



Klye Levy, Chair
Terry Koehne, Vice Chair
Steve Bried, Commissioner
Will Doerlich, Commissioner
Partha Mitra, Commissioner
Julia Oseland, Commissioner
Vasanth Shetty, Commissioner
Tanya Grewal, Student Commissioner

City of San Ramon Parks and Community Services Commission Agenda

**San Ramon City Hall
Council Chamber
7000 Bollinger Canyon Road**

**September 9, 2026
6:30 PM
Regular Meeting**

Agenda Questions: Please contact the Parks & Community Services Department at
(925) 973-2602 or PCSCCommissionAgenda@sanramon.ca.gov

Please refer to the end of the agenda to review options for participation in the meeting.
This agenda is posted in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2(a).

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Announcements

3.1. Changes and Additions to the Agenda

3.2. Special Announcements

3.3. Swearing in of the New Parks and Community Services Student Commissioner

3.4. Temporary Employee of the Month for August 2026

Introduction by James Spielvogel, Recreation Coordinator

4. Public Comment

Members of the audience are encouraged to address the Parks and Community Services Commission on any non-agenda item relating to the business of the Parks and Community Services Commission. Comments are limited to 3 minutes per speaker, and time cannot be transferred. All remarks shall be addressed to the Parks and Community Services Commission. You can also submit written comments by email to PCSCCommissionPublicComment@sanramon.ca.gov. Emails will not be read aloud; however, they will be forwarded to the Parks and Community Services Commission for their consideration. No action can be taken on issues raised during public comment period.

5. Commission Business

5.1. Minutes of the Parks and Community Services Commission Meeting - July 8, 2026

Recommendation: Accept Minutes

5.2. Recommend Poet Laureate Applicant to City Council

Recommendation: Forward to the City Council the Recommendation of the Selected Candidate for Appointment as the Poet Laureate.

Presented by Bradley Morris, Division Manager

5.3. Arts Advisory Committee Recommendation

Recommendation: Forward to the City Council the Recommendation of Selected Candidates for Appointment to the Arts Advisory Committee.

Presented by Bradley Morris, Division Manager

5.4. Library Advisory Committee Recommendation

Recommendation: Forward to the City Council the Recommendation of the Selected Candidate for Appointment to the Library Advisory Committee.

Presented by Bradley Morris, Division Manager

5.5. City Budget 101 Presentation

Recommendation: Receive the Budget 101 Presentation.

Presented by Mae Mlyniec, Program Manager

5.6. 2026 Summer Program Recap Presentation

Recommendation: Receive the Presentation.

Presented by Bradley Morris, Division Manager

6. Director's Report

6.1. Monthly Activity Report - August 2026

7. Commissioner Reports and Announcements

8. Adjournment

How to View or Participate in the Meeting

View the Meeting:

1. In person
2. Livestream on YouTube: www.sanramon.ca.gov/YouTube
3. Livestream on the City's Website: <https://sanramonca.portal.civicclerk.com>
4. Livestream on Zoom: <https://cityofsanramon.zoom.us/j/98177782498> Meeting ID: 981 7778 2498

Provide Public Comment:

1. In person, by submitting a request to speak card to the Meeting Clerk.
2. By Zoom, using the "Raise Hand" feature to request to speak.
3. Dial in by phone 1(669) 900-6833, using *9 to "Raise Hand," and *6 to unmute.
4. By email to cityclerk@sanramon.ca.gov, indicating "Public Comment" and the corresponding "Agenda Item #" in the subject line.

Written comments received up to two hours before the meeting will be provided to the Commission and posted online in advance of the meeting at <https://sanramonca.portal.civicclerk.com> under the meeting date. Comments received after the cutoff will be provided to the Commission the following day and posted online as noted above. Written comments will not be read aloud.

Technology Disruption:

Remote access is not guaranteed; if there is a disruption in technology that prevents remote participation, the meeting will continue as long as in-person attendance is available.

Accommodations:

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk at (925) 973-2539. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to provide reasonable accommodations.

Attendee Conduct:

There will be zero tolerance for any person addressing the Commission 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 or watching.

At the discretion of the 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 Commission unable to continue the meeting;
- c. Excessive profanity or slander;
- d. Specific threats or "fighting words" that incite violence; or
- e. Speech that is outside the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission 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.



Parks and Community Services Commission Staff Report Item No. 3.4.

Date: September 9, 2026

To: San Ramon Parks and Community Services Commission

From: Henry Perezalonso, Department Director
James Spielvogel, Recreation Coordinator

Subject: Temporary Employee of the Month for August 2026

Executive Summary:

The Parks and Community Services Department recognizes temporary employees monthly for their hard work and dedication to the community. Chris Glenn has been selected as the temporary employee of August 2026 in recognition of his outstanding initiative, customer service, and teamwork as a Building Attendant with the Facilities Division.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the San Ramon Parks and Community Services Commission receive the Temporary Employee of the Month for August 2026.

Background:

The City of San Ramon Parks and Community Services Department is pleased to recognize Chris Glenn, Building Attendant in the Facilities Division, as the Temporary Employee of the Month for August 2026.

During a challenging four-day Fountain Room reservation at the San Ramon Community Center, Chris provided exceptional support during the Friday evening and Saturday morning portions of the event on August 21-22. The reservation required additional attention because layout and catering documentation remained outstanding following complications with the renter's previous vendor. Chris carefully reviewed the reservation packet, worked directly with the renter to establish a clear plan, and helped ensure required documentation was provided while consistently reinforcing City policies in a professional, customer-focused manner.

Throughout the process, Chris maintained excellent communication with the full-time facilities team and proactively familiarized himself with policies beyond his typical Building Attendant responsibilities so he could confidently support the reservation. After successfully getting the Saturday event underway, he went a step further by reviewing the

updated Facilities Rental Packet and independently creating a one-page Building Attendant rental policy cheat sheet for his peers to reference during evening and weekend shifts. His initiative turned the needs of one reservation into a resource that can improve consistency, policy awareness, and customer service across the entire facilities team.

Chris consistently brings an enthusiastic and positive attitude to every shift. Whether supporting a major special event or routine weekday programming, he approaches the work with the same energy, professionalism, and willingness to help. In a short amount of time, he has become a dependable and valued part of facilities operations. The Parks and Community Services Department sincerely thanks Chris for his initiative, communication, and commitment to both City renters and his fellow staff. His willingness to think beyond the immediate task and create solutions that support the broader team reflects the level of service staff strives to provide to the San Ramon community.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

Alternative Option(s):

No alternative options are presented, as this report is informational in nature.

Next Steps:

There are no next steps with this report.

Attachment(s):

None

Parks and Community Services Commission Minutes
Item No. 5.1.

**Minutes of the
City of San Ramon
Parks and Community Services Commission Regular Meeting
July 8, 2026**

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Present:

Chair Steve Bried

Vice Chair Kyle Levy

Commissioner Will Doerlich

Commissioner Terry Koehne

Commissioner Partha Mitra

Commissioner Julia Oseland

Commissioner Vasanth Shetty

Also in attendance: Parks and Community Services Director Henry Perezalonso, Division Manager Brad Morris, Program Manager Mae Mlyniec, Recreation Supervisors Kevin Boggs and Jessica Reaber, Budget Manager Yuliya Elbo, and Administrative Coordinator Kathy Schiller.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Announcements

3.1. Changes and Additions to the Agenda

3.2. Special Announcements

3.3. Temporary Employee of the Month for June 2026

Recreation Supervisor Jessica Reaber introduced Janelle Haskins. Chair Bried and Parks and Community Services Director Henry Perezalonso presented the award.

3.4. Recognition of Outgoing Chairperson, Steve Bried

Parks and Community Services Director Henry Perezalonso and the Commission recognized outgoing Chair Steve Bried and expressed their appreciation for his dedicated service and leadership as Chair of the Parks and Community Services Commission.

4. Public Comment

Members of the audience are encouraged to address the Parks and Community Services Commission on any non-agenda item relating to the business of the Parks

and Community Services Commission. Comments are limited to 3 minutes per speaker, and time cannot be transferred. All remarks shall be addressed to the Parks and Community Services Commission. You can also submit written comments by email to cityclerk@sanramon.ca.gov. Emails will not be read aloud; however, they will be forwarded to the Parks and Community Services Commission for their consideration. No action can be taken on issues raised during public comment period. During public comment, members of the public are permitted to address the Parks and Community Services Commission on:

- Items that are on the **Consent Calendar**, including requests to pull an item from the consent calendar **and the reason why** you wish to pull the item or items. Please note that the decision to remove the item from the Consent Calendar is strictly at the discretion of the Parks and Community Services Commission.
- Items that are **not** on the agenda and are within the Parks and Community Services Commission's jurisdiction.

5. Commission Business

5.1. Nomination and Appointment of 2026-2027 Parks & Community Services Commission Chair and Vice Chair

Chair Bried opened nominations for the 2026/2027 Parks Commission Chair and Vice Chair.

Commissioner Oseland nominated Vice Chair Levy for Chair for 2026/2027. The nomination was seconded by Commissioner Doerlich. The motion passed 7-0-0-0.

Result:	Passed [7-0-0-0]
Mover:	Commissioner Julia Oseland
Second:	Commissioner Will Doerlich
Ayes:	Steve Bried, Kyle Levy, Will Doerlich, Terry Koehne, Partha Mitra, Julia Oseland, Vasanth Shetty
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absences:	

Commissioner Doerlich nominated Commissioner Koehne for Vice Chair for 2026/2027. The nomination was seconded by Commissioner Oseland. The motion passed 7-0-0-0.

Result:	Passed [7-0-0-0]
Mover:	Commissioner Will Doerlich
Second:	Commissioner Julia Oseland

Ayes:	Steve Bried, Kyle Levy, Will Doerlich, Terry Koehne, Partha Mitra, Julia Oseland, Vasanth Shetty
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absences:	

5.2. Minutes of the Parks and Community Services Commission Meeting - June 10, 2026

Recommendation: Accept Minutes

Commissioner Doerlich's motion to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2026 meeting was seconded by Commissioner Mitra. The motion passed 7-0-0-0.

Result:	Passed [7-0-0-0]
Mover:	Commissioner Will Doerlich
Second:	Commissioner Partha Mitra
Ayes:	Steve Bried, Kyle Levy, Will Doerlich, Terry Koehne, Partha Mitra, Julia Oseland, Vasanth Shetty
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absences:	

5.3. Parks and Community Services FY27 Adopted Budget

Recommendation: Receive Report

Program Manager Mae Mlyniec provided the presentation.

The Commission asked clarifying questions and provided feedback.

5.4. Financial Sustainability Workshop #1 - Introduction

Recommendation: Receive Report and Provide Feedback

Division Manager Brad Morris, Program Manager Mae Mlyniec, and Recreation Supervisor Kevin Boggs delivered the presentation to the Commission.

Following the presentation, the Commission asked clarifying questions and provided feedback.

5.5. Discussion of Parks and Community Services Commission Meeting Time

Recommendation: Discuss and Provide Direction Regarding Regular Meeting Start Time.

Director Perezalonso opened the discussion regarding changing the start time for future Parks and Community Services Commission meetings.

Commissioners provided feedback and their preferences.

Commissioner Bried moved to change the start time of Parks and Community Services Commission meetings from 7:00 PM to 6:30 PM, effective August 2026. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Koehne and passed by a vote of 6-1-0-0.

Result:	Passed [6-1-0-0]
Mover:	Commissioner Steve Bried
Second:	Commissioner Terry Koehne
Ayes:	Steve Bried, Kyle Levy, Terry Koehne, Partha Mitra, Julia Oseland, Vasanth Shetty
Nays:	Will Doerlich
Abstentions:	None
Absences:	

6. Director's Report

6.1. Monthly Activity Report - June 2026

Director Perezalonso provided special announcements and presented the June Monthly Activity Report.

7. Commissioner Reports and Announcements

8. Adjournment

Chair Levy adjourned the meeting at 9:32 PM.



Parks and Community Services Commission Staff Report Item No. 5.2.

Date: September 9, 2026

To: San Ramon Parks and Community Services Commission

**From: Henry Perezalonso, Department Director
Bradley Morris, Division Manager**

Subject: Recommend Poet Laureate Applicant to City Council

Executive Summary:

The City of San Ramon's Poet Laureate serves as a public advocate for the appreciation and advancement of poetry and the literary arts within the community. Appointed for a two-year term, the Poet Laureate is a voluntary, uncompensated position and is formally recognized by the City Council with the title of Poet Laureate and a certificate of appointment.

During their term, the Poet Laureate supports the City's cultural arts efforts by creating and presenting poetry at civic ceremonies, dedications, and other community events. The Poet Laureate also serves as a liaison between the City's Cultural Arts Programs and local literary organizations and may provide subject-matter expertise to the Arts Advisory Committee. Additional activities may include poetry workshops, staged readings, and other opportunities that encourage community engagement with poetry and the literary arts.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Parks and Community Services Commission forward to the City Council the appointment of Jaz Sufi as the Poet Laureate with a term expiring September 2028.

Background:

The City of San Ramon is seeking a local poet to serve as San Ramon's Poet Laureate with a term that will run from October 2026 through September 2028. The City Clerk listed the vacancy on the City's website and social media accounts soliciting applicants. Past applicants for the Poet Laureate position were contacted and encouraged to apply. The City received three applications for consideration: Maureen Mancuso, Azal Shaikh, and Jaz Sufi.

An interview panel consisting of Parks & Community Services Chair Levy, Commissioner Doerlich, and Arts Advisory Committee Chair Robert Bickel interviewed the applicants on

Tuesday, August 18, 2026. The interview panel recommended the appointment of Jaz Sufi to serve as the Poet Laureate with the term expiring in September 2028.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

Alternative Option(s):

The Commission may recommend one of the other applicants be recommended for appointment.

Next Steps:

Commission action on the recommendation will be forwarded to the City Council for consideration on September 22, 2026.

Attachment(s):

- A. Poet Laureate Application
- B. Poet Laureate Applicant Submissions



City of San Ramon Poet Laureate Program

The City of San Ramon is seeking a local poet to serve as San Ramon's Poet Laureate. The person selected will serve as a public advocate for the appreciation and advancement of the literary arts, particularly poetry in the City of San Ramon.

The poet selected for the position will not receive compensation, as the post is voluntary. They will receive the title of Poet Laureate and will be presented with a certificate recognizing them in their official capacity as Poet Laureate at a City Council meeting. The term will run from October 2026 through September 2028.

The Poet Laureate will be called upon to create and read poetry at civic events such as public ceremonies and dedications. He or she will serve as a resource and liaison between the City's Cultural Arts Program and local literary organizations. He or she will act as a resource on the topic of poetry should the Arts Advisory Committee need that expertise. He or she may also have the opportunity to conduct poetry workshops or staged readings.

Each candidate for the position of Poet Laureate must:

- Be a San Ramon resident or work in San Ramon
- Be Age 18 or older
- Be the author of published poetry or be willing to publish poetry during their term either electronically or written
- Be willing to create and read poetry for civic events and dedications
- Be willing to have their poetry posted on the City Web Site
- Be willing to share their love of poetry with people of all ages
- Be ready to serve a two-year term with no compensation
- Be willing to orient and train the next Poet Laureate
- Affiliation with literary organizations is preferred but not necessary

Interested applicants must send:

- The attached application
- Four original poems
- A resume including a list of published poetry (no more than 4 pages)
- A Statement of what you would like to accomplish if you are selected as San Ramon's Poet Laureate (no more than 1 page)

Send your application packet electronically OR by hard copy to:

CityClerk@sanramon.ca.gov

City Clerk

City of San Ramon

7000 Bollinger Canyon Rd.

San Ramon, CA 94583

Questions? Please contact Adam Chow at (925) 973-3321 or achow@sanramon.ca.gov.

Applications must be received by Wednesday, August 5, 2026. Applications will be screened to make sure that they meet the basic criteria. Interviews will be scheduled between August 17 - 19 for all qualified candidates.

City of San Ramon Poet Laureate Application

Name_____

Address_____

City_____State_____Zip_____

Phone_____

E-Mail_____

Have you ever given a presentation of your poetry in public? If so, where?

Have you ever served on a City Board, Commission, Committee or in a role such as Poet Laureate here or in another City? If so please explain.

What inspired you to start writing poetry?

Why do you want to be the Poet Laureate for the City of San Ramon?

Send your application along with four original poems, a resume including a list of published poetry, and a statement of what you would like to accomplish if selected as San Ramon's Poet Laureate by August 5, 2026.

City of San Ramon Poet Laureate Application

Name Maureen Mancuso

Address _____

City San Ramon State CA Zip 94583

Daytime Phone _____

Evening Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Have you ever given a presentation of your poetry in public? If so, where?

Yes, in the past I was asked to give a poetry reading at the Martinez Branch of Contra Costa County Libraries for "Poetry Month" which is traditionally celebrated each April. I have also been asked to read my poems at seminars, retreats, workshops, civic events and social actions networks.

Have you ever served on a City Board, Commission, Committee or in a role such as Poet Laureate here or in another City? If so please explain.

No I have not, but I would love the opportunity to not only share my poems, but more importantly, to inspire and to help aid other people through connecting to the beauty and power of poetry as an intrinsic art form that speaks true, reveals the depth of our deepest inner experiences, nourishes our quiet longings, tender revelations of our shared humanity, and helps us to notice powerful little things that go unnoticed suddenly reveal powerful insights when curated through using language in unexpected ways.

What inspired you to start writing poetry?

Several things inspired me to start writing poet. First, was confronting my own encapsulated short-comings and fears. Second, was listening to and reading poems that moved me and overwhelmed me. Third was learning to play with words and recognizing the endless possibility of how words can be strung together, and finally realizing that poetry can speak so powerfully, when prose fail to do so.

Why do you want to be the Poet Laureate for the City of San Ramon?

It is not that I want the title of Poet Laureate, but that I have learned the power of poetry to move and transform hearts and minds over the years. Poetry is art, and I believe that the multiplicity of many art forms nudge us to reconsider ideas, conditions, values and standards, and engages our imagination to wonder and be curious while contemplating new possibilities.

Send your application along with four original poems, a resume including a list of published poetry, and a statement of what you would like to accomplish if selected as San Ramon's Poet Laureate by August 5, 2026.

Objective	Volunteer Position of Poet Laureate for the City of San Ramon, CA. Oct. ‘26	
Professional Experience	Teacher	August 2006–June 2022
	<i>Granada High School, Livermore, CA</i> Teach English 12, Humanities, English 11, English 10 Honors, English 9 and AP Language and Composition	
	Teacher	2000-2005
	<i>Rancho Cotate High School, Rohnert Park, CA</i> Designed and taught curriculum for the following courses: English 11 (Honors), English 11, English 10 (Honors), Introduction to Drama and the Pre-IB program.	
	Teacher (Summer School).	2000
	<i>Mountain Shadows Middle School, Rohnert Park, CA</i> Developed and taught curriculum pertinent to a 6 th &/7 th grade English classes	
	Teacher	1996 - 2000
	<i>Ursuline High School, Santa Rosa, CA</i> -Developed and taught curriculum pertinent to the following courses: Freshman level—Scripture: Old and New Testament, Sophomore level--Church History and World Religions, Senior Level—English. - Departmental Chair at Ursuline, 1998 –2000 -Team member in the development of Senior Service -Served on Strategic Planning Committee for writing skills. -Developed and organized community-based service learning at the sophomore, junior and senior level. -Supervisor for the department’s professional growth	
	* All teaching assignments throughout my professional career as a teacher included poetry units.	
Education	Sonoma State University	1999
	California Teaching Credential, Single Subject--English Rohnert Park, CA	
	Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley	1996
	M.Div. Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA	
	Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology	1993
	Bachelor of Arts, Philosophy (Psychology minor) Berkeley, CA	

Other Work Experiences

<i>Retreat Director</i>	1996-1998
-AIDS Ministry Outreach (AMO), Diocese of Santa Rosa	
Conducted retreats for people living with AIDS	
-Designed, coordinated and facilitated adult retreats	
<i>Hospital Chaplain</i>	1995
Loyola University Medical Center (CPE Units)	
Chicago, IL	
<i>Teacher Assistant, Astronomy</i>	1989-1990
Santa Rosa Junior College	

Special Skills, Activities, and Honors

- Board Member and Board Secretary of non-profit organizations, RCWP-USA, Inc. 2020-Present
- Workshop presenter, various 2000-present
- Site Council, RCHS, 2000-2003 and Granada High School. 2008=2010
- Speech & Debate Coach, RCHS, 2002-2003
- Coordinator, *Day of Dialogue*, RCHS, May, 2002
- Teacher Certification International Baccalaureate Program, Summer 2001
- Development of curriculum which integrates technology into the class room, 2002
- Member Curriculum Council, UHS, 1998-1999
- Academic Council, UHS 1998-2000
- Advisory Board, UHS, 1997-1998
- Member Advisory Board of Dean of Students, Jesuit School of Theology, 1996
- Author, Exegesis entitled "Jephthah and His Nameless Daughter: Judges 11:29-40" nominated for publication in the Jesuit School of Theology journal, *Alma*. 1995
- Workshop designer and presenter
 - Liturgical theology for Diocesan Congress, Santa Rosa, CA 1996
 - National Catholic Educators Association, Columbus, Ohio 1998
- Student Body President, Dominican School of Philosophy & Theology (DSPT), 1993
- Student Representative to the Faculty, DSPT, 1992

Membership-- Professional Organization

- National Council of Teachers of English
- Federation of Christian Ministers
- Call to Action

Publications and Presentations

Mancuso, Maureen. *Notice: Poems of Creation in the Sacred Ordinary*. Amazon Kindle Direct Publishing: 2016. Copyright 2015. Print.

Mancuso, M. Federation of Christian Ministers. Newsletter. Article “Dominion” 2016.

“*This is My Body*” Newsletter on Substack

<https://thisismybody.substack.com/>

A shared online newsletter by myself and two other writers. Focus of content is reading the signs of the time and commenting on various topics and ideas with a spiritual perspective while addressing diversity and concepts of justice. 2024-Present.

IEC Conference. Concordia University, St Paul, MN

“Living the Gospel, Collective Voices” Workshop Presenter. June 2015

**“National Poetry Month with Maureen Mancuso,” Martinez Library,
Martinez, CA. Tuesday April 11, 2017**

Relay for Life, American Cancer Society, Pacifica, CA., Opening Convocation-Poem 2018.

**“National Poetry Month with Maureen Mancuso,” Martinez Library,
Martinez, CA. Tuesday April 11, 2017**

IEC Conference. Concordia University, St Paul, MN

“Living the Gospel, Collective Voices” Workshop Presenter. June 2015

Selected Poems by Maureen Mancuso for Submission with Application

- 1. Cinnamon Beauties, Written 2015**
- 2. Bent Elbows and Coffee, Written 2016**
- 3. Muir’s Mirror, written in 2017 (For several poetry readings in Martinez, CA and other settings I was invited to in Contra Costa Co.)**
- 4. Land Holds Memories, Written 2026**



Bent Elbow and Coffee

It's 9:00 o'clock in the morning and the day has already begun;
Efficiently working from the never-ending "To Do," I stop to smell the Jasmine
dancing full bloom in the wind, sending their inviting fragrance, reminding me of
gratitude, grace, and a planet on which my soul sings.

Suddenly the phone rings and I am greeted by, "Can we meet for coffee?"
"Of course!" Without hesitation I replied, "Where?" What Time?"
It never occurs to me to ask why.

I arrive at the roasters and keenly observe her sitting in the corner window,
head turned and held up by a bent elbow, she's looking through the glass.
Mere consolation of bent elbow to life's sufferings. Her other hand follows
the curb of the ceramic cup; warmth is the gift it brings.
It says, today a story needs to be told.

In attentive silence I sit, my elbow bends too.
Bent elbow and coffee-- friendship at ease; vulnerability rings.

Confusion, and sadness sting, while tears flow,
sighs and woeful stories shout and unfold;
friendship mirrored in empathy and silence remains
Cathartic release comes as bent elbows and coffee sustains.
A bent elbow...what a time-honored gift to give.

--Maureen Mancuso



Cinnamon Beauties

Tallest of all tall trees, you stand in endless beauty: Giant Sequoias, your elegant branches extend back to early days of humankind. In grace and discovery named in native Cherokee, for the allure of your glistening red bark.

Mountains are your brothers and your sisters are the seas;
You, who stand as a silent observance of change; hear the call of the land's distress.

;

Cinnamon beauties, dream catchers; totems and prophets; You bear beauty's wisdom, majestically among your kindred conifer-- quietly you remain, while unselfishly you share your majestic manifest.

O cathedral of my eyes delight; I hear your story in my soul;
You of long years are the chroniclers who hear and hold humanity's history.
Those who held your beauty in awe, and those for whom
you dropped needles and tears, when they invaded your forest, cut you down, only to
discard and waste all you had given: they simply did not
recognize the Divine in you.

It is you O' Cinnamon Beauties, giant Sequoia trees, who climb to the heavens and
withstand the puzzlement, of the human species
And in sacrifice--forgive.

--Maureen Mancuso
(Revised 2022)



Land Holds Memories

Trees measure time; land holds memories;
Skies praise dawn; while the sun journeys
Along with us each day.
At night, stellar illuminations cascade from on high;
Beauty and wonder displayed;
Beaming frequencies, which draw us to our rest;
Where dreams come to advise.

In silence, Living Water within our bodies speak--
Can you hear the gentle plea?
How great this orb we forsake--humankind takes,
takes, takes. Without vision nor wisdom,
Careless oblivion harms this planet we call home.
Mother Earth pleads, strip naked of body and mind;
Pause for the arrival of the owl and the butterfly,
Who, carried by the winds;
Come to shift the Comatose state of Sapiens;
Hopeful for great amends, not the end.

--Maureen Mancuso
2026

Mirroring Muir

The tall lanky man with the Scottish brogue had a penchant for writing prose.
A titled pen glided across the page like water rushes over the fall to spill out its soul.
With deep set eyes, his heart set deeper yet, Muir's heartbeat echoed resplendent sounds
of stillness, silence and the Divine's gracious breath. All captured for us to learn and to
hold.

A horse rider was he on rambling roads from city to mountain meadows (Surely paradise
thought he!); the alpinist floats on rugged terrain; while his walking stick aids heart
discoveries--windfalls of pine, cedar, the regal Giant Sequoia, gentle brooks and glorious
wild flowers.

Muir possessed the understanding that standing still was a blessing. He trusted Mother
Earth could lighten his load and he learned to gaze at profound beauty released his mind
to grow and the charged passion allowed him to act.

Today we shout, "Hail to John of the Mountains!" Naturalist, conservationist, and
visionary on behalf of those who would follow in his tracks. His perseverance and
passion rescued Yosemite. His writings chastened all to steal away for a week or so, to
greet the mountains where wild flowers grow; where Wisdom resides, and the power of
silence can save the land.

Wind blows freshness into the soul; Half Dome calls; knowledge awaits in the crimson of
the sun, as she kisses the tree tops to sleep. There I must go; to mirror Muir and live the
dream that will awaken my soul.

Maureen Mancuso
2017

City of San Ramon Poet Laureate Application

Name_____

Address_____

City_____State_____Zip_____

Daytime Phone_____

Evening Phone_____

E-Mail_____

Have you ever given a presentation of your poetry in public? If so, where?

Have you ever served on a City Board, Commission, Committee or in a role such as Poet Laureate here or in another City? If so please explain.

What inspired you to start writing poetry?

Why do you want to be the Poet Laureate for the City of San Ramon?

Send your application along with four original poems, a resume including a list of published poetry, and a statement of what you would like to accomplish if selected as San Ramon's Poet Laureate by August 5, 2026.

First Poem- The Wander

I searched for someone else's soul,
but somewhere along the way,
I lost my own.

Now I wander without a home,
without a name,
without an identity to call mine.

I gave away everything I was
just to make him happy.

He never saw the sacrifices,
only the flaws,
only the failures.

He saw me as a failure.

He complained about my children.

To keep him, I turned away from them,
mistaking devotion for survival.

I realized too late that my girls were my everything.

To them, I was not a failure.

They were proud of me.

I never realized that I was their everything.

He was my everything.

I was always nothing to him.

He never knew how to love another person.

He only knew how to love himself.

By the time I understood,
it was already too late.

I lay on my deathbed,
and reconciliation no longer mattered.
Some distances are too great to cross,
even before death.

I wish my girls find love, not a sacrificing love, because love is not sacrifice. It is pure,
innocent, and gentle. It's something that protects them, and they protect them.

I'm lucky that I crossed paths with them.

But one day, they will be strangers, just as I am to my homeland, my mother, and my
brothers. I don't know who they are anymore.

My home has changed, not only physically but emotionally too.

I don't belong here, like the displaced people who scream that they will come back to their
homeland. Refugees carry so much trauma and pain. No one sees that. No one wants to
help them.

My homeland was taken away from me.

Now I'm a wanderer, looking for my home, for my name that was stolen by my so-called
husband. The only thing that is mine is my love.

Everything else has been stolen from me.

By Azal Shaikh (Mira), July 30, 2026

Second Poem- The Broken Bird

In the corner of a dim-lit room,
where silence hangs heavier than air,
there lives a bird with tattered wings
and eyes that forgot how to stare.
Its cage is gold, but rusted through,
polished lies on every bar,

a cruel illusion dressed as care,
a prison disguised from afar.
They clipped its wings “for safety’s sake,”
said the sky was far too wide,
taught it fear in gentle tones
until hope itself had died.
It sang once, oh, how it sang,
notes like sunlight, soft and free,
but hands that fed also bruised,
and called that love, insistently.
Each feather plucked, each cry dismissed,
each tremble met with blame,
until the bird believed the cage
and freedom were the same.
Now it hums in broken chords,
a ghost of what it knew,
a melody that aches to rise
but never quite breaks through.
Yet deep within its fragile chest,
beneath the hurt, the scar,
There flickers still a stubborn spark,
It remembers there are stars.
And maybe one day, trembling, raw,
It will test its wings again,
not because it isn’t afraid,
But because it cannot remain.

-Azal Shaikh(Mira), June 1, 2026

Third Poem-My Superpower (Azal Shaikh)

They thought my stroke would steal my flame,
That Moyamoya would write my name
In shadows dark, in fragile lines—
But strength like mine is redesigned.
The fog that drifts across my brain,
It teaches patience, soft from pain.
I see the world in sharper hues,
I notice truths that others lose.
The challenges of school, the fight,
When teachers failed to see my light—
I forged my own path, step by step,
A power born from tears I wept.
My scar is not a mark of loss,
It is a crown I choose to emboss.
It whispers: you have walked through fire,
And still, you rise, you climb, you aspire.
Moyamoya, my hidden might,
A storm that trained me how to fight.
Not weakness—no, but strength in disguise,
A superpower in my eyes.

Fourth Poem A Body That Remembers

There is a kind of love
that never echoes—
you call out softly,
and the silence answers back.

It lives in the small spaces,
in unsent messages,
in the way your chest tightens
over things never said.

You give and give—
like a river that forgets
it deserves rain too.

And somewhere inside you,
your body keeps score.

The heart grows tired first,
pulling against ribs
like a bird that flew too long
with nowhere to land.

The mind follows—
fog settling in quiet corners,
thoughts looping like
“not enough, not enough, not enough.”

And then the deeper things—
the unseen currents—
blood finding its way
through narrowed paths,
as if even your vessels
are learning
what it means to struggle
just to be received.

Not because you deserve pain.
Not because you are broken.

But because one-sided love
teaches the body a language of strain—

of reaching without return,
of holding on without rest.

And still—
even here—
there is something stubborn in you.

A pulse that refuses to disappear.
A quiet, defiant rhythm
that says:

I am still here.

I am still trying.

*I am still worthy of a love
that does not hurt like this.*

Statement of Intent: San Ramon Poet Laureate

If selected as San Ramon's Poet Laureate, I would strive to use poetry as a bridge—connecting people across generations, cultures, identities, and life experiences. I believe poetry is more than an art form; it is a way to preserve stories, express emotions that are difficult to speak aloud, and remind people that they are not alone.

My goal would be to create opportunities for the San Ramon community to engage with poetry in meaningful and accessible ways. I would organize poetry readings, workshops, and community events that invite both experienced writers and people discovering poetry for the first time. I especially hope to encourage young people, older adults, individuals with disabilities, and those who feel unheard to share their voices and experiences.

As Poet Laureate, I would focus on themes of resilience, belonging, compassion, and the shared human experience. I believe every person carries a story, and poetry gives us a language to explore joy, grief, identity, love, loss, healing, and hope. Through my own journey, I have learned that words can become a source of strength during difficult moments, and I hope to create spaces where others can find that same sense of connection.

I would also work to highlight San Ramon's diversity by celebrating the many cultures, histories, and perspectives that make our community unique. Through collaborative projects, public readings, and written works, I would hope to create a lasting collection of voices that reflects the heart of our city.

Ultimately, my purpose as Poet Laureate would be to make poetry feel welcoming and alive—not something distant or reserved for a few, but something that belongs to everyone. I hope to inspire people to write, listen, reflect, and recognize the beauty in each other's stories. Poetry has the power to transform personal experiences into shared understanding, and I would be honored to help San Ramon discover and celebrate the voices within its community.

City of San Ramon Poet Laureate Application

Name Jaz Sufi
Address [REDACTED]
City San Ramon State CA Zip 94583
Daytime Phone [REDACTED]
Evening Phone -
E-Mail [REDACTED]

Have you ever given a presentation of your poetry in public? If so, where?

Yes, regularly, both as current Poet Laureate and elsewhere across the country.

Have you ever served on a City Board, Commission, Committee or in a role such as Poet Laureate here or in another City? If so please explain.

I'm the current Poet Laureate.

What inspired you to start writing poetry?

Confession: I hated poetry as a teenager. Hated it! While I've grown to enjoy a Shakespearean sonnet and delving through the classics, back then that was absolutely not my jam. And then one night I attended the Berkeley Poetry Slam, and I saw what poetry could be: resonant, restorative, and as relevant today as it's ever been. Poetry soon became the focus of my life, first by way of slam/spoken word and later with more concern for the page.

Why do you want to be the Poet Laureate for the City of San Ramon?

As Poet Laureate for the last two years, I've been so excited about the projects I've already started (Verses & Voices at the library, a book club at the Quirky Crow, reading poems at events, etc.) that I'd love to both keep them going and look at other poetic possibilities for the City of San Ramon.

Send your application along with four original poems, a resume including a list of published poetry, and a statement of what you would like to accomplish if selected as San Ramon's Poet Laureate by August 5, 2026.

MAGIC TRICK

a golden shovel after Jonterri Gadson's "Advice"

When I was a child, my father couldn't decide if he was either a father or also a child. My mother was a mother's mother. A woman who knew how to stay. She knew not to look a good man in the mouth, but she counted each of Dad's teeth when that man came home late. He was quick to floss away the evidence, but he never fooled her. She knew all his tricks & tells — late night walks & early morning meetings, all while he hid other women behind him like a magician's second deck of cards. If you met him, you would never guess what cruelty he was capable of, or how much of it my mother could contain. If you asked my father if he loved his wife, his family, he'd never say no. *No* was a woman's word. Before I even learned to stand, I knew Dad loved me, but I soon learned there was nothing behind that love. Dad loved the idea of loving us. He reaped a father's harvest from the neighbors, devoured all their good graces, but in truth, he was a cardboard cutout of a family man.

And yet years later, he had an accident — cracked his skull as if it was a bell, & my father awoke a changed man. I know it sounds like some sitcom scenario, a story he could spin for someone's sympathy, but no. Suddenly, Dad couldn't recall why he was standing so far away from his family, or where he'd left all his grievances. He renewed his apologies to my mother with words from his own heart, not that of his father. By then, we were too tall to be carried on his shoulders, but he stood taller, too, like a lighthouse & less like a cliff. When my brother & I talk about him now, we call him New Dad. New Dad, he bought binoculars. Knows all the backyard birds by name. He told me about them last time I went back home — we sat outside, me & New Dad, & each time a new song limned the silence, I'd listen to him instead, & when he asked *Did you know*—? I'd pretend not to know.

NOTRE-DAME

Like a pomegranate, I wore my garnets quietly. Nude
lip, beige tongue. I took the shape of clouds passing by.

I was a tool for divination — you used me to find
water & blamed me when I drank. We dreaded

you together. Still, I kept my smile on, even when
you hid the key to my mouth. I was so quiet

back then that strangers were surprised
when I spoke, & friends were surprised to find

themselves strangers. If someone had asked me
if I was happy, I would have answered *I'm in*

love. Sure, the constant chirp of the smoke alarm
kept me up most nights, but you promised to change

the batteries. Promises were like miracles God didn't have
to follow through on, sweet bursts dissolved

by the tongue. I devoured them & starved.
My self, my shape, all of it winnowed down

to what would fit in inside your closed fist,
but it was inside your fist I found my key.

I broke free like a bell. I ran, I rang, I rang.

THE OTHER KIDS USE THEIR HANDS

The other kids use their hands
to rain salt down on the snails
outside the church where we

don't go to church. Our parents
rent the space out on Saturdays —
no Christ here today, no one

dying for someone else to be
forgiven. I'm not so furious
as I could be, but am I ever?

I'm furious. I'm screaming
Stop, so loud it's another straw
stacked against the existence

of miracles that none
of the adults inside hear me
outside. You'd think you'd

be able to hear that kind
of pain — the snails, I mean,
you'd think each grain

of salt would sizzle as it
struck their fistless bodies,
their lidless eyes, unable

even to blink or look any
place safer than inward.
Can snails hear what happens

outside their shells? My
frenzied rage, the other kids
laughing, the clatter of salt.

Certainly not my brother,
gripping my hand in his and
crying so quiet next to me

none of us even noticed
when he wasn't there at all,
ran inside the church to tug

at my mother's sleeve
and beg her to come outside,
stop the salt, stop me,

and she did. Even after
we left, though, I couldn't stop
telling the story the whole drive

home, over and over again,
couldn't even buckle
my seatbelt for my hands

still shaking. Did you see,
I asked, Did you see?
Not Did you hear me?

or what my brother had said,
dragging her outside to witness
a wrong kind of worship;

whether he whispered or begged,
like a screaming snail
if a snail could scream.

Why, when she went back
and told the other adults
what happened, the parents

of no one had cared. Did you
see?, my brother's palm
pressed against mine in the backseat,

both of them still sticky with
salt and sweat. I squeezed
too hard, and he made

a small sound, a whimper,
but I wasn't listening,
Did you see? Did you?

SOMEDAY I'LL LOVE JAZ SUFI

after Ocean Vuong

& it's so hard, you know?
Because I am so full of love, & none of it for me.
I am so full of water. I am a river. I go to the river,
& love drains through my open hands.
They are so useful, my hands. They are the open doors,
they open doors, they lock me behind them
& no one else can come inside. I convince myself
the key is hidden under someone else's tongue,
I go looking for the wrong tongues, I fit wrong
in my own mouth when I'm a skeleton inside someone else's
bones, I go looking to fix everyone but myself —
here is a list of therapists. Here is a glass of water.
I am so thirsty I look in the mirror & become
a pillar of salt, I am my own wife before I am myself,
I leave the porch light on, I wait for someone to come
home, & for this & other reasons,
I've called myself *broken*. I've called myself *empty*,
I've called myself things I would never name a child.
This time, I sing the knife to sleep, the knife
I mistook for a mirror, or an open door,
but I can cast a shadow without having to live
inside it. I illuminate my own bones,
fill them back full of marrow. I ritual
the blood back into my veins & it sings,
but this isn't a prayer song, no "praise" or "amen."
Any church here I built myself, with my hands,
my hands the stained glass & the stone,
my name in a good book made better by my name,
my blood & body that will save no one but myself.
I resurrect myself.
I forgive myself for the coffin I thought I would be
in by now: the coffin I mistook for a mirror
or an open door to somewhere better than here,
I am better than here. I am here, better.
Someday, I will love Jaz Sufi. I am learning
how to do it better every day —
here is a list of my golden bones. Here is a glass of water.
I can drink without drowning. I don't dissolve
on anyone's tongue. I say my own name
& a lock unlocks, a door opens, my mouth fills
with light.

EDUCATION

New York University

Master of Fine Arts, Creative Writing - Poetry

2023

New York, NY

University of California — Santa Cruz

Bachelor of Arts, Literature (Creative Writing)

2013

Santa Cruz, CA

WORK EXPERIENCE

Bay Area Creative

Senior Instructor & San Francisco Project Director

Aug. 2015 – Aug. 2019 / June 2024 – current

Bay Area, CA

- [Bay Area Creative](#) is a nonprofit providing arts education to K-12 schools across the Bay Area.
- As Senior Instructor, I teach writing/performing poetry in classrooms and train other instructors. I also:
 - Organize district-wide events to highlight students' work and encourage them to engage with the greater literary community.
 - Facilitate extracurricular poetry clubs for students.

Brooklyn Poets

Instructor

June 2023 – current

remote & New York, NY

- [Brooklyn Poets](#) is a literary arts nonprofit providing workshops, readings, and other programming both locally within NYC and beyond.
- As an instructor, I lead both on-going and drop-in workshops, first in-person and now remotely via Zoom.

New York University

Adjunct Instructor

Aug. 2020 – May 2021

New York, NY.

- As a graduate student at NYU, I taught the undergraduate course CRWRI-UA 815 — Introduction to Creative Writing: Poetry and Fiction.

Berkeley Poetry Slam

Executive Director

Oct. 2014 – Aug. 2019

Berkeley, CA

- [The Berkeley Poetry Slam](#) is the longest running poetry reading series on the West Coast.
- As Showrunner & Executive Director, I oversaw all aspects of the show on- and off-stage. This means I:
 - Wrote grant proposals, press releases, and other promotional documents. Additionally, I designed its website and various print media (fliers, posters, anthologies/chapbooks, etc.) and maintained online presence via social media.
 - Developed community outreach programs: facilitated a weekly writing workshop, created a yearly anthology series, offered an internship and volunteer opportunities, local school visits/workshops, involvement in arts festivals, etc.
 - Led fundraising drives, balanced budget, and maintained records.

Kearny Street Workshop

APAture 2014 Festival Coordinator

2014

San Francisco, CA

- [Kearny Street Workshop](#) is the oldest multidisciplinary Asian Pacific American arts organization in the country. [APAture](#) is an annual month-long festival showcasing the work of emerging APA diaspora artists.
- As Festival Coordinator, I managed artist submissions and communications, headed marketing and publicity, designed promotional materials, and directed volunteers for pre-planning and day-of events.

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

- Recipient of fellowships from New York University, Kundiman, and the Watering Hole
- 2015 National Poetry Slam finalist
- Winner of the 2020 Yellowwood Poetry Prize
- 2024-2026 Poet Laureate of San Ramon, CA

PUBLICATIONS

Catalog of Shadows, debut chapbook forthcoming from Game Over Books (2026)

"Preface," *Nonbinary Review* (2016)

"My Mother and the Bottle," *The Offing*, November 2017

"Your Mother Says, 'I'm Just Surprised You're Not Angrier, That's All,'" *The Dead Animal Handbook* (2017)

"I'm Fine, Thank You for Asking! I'm Fine, Thank You for Asking!," *The Journal*, (Winter 2017)

"Different Names for Lamotrigine," *PANK* (Summer 2018)

"Etymology of Improvised Explosive," *Birdfeast* (January 2019)

"DSM 5-296.89," *The Rumpus* (March 2020)

"I Learned How to Swim When I Realized I Could Swim," *The Rumpus*

"Broken Ghazal Explaining the Knife in Its Hand," *The Rumpus*

"PERIHELION / APHELION," *The Rumpus*

"Every Part of the Animal," *AGNI* (April 2020)

"Hanjo," *Yalobusha Review* and winner of the 2020 Yellowwood Poetry Prize (April 2020)

"When My Classmates Ask Me If My Father Took Down the Towers," *Southeast Review* (2021)

and selected for *Best in the Net 2022*

"Litany to Protect against Possession," *Southeast Review*

"Acknowledgments," *THE BOILER* (2021)

"The Other Kids Use Their Hands," *THE BOILER*

"Confession," *THE BOILER*

"Someday I'll Love Jaz Sufi," *The Shade Journal* (2021)

"Switchback," *The Shade Journal* (2021)

"today i manic all the way down," *Sixth Finch* (2022)

"Oasis," *Diode* (2022)

"Judith I," *Muzzle* (2023)

"Poem in the Voice of Thirty to Fifty Feral Hogs," *Black Warrior Review* (2023)

"Catalog of Shadows Cast in Different Kinds of Light," *The Adroit Journal* (2023)

"Magic Trick," *The Cortland Review* (2023) and selected for *Best New Poets 2025*

"Understand I Can No Longer," *The Colorado Review* (2023)

"Notre-Dame," *Ploughshares* (2024)

"Etymology of Definition," *Ploughshares* (2024)

"Dialectics," *The Cincinnati Review* (2024)

"Anti-Epithalamium," *The Georgia Review* (2024)

"Genesis 3:4," *Passages North* (2024)

"Family History Rewrite," *The Los Angeles Review* (2024)

"Duplex," *The Cincinnati Review* (2025)

"Etymology of Borders," *Split This Rock* (2025) and nominated for a Pushcart Prize

"First Video," *Wildness* (2025)

"Ghazal for the A Word," *swamp pink* (2025)

"How Do You Say," *BOOTH* (2025) and nominated for a Pushcart Prize

As I'm reapplying for the position of Poet Laureate, I think it would be useful to first review my previous statement of purpose. In it, I had four primary goals: connecting with San Ramon schools; starting up a weekly poetry workshop; doing typewriter poetry on demand at local events; and community collaborations. Connecting with schools, unfortunately, was a bust – after cold-calling nearly every K-12 school in SRVUSD, none of them were planning new arts programming after state budget cuts. Besides that, I consider my other goals rousing successes. Verses & Voices has been going on strong every Wednesday since February of 2025, with a wonderful little community built up around it. I haven't been able to do as much typewriter poetry as I'd like, but I did get to set up shop at the library's annual fundraising gala. As for community collaborations, I've built the strong relationship with the San Ramon Library that I initially hoped I would. In addition, I've been collaborating with both the Quirky Crow bookstore for a monthly book club and our local chapter of PFLAG.

Looking forward, I intend to continue with the projects I've already started. Verses & Voices is always an hour of joy in my week, and I'm hoping to keep that going as long as possible. I also plan on connecting with other San Ramon community groups to collaborate on a project for an [Academy of American Poets Laureate Fellowship](#). During my term as Poet Laureate, I was ineligible due to having no published collection of work, but as my first chapbook *Catalog of Shadows* is coming out this September, I'm determined to come up with a project that will bring poetry to our community.



Parks and Community Services Commission Staff Report Item No. 5.3.

Date: September 9, 2026

To: San Ramon Parks and Community Services Commission

From: Henry Perezalonso, Department Director
Bradley Morris, Division Manager

Subject: Arts Advisory Committee Recommendation

Executive Summary:

The Arts Advisory Committee makes recommendations to the Parks and Community Services Commission on the delivery of art programs, facilities, activities, services, events, and policies. One regular position and one alternate position are currently vacant, both with terms expiring March 2027.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Parks and Community Services Commission forward to the City Council the recommendation to appoint Aqsa Shakil to the regular committee position and Sara Garewal as the alternate member of the Arts Advisory Committee, with terms expiring in March 2027.

Background:

The Arts Advisory Committee consists of seven regular committee members and two alternate members, each serving a two-year term. Appointments are made by the City Council in March, and terms commence with the first meeting in April of each year.

The City Clerk listed the vacancies on the City's website and social media accounts and solicited applicants. There are two vacancies: one regular position and one alternate position. Four applications were received for consideration: Sara Garewal, Ellie Mainou, John Rieth, and Aqsa Shakil.

An Ad Hoc Committee of the Parks and Community Services Commission, consisting of Chair Levy and Commissioner Doerlich interviewed the applicants on Tuesday, August 18, 2026 and Tuesday, August 25, 2026. The Ad Hoc Committee recommended the appointment of Aqsa Shakil to the regular committee position and Sara Garewal as the alternate member of the Arts Advisory Committee, with terms expiring in March 2027.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

Alternative Option(s):

Recommend appointing a different applicant and forwarding that recommendation to City Council.

Next Steps:

Commission action on the recommendation will be forwarded to the City Council for appointment.

Attachment(s):

A. Arts Advisory Committee Applications

From: notification@sanramon.ca.gov
To: [Lisa Schlotz](#)
Subject: BCC Application 2026-06-09 11:54 AM(PST) Submission Notification
Date: Tuesday, June 9, 2026 11:55:16 AM

| EXTERNAL EMAIL: Think before you click and do not open attachments unless you know they are safe. |

BCC Application 2026-06-09 11:54 AM(PST) was submitted by Guest on 6/9/2026 2:54:53 PM (GMT-08:00) US/Pacific

Name	Value
bccapply	AAC
fullname	Sara Garewal
cellphone	
primaryphone	cellprimary
firstname	Sara
businessphone	
middlename	Kristine
homephone	
lastname	Garewal
address1	
email	
address2	
Gender	female
city	San Ramon
state	CA
zip	94583
years18	yes
policeacademy	
planacademy	
gov101	
none	none
experience	See below.
occupation	Legal Operations, Contracts Management
companyname	Pulse Biosciences, Inc.
busown	No
position	Senior Contracts Manager
availability	Weekday Evenings, Weekends
	B.A., in Psychology, Sonoma State University, 2012 Paralegal Certificate, John F. Kennedy University, 2014 Masters in Business Administration, Saint

edu-exp	Mary's College of California, 2024 10+ years of in-house legal contract management, legal operations, and general paralegal experience mostly in construction and biotech industries. Currently senior contract manager/legal operations manager at publicly traded biotechnology start-up company.
purposegoals	I think the main purpose of the Arts Advisory Committee is to serve as the city of San Ramon's champion for the arts by translating community needs into actionable recommendations for city leadership.
interest	My passion for music and the performing arts goes back as far as I can remember. At just three years old, I was already mimicking the performances of Judy Garland, Shirley Temple, and Elizabeth Taylor — captivated by the magic of what I saw on screen. That early spark grew into something much deeper. I sang in my Catholic school choir from ages 7 through 13, took private piano and voice lessons, and performed in plays and musicals through a youth drama program at the Lafayette Theater. By the time high school came around, I chose Acalanes High School in Lafayette, CA, specifically for its prestigious music and theater program — a testament to how central the arts had become to my identity. Under the direction of Bruce Lengacher, I immersed myself in choral music, musical theater, and drama all four years. The highlight of that chapter was landing the lead role in my senior year musical — a moment I still count among my most cherished memories. That foundation carried me forward. As a college freshman at CSU Long Beach, my musical background earned me a spot in one of the university's top choirs — a highly competitive opportunity I was proud to earn. Though I eventually shifted focus toward completing my degree and building my career, my love for the performing arts never left me. It has simply been waiting for the right opportunity to contribute — and I believe this committee is that opportunity. I am eager to bring my knowledge, hands-on experience, and deep passion for the performing arts to this committee. My background in the performing arts would be a natural and meaningful addition to the group — informing decisions, evaluating options, and enriching discussions on anything related to the cultural arts. What excites me most, however, is the timing. San Ramon is on an upward trajectory — a growing, evolving city with an expanding and diverse community. I see that growth as a real opportunity to elevate the arts here, introducing more residents to the transformative power of the performing arts and helping establish San Ramon as a true cultural destination in the region. I would love to be part of shaping that future.
contribution	The most important contribution I can make is bringing a perspective that bridges generations. At 35, I'm young enough to understand how younger residents engage with the arts, yet experienced enough to bring real credibility to the committee's work. My extensive performing arts background means I have lived experience across the full arc of arts engagement — from developing as a young performer to understanding what sustains a lifelong relationship with the arts. That's directly relevant to one of the committee's core challenges: creating programming that resonates with residents of all ages, including younger families and working-age adults who are often hardest to reach. As a San Ramon resident, I'm personally invested in these outcomes. My combination of performing arts expertise, generational perspective, and genuine roots in this community positions me

	to help shape a cultural future that serves not just today's residents, but the next generation as well.
participation	While I have not yet had the opportunity to formally participate in civic or community activities, my desire to serve on the Arts Advisory Committee marks the beginning of my commitment to changing that. I have always believed in the power of the arts to bring people together and strengthen communities — and joining this committee is my way of turning that belief into action. I am eager to channel my lifelong passion for the performing arts into meaningful community service, and I see this role as the perfect entry point. I am committed to showing up, contributing fully, and growing as a civic participant — not just within this committee, but in the broader San Ramon community as well.

To view this form submission online, please follow the link below:

[https://www.sanramon.ca.gov/form/one.aspx?
objectId=21314787&contextId=12608466&returnto=submissions](https://www.sanramon.ca.gov/form/one.aspx?objectId=21314787&contextId=12608466&returnto=submissions)

From: notification@sanramon.ca.gov
To: [Lisa Schlotz](#)
Subject: BCC Application 2026-06-29 12:46 PM(PST) Submission Notification
Date: Monday, June 29, 2026 1:00:18 PM

| EXTERNAL EMAIL: Think before you click and do not open attachments unless you know they are safe. |

BCC Application 2026-06-29 12:46 PM(PST) was submitted by Guest on 6/29/2026 3:46:56 PM (GMT-08:00) US/Pacific

Name	Value
bccapply	AAC
fullname	Ellie Mainou
cellphone	
primaryphone	cellprimary
firstname	Ellie
businessphone	
middlename	
homephone	
lastname	Mainou
address1	
email	
address2	Apt 295
Gender	female
city	San Ramon
state	CA
zip	94582
years18	yes
policeacademy	
planacademy	
gov101	
none	none
experience	During my doctoral studies, I was actively involved in the Student Government Association for the Center for Infectious Disease Dynamics at Penn State University, serving successively as Secretary, Vice President, and ultimately President. As President, I spearheaded initiatives to bridge the gap between complex scientific research and the community, organizing public outreach events and securing funding for student-led advocacy programs. I also focused on building a collaborative, inclusive environment by coordinating cross-departmental seminars and mentoring incoming graduate students. That same dedication to community and culture drives me today in

	the Bay Area, where I regularly give back as a volunteer usher for both SFJAZZ and the San Francisco Symphony.
occupation	Quantitative Pharmacology
companyname	Amgen
busown	No
position	Senior Scientist
availability	Evenings and weekends
edu-exp	I hold a Ph.D. in Biology from Penn State University, a M.Sc. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Emory University and a B.A. in Mathematics from Smith College. I currently work as a Senior Scientist in the pharmaceutical industry, a role that requires rigorous analytical thinking, project management, and cross-functional collaboration. While my professional background is rooted in the sciences, I have a lifelong passion for the arts—particularly theater, music, and visual arts. This unique combination allows me to bring both a highly structured, data-driven approach to project planning and an authentic, deeply informed appreciation for cultural programming to the committee.
purposegoals	I understand the purpose of the San Ramon Arts Advisory Committee as being the bridge between the city’s leadership and its residents to enrich the community's cultural landscape. Its goal is to advocate for, preserve, and expand public art installations, cultural events, and diverse artistic expressions. By doing so, the committee ensures that San Ramon remains a vibrant, inspiring, and inclusive place to live where the arts are accessible to everyone.
interest	My love for the arts is a huge part of who I am. I frequently visit museums or attend a theatrical show or a concert somewhere in the Bay Area, and I always make it a point to explore local museums whenever I travel. As a San Ramon resident, I really want to see that same kind of cultural energy and richness thrive right here in our own backyard. The arts have this amazing, unmatched ability to bring people together, spark real conversations, and just make our daily surroundings more vibrant. I’m ready to step up and serve on this committee because I want to directly contribute to the community I call home, helping to shape the public spaces and local programming that inspire all of us.
contribution	My most important contribution is the ability to bridge the gap between creative vision and structured execution. Because of my background as a scientist, I excel at objective problem-solving, budgeting, and managing complex timelines. Pairing this analytical skillset with my genuine enthusiasm for the arts means I can help the committee evaluate proposals critically, plan initiatives effectively, and ensure that community arts projects are executed successfully and sustainably.
participation	My civic and community involvement centers on education and supporting the performing arts. I actively give back to my alma mater by volunteering as an alumna interviewer for Smith College, helping to evaluate and mentor the next generation of students. Additionally, I have hands-on experience supporting major cultural institutions in the Bay Area, volunteering as an usher for both SFJAZZ and the SF Symphony, where I love helping to create

a welcoming, seamless experience for the public.

To view this form submission online, please follow the link below:

[https://www.sanramon.ca.gov/form/one.aspx?
objectId=21337247&contextId=12608466&returnto=submissions](https://www.sanramon.ca.gov/form/one.aspx?objectId=21337247&contextId=12608466&returnto=submissions)

From: notification@sanramon.ca.gov
To: [Lisa Schlotz](#)
Subject: BCC Application 2026-06-25 09:22 AM(PST) Submission Notification
Date: Thursday, June 25, 2026 9:22:17 AM

| EXTERNAL EMAIL: Think before you click and do not open attachments unless you know they are safe. |

BCC Application 2026-06-25 09:22 AM(PST) was submitted by Guest on 6/25/2026 12:22:03 PM (GMT-08:00) US/Pacific

Name	Value
bccapply	AAC
fullname	John Rieth
cellphone	
primaryphone	cellprimary
firstname	John
businessphone	
middlename	
homephone	
lastname	Rieth
address1	
email	
address2	Enter Address Line 2
Gender	male
city	San Ramon
state	CA
zip	94583
years18	yes
policeacademy	
planacademy	
gov101	gov101
none	
experience	Marketing Project Management Sales Forecasting Manage people and large teams Boy Scout Leader SPCA Volunteer Board member (Restore and CityTeam) Improv and art classes community involvement
occupation	Retired from AT&T
companyname	AT&T
busown	No
position	Marketing Director
	Lead marketing programs for AT&T consumer broadband group. Including

availability	pricing, promotions, positioning strategies and profitability
edu-exp	Master of Business Administration Degree, George Washington University Marketing Strategy Pricing Policy and implementation Project Management Competitive Analysis Forecasting Managed people and budgets
purposegoals	My interpretation is that the Arts Advisory Committee serves as the City's primary advocate and strategic advisor for fostering a vibrant and accessible arts community. The Committee helps ensure that San Ramon's cultural arts programs, public art, facilities, and community events reflect the interests and needs of residents while enhancing the City's identity and quality of life. The Committee also plays a role in gathering community input, evaluating opportunities, and providing recommendations to City staff, the Parks and Community Services Commission, and the City Council. By reviewing public art projects, supporting local artists and cultural organizations, and helping develop long-term plans for the arts, the Committee helps ensure that San Ramon's investment in the visual and performing arts is both meaningful and sustainable. Ultimately, I see the Committee's purpose as enriching the community by making the arts an integral part of everyday life for residents of San Ramon.
interest	As both a community volunteer and an avid oil painter, I appreciate the important role the arts play in inspiring creativity, bringing people together, and enriching the quality of life within a community. The visual and performing arts help create a sense of identity, encourage cultural appreciation, and provide opportunities for residents of all ages to learn, connect, and express themselves. I am interested in serving on the Arts Advisory Committee because I would like to help ensure that San Ramon continues to invest in high-quality arts programs, public art, cultural events, and facilities that reflect the interests and diversity of our community. I enjoy combining creative thinking with strategic planning and believe my professional experience in program development, project management, and community engagement would allow me to make thoughtful contributions to the Committee's work. I welcome the opportunity to collaborate with fellow committee members, City staff, and community organizations to help strengthen and expand San Ramon's vibrant arts community.
contribution	I believe my most important contribution would be my ability to combine strategic planning with practical execution. Throughout my professional career, I have led marketing initiatives, managed complex projects, developed long-range plans and forecasts, and worked collaboratively with large cross-functional teams to achieve shared goals. These experiences have taught me how to evaluate opportunities, build consensus, and translate ideas into successful programs. Equally important, my volunteer experiences—including serving as a Scout Leader, volunteering with the SPCA, serving on nonprofit advisory boards, and participating in local arts and improv classes—have reinforced the importance of community engagement, creativity, and collaboration. I believe these experiences have given me both the organizational skills and the community perspective needed to carefully evaluate programs, support local artists, and help strengthen San Ramon's cultural arts offerings for residents of all ages.
	I have been actively involved in civic and community service through a

participation	variety of volunteer and leadership roles. During my career at AT&T, I led corporate-sponsored community service initiatives, including volunteer projects supporting Kids Against Hunger and the Contra Costa Food Bank. I have volunteered with the SPCA, served on the advisory boards of Restore Men's Recovery Center and CityTeam, partnered with The Barnabas Group Bay Area to support nonprofit organizations, served as a Guest Services volunteer at CPC Danville, and previously served as a Scout Leader mentoring youth and developing leadership skills. In addition to my volunteer service, I am an active oil painter and have participated in local art and improv classes. These experiences have given me a greater appreciation for the role that creativity and the arts play in building community, fostering personal expression, and bringing people together. I believe the arts enrich the lives of residents of all ages and contribute to a vibrant, connected community.
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To view this form submission online, please follow the link below:

<https://www.sanramon.ca.gov/form/one.aspx?objectId=21334671&contextId=12608466&returnto=submissions>

From: notification@sanramon.ca.gov
To: [Lisa Schlotz](#)
Subject: BCC Application 2026-06-23 03:46 PM(PST) Submission Notification
Date: Tuesday, June 23, 2026 3:47:10 PM

| EXTERNAL EMAIL: Think before you click and do not open attachments unless you know they are safe. |

BCC Application 2026-06-23 03:46 PM(PST) was submitted by Guest on 6/23/2026 6:46:44 PM (GMT-08:00) US/Pacific

Name	Value
bccapply	AAC
fullname	Aqsa Shakil
cellphone	2146795087
primaryphone	cellprimary
firstname	Aqsa
businessphone	
middlename	
homephone	
lastname	Shakil
address1	
email	
address2	Enter Address Line 2
Gender	female
city	San Ramon
state	CA
zip	94583
years18	yes
policeacademy	
planacademy	
gov101	
none	
experience	I am an artist, a teacher and a realtor. I have been teaching drawing and painting classes in the San Ramon Community Center since 2017. I have also served on the board of the Art Advisory Committee before and would love the opportunity to join in again.
occupation	Realtor
companyname	Keller Williams Tri-Valley
busown	Yes
position	Real Estate Agent

availability	Flexible
edu-exp	Education: [L]2007 – M.F.A., Meadows School of the Arts, Southern Methodist University, Dallas TX 2005 - B.A. Summa Cum Laude, University of Texas at Dallas 1999 – 2001 National College of Arts , Lahore , Pakistan Teaching Experience: 2019 - 2020 Adjunct professor, Art Appreciation, Evergreen Valley College, San Jose CA [L]2017 - Present Drawing and Painting Instructor, San Ramon Community Center, San Ramon CA 2013-2014 Adjunct professor, Drawing and Design, University of Texas at Dallas 2011-2012 Adjunct professor, Painting and Foundations, Southern Methodist University, Dallas TX 2007-2010 Adjunct professor, Drawing and Advanced Drawing, University of Texas at Dallas [L]2005-2007 Teaching Assistant, Southern Methodist University, Drawing 2005-2007 Teaching Assistant, Southern Methodist University, Painting 2005-2007 Teaching Assistant, Southern Methodist University, Foundations 2004-2005 Writing Instructor, Reading Writing and Math Lab, University of Texas at Dallas
purposegoals	The committee advises City staff, the Parks and Community Services Commission, and the City Council on cultural arts programs, facilities, services, activities, and policies. It gathers and evaluates community input, serves as a liaison with governmental, nonprofit, and private organizations, and advocates for the growth of visual and performing arts throughout the community. The committee also reviews public art projects, Art Gallery exhibits, and Cultural Growth Fund grant applications. Through its standing and special subcommittees, it provides recommendations and feedback on current and future cultural arts needs. In addition, it develops, implements, and evaluates the City's five year cultural arts plan to guide long term arts programming and facility planning.
interest	I would like to join this board because I am passionate about strengthening our community through arts, culture, and creative expression. Through my involvement in community organizations and public service initiatives, I have seen how the arts bring people together, foster connection, and enrich quality of life. I would welcome the opportunity to help shape programs, support public art initiatives, and ensure that cultural opportunities remain accessible and meaningful for residents of all ages and backgrounds. I am excited to contribute my perspective, collaborate with fellow community members, and help advance the City's vision for a vibrant and inclusive arts community.
contribution	As an art teacher and active member of the community, I can bring both educational and community-centered perspectives to the board. My experience working with students of different ages gives me insight into how arts programs can inspire creativity, build confidence, and engage diverse audiences. Through my involvement in local community initiatives, I understand the importance of making arts and cultural opportunities accessible and inclusive for all residents. I would be excited to help identify community needs, support public art projects, promote arts education, and contribute to the development of programs that strengthen connections across our community.
	I am actively involved in community and civic activities that promote arts and cultural engagement. I regularly attend local art shows, cultural events,

participation	and community programs, often encouraging my students to participate and experience the arts firsthand. Earlier this year, I taught an art seminar at the Cultural Fair, helping community members explore creativity through hands on learning. These experiences have strengthened my connection to the community and reinforced my commitment to making the arts accessible and engaging for all.
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To view this form submission online, please follow the link below:

[https://www.sanramon.ca.gov/form/one.aspx?
objectId=21333146&contextId=12608466&returnto=submissions](https://www.sanramon.ca.gov/form/one.aspx?objectId=21333146&contextId=12608466&returnto=submissions)



Parks and Community Services Commission Staff Report Item No. 5.4.

Date: September 9, 2026

To: San Ramon Parks and Community Services Commission

From: Henry Perezalonso, Department Director
Bradley Morris, Division Manager

Subject: Library Advisory Committee Recommendation

Executive Summary:

The Library Advisory Committee makes recommendations to the Parks and Community Services Commission, Contra Costa Library officials, and City Council on the delivery of library programs, facilities, activities, services, and policies. There is one alternate position vacancy on this committee.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Parks and Community Services Commission forward to the City Council the appointment of Caroline Kang as an alternate member of the Library Advisory Committee, with a term expiring in March 2028.

Background:

The Library Advisory Committee consists of five regular community members and two alternate members, each serving a two-year term. Appointments are made by the City Council in March, and terms commence with the first meeting in April of each year.

The City Clerk listed the vacancy on the City's website and social media accounts soliciting applicants. There is one vacancy: the alternate position on this committee. Three applications were received for consideration: Hanunah Alsabur, Caroline Kang, and Swati Parmar.

An Ad Hoc Committee of the Parks and Community Services Commission, consisting of Chair Levy and Commissioner Shetty, held virtual interviews on Thursday, August 20, 2026. The Ad Hoc Committee recommended the appointment of Caroline Kang to serve as the alternate member of the Library Advisory Committee, with a term expiring in March 2028.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

Alternative Option(s):

Recommend appointing a different applicant and forwarding that recommendation to City Council.

Next Steps:

Commission action on the recommendation will be forwarded to the City Council for appointment.

Attachment(s):

- A. Library Advisory Committee Applications

From: notification@sanramon.ca.gov
To: [Lisa Schlotz](#)
Subject: BCC Application 2026-06-18 11:28 AM(PST) Submission Notification
Date: Thursday, June 18, 2026 11:29:13 AM

*****| EXTERNAL EMAIL: Think before you click and do not open attachments unless you know they are safe. |*****

BCC Application 2026-06-18 11:28 AM(PST) was submitted by Guest on 6/18/2026 2:29:00 PM (GMT-08:00) US/Pacific

Name	Value
bccapply	LAC
fullname	Hanunah Alsabur
cellphone	
primaryphone	cellprimary
firstname	Hanunah
businessphone	
middlename	
homephone	
lastname	Alsabur
address1	
email	
address2	416
Gender	female
city	San Ramon
state	Ca
zip	94582
years18	yes
policeacademy	
planacademy	
gov101	
none	
experience	I have a diverse background in community service, non profit development, holistic wellness doula. My experience includes creating and supporting programs that connect individuals and families with recourses, coordination community out reach initiative, and fostering partnership that strengthens beyond our community. I am hosting Historical History Walks in San Francisco paying respect to my ancestors who were founders of San Francisco's financial, shipyard enterprises as well as land donors to California's first public school.
occupation	Holistic wellness Doula

companyname	Grace My Body Wellness
busown	Yes
position	Master Healer
availability	By Appointment
edu-exp	Ahmed Baba Institute, UC Berkeley , Chico State, Morgan Library , Library of Congress. I and my son are fully invested with our international literacy program in Palenque Colombia and Funzi Island Kenya. We are looking forward to selecting the lumber that will be used to build their communities first libraries. So that's what I'm gearing up for. Iqrah was my first word as a baby. My dad who is responsible for restoring Malian ancient manuscripts of science astronomy and Islam as well as mathematics always Iqrah!!! that means Read or recite. I'm very well versed and have been told that I'm blessed to be a custodian of a great intellectual tradition.
purposegoals	My interpretation of the purpose of the Library Advisory Board is to serve as a voice for the community by providing input and recommendations that help strengthen library services, programs and resources. The board helps ensure that the library remains accessible inclusive and responsive to the diverse needs of residents. Its goal is to support literacy lifelong learning community engagement and equitable access to information technology and educational opportunities. We also need to be proud of our Californian History and preserve that and I see that is lacking.
interest	To enlighten and share and learn and continue to build curiosity, to open up another worlds of greats that have gone forgotten but their legacy is still within me. I'm a seeker of truth and knowledge and I love sharing the wealth. I think I was sent here by God to keep it LIT because the power that you gain in the binds of books is electrifying. I have doctors asking if I'm a Medical professional, judges want to know who the new council is because I'm constantly leaning the language of law and science. I'm defiantly an Asset .
contribution	I'm a seeker of everything, I'm not flat and one sided. I'm a face and personality that is missing in this community. I have a personals library that I'm proud of and when I receive those who hate reading, by the time I'm done with them, they are excited bragging to their friends, Yo!!! This the real Money Bag!!! and that there proves that I can peek the youths interest and hook them and they go on to enlighten their hive. These generation of kids are going to be the first generation that doesn't do better than their parents. I instill in my son there is plenty to do and he then says hey guys lets go to city hall and admire art. Oratory, Literature, Science and Stats, World History, Law and good ole Humanitarian work is wheel of a good oiled society. Defiantly going to bring California History and Local Literati's and everything else that is valuable that is overlooked. Stay tuned, I'm looking forward to the Live In Person, welcoming Hanunah, The Bad Ass Librarian of San Ramon Advisory Board. Smile and I Hope you have had a chance to read the The Bad Ass Librarians of Timbuktu, that's the story of my Baba
participation	I'm an advocate for survivors of human trafficking, getting those who have been stripped of their dignity back restoring their power so they can Inshallah be of sane mind and body to live a positive productive life, I volunteer my time with my seniors because they have the richest most fabulous stories, so I take them to museums and botanical gardens and live.

Currently I have been super excited that my audience is super excited about my Historical Tour Walks, I read to the young girls at Glide Memorial, the look and hope that I see on their innocents faces gives me my everything to keep going. And My son and I are going to be publishing his book of Affirmations.

To view this form submission online, please follow the link below:

[https://www.sanramon.ca.gov/form/one.aspx?
objectId=21329641&contextId=12608466&returnto=submissions](https://www.sanramon.ca.gov/form/one.aspx?objectId=21329641&contextId=12608466&returnto=submissions)

From: notification@sanramon.ca.gov
To: [Lisa Schlotz](#)
Subject: BCC Application 2026-06-27 02:10 PM(PST) Submission Notification
Date: Saturday, June 27, 2026 2:10:32 PM

| EXTERNAL EMAIL: Think before you click and do not open attachments unless you know they are safe. |

BCC Application 2026-06-27 02:10 PM(PST) was submitted by Guest on 6/27/2026 5:10:11 PM (GMT-08:00) US/Pacific

Name	Value
bccapply	LAC
fullname	Caroline Kang
cellphone	
primaryphone	cellprimary
firstname	Caroline
businessphone	
middlename	
homephone	
lastname	Kang
address1	
email	
address2	Enter Address Line 2
Gender	female
city	SAN RAMON
state	CA
zip	94583
years18	yes
policeacademy	
planacademy	
gov101	
none	
experience	
occupation	Attorney
companyname	State Fund
busown	No
position	Assistant Chief Counsel
availability	Available Thursday evenings for meetings
edu-exp	JD 2002

purposegoals	I understand that the purpose of the committee is to make recommendations regarding the delivery of library programs, facilities, activities, services, and policies.
interest	I am interested in collaborating with various stakeholders to make the San Ramon libraries a place for the entire community to enjoy and evolve as community needs change.
contribution	As a San Ramon resident for approximately 13 years, a working mother, and having a child in the public school system, I believe I can bring a practical perspective to the table.
participation	I have been a civil servant for the State of California for 23 years, but this would be my first foray on a city committee.

To view this form submission online, please follow the link below:

[https://www.sanramon.ca.gov/form/one.aspx?
objectId=21336250&contextId=12608466&returnto=submissions](https://www.sanramon.ca.gov/form/one.aspx?objectId=21336250&contextId=12608466&returnto=submissions)

From: notification@sanramon.ca.gov
To: [Lisa Schlotz](#)
Subject: BCC Application 2026-06-30 12:49 PM(PST) Submission Notification
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2026 12:50:02 PM

| EXTERNAL EMAIL: Think before you click and do not open attachments unless you know they are safe. |

BCC Application 2026-06-30 12:49 PM(PST) was submitted by Guest on 6/30/2026 3:49:47 PM (GMT-08:00) US/Pacific

Name	Value
bccapply	LAC
fullname	swati parmar
cellphone	
primaryphone	cellprimary
firstname	Swati
businessphone	
middlename	
homephone	
lastname	Parmar
address1	
email	
address2	Enter Address Line 2
Gender	female
city	San Ramon
state	State
zip	94583
years18	yes
policeacademy	
planacademy	
gov101	
none	none
experience	My last full time work was First Republic Bank for 7 years. Since last 6 months I work at Target@ Bishop Ranch.
occupation	Work at Target Store
companyname	Target
busown	No
position	
availability	I Work at Target from 7 am to 3 pm. Other times i am available
	1. Bachelor Of Commerce 2. MBA in Finance 3. Project Manager by

edu-exp	Profession
purposegoals	My interpretation is that the Library Advisory Body serves as a bridge between the library and the community. Its purpose is to provide inputs on: -->library services -->programs & -->policies to meet the diverse needs of residents.
interest	I am residing in San Ramon for past 7 years, have participated in few seed bank volunteering events in the San Ramon library. As a resident i feel library plays important role in supporting education, lifelong learning, and community connection. I would love to collaborate, listen to needs and contribute in meaningful way.
contribution	With my background in project management, I am skilled at listening to diverse viewpoints, analyzing information, and working with others to develop practical recommendations. I am committed to representing the interests of the community, supporting informed decision-making, and helping the library continue to provide valuable programs and services.
participation	In past I have worked with UPMA NGO in leading their Clothes drive by collecting & donating the kids clothes .

To view this form submission online, please follow the link below:

[https://www.sanramon.ca.gov/form/one.aspx?
objectId=21338322&contextId=12608466&returnto=submissions](https://www.sanramon.ca.gov/form/one.aspx?objectId=21338322&contextId=12608466&returnto=submissions)



Parks and Community Services Commission Staff Report Item No. 5.5.

Date: September 9, 2026

To: San Ramon Parks and Community Services Commission

From: Henry Perezalonso, Department Director
Mae Mlyniec, Program Manager

Subject: City Budget 101 Presentation

Executive Summary:

On July 8, 2026, Parks & Community Services (“PCS”) staff presented an overview of the department’s FY 2026/27 Adopted Budget, including the fiscal realities facing the City and the challenges of planning for a future characterized by continued inflationary pressures and uncertain revenue growth. With Measure N scheduled to sunset in 2035, PCS staff are proactively evaluating long-term financial sustainability and developing a financial sustainability policy to help ensure that the PCS department can continue to meet community needs while maintaining sound fiscal stewardship.

During the July 8 meeting, the Commission requested a “Budget 101” presentation to provide foundational information on the department’s budget process and inform future Commission discussions on long-term financial sustainability.

Recommendation:

The PCS Commission’s role is to receive the Budget 101 presentation.

Background:

As discussed during the July 8, 2026 presentation on the FY 2026/27 PCS Adopted Budget, the City faces a fiscal environment in which certain costs, particularly those influenced by inflation, are expected to continue increasing, while future revenue growth remains less certain. These conditions underscore the importance of understanding the City’s current financial structure and developing strategies to maintain long-term fiscal sustainability.

Measure N is a one-time revenue measure currently scheduled to sunset in 2035, with no current plan for a replacement revenue measure. In preparation for the eventual loss of this revenue source, the City is evaluating its long-term financial position and working to develop a financial sustainability policy. The policy is intended to provide a framework for making informed financial decisions that balance community needs, service delivery,

available resources, and responsible fiscal stewardship.

At the July 8 meeting, the Commission requested a Budget 101 session to provide foundational information before the PCS Commission begins further discussions regarding financial sustainability. The presentation provides an overview of the department's budget structure and process. Establishing a common understanding of these fundamentals will help support informed discussion as the City considers its long-term financial sustainability.

Fiscal Impact:

This report is for informational purposes only. There is no fiscal impact.

Alternative Option(s):

This item has no alternative options, as it is informational.

Next Steps:

The Commission will receive future financial sustainability concepts to consider and provide feedback over the coming months. For reference, the FY27 Adopted Budget document is located [on the City's website](#) and detailed information about [the FY27 budget](#) can be found there too.

Attachment(s):

None



Parks and Community Services Commission Staff Report Item No. 5.6.

Date: September 9, 2026

To: San Ramon Parks and Community Services Commission

From: Henry Perezalonso, Department Director
Bradley Morris, Division Manager

Subject: 2026 Summer Program Recap Presentation

Executive Summary:

The Parks & Community Services Commission (Commission) will be presented with a high-level overview of the 2026 summer season, including key program highlights, participation, and stories that illustrate the work of the Parks & Community Services Department (PCS) throughout the summer.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Commission receive the 2026 Summer Program Recap presentation.

Background:

Summer is one of the Department's busiest programming seasons, encompassing camps, aquatics, sports, arts and culture, senior services, facility rentals, special events, and volunteer opportunities.

The presentation will provide a high-level overview of the 2026 summer season, including key program highlights, participation, and stories that illustrate the work of PCS throughout the summer.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact associated with receiving this informational presentation.

Alternative Option(s):

This item does not have alternative options as it is informational.

Next Steps:

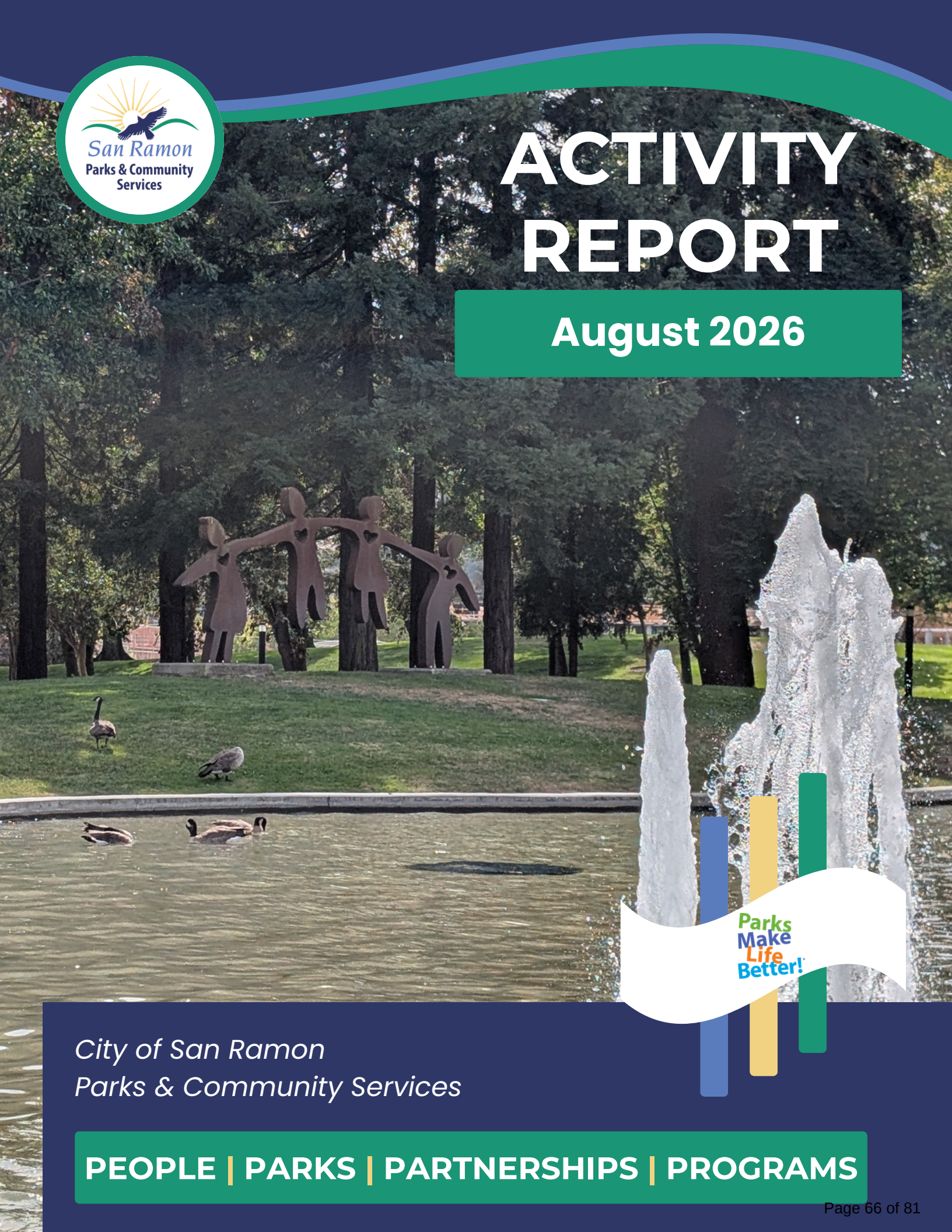
PCS will continue to evaluate summer programming, participation, community feedback, and operational outcomes as part of ongoing program planning and service delivery.

Attachment(s):
None



ACTIVITY REPORT

August 2026



Parks
Make
Life
Better!

City of San Ramon
Parks & Community Services

PEOPLE | PARKS | PARTNERSHIPS | PROGRAMS

PROVIDE RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCES



Dive-In Movie at San Ramon Olympic Pool

Rounding out the summer, San Ramon Olympic Pool hosted a Dive-In Movie Night featuring the live-action film, *How to Train Your Dragon*. This final community pool event of the season welcomed a record-breaking 729 attendees, who enjoyed recreation swim, pool floats, and a movie under the stars with family and friends. This event provided a diverse, accessible experience, giving residents of all ages a chance to connect, make memories, and enjoy local recreational amenities outside traditional programming.



Dude, It's the Perfect Nerf Sports Camp!

Nerf Camp is one of many fun, innovative sports camps led by City staff, and it proved so popular that the final session's capacity increased to 25 campers to meet demand. Campers had a blast participating in Nerf games, team challenges, obstacle courses, and blaster activities. They worked together, played fairly, and enjoyed friendly competitions while staff kept the activities safe, organized, and engaging. Overall, it was an energetic and enjoyable experience with lots of participation, teamwork, and smiles to end the summer.

PROVIDE RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCES



Nature Camp at Forest Home Farms

Nature Camp season came to a close with a full-to-bursting roster and lots of happy campers! The final week of camp was jam-packed with fun activities like a golden egg hunt, compass orienteering, and tractor rides. A highlight for the week was a special visit from Treadles to Threads Guild members, who partnered with the farm's shepherdess to give the kids an unforgettable day of heritage skill-building. Campers met the new farm goat, Sweetie, watched a sheep herding demonstration, and got hands-on with raw wool using drop spindles, carding machines, spinning wheels, and tabletop looms to create their own real wool keepsakes.

FOSTER HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Aquatics Summer Camps Wrap Up

The Aquatics team wrapped up another successful summer of Junior Lifeguard Basics, Advanced, and Star Guard Camps, helping more than 100 youth build confidence, leadership, teamwork, water safety, and lifesaving skills across eight weeklong camps. Through classroom, field, and pool activities, campers developed new skills, participated in themed activities, and strengthened their foundation for future success in aquatics and beyond.



FOSTER HUMAN DEVELOPMENT



Gathering Spaces at Alcosta Senior and Community Center

August offered many gathering spaces for seniors to socialize, with opportunities spanning enrichment, fun, and support. The Valley Humane Society brought special four-legged friends for their regular visit to comfort seniors at the center. The Community Stroke Support Group for stroke survivors and their caregivers gathered to provide a safe space to meet, share stories, and support each other.

The Meet & Greet Friendship Group continues to embrace the spirit of connection, now meeting weekly in the ASCC lobby to drink coffee and chat. Members also walk nearby trails, attend summer concerts, and take drop-in classes together.

The Page Turners met to review their monthly selection, followed by a dynamic discussion. The senior-based book discussion group has 20+ participants who gather each month, with support from library staff and a senior volunteer.

Throughout the month, new summer drop-in classes grew. Each Thursday, the new American Mahjong class brought new players to the center and built the skills of current players. On Fridays, Steve McGill continues to lead a Writer's Workshop for writers to share their work, and the small group is growing.

FOSTER HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Middle School Teen Centers



School is back in session, and so are the Teen Centers! Middle school students are thrilled to reconnect with friends at the afterschool program, which runs until 6:00 PM at two San Ramon campuses, Pine Valley and Iron Horse Middle Schools.

Each Teen Center offers supervised homework time followed by recreational activities such as board games, Jeopardy!, Wii tournaments, and dodgeball games led by part-time staff. Registration is open for the two sites, with various options available, including drop-in, monthly passes, and annual memberships.



The Parks and Community Services Department has again partnered with the San Ramon Valley Unified School District (SRVUSD) to offer the English Learners Program (EL) and Extended Learning Opportunity Program (ELO-P) to qualified incoming 6th graders. ELO-P provides state funding for afterschool and summer school enrichment programs for transitional kindergarten through sixth grade. Families eligible for ELO-P under state guidelines can register for Teen Centers at no cost. Students identified in this designation include students who are in foster care, homeless youth, and those who are socio-economically disadvantaged. The English Learners Program (EL) is another state-funded program designed to help students who speak a language other than English at home learn English as quickly and proficiently as possible. EL students can register for the teen centers at a discounted rate. Since beginning this partnership with SRVUSD in 2023, enrollment in both programs has steadily increased, which in turn has increased enrollment in the Teen Centers.



FOSTER HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Summer Nature Story Time

Nature Story Time engages children with stories and sensory activities to help them learn about nature and the world around them. Summer's season of stories brought toddlers, ages 2-5, into the Rose Garden at San Ramon Community Center.

All five senses were engaged as participants were introduced to Gyotaku, the art of Japanese fish printing, along with fun water play using a net and magnetic pole to catch fish toys for the Fish and Water themed story time. A rose-themed day gave participants a chance to explore the beautiful Rose Garden; see, smell, touch, and feel rose petals; paint roses of their own; and plant Native Californian wildflowers in seed cups to grow at home. Meanwhile, Dragonfly and Turtle days gave participants a chance to make their own turtles and dragonflies to bring home after learning about the secret lives of these wild backyard neighbors through colorful stories.



INCREASE CULTURAL UNITY



Poet Laureate Call and Selection Process

The City interviewed three candidates for the next San Ramon Poet Laureate, who will serve a two-year term from October 2026 through September 2028, following the term previously held by Jaz Sufi. The Poet Laureate advocates for poetry and literary arts, serves as a liaison to local literary organizations, and advises the Arts Advisory Committee. The program promotes cultural unity by providing opportunities for diverse voices, community expression, and connection through poetry.

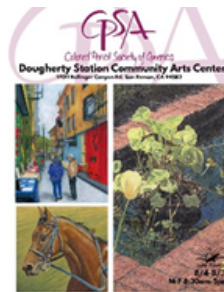
INCREASE CULTURAL UNITY

August Galleries

During August, featured exhibitions included William Heiderich's sculptural work, Lamorinda Arts Association's "Whisper of Color" mixed-media exhibition, Nutan Singh's watercolor paintings, Colored Pencil Society of America District Chapter 210's "Explorations in Colored Pencil XII," and Oksana Kovneva's photography exhibition, "The Way I Feel, The Way I See."

The exhibitions provided residents with opportunities to experience a variety of artistic styles, techniques, cultures, and perspectives in accessible public spaces. Artist receptions throughout the month also encouraged direct interaction between artists and community members.

These gallery activities support the City's cultural enrichment goals by bringing people together through shared experiences, encouraging dialogue and appreciation for different perspectives, and making the arts accessible to residents of all ages and backgrounds. By placing exhibitions in City facilities, libraries, and community centers, the program integrates arts and culture into everyday community life. It helps foster a stronger sense of connection and cultural unity among residents.



August Galleries & Events

Gallery at Alcosta Senior and Community Center

Nutan Singh

Lindsay Dirkx Brown Gallery

William Heiderich

Gallery at City Hall

Lamorinda Arts Alliance

Dougherty Station Community Arts Center Gallery

Colored Pencil Society of America, District Chapter 210

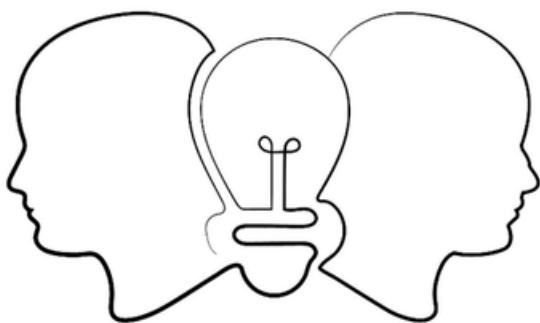
San Ramon Library Gallery

Oksana Kovneva

INCREASE CULTURAL UNITY

Call For Artists

During August, the City of San Ramon advanced several arts and cultural initiatives to promote creative expression, community participation, and diverse artistic voices.



CONVERGENCE OF CREATIVITY

Fall 2026 Juried Art Show Convergence of Creativity: Unexpected

The City opened its annual juried exhibition to artists ages 16 and older nationwide. The theme, Unexpected, invites artists to explore unconventional and surprising ideas through painting, drawing, photography, ceramics, sculpture, printmaking, mixed media, and digital art. Applications opened August 14, with an October 4 deadline. The exhibition will be held at the Lindsay Dirx Brown Gallery from November 14 through December 16, with Paul Naas, a Bay Area artist and educator, serving as juror.

2027 Galleries Call for Artists

The City also opened its annual call for artists to provide month-long exhibitions throughout its galleries during 2027. Artists at all career stages are encouraged to apply. Applications opened August 10 and close September 27. The program expands exhibition opportunities for artists while connecting them with San Ramon's diverse and engaged audiences.



Together, these initiatives strengthen San Ramon's cultural landscape by supporting literary and visual artists, showcasing diverse perspectives, and creating opportunities for residents to connect through the arts.

INCREASE CULTURAL UNITY

San Ramon Summer Concert Series

The City hosted its final Summer Concert of the season at the San Ramon Central Park Amphitheater. The series wrapped on August 2 with the band Take 2 entertaining the crowd with today's hits and yesterday's classics. The free concert gave residents and visitors a chance to gather, enjoy live music, and connect in a welcoming public space, supporting community engagement, cultural participation, and unity.



FACILITATE COMMUNITY PROBLEM SOLVING

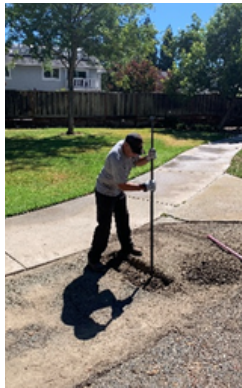
August at Café Costa



On average, 40 seniors attended lunch daily during August at Café Costa. Dougherty Station Librarian Dean Jones gave a presentation on August 5 detailing all the services available through the library. Café Costa celebrated monthly birthday participants on August 19 with festive cake and birthday goody bags from two Senior Outreach Sponsors, Horizon Elder Law and Angels Heart.

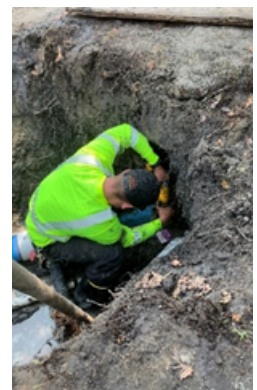


STRENGTHEN SAFETY AND SECURITY



Inverness Park Bench Replacement

Public Services staff replaced eight concrete benches with new metal benches at Inverness Park. After removing the old benches, which were more than 25 years old, staff installed new concrete footings, allowed adequate curing time, and then securely installed the benches using concrete anchor bolts. As a finishing touch, staff applied a fresh layer of gray fines around each bench, providing a clean and updated appearance. The Citywide Parks Amenities Replacement and Improvements Project (CIP 955584) funded the project.



Athan Downs Park Mainline Repair

Parks maintenance staff performed a second round of complex irrigation repairs at Athan Downs Park, starting with a break in the park's 6-inch reclaimed water irrigation line. Staff discovered that the adjacent potable water line was also affected, requiring a section of the line to be replumbed. As a result, the park restrooms were closed for about 24 hours, and temporary restroom facilities were placed in the parking lot for public use. Staff worked together to complete the repair, ultimately securing the damaged reclaimed water line with two HyMax couplings. The park has since been restored to full operation.

STRENGTHEN SAFETY AND SECURITY



Annual Maintenance at Iron Horse Gym & Pine Valley Gym

Facilities staff completed annual maintenance at Iron Horse Gymnasium and Teen Center and Pine Valley Gymnasium and Teen Center, preparing both facilities for the new school year. Staff stripped and waxed entryways and the Teen Center floors, washed and disinfected wall pads, thoroughly cleaned basketball backboards, replaced basketball nets and volleyball covers, and gave hallways a fresh coat of paint. Staff also pressure-washed the facility exteriors, giving the buildings a clean, refreshed appearance. At Pine Valley Gymnasium, staff replaced the drinking water and bottle-filling station, providing a more convenient amenity for facility users.

Setting aside a dedicated week for annual maintenance allows staff to complete projects that are difficult to accomplish while the facilities are in regular use. This work not only refreshes the gyms and Teen Centers but also helps extend the life of facility equipment and finishes while maintaining a clean and welcoming environment for the community.



STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY IMAGE AND SENSE OF PLACE



Community Outreach for Fall Youth Programs

As the 2026-27 school year began, Parks and Community Services staff visited local elementary schools to raise awareness about upcoming fall programs and events offered by the City. More than 200 individuals attended each back-to-school event; parents received program information, and kids enjoyed Otter Pops. Site visits included Bella Vista Elementary School, Neil Armstrong Elementary School, and Coyote Creek Elementary School, with plans to visit other schools throughout the fall for respective Family Night events.

Group Tours at Forest Home Farms

Forest Home Farms Historic Park hosted a special group tour, offering students from iBest Learning Center a taste of the larger Farm Life Education Program. During this docent-led tour, a dozen students learned about farm life in the 1800s. They made and tasted their own butter, learned about the sustainable soda system of San Ramon's first General Store, and tried their hand at doing laundry the old-fashioned way, with wooden scrub boards and hand-crank clothes wringers. Group tours for all ages offer flexible content options customized to each visiting group.



SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



12U Cricket Tournament

The California Cricket Academy East Bay, an Athletic Facilities Co-Sponsorship User, hosted a tournament the first weekend in August at the Gale Ranch, Quail Run, and Windemere Ranch cricket pitches. The three-day 12U tournament brought together San Ramon teams and visiting clubs from the region, providing opportunities for elevated gameplay and for visitors to explore San Ramon between matches.



Golden State Basketball Camp

The Golden State Warriors and the Golden State Valkyries hosted a youth basketball camp at Iron Horse Gym, which attracted kids from San Ramon and the greater region. The Warriors partner with the City of San Ramon to host camps every summer; however, with the addition of the Valkyries women's basketball team, their camps have sparked more participation by young female athletes. The highlight of the week was having professional players stop by. This camp featured Juan Toscano-Anderson, an Oakland native with strong ties to the Warriors and several other NBA and international league teams.

PARKS MAKE LIFE BETTER



Camp Central

Throughout the summer, Camp Central offered a positive gathering space for self-directed and organized recreation. The nine-week summer camp program began on June 8 and ended on August 7, and flexible options allowed families to register their children for dates and programs that fit their needs and interests. During the 2026 summer camp season, Camp Central offered 216 camps overall, with a total of 3,180 camp sign-ups. Programming and participation increased from 2025, where 208 camps were offered, compiling 3,085 registrations.





PARKS MAKE LIFE BETTER



Community Gardens: Clean-Up, Education, & Harvest

Boy Scout Troop 201 and City Lights volunteers came together to beautify the garden during Crow Canyon Gardens' monthly workday. In addition, 14 troop members and seven volunteers braved the August heat to mulch, pull weeds, and ensure the garden's trees and plants had enough water to help them weather the heat wave.

Across town at Alcosta Senior and Community Center, six participants attended the Garden Speaker Series to learn about winter garden preparations from Master Gardener Bonnie Dwyer. Each participant took home planning resources and a handy checklist of to-dos to help them plan to ensure gardening success this fall and winter.

Toward the end of the month, volunteers from Tassajara 4-H began an early harvest of apples to prepare for apple pressing, starting with first-to-ripen varieties Pink Pearl, Esopus Spitzenberg, and Macoun. Crow Canyon Gardens is home to 16 heritage apple tree varieties, each ripening at a different time. The annual Apple Pressing Event will take place September 12 at the Gardens.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept 1-30	National Senior Center Month at Alcosta Senior and Community Center
Sept 4	Artist Reception for Yi Ding at City Hall
Sept 11	San Ramon Community Chorus Concert at Front Row Theater
Sept 12	Fun on the Farm: Working with Wool at Forest Home Farms
Sept 12	Apple Pressing Day at Crow Canyon Gardens
Sept 17	Live Well Senior Resource Fair at Alcosta Senior and Community Center
Sept 17	Artist Reception for George Ann Bowers at Alcosta Senior and Community Center
Sept 17	3rd Thursday Arts & Eats at Dougherty Station Community Arts Center
Sept 18	Neil Diamond Superstar at Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center
Sept 19	Parks Make Life Better Volunteer Event at Old Ranch Park
Sept 19	Fun on the Farm: Food Preservation at Forest Home Farms
Sept 26	Fun on the Farm: Abundant Apples at Forest Home Farms
Oct 1	Niladri Kumaar at Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center

DEPARTMENT MISSION



- **Provide Recreational Experiences**
- **Foster Human Development**
- **Promote Health and Wellness**
- **Increase Cultural Unity**
- **Facilitate Community Problem Solving**
- **Strengthen Safety and Security**
- **Strengthen Community Image and Sense of Place**
- **Support Economic Development**

These items reflect how Parks Make Life Better!

Parks and Recreation make lives and communities better now and in the future by providing access to nature, outdoor space to play and exercise, free-time fun in positive spaces, and socializing and learning in a gathering place.

PEOPLE | PARKS | PARTNERSHIPS | PROGRAMS