City of Apache Junction, Arizona

Meeting Minutes

Public Art Commission

Meeting location:

City Council Chambers
300 E. Superstition Blvd.
Apache Junction, AZ
85119

apachejunctionaz.gov
Ph: (480) 982-8002

Doors are open to the public at least 15 minutes prior to the posted meeting start time.

Monday, December 8, 2025 | **5:30 PM** | **City Council Chambers**

1. Call to Order

Chair Danford called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Danford led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call

Present 5 - Vice Chair Klett
Commissioner Meek
Commissioner Smithson
Commissioner Cooper
Chairperson Danford

Joel Stern, City Attorney
Rudy Esquivias, DS Director
Erika Hernandez, Planner
Dianne Cripe, Artspace 6, LLC

4. Consent Agenda

Vice Chair Klett moved to accept the consent agenda as presented. Commissioner Meek seconded the motion.

Yes: 5 - Vice Chair Klett, Commissioner Meek, Commissioner Smithson, Commissioner Cooper and Chairperson Danford

No: 0

Chair Danford called for a motion.

25-613 Consideration of approval of agenda.

25-614 Consideration of approval of the minutes of the April 30, 2025 special meeting.

5. Announcement of Art Work

None.

6. Public Hearings

None.

7. Old Business

25-632 Update on the AJHS Pride Traffic Cabinet Public Art Contest.

Planner Hernandez reported that the artwork on the traffic cabinet near AJHS was installed on November 24 by artist Sheyla Sebastian Marcos. A photo with the artist and a press release will be issued next week.

25-633 Discussion on available public art funds.

Director Esquivias noted that the public art fund has a balance of approximately $500,000, and that it is time to begin utilizing some of those funds. He added that a few project ideas are still being developed, including possibilities related to the ADOT roundabout.

25-634 Progress on Call to Artists.

Planner Hernandez reported that the Call for Artists is in progress and scheduled for release this evening.

Dianne Cripe of Artspace 6, LLC noted that the Call for Artists will be a significant resource. She explained that a pre-qualified artist roster will be created, and selection panels will choose the most suitable artists for each project. She added that project budgets vary, from approximately $2,000 for utility box wraps to more than $150,000 for major projects, which will involve a national call.

In response to a question about social media posting, Planner Hernandez confirmed that the announcement will be shared on all City of Apache Junction social media platforms as well as the public art solicitation page.

8. New Business

25-615 Election of chair and vice chair.

Chair Danford called for a motion to open the nominations for the chairperson.

Commissioner Meek moved to open the nominations for chairperson. Vice Chair Klett seconded the motion.

Yes: 5 - Chair Danford, Vice Chair Klett, Commissioner Cooper,
Commissioner Meek, Commissioner Smithson

No: 0

Chair Danford called for nominations.

Vice Chair Klett nominated Jeff Danford for chairperson.

Chair Danford called for nominations three times.

Chair Danford called for a motion to close nominations.

Commissioner Meek moved to close nominations. Commissioner Smithson seconded the

motion.

Yes: 5 - Chair Danford, Vice Chair Klett, Commissioner Cooper,
Commissioner Meek, Commissioner Smithson

No: 0

Chair Danford called for a motion to approve the nomination for chairperson.

Commissioner Meek moved that Jeff Danford be approved for chairperson. Commissioner Cooper seconded the motion.

Yes: 5 - Chair Danford, Vice Chair Klett, Commissioner Cooper,
Commissioner Meek, Commissioner Smithson

No: 0

Chair Danford called for a motion to open the nominations for the vice chairperson.

Commissioner Meek moved to open the nominations for vice chairperson. Commissioner Smithson seconded the motion.

Yes: 5 - Chair Danford, Vice Chair Klett, Commissioner Cooper,
Commissioner Meek, Commissioner Smithson

No: 0

Chair Danford called for nominations.

Commissioner Meek nominated Gretchen Klett for vice chairperson.

Chair Danford called for nominations three times.

Chair Danford called for a motion to close nominations.

Commissioner Meek moved to close nominations. Commissioner Cooper seconded the motion.

Yes: 5 - Chair Danford, Vice Chair Klett, Commissioner Cooper,
Commissioner Meek, Commissioner Smithson

No: 0

Chair Danford called for a motion to approve the nomination for vice chairperson.

Commissioner Meek moved that Gretchen Klett be approved for vice chairperson. Commissioner Smithson seconded the motion.

Yes: 5 - Chair Danford, Vice Chair Klett, Commissioner Cooper,
Commissioner Meek, Commissioner Smithson

No: 0

25-635 Annual AJHS Student Public Art Contest discussion.

Planner Hernandez shared a suggestion from Commissioner Meek to hold an annual contest for high school students, noting the success of the recent project. She mentioned exploring additional contest ideas beyond utility cabinet wraps. While the concept was approved by City Attorney Stern, funding would need to come from a private donor, with prizes awarded to the top three submissions.

City Attorney Stern reviewed the process for private donations and advised caution when using private funds for public art. He recommended including an acknowledgment as an advertisement instead of a plaque to recognize the donor.

Commissioner Meek stated she would like to see participation from all schools, including the charter schools.

Director Esquivias stated that staff will develop a process for the project, and City Attorney Stern noted that the Youth Council should be involved in the process.

9. Information and Reports

None.

10. Director's Report

None.

11. Call for Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Cooper asked about the overall site selection process for public art projects and how sites are chosen. Chair Danford responded that a process already exists and expressed a desire to review it.

Commissioner Cooper also inquired about the collection maintenance program and whether it is reviewed periodically. Ms. Cripe stated that a maintenance program does exist. Planner Hernandez noted that the kachina repair cost $7,000, although this did not come from the public art fund. Ms. Cripe emphasized the importance of ensuring that maintenance reviews occur regularly.

12. Selection of Meeting Dates, Times, Location and Purpose

25-616 Regular meeting at 5:30 pm on Monday, January 12, 2026 in the city council chambers located at 300 E. Superstition Boulevard, Apache Junction.

Commissioner Smithson moved to hold a regular meeting on January 12, 2026 at 5:30 pm in the council chambers. Commissioner Meek seconded the motion.

Yes:	5 -	Vice Chair Klett, Commissioner Meek, Commissioner Smithson, Commissioner Cooper and Chairperson Danford
No:	0	

Chair Danford called for a motion.

13. Adjournment

Chair Danford adjourned the meeting at 6:12 pm.

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Chair Jeff Danford