



Ranjini Venkatachari, Chair
Robert Bickel, Committee Member
Kenn Costanzo, Committee Member
Dinesh Govindarao, Committee Member
Robert Maser, Committee Member
Andrew Nguyen, Committee Member
Diana Iliaiev, Alternate Member
Naina Shastri, Alternate Member

Arts Advisory Committee Agenda

**Dougherty Station Community Arts Center
Art Studio 1
17011 Bollinger Canyon Road**

**May 20, 2026
7:00 PM
Regular Meeting**

Agenda Questions: Contact Parks & Community Services at (925) 973-3321

1. Call To Order/Roll Call

2. Public Comment

At this time, members of the public are encouraged to address the Committee on any item not already included in tonight's agenda. Comments should not exceed three (3) minutes. During public comment, members of the public are permitted to address the Committee on items that are not on the agenda and are within the Committee's jurisdiction.

Comments from the public may also be submitted by email to achow@sanramon.ca.gov. No Committee action can be taken at this meeting on issues raised during Public Comment. Written Public Comment emails must be submitted to the email above prior to the commencement of the meeting. Comments received by email will not be read aloud; however, they will be forwarded to the Committee for their consideration. If you wish to make your comments heard, you must participate in the meeting.

3. Committee Business

3.1 Minutes of the Arts Advisory Committee Meeting – April 15, 2026

3.2 San Ramon Art & Wind Festival Update [Verbal]

Presented by Steven Cox, Recreation Supervisor

3.3 3rd Thursday Arts & Eats Update [Verbal]

Presented by Adam Chow, Recreation Supervisor

3.4 San Ramon 5-Year Cultural Arts Plan Priorities Review

Presented by Adam Chow, Recreation Supervisor

4. Adjournment

This agenda is posted in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2(a). To make a request for disability-related accommodation to participate in the meeting, please contact the City Clerk's Office 48 hours in advance of the meeting at 925-973-2539, or cityclerk@sanramon.ca.gov.

Attendee Conduct

There will be zero tolerance for any person addressing the Committee making profane, offensive and disruptive remarks, or engaging in loud, boisterous, or other disorderly conduct, that disrupts the orderly conduct of the public meeting. Specifically, it is important for all speakers to adhere to the following guidelines for participation in this meeting:

- a. No profanity or obscenity
- b. Refrain from personal threats or attacks.
- c. Refrain from hateful epithets and demeaning language based on any person's race, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, or disability.
- d. Respect all people that are present.

At the discretion of the Committee Chair, a speaker may forfeit speaking time for any of the following reasons:

- a. Exceeding the allotted time to speak;
- b. Yelling, screaming, or other behavior that renders this Committee unable to continue the meeting;
- c. Excessive profanity or slander; Specific threats or "fighting words" that incite violence; or
- d. Speech that is outside the subject matter jurisdiction of the Policy Committee or the specific agenda item in which you are speaking.

While the City of San Ramon upholds the First Amendment rights of all participants, we do not accept or endorse offensive or hateful comments made during our meetings. We celebrate the diversity of our community and strive to maintain a welcoming and inclusive environment for all.

City of San Ramon
Arts Advisory Committee Meeting
April 15, 2026
Regular Meeting
DRAFT

1. **Call To Order/Roll Call**

Chair Venkatachari called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Present: Chair Ranjini Venkatachari; Committee Members Robert Bickel, Kenn Costanzo, Dinesh Govindarao, Rob Maser, and Andre Nguyen; Alternates Diana Iliaiev and Naina Shastri.

Also in attendance: Adam Chow, Parks & Community Services Recreation Supervisor, Ri Thomas, Recreation Coordinator; Andrea Wedewer, Office Technician; Lucas Haase, Assistant Planner; Sridhar Verose, City Council Member; Will Doerlich, Parks & Community Services Commissioner; and Eric Sabye, San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District, Interim Deputy Chief, Logistics.

2. **Public Comment Or Written Communication**

The committee received no public comments.

3. **Committee Business**

3.1 Approval of March 25, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes

Member Costanzo's motion to approve the special meeting minutes of March 25, 2026, was seconded by Member Maser. The motion passed 7-0-0-0.

3.2 Election of Officers

Member Costanzo's nomination of Member Bickel as Chair was seconded by Member Maser. The motion passed 7-0-0-0.

Member Maser's nomination of Member Venkatachari as Vice Chair was seconded by Member Bickel. The motion passed 7-0-0-0.

3.3 Approve San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District Public Art Proposal

Presentation given by Lucas Haase, Assistant Planner. Additional information provided by Eric Sabye, San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District, Interim Deputy Chief, Logistics.

Member Maser's motion to forward the public art proposal to the Planning Commission

for approval was seconded by Member Nguyen. The motion passed 7-0-0-0.

3.4 Review Cultural Arts Program

Presentation given by Riannon Thomas, Recreation Coordinator.

The committee received public comment from Bob Anderson.

4. **Adjournment**

Chair Bickel adjourned the meeting at 8:29 PM.



