



Mariposa County

<http://www.mariposacounty.org/>
PLANNING DEPARTMENT



AVA BURNS
JACKIE BAXTON
CARA GOGER
KIM BRISACK
XAVIER DUBOIS
GAIL DREIFUS
JUNE McCrory
ABBY MILLER
JEANETTA PHILLIPS
ERICA WOLFSEN

CHAIR
MEMBER
MEMBER
MEMBER
MEMBER
MEMBER
MEMBER
MEMBER
MEMBER
MEMBER

FINAL MINUTES OF THE CREATIVE PLACEMAKING STRATEGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CPSAC)

June 16, 2025 (APPROVED 9/15/2025)

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting was called to order by Chair Burns at 12:00pm.

Present: Ava Burns, Jeanetta Phillips, Abby Miller, Gail Dreifus, Cara Goger, Xavier Dubois

Excused: June McCrory, Erica Wolfesen, Kim Brisack

Staff: Hannah Harrison

Guests: None

2. Approval of Minutes

a. Meeting of February 24, 2024

Motioned by Xavier Dubois and a seconded by Jeanetta Phillips, the February 24th were approved.

3. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

No Public Comment

4. Project Updates:

a. *Historic Preservation in the Present Tense Project*

Harrison provided an update stating that the funding was lost due to the project not aligning with the Trump administration's priorities. Harrison reported that an appeal was filed by the county asserting the project does align with the Trump administration's policies. This grant would have provided \$75,000 in funding to update the historic design review guidelines, establish a process for approving public art, and create a community mural project in Mariposa or Coulterville.

b. *MCACI Artist in Residency Program Planning Project*

Goger provided an update on this program and explained that California Arts and Parks provided the initial grant funding for project planning, as part of a larger program called "Art in State Parks". The Arts Council has partnered with Mariposa County, the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation, and the Sierra Foothill Conservancy. Currently, the Mariposa Arts Council is conducting community engagement. The project's concept will be to give artists an opportunity to develop low footprint projects on the Mariposa Creek Parkway, with a possible a community engagement element through the Foothill Artist Lecture Series. Goger is now developing the proposal to apply for implementation funding in the next few weeks.

5. Committee Business:

a. Election of Secretary

Dubois nominated Miller for Secretary at the meeting on June 16th. Miller accepted the nomination. By a unanimous vote, Miller was re-elected as Secretary.

b. Progress Report from the Public Arts/Creative Placemaking Database Ad-Hoc Committee (CPS Program #9)

Burns provided an update on the progress with the county-wide public arts database. Burns provided an overview of the data and requested feedback from committee members on which headings should be included in the internal metadata, and which should be on the public online map.

Meeting briefly paused due to audio issues, and Burns provided a phone number for those who would like to call in to the meeting.

Members discussed which headings should be included in the metadata. Miller and Goger suggested adding something that addressing maintenance and the responsible organization as this would be useful when applying to grants. Goger also suggested history/story should be replaced with interpretive or didactic text to include the text or prose developed by the artist to describe the project.

Dubois asked who is currently maintaining the database, and Burns indicated the Arts Council is currently keeping it on a drive. Goger suggested the data and map should eventually be housed with the county, as this is a recommendation with the Creative Placemaking Strategy.

Dubois stated that the creation of the data base was the main action of the Ad Hoc Committee, consisting of Wolfsen, Burns, and Dubois, and that County staff ready to input the data. Harrison asked if the Ad Hoc was still necessary, and Dubois and Burns indicated that they felt it was, for at least two more meetings. Goger offered to help with data clean-up before the information is passed along to the county. Goger suggested developing some language around the process for adding additional artwork to the database. Dubois emphasized the need for an inclusive structure that can continue through the lens of the Chamber, Tourism, Arts Council, etc. Dubois clarified that liability issues should be considered if there is not an associated accountable organization, for example, in the case of an art piece listed on the database on private land. The Ad Hoc Committee is working through these details, regarding what to include that is available to the public. Dubois suggested the Ad Hoc Committee could come up with an onboarding document for submitting a proposed piece to add to the database.

c. **Update on the Frost Shop Site Activation from Xav Dubois (CPS Project #3)**

Dubois indicated that fees of \$3,800 were paid for the initial permit, and Jenni Kiser and Joe Lynch were included in a meeting with Planning that clarified more about the conditional use permit requirements. Dubois would like to get on the record that it is “demotivating in this county to want to move forward with something that will benefit the community and the public, andyou don’t have a culture developed that is about taking away barriers to this process.” However, Dubois felt that this meeting helped remove some barriers and is meeting tomorrow with the Board of Supervisors to see if they can waive the permit fees, as the development of the lot would be done as a non-profit to benefit the community.

Dubois reported that Jake and Hanna from 1850, local entrepreneurs, are developing a shipping container for the site to represent local beverages, including wineries, breweries, etc. on the location. Dubois has redone paths with gravel to improve wheelchair accessibility. He identified challenges in development but felt that they are getting close. Dubois indicated that there will be room for 17 vendors, including Happy Goat selling produce (which will not compete with the Wednesday market, who have also been invited but declined to move), and Dixon’s Fixin’s. Dubois mentioned that a food truck might be available for sale and a vision of rotating chefs to house it, if possible. Dubois is making an appeal to the Board of Supervisors to amend parking around the site because the number of parking spaces county is requesting doesn’t match up with what is available.

d. Review the Economic Vitality Strategy and Discuss How the Strategy Aligns with CPSAC's Work

Recommendations from the Economic Vitality Strategy that align with the CPSAC's mission:

- Goal #5: Promote Vibrant Communities & Town Centers in Which to Live, Work, & Play
 - Strategic Initiative #5: Adopt Placemaking Principles that create authentic, vibrant town centers consistent with the community's heritage that will strengthen existing businesses, attract new investment, and provide residents and visitors alike a high quality of life with a variety of cultural, entertainment, shopping, culinary, and recreational experiences.
 - Action 5.1.1: Complete Mariposa Creek Corridor Parkway Extension
 - Action 5.1.2: Maintain Attractive Streetscapes and Public Area Appearances in town centers by making targeted investments in key infrastructure, making improvements to storefronts, and maintaining attractive, well-maintained streetscapes.
 - Action 5.1.6: Recognize the role that arts and culture play in county life, tourist experiences, and the local economy. Explore opportunities and demand for additional facilities to support the performing and visual arts.
 -

Harrison identified that the Arts Council's Artist in Residency on the Creek Parkway, and Dubois's Frost Shop project, align with these goals.

Goger expressed that through working with the Arts Council at the state and federal level, she has noted that public art is never on its own, and it is part of larger community goