spaces & Places (P4)* *Further Enhance Livermore's Unique Sense of Place (G1) /*	Develop plan to effectively manage city owned Art pieces so that they can be enjoyed by the public.	1. Review and update inventory of City-owned artwork. 2. Expand and update guide of City-owned artwork.	2026/Q2 – Plan Development

	Strategic Plan Project	Duty/Responsibility	Proposed Activities	Timeline For Completion
	Enhance and Celebrate Livermore's Unique Community Character (O1)		3. Develop ways to more easily connect the community with artwork (through communications, QR codes, events, etc.)	2026/Ongoing – Plan Implementation
7.	**Alignment of Funding Model** *Inclusive & Inviting Spaces & Places (P4)* *Implement the Newly Adopted Creative Livermore Cultural Arts Vision (G2) / Assist the Commission for the Arts in Developing Goals and Objectives for Use of the Public Art Fund and Associated Programs (O3)*	Review opportunities to better align our funding ratio, fees, and funding models with challenges and goals identified in the Creative Livermore framework.	1. Determine if the 80/20 Arts funding ratio (physical art to events) accurately reflects the needs of the Livermore community, priorities as listed in the Strategic Plan, and current programming. 2. Work with staff to develop a five-year financial projection of revenues generated by the current art fee, vis-a-vis projected art programming and physical art needs. 3. Determine if changes are needed to the Project & Program Grants or Mini Grants including amounts and funding process.	2026/Q2
8.	**Updating of Current Arts Policy and Procedure** *A Safe Community That Thrives (P1)* *Update Development Standards, Codes, and Ordinances (G14) / Complete Updates to Local Code Sections to Improve the Efficiency and Effectiveness of Local Operations (O5)*	Provide support through ad hoc committees and full Commission review for updates to policies and procedures that are outdated or require modernization.	1. Establish ad hoc committee to review updated application forms proposed by staff and provide input. 2. Establish ad hoc committee to review proposed changes to the Livermore Municipal code and provide input. 3. Establish ad hoc committee to review proposed changes to the Art in Public Places Policy and Procedure Manual.	2026/Q4
9.	**Budget Review and Management** *Inclusive & Inviting Spaces & Places (P4)* *Implement the Newly Adopted Creative Livermore Cultural Arts Vision (G2) / Assist the Commission for the Arts in*	Continuously review the Public Art Fee budget to ensure that fund expenditures are on track and update/adjust as appropriate.	1. Tri-annual review of the budget to ensure actual revenues and expenditures are consistent with planned revenues and expenditures. 2. Consider project and program budget adjustments as needed.	2026/Ongoing

	Strategic Plan Project	Duty/Responsibility	Proposed Activities	Timeline For Completion
	Developing Goals and Objectives for Use of the Public Art Fund and Associated Programs (O3)			
10.	**Poet Laureate Application Review, Interview, and Recommendation** *Inclusive & Inviting Spaces & Places (P4)* *Further Enhance Livermore's Unique Sense of Place (G1) / Enhance and Celebrate Livermore's Unique Community Character (O1)*	Assist in selecting the City of Livermore's Poet Laureate.	1. Establish ad hoc committee to review applications, interview candidates, and provide recommendation to full Commission. 2. Full Commission to review ad hoc committee recommendation and make a recommendation to the City Council.	2026/Q2

PRIOR YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

	Strategic Plan Project	Duty/Responsibility	Completed Activities	Status
1.	Mini Grants Program	Review Mini Grant applications and award recipients	1. 2025 – Awarded 5 Mini Grants.	Completed
2.	Project & Program Grants Program	Review Project & Program Grant applications and recommend approval to City Council	1. 2025 – Recommended approval of ten Project & Program Grant applications totaling more than $90,000.	Completed
3.	Community Art Awards	Review applications, recommend and present awards to high school seniors	1. 2025 – 9 students received $600 HS senior arts awards.	Completed
4.	Art Judging	Judge art show entries and select winners	1. 2025 – LAA Spring Art Show Judging – selected and awarded 7 winners. 2. 2025 – Livermore Teen Art Expo – judged more than 60 entries.	Completed
5.	CFA Budget	Review and approval of two-year Public Art Fee budget	1. 2024/2025 – Reviewed, provided feedback, and approved budget for FY2025-26 and 2026-27.	Completed

			a. Budget provided additional support for Arts programming within the Library. b. Increased arts awards for seniors and expanded program to include juniors.	
6.	Procedures Update	Continuously provide feedback on existing and potential arts policy and procedures	1. 2025 – Provided feedback and approved the draft updated CFA Rules of Procedure.	Completed
7.	Training	Stay updated on current regulations and policies	1. 2025 – Received full Commission training on the Brown Act.	Completed

ONGOING PROJECTS

	Project	Activities
1.	Partnership Model - Draft a consistent and cohesive approach for Commissioners to leverage in their liaison role with our Community Partners and create ongoing content to keep partners updated. – *This work will continue within the scope of item 3 – Stakeholder Outreach.*	1. 2025 – Full Commission revisited and discussed the concept of the Partnership Model. 2. 2025 – Ad hoc committee established, initial draft documents created. 3. 2025 – Established plan to work with staff to review and revise model and return to full Commission for review.
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

LIVERMORE
CALIFORNIA

COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS STAFF REPORT ITEM NO. 5.2

DATE: January 27, 2026

TO: Chairperson and Members of the Commission for the Arts

FROM: Allen McFarland, Management Analyst II

SUBJECT: Update on outreach for the 2026 High School Junior and Senior Arts Awards.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends the Commission for the Arts receive an update on outreach activities for the 2026 High School Junior and Senior Arts Awards.

DECISION TYPE

Administrative

SUMMARY

The Commission for the Arts administers the High School Junior and Senior Arts Awards to recognize outstanding artistic endeavors among Livermore youth. The program is open to high school Junior and Seniors who reside in Livermore and/or attend a Livermore school and demonstrates accomplishments in visual, literary, media and performing arts.

The awards program supports the Commission's goal of encouraging youth engagement in the arts and recognizing emerging creative talent in the community.

DISCUSSION

Staff have initiated outreach efforts for the 2026 High School Junior and Senior Arts Awards to promote awareness among eligible students and school staff. In January 2026, staff distributed the 2026 High School Junior and Senior Arts Awards flyer and application material at the Livermore High School and Granada High School Scholarship Fairs to directly reach students who may be exploring scholarship and arts related opportunities.

In addition to in-person outreach, staff conducted direct outreach to key contacts within the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District, including principals, vice principals, and college and career

specialists at Livermore High School, Granada High School, Del Valle Continuation High School, and Vineyard Alternative School.

Information about the Arts Awards is also available on the City of Livermore's Arts Grants webpage and at the information station at the Civic Center Library. To further increase visibility, staff will share the information through social media channels throughout the application period.

Applications for the 2026 High School Junior and Senior Arts Awards open on February 1, 2026, and close on April 6, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. These dates are consistently reflected across outreach material.

ATTACHMENTS

1. 2026 High School Junior & Senior Arts Awards Application
2. 2026 High School Junior & Senior Arts Awards Flyer

Prepared by: Leng Kutil
Management Analyst I

High School Junior & Senior Arts Awards

City of Livermore – Commission for the Arts

The High School Junior & Senior Arts Awards Program is designed to identify, recognize, and encourage talented graduating high school students who reside in Livermore and/or attend a Livermore school. Schools may be public, private, charter or home school, and must be Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accredited. Up to eight winners in the Junior category will receive a $500 award and up to eight winners in the Senior category will receive a $1,200 award from the City's Commission for the Arts.

Each applicant must:

- Be a student in good standing at their school
- Submit a complete award application with a letter of recommendation and official High School transcript by the posted deadline



Selection Criteria

Awards will be granted based on:

- Accomplishments in the Arts at your school
- Letter of Recommendation from your teacher
- Official transcript to verify status towards graduation

Applications

Applications are available on the City of Livermore Arts web page, and through the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District website at www.livermoreschools.org. You can also pick up a hard copy at your high school career center, or the Curriculum and Special Projects Department at the District office located at 685 East Jack London Blvd.

A **complete application, letter of recommendation and official transcript** must be received by **5:00 P.M. on Monday, April 6**, **2026**. Applications may be delivered/mailed to:



Livermore Public Library
1188 S. Livermore Avenue
Livermore, CA 94550
ATTN: Staff Liaison for the Commission for the Arts

Applications may be emailed to arts@LivermoreCA.gov

SELECTION AND AWARDS RECOGNITION:

The Commission for the Arts Ad Hoc Committee will review applications, and recommend finalists to the full Commission for selection. All applicants will be notified of the final results by April 30, 2026. Award recipients will be honored at the June 8, 2026, Livermore City Council meeting. High School Senior awardees are also recognized at Senior Night at a time and place determined by each high school.

CITY OF LIVERMORE COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS

2026 High School Junior & Senior Arts Awards Application

Please Type or Print Clearly

Name: _____ **School Name:** _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Grade:** _____

Email: _____

What is your primary art form during your high school years? [check one only]

____ Visual (sculpture, painting, photography)

____ Literary (poetry, prose, script writing, creative non-fiction)

____ Media (film production, videography)

____ Performing (dance, music, theater)

What have you accomplished in your primary art form during your high school years?

What are your plans regarding your primary art form in the upcoming year or after graduation?

Why should you be recognized for this City award?

Attach a teacher's written recommendation letter. This teacher must instruct a class related to your primary-art-form area and have worked with you in that particular area while you've been in high school. Please provide their name and contact info so that we may follow up with them.

Please DO NOT attach any examples of your work.

Teacher's Name:_____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

I (print name) _____ certify that the information herein is accurate _____ **Date:**

Signature_____

2026 HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR & SENIOR

ARTS AWARDS

CITY OF LIVERMORE
COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS

For Junior & Senior high school students who reside in Livermore and/or attend a Livermore School. Awardees will be selected based on their accomplishments in either visual, literary, media or performing arts.

Applications available on February 1, 2026, and due by 5:00 p.m. on April 6, 2026

WWW.LIVERMORECA.GOV/ARTSGRANTS

CITY OF LIVERMORE CALIFORNIA

LIVERMORE
CALIFORNIA

COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS STAFF REPORT ITEM NO. 5.3

DATE: January 27, 2026

TO: Chairperson and Members of the Commission for the Arts

FROM: Allen McFarland, Management Analyst II

SUBJECT: Election of 2026 Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends the Commission for the Arts nominate and vote to select candidates for the positions of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Commission for the Arts.

DECISION TYPE

Administrative

SUMMARY

Each year, the Commission for the Arts must elect a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, as outlined in the City of Livermore Commission for the Arts Rules of Procedure (2022). Most recently, Commissioner Laurence E. Milder has been serving as the Chairperson and Commissioner Natalia Custodio has served as the Vice Chairperson.

DISCUSSION

Section 5 of the City of Livermore Commission for the Arts Rules of Procedure (2022) addresses election of officers:

The Commission for the Arts shall elect a Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson at the first meeting held after January 1st of each year. Election of the officers shall be by majority vote of the Commission. The role of the officers shall be as follows:

Chairperson - The Chairperson shall preside at all regular meetings and may call special meetings. The Chairperson shall decide upon all points of order and procedure during the meeting.

Vice Chairperson - The Vice Chairperson shall assume all duties of the Chairperson in the absence or

disability of the Chairperson.

Presiding Officer - In the absence of the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson, the members present shall select a Presiding Officer.

The Rules of Procedure includes information about the election of a Presiding Officer, if needed, but only the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson are elected at the January meeting.

The current Commission for the Arts Member terms may be helpful to the discussion. They are as follows:

Custodio, Natalia - Term ending 01/01/29
Babar, Tauheeda - Term ending 01/01/29
deOrnelas, Cathleen - Term ending 01/01/27
Dewhurst, Tomasin - Term ending 01/01/29
Gausman, Robert - Term ending 01/02/27
Kowligi, Rajagopal - Term ending 01/01/27
Lane, Monya - Term ending 01/02/27
Milder, Laurence - Term ending 01/01/29
Sahn, Tracy - Term ending 01/01/29

All Commissioners are eligible to make nominations and/or serve as Chairperson or Vice Chairperson.

ATTACHMENTS

Prepared by: Allen McFarland
Management Analyst II