Arts Advisory Committee Staff Report Item No. 3.4

Date: May 20, 2026

To: Arts Advisory Committee

From: Henry Perezalonso, Director
Adam Chow, Recreation Supervisor

Subject: 5-Year Cultural Arts Plan Priorities Review

Recommendation:

The Arts Advisory Committee's (AAC) role is to receive the staff report and provide feedback on the 5-Year Cultural Arts Plan priorities for 2026.

Background:

The 5-Year Cultural Arts Plan 2026-2030 provides a strategic roadmap to guide cultural arts programming, facility enhancements, partnerships, and resource allocation, ensuring that arts and culture remain vibrant and accessible in San Ramon. It establishes six focus areas, 32 recommended action items, identifies keys to success, and outlines an implementation framework that includes measurable outcomes and consideration of potential barriers. The plan is intended to guide the City's cultural arts priorities and investments over the next five years.

With 32 recommended actions, the Arts Advisory Committee will play an integral role in defining priorities. At the AAC Meeting on December 17, 2025, the committee recommended that staff prioritize the following actions in 2026. Staff reviewed the recommendations, and where consistent with the department priorities, staff have developed the following strategies to accomplish the following action items.

1.2 Develop a process for temporary community murals in city facilities.

Staff is researching temporary community mural programs to develop a program for San Ramon facilities. Several ideas are being discussed, and a recommendation will be brought to the AAC for review when ready. Funding has been requested through the Public Art Program.

1.7 Explore options to update the Cultural Growth Grant Program, which may include performances outside of the theaters, special arts events, or community projects.

The AAC reviewed the Cultural Growth Grant Program in January and February 2026 and provided a recommendation to the Parks & Community Services Commission, which will be reviewed at a future date. The recommendations do not include any options for performances outside of the theaters, special arts events, or community projects.

2.2 Support educational and professional growth opportunities for artists through workshops and training focused on operating an arts-based business. Topics may include business fundamentals, financial management, marketing strategies, and digital outreach.

Staff is working with the Visual Arts Society of San Ramon (VASS) to hold monthly workshops for local artists. The City provides facility space and advertising support to VASS, which facilitates the workshops. Previous workshop topics have included hosting a gallery exhibition and financial considerations for artists.

3.3 Collaborate with and support efforts to develop local performing and visual arts associations.

Staff is supporting the Visual Arts Society of San Ramon (VASS) by providing meeting space and advertising information for local artists. There are opportunities to grow this partnership as the association develops.

There is potential to develop a performing arts association. The effort would require a person, business, or organization to take the lead, with the City providing support similar to the visual arts association.

4.1 Expand, offer, and develop quality arts programs that are reflective of the community's needs.

City arts programs are continually being reviewed and evaluated. This includes reviewing current trends, current gaps in services, and gathering feedback from the community. New instructors are being solicited for programs the community wants, expanding high-demand programs, developing new programs for entry-level students, and phasing out programs that no longer reflect community interest.

5.1 Review the programs and facility usage at the Dougherty Station Community Arts Center, Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, and other arts-related facilities to ensure the spaces are effectively being used to support arts spaces, programs, events, performances, and exhibits.

A comprehensive analysis of programs and facility usage will be conducted by staff in the fall to evaluate utilization and ensure programs are aligned with the most appropriate spaces for efficient and effective operations. Underutilized spaces and areas where program demand exceeds available space will be identified to inform future programming and facility use planning.

5.3 Research an Artist in Residence Program at the Dougherty Station Community Arts Center to create a network of artists to utilize and support the facility.

Research into an Artist in Residence Program has begun, and staff will develop a recommendation to support a collaborative partnership between the Dougherty Station Community Arts Center and artists. This recommendation will be presented to the AAC for review when it is ready.

6.1 Create a communication plan to promote arts programs and events, share the benefits of the arts, and make San Ramon arts programs more visible through digital and print media.

An Arts Marketing Plan has been created and includes developing campaigns to demonstrate the benefits of the arts and to showcase the variety of arts programs to experience, explore, and engage with. The implementation of the marketing plan will be phased in as the department shifts its overall communication plan.

6.2 Explore creating San Ramon Arts Instagram and Facebook accounts to support outreach through short-form videos and online connections with the arts community.

The creation of Instagram and Facebook accounts for San Ramon Arts programs is underway, with an expected rollout by the end of the 2026 calendar year. This will be integrated into the Arts Marketing Plan and managed by city staff.

Staff has developed a methodology for approaching each recommended action and is seeking the committee's feedback on these items.

Fiscal Impact:

Any financial commitments or resource allocations associated with specific actions are considered during the annual budget review process.

Alternative Option(s):

No alternative options.

Next Steps:

Staff will evaluate and incorporate feedback where feasible during the implementation of these action items, consistent with current department priorities.

Attachment(s):

A: 5-Year Cultural Arts Plan 2026-2030



San Ramon
CALIFORNIA



5-YEAR CULTURAL ARTS PLAN

2026-2030

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of San Ramon is committed to strengthening cultural arts as a vital and valued part of community life. The 2026–2030 Cultural Arts Plan provides a strategic and practical roadmap to guide the growth, sustainability, and accessibility of arts and culture over the next five years.

For the purposes of this plan, cultural arts encompass the broad range of creative expression in San Ramon, including visual arts, music, dance, theater, literary arts, public art, community events, and cultural traditions that reflect the community's diversity. The plan is built on extensive community engagement, including community surveys, Arts Summits, and collaboration with the Arts Advisory Committee.

In response to this community input, the Cultural Arts Plan focuses on six interconnected areas:

- Exhibition, Performance Spaces, and Exhibits
- Artist Advancement
- Community Arts Collaboration
- Provide Quality Arts Programs
- Support for Arts Programs
- Communication and Outreach

Together, these focus areas provide a balanced framework that supports artists, strengthens partnerships, enhances facilities, expands programming, and increases public awareness and engagement.

Implementation of the plan will occur in phases and will reflect available staffing, funding, and facility capacity. By prioritizing initiatives, leveraging partnerships, and maintaining flexibility, the City will responsibly and sustainably advance arts opportunities. Ongoing evaluation and community input will ensure that programs remain inclusive, responsive, and aligned with community needs.

Through this plan, the City of San Ramon reaffirms its commitment to cultivating creativity, empowering artists, and fostering meaningful connections through the arts. The Cultural Arts Plan serves as a forward-looking framework to guide continued growth, collaboration, and innovation in San Ramon's cultural arts community.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Value of Cultural Arts	2
Vision, Mission, and Guiding Principles	2
Vision	2
Mission	2
Guiding Principles.....	3
Cultural Arts Plan Focus Areas	3
Focus Area #1: Exhibition, Performance Spaces, and Exhibits	3
Focus Area #2: Artist Advancement.....	4
Focus Area #3: Community Arts Collaboration.....	5
Focus Area #4: Provide Quality Arts Programs	6
Focus Area #5: Support for Arts Programs.....	7
Focus Area #6: Communication and Outreach	7
Implementation Framework	8
Plan Alignment and Integration	10
Cultural Arts Plan Development	12
Conclusion	14
Appendices	
Appendix A: Current State of Cultural Arts	
Appendix B: Arts Summit Responses 2023	
Appendix C: Arts Summit Responses 2025	
Appendix D: Community Arts Survey Responses 2021	
Appendix E: Community Arts Survey Responses 2025	

THE VALUE OF CULTURAL ARTS

Cultural arts strengthen San Ramon by enhancing the quality of life, supporting economic vitality, and fostering community connection. The benefits of arts and culture extend beyond participation and performance, supporting the broader well-being of the community.

Cultural arts contribute to:

- **Economic Vitality** – Activating public spaces, supporting local artists and small businesses, and enhancing the City’s appeal as a place to live and work.
- **Youth Development** – Fostering creativity, confidence, collaboration, and positive engagement for youth and teens.
- **Community Connection & Safety** – Providing constructive, accessible activities that strengthen civic pride and social cohesion.
- **Cultural Identity & Inclusion** – Celebrating diverse traditions, perspectives, and creative expression across generations.
- **Placemaking & Civic Pride** – Enhancing the character of public spaces and reinforcing a shared sense of identity.

Through thoughtful investment in arts and culture, the City supports a vibrant, inclusive, and connected community.

VISION, MISSION, AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

At the heart of this Cultural Arts Plan is a shared vision for San Ramon’s creative future. The following vision, mission, and guiding principles reflect the values expressed by the community throughout the planning process. They serve as the foundation for every goal, strategy, and action outlined in this plan, ensuring that efforts remain focused, inclusive, and aligned with what matters most to the residents.

Vision

To cultivate and promote the arts as a catalyst for creativity, artist empowerment, and cohesive community engagement.

Mission

The City of San Ramon’s Cultural Arts program engages, inspires, and connects our community by providing diverse, high-quality artistic experiences. We support and empower artists, celebrate cultural traditions, and ensure that arts and culture are accessible to all as a vital part of community life.

Guiding Principles

The following guiding principles provide a foundation for how the City approaches cultural arts planning and programming. These principles reflect the values expressed by the community and help guide decision-making as the City implements the priorities and recommended actions outlined in this plan.

Equity, Inclusion & Accessibility – Ensure arts and culture are open and welcoming to all, removing barriers so everyone can participate as students, artists, or patrons regardless of ability or background.

Creativity & Innovation – Inspire students, artists, and audiences to explore new ideas and experiment with fresh forms of expression. Encourage risk-taking and original work that sparks curiosity, builds skills, and engages the imagination.

Learning & Lifelong Creativity – Promote ongoing learning and artistic growth for people of all ages. Inspire curiosity and creative expression through opportunities to explore, practice, and experience the arts.

Support Artists & the Creative Community – Invest in the people, organizations, and resources that shape San Ramon’s creative landscape. Provide opportunities for artists to develop their skills, share their work, and reach new audiences. Celebrate and sustain the cultural activities that make our community vibrant.

Appreciation & Advocacy – Promote awareness of the value and impact of the arts in enriching lives and strengthening community connections. Encourage participation, dialogue, and visibility for artistic endeavors. Champion the arts as an essential part of San Ramon’s identity.

CULTURAL ARTS PLAN FOCUS AREAS

The following focus areas provide the strategic framework for advancing cultural arts in San Ramon over the next five years. These focus areas were developed with extensive feedback from the arts community, community members, stakeholders, and the Arts Advisory Committee.

Focus Area #1 - Exhibition, Performance Spaces, and Exhibits

Objective

Create more opportunities for visual and performing artists to showcase their work while increasing public access to and engagement with the arts throughout the community.

Background and Rationale

Community feedback consistently identified the need for additional exhibition and performance opportunities for local artists, as well as more accessible and informal ways for residents to experience the arts. While San Ramon offers several high-quality arts facilities, opportunities exist to expand beyond traditional venues and to activate public spaces, community events, and non-traditional locations. Expanding exhibition and performance opportunities supports local artists, enhances community vibrancy, and increases visibility for the arts across the city.

Recommended Actions

1. Host pop-up, temporary, seasonal exhibitions or performances for local visual and performing artists where people already gather (e.g., Art & Wind Festival and Art Uncorked) and explore outdoor and non-traditional options places such as parks or businesses.
2. Develop a process for temporary community murals in city facilities.
3. Develop more interactive art experiences and encourage public participation and engagement with art.
4. Explore opportunities for students and artists/performers to collaborate through an apprenticeship program.
5. Create opportunities for multidisciplinary arts events or performances.
6. Create opportunities for emerging artists to volunteer in exchange for the use of spaces to perform or exhibit.
7. Explore options to update the Cultural Growth Grant Program, which may include performances outside of the theaters, special arts events, or community projects.
8. Update the Public Art Program to reflect the current needs of the city.

Focus Area #2 - Artist Advancement

Objective

Support artists by providing opportunities to connect, engage with the community, and earn income through arts-related work.

Background and Rationale

Input collected demonstrated a strong desire for increased support of local artists beyond exhibition and performance opportunities. Artists expressed interest in professional development, networking, affordable creative spaces, and paid opportunities to share their work and expertise. Strengthening artist advancement supports a healthy arts ecosystem,

encourages artistic growth, and enhances the overall quality and sustainability of arts programming in San Ramon.

Recommended Actions

1. Develop, support, and encourage a strong local artist network for performing and visual artists to create an artist community.
2. Support educational and professional growth opportunities for artists through workshops and training focused on operating an arts-based business. Topics may include business fundamentals, financial management, marketing strategies, and digital outreach.
3. Support and build pathways for paid artist opportunities, including commissioned projects, workshops, classes, performances, exhibitions, and community-based art projects.
4. Provide free and low-cost spaces for artists to create in a supportive arts community.

Focus Area #3 - Community Arts Collaboration

Objective

Develop sustainable collaborations with community organizations, schools, artists, students, and patrons to support and strengthen the arts community.

Background & Rationale

Residents, artists, and stakeholders identified collaboration as a key factor in expanding and sustaining arts opportunities, expressing interest in stronger partnerships between the City, local organizations, schools, nonprofits, and neighboring communities. Strategic collaboration allows the City to leverage shared resources, reduce duplication of effort, and create more diverse and meaningful arts experiences for the community.

Building partnerships also supports long-term sustainability by increasing visibility, expanding access, and strengthening the overall arts ecosystem. Through collaboration, San Ramon can support existing arts efforts while encouraging innovation, shared learning, and community ownership of cultural programming.

Recommended Actions

1. Support the San Ramon Arts Foundation's role in fundraising for city arts programs.
2. Communicate the importance and benefits of the arts to community stakeholders (e.g., City Foundations, Service Clubs, Chamber of Commerce) to provide support and funding for the arts in San Ramon.

3. Collaborate and support the efforts of developing local performing and visual arts associations.
4. Collaborate with neighboring city art groups to share resources and exchange ideas.
5. Work with community partners to provide unique community events, exhibitions, and performances for the community.
6. Explore a partnership with Diablo Valley College to use under-utilized arts studio space.
7. Explore a partnership with the libraries as a place to incorporate arts programs and events.
8. Supplement and support school-based arts programs with facility space, programs, and opportunities to learn, connect, and create outside of school hours.

Focus Area #4 - Provide Quality Arts Programs

Objective

Develop and offer community arts programs that reflect the community's needs and San Ramon's diverse interests.

Background & Rationale

Input gathered through surveys and the arts summits emphasized the importance of offering high-quality arts programs that are accessible, inclusive, and relevant to residents of all ages. Participants expressed interest in a broad range of arts experiences, including visual and performing arts, short-term workshops, and opportunities that encourage family and multigenerational participation. Flexible programming options help reduce barriers related to time, cost, and experience level, while also attracting new participants to the arts.

Providing quality arts programs supports lifelong learning, creative exploration, and community connection. By offering a variety of programming formats and disciplines, the City can continue to meet the evolving needs of the community while maintaining high standards for instruction and participant experience.

Recommended Actions

1. Expand, offer, and develop quality arts programs that are reflective of the community's needs.
2. Explore multi-generation programs like community theater, music, dance, and visual arts for family engagement.
3. Incorporate seasonal or one-day workshops such as culinary arts, visual arts, and music as an introduction to trying a new art form, better suit busy schedules, or engage with new clientele.

4. Research an art therapy program to support the residents of the San Ramon community.

Focus Area #5 – Support for Arts Programs

Objective

Develop supporting elements to assist with the efficient and innovative implementation of arts programs, events, and facilities.

Background & Rationale

As cultural arts programming continues to grow, it is important to ensure that facilities, staffing, and operational practices effectively support arts programs and community needs. Community feedback and staff experience reinforce the importance of well-managed spaces, adequate resources, and clear systems to sustain high-quality arts offerings. Strategic support enables the City to maximize its assets, improve the patron experience, and ensure long-term program sustainability.

Providing appropriate operational support also enables staff and partners to focus on program delivery, artist engagement, and community impact. Strengthening internal systems and support structures is essential to implementing the goals of this Cultural Arts Plan.

Recommended Actions

1. Review the programs and facility usage at the Dougherty Station Community Arts Center, Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, and other arts-related facilities to ensure the spaces are effectively being used to support arts spaces, programs, events, performances, and exhibits.
2. Develop a volunteer program at the Dougherty Station Community Arts Center to greet arts patrons, provide docents for gallery programs, and provide support for the facility and programs.
3. Research an Artist in Residence Program at the Dougherty Station Community Arts Center to create a network of artists to utilize and support the facility.
4. Evaluate and prioritize City funding and staffing resources for arts programs.

Focus Area #6 - Communication and Outreach

Objective

Provide effective communication and outreach with the arts community and patrons.

Background & Rationale

Communication and outreach were identified as key areas for improvement. Residents and artists expressed interest in clearer, more consistent information about arts programs, events, and opportunities. Effective communication helps reduce barriers to participation, supports attendance, and strengthens connections between artists, patrons, and the broader community.

As arts programming expands, a coordinated and intentional communication approach is essential to ensure that residents are aware of available opportunities and understand the value of arts and culture in San Ramon. Strategic outreach supports inclusion, builds community engagement, and increases the visibility of City-supported arts initiatives.

Recommended Actions

1. Create a communication plan to promote arts programs and events, share the benefits of the arts, and make San Ramon arts programs more visible through digital and print media.
2. Explore creating San Ramon Arts Instagram and Facebook accounts to support outreach through short-form videos and online connections with the arts community.
3. Explore opportunities for arts non-profit organizations and local businesses to advertise with the City of San Ramon to increase visibility.
4. Provide free outreach programs and workshops to gather interest in arts programs and media, especially for families with preschool and early elementary age youth.

IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

Successful implementation of the San Ramon 5-Year Cultural Arts Plan will depend on strong partnerships, active engagement with the arts community, responsible resource management, and a flexible approach to program development. The following framework outlines the key elements that will support implementation over the next five years.

Partnerships

Strong partnerships are essential to expanding the reach and impact of arts and cultural programming. Collaboration with artists, local arts organizations, schools, the Chamber of Commerce, community groups, and neighboring cities allows the City to leverage shared resources, expertise, and audiences. These partnerships support program development, outreach, fundraising, and community engagement while strengthening San Ramon's overall arts community.

Artists and the Arts Community

Artists and the broader arts community are central to the success of the Cultural Arts Plan. Supporting artists as creators, educators, and community partners ensures that programs remain relevant, high-quality, and reflective of community interests. Ongoing engagement with artists, instructors, volunteers, patrons, and arts organizations helps inform decision-making, build trust, and foster a sense of shared ownership in the City's cultural arts efforts.

Staffing and Organizational Capacity

Adequate staffing and organizational capacity are critical to implementing, managing, and sustaining arts programs and facilities. Dedicated staff provide program oversight, artist support, facility coordination, partnerships, and community outreach.

Staffing capacity will also influence the pace and scale of implementation. Current arts staff manage a range of responsibilities, including program administration, facility coordination, instructor contracts, events, and community engagement. As new initiatives are introduced, ongoing evaluation of staffing levels and roles will help ensure that programs can be implemented effectively and sustainably.

Sustainable Funding

Reliable and diversified funding is essential to maintaining and expanding arts programs, events, and facilities. A combination of City funding, earned revenue, donations, and partnerships supports program stability and long-term growth. Funding availability will also influence the timing and scale of new initiatives identified in this plan.

Facilities and Infrastructure

Well-maintained and appropriately equipped facilities are fundamental to providing high-quality arts experiences. Effective use of existing facilities, along with strategic investments in equipment, technology, and space improvements, supports program delivery, artist needs, and positive patron experiences.

While San Ramon offers several high-quality arts facilities, demand for flexible exhibition, rehearsal, and instructional space may at times exceed availability. Continued evaluation of facility use and opportunities for enhancement will help ensure that spaces remain adaptable and capable of supporting future programming needs.

Communication and Outreach

Clear and consistent communication increases participation, builds trust, and strengthens connections between the City, artists, and the community. Coordinated outreach helps

residents understand available arts opportunities and encourages greater participation. Effective communication also supports partnerships, community awareness, and advocacy for the arts.

Phased Implementation

Implementation of the Cultural Arts Plan will occur incrementally over the five-year period to ensure that goals are achievable and aligned with available resources. Rather than advancing all initiatives simultaneously, the City will prioritize actions based on funding, feasibility, timing, staffing capacity, and alignment with community priorities.

Early phases will focus on initiatives that can be supported through existing facilities, partnerships, and staffing levels, as well as efforts already underway or in development. Later phases may include expanded programming, new partnerships, and additional resource needs as capacity allows.

This phased approach allows the City to:

- Build momentum through early progress
- Pilot new ideas and refine approaches before broader expansion
- Responsibly manage staff workload and resources
- Adapt to changing community needs and opportunities

Ongoing Evaluation and Annual Priorities

The Cultural Arts Plan is intended to be a flexible and evolving document. Progress toward goals will be reviewed regularly in collaboration with the Arts Advisory Committee and informed by community feedback.

On an annual basis, staff and the Arts Advisory Committee will review implementation priorities and identify measurable outcomes for the upcoming year. These outcomes may include participation levels, artist engagement, partnership development, program expansion, or other indicators appropriate to the initiative. Annual priorities and progress updates will be presented to ensure transparency and alignment with available resources.

Through this ongoing review process, priorities and timelines may be adjusted to reflect staffing capacity, funding availability, operational considerations, and emerging community needs.

PLAN ALIGNMENT AND INTEGRATION

The Cultural Arts Plan complements and supports broader City planning efforts. The Parks, Trails, Open Space, and Recreation Master Plan provides a comprehensive, long-term vision for

parks, recreation, and community services across San Ramon. While the Master Plan includes limited detail specific to arts programming, it establishes broader goals related to community engagement, inclusive programming, partnerships, and placemaking that directly support cultural arts initiatives.

The Cultural Arts Plan builds upon these broader goals by providing a focused framework for the development of arts programs, partnerships, exhibitions, and community engagement opportunities. Whereas the Master Plan serves as a high-level strategic guide for the department, the Cultural Arts Plan functions as a working document used by staff and the Arts Advisory Committee to guide program development, establish priorities, and identify measurable outcomes.

Cultural arts programming contributes directly to goals identified in the Master Plan, including:

- 3.1B-1 Increase cultural arts program offerings by one to two classes annually
- 3.1B-3 Maintain levels of City-provided programming for youth, special needs, and teens
- 3.2A Emphasize programming that responds to different cultural segments, focuses on multi-generational and intergenerational opportunities, and brings a geographically diverse community together
- 3.3B Increase communications and partnerships with community groups by leveraging their communication networks to increase awareness and benefits of parks and programs
- 4.3B Incorporate art, nature, education, and culture into parks to create distinction between facilities and enhance placemaking
- 4.3K Support Dougherty Station Community Arts Center programming and reuse planning

The Cultural Arts Plan also aligns with the Dougherty Station Community Arts Center Operational Plan by identifying opportunities to optimize facility use, expand programming, and strengthen long-term operational sustainability.

Additional information on the City's current cultural arts facilities, programs, staffing, and funding resources is provided in **Appendix A – Current State of Cultural Arts**.

CULTURAL ARTS PLAN DEVELOPMENT

The development of the Cultural Plan started in 2021 with community feedback. Community feedback is a crucial component of this plan, ensuring that artists and residents receive what they want from their arts community. The community engagement process included feedback from several different forums, a community survey, an arts summit with focus groups for community members and stakeholders, and feedback from the Arts Advisory Committee.

Arts Summit

An Arts Summit was held on March 23, 2023, where approximately 60 community members. Invitations were sent to the community for artists, students, teachers, patrons, and stakeholders to attend. Attendees were asked to provide feedback in four topic areas:

- 1) Artist Communication & Collaboration
- 2) Arts Facilities and Resources
- 3) Arts Education and Programs
- 4) Arts Accessibility and Connectivity

The result of the Arts Summit was actionable goals and objectives in the following themes:

- Artist participation in the community
- Facilities
- Access to exhibition, performance spaces, and events
- Marketing
- Funding for arts programs
- Affordable spaces for artists and teachers to create and provide instruction
- Community art participation
- Accessibility for youth
- Expand programs

The full results of the 2023 Arts Summit are included in **Appendix B – San Ramon Arts Summit Responses 2023**.

A follow-up Arts Summit was held on September 16, 2025, where approximately 40 community members attended and provided feedback in eight topic areas:

- 1) Exhibition Opportunities
- 2) Performance Spaces
- 3) Communication and Outreach
- 4) Arts Programming

- 5) Arts Professional Development
- 6) Artist Advocacy
- 7) Community Arts Collaboration
- 8) Youth and Family Engagement

A follow-up Arts Summit was needed to gather additional community feedback, determine changes over the past two years, and ensure that the goals and objectives remain current. The result of the Arts Summit was actionable goals and objectives in the following themes:

- Exhibition, Performance Spaces, and Exhibits
- Artist Advancement
- Community Arts Collaboration
- Provide Quality Arts Programs
- Communication and Outreach

The full results of the 2025 Arts Summit are included in **Appendix C – San Ramon Arts Summit Responses 2025**.

Community Survey

A community arts survey was distributed in March 2021 and received 477 responses from residents, artists, and community stakeholders. The survey provided insight into participation patterns, program preferences, and perceived gaps in arts and cultural offerings.

Key themes identified through the survey included:

- Strong interest in expanded exhibition and performance opportunities for local artists
- Demand for youth and family-focused arts programming
- Desire for more culturally diverse events and programming
- Interest in hands-on classes and short-term workshops
- Need for improved communication and awareness of available programs
- Support for affordable and accessible arts opportunities

The full results of the 2021 Community Arts Survey are included in **Appendix D – Arts Community Survey 2021**.

A follow-up arts community survey was conducted in September–October 2025 and received 221 responses. The follow-up survey was intended to assess changes in community priorities and validate emerging themes from the planning process.

The 2025 survey reaffirmed many of the earlier findings while placing additional emphasis on:

- Artist advancement and professional development
- Increased collaboration with schools and community organizations
- Expanded use of non-traditional and outdoor performance spaces
- Clearer communication and digital outreach
- Multigenerational and family-centered programming

Survey results directly informed the development of the six focus areas outlined in this plan and continue to guide implementation priorities. The full results of the 2025 Community Arts Survey are included in **Appendix E – Arts Community Survey 2025**.

Arts Advisory Committee

The Arts Advisory Committee (AAC) played an integral role in the development of the Cultural Arts Plan. Committee members were presented with findings from both the Arts Summits and the Community Surveys and participated in reviewing and discussing the results.

The Committee assisted in identifying recurring themes, clarifying community priorities, and evaluating opportunities and challenges within the current cultural arts framework. Through facilitated discussions and strategic review, the AAC helped translate community input into actionable goals and objectives.

In collaboration with staff, the AAC contributed to the formulation of the six focus areas and provided guidance on priorities to address in the early phases of implementation. Their involvement helped ensure that the Cultural Arts Plan reflects community values while remaining realistic and aligned with available resources.

The Committee's continued engagement will support ongoing evaluation and refinement of plan initiatives throughout the five-year planning period.

CONCLUSION

The San Ramon 5-Year Cultural Arts Plan provides a clear and thoughtful framework for strengthening arts and culture as an integral part of community life. Grounded in extensive community engagement and guided by the City's vision, mission, and values, the plan reflects a shared commitment to supporting artists, expanding access to the arts, and fostering meaningful community connections.

The plan identifies six focus areas that respond directly to community needs and priorities, while recognizing the importance of partnerships, artist engagement, staffing capacity, sustainable funding, and effective communication. Through a phased, flexible implementation approach, the City can build on existing programs, pilot new initiatives, and responsibly expand arts opportunities over time.

Successful implementation of the Cultural Arts Plan will require ongoing collaboration between the City, the Arts Advisory Committee, artists, community partners, and residents. Regular evaluation and community input will help ensure that programs remain relevant, inclusive, and aligned with evolving needs.

The City of San Ramon remains committed to advancing cultural and artistic opportunities that enrich quality of life, celebrate creativity, and strengthen community identity. This plan serves as a roadmap for continued growth and collaboration, supporting the arts as a vital and valued component of the San Ramon community over the next five years and beyond.

Appendix A – Current State of Cultural Arts

San Ramon is a growing and diverse community with a strong interest in arts, culture, and lifelong learning. Residents value opportunities that support creativity, cultural expression, and community connection. Community feedback highlights interest in visual and performing arts, hands-on learning, and accessible cultural events that reflect the city’s diversity. Community feedback consistently highlights interest in both visual and performing arts, hands-on learning experiences, and accessible cultural events that reflect the city’s diversity.

Participation trends indicate strong demand for:

- Youth and family-focused arts programs
- Opportunities for local artists to exhibit, perform, and teach
- Community events that combine arts, culture, and social connection
- Accessible arts programming offered in a variety of formats, locations, and price points

San Ramon’s arts community includes professional and emerging artists, contract instructors, nonprofit arts organizations, volunteers, students, and patrons. The City’s role as a facilitator, partner, and provider of arts opportunities is critical to supporting this ecosystem and ensuring that programs remain inclusive, relevant, and sustainable.

Cultural Arts Facilities

Cultural Arts programs in San Ramon are held in a mix of dedicated arts facilities and shared community spaces. These facilities support visual arts, performing arts, exhibitions, events, and instructional programs. Primary facilities supporting Cultural Arts programming include:

Dougherty Station Community Arts Center

- Front Row Theater
- Green Room
- Dance Studio
- Art Galleries
- Creative & Sound Studios
- Music Room
- Art Studios
- Community Rooms

Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center

- Theater Stage
- Studio Room

San Ramon Community Center

- Art Studio
- Dance Studio
- Fountain Room
- Lindsay Dirx Brown Gallery

Alcosta Senior & Community Center

- Vista Grande (Multi-use Room)
- Garden View Room
- Art Gallery

Additional spaces used for Cultural Arts programming and events include:

- Amador Rancho Center (Harlan Room)
- Central Park Amphitheater
- Rancho San Ramon Amphitheater
- Various park locations and outdoor spaces

These facilities provide flexibility for performances, exhibitions, instructional classes, and community events throughout the year.

Cultural Arts Programs

San Ramon's Cultural Arts programs offer a range of visual and performing arts opportunities for youth, adults, families, and seniors. Programs are delivered primarily through contract instructors and teaching artists, allowing the City to offer a diverse range of artistic disciplines while maintaining flexibility and responsiveness to community interests.

Programming is offered in multiple formats, including ongoing classes, short-term workshops, seasonal offerings, performances, exhibitions, and community events.

Visual Arts

Visual arts programming provides residents with opportunities to learn, create, and exhibit artwork in a variety of disciplines. Current instructional offerings include:

- Drawing
- Painting (Acrylic, Watercolor)
- Ceramics
- Crafts
- Mixed Media

Programs are offered in a range of formats, including weekly classes, workshops, and seasonal sessions. Instruction is provided through a combination of staff coordination and contract instructors or teaching artists.

In addition to instructional programming, the City supports visual arts through:

- Gallery exhibitions and rotating exhibits
- Annual Call for Artists
- Juried art shows

These programs provide artists with platforms to share their work while increasing public access to visual arts experiences.

Emerging and developing program areas may include expanded ceramics offerings, culinary arts, and textile arts. These disciplines present opportunities for growth through additional contract instructors and strategic use of existing facilities and equipment.

Performing Arts

Performing arts programming provides instructional and performance opportunities in a variety of disciplines. Current offerings include:

- Dance (e.g., Hip Hop, Ballet, and related styles)
- Music (e.g., Piano, Violin, Choir, Orchestra, Band)
- Theater and Improv

Programs range from foundational instruction to performance-based classes and community productions. Performing arts programs support skill development, artistic expression, and public performance opportunities for participants of varying ages and experience levels.

Programs are primarily delivered through contract instructors and teaching artists. Dedicated theater spaces, studios, rehearsal areas, and technical equipment support instruction, rehearsals, and live performances throughout the year.

Events and Presenting Programs

In addition to instructional programming, the City presents and supports a variety of cultural events and performances that provide community-wide arts experiences. These include:

- Summer Concert Series
- Culture in the Community
- Art & Wind Festival

These events offer opportunities for residents to gather, experience live performances, celebrate cultural traditions, and engage with artists in accessible public settings. Presenting programs enhance visibility for the arts while activating public spaces and strengthening community connection.

Public Art

The City maintains and supports a public art collection located throughout San Ramon. Public art efforts include:

- Development and installation of new public art projects
- Maintenance and conservation of existing works
- Stewardship and documentation of the City's public art collection

Public art enhances placemaking, contributes to civic identity, and integrates artistic expression into everyday community spaces. Through ongoing maintenance and thoughtful project development, the City ensures that public art remains a visible and valued component of San Ramon's cultural landscape.

Staffing

Cultural Arts programs are currently supported by the following staffing allocation:

- 1.0 FTE Arts Coordinator
- 0.5 FTE Arts Supervisor
- 0.40 FTE Program Manager
- Approximately 2,000 temporary staff hours annually

Cultural Arts staff are responsible for program oversight, facility coordination, instructor and artist contracts, event planning, public art administration, partnership development, and community engagement. In addition to program delivery, staff oversee scheduling, logistics, marketing coordination, and operational support for multiple facilities and events.

The scope and pace of program development and expansion are directly influenced by the staffing resources allocated to Cultural Arts. As responsibilities increase or new initiatives are introduced, available staff capacity will determine the extent to which additional programs, partnerships, and projects can be implemented and sustained.

Funding

San Ramon's Cultural Arts programs are supported through a combination of public funding, earned revenue, and community contributions. This diversified funding structure allows the City to offer a broad range of programs and services while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

Primary funding sources include:

- **City General Fund** – Supports core staffing, facility operations, and foundational program offerings.
- **Special Funds** – The City has two special funds for cultural arts, the Cultural Growth Fund and the Public Art & Beautification Fund. These funds support community performing arts grants, theater equipment replacement, and public art projects.

In addition to these funding sources, revenue is generated through:

- Program registration fees
- Ticket sales for performances and events
- Facility rentals and space use
- Exhibition-related fees and related arts activities

Earned revenue helps offset program costs and supports the sustainability of instructional classes, performances, and exhibitions.

Funding levels directly influence the scope and scale of Cultural Arts programming. Available resources impact the number and variety of programs offered, the ability to expand exhibitions and performances, the maintenance and enhancement of facilities, and staffing capacity to support new initiatives. As the City considers future growth in arts programming, funding and resource availability will remain a key factor in determining the pace and extent of expansion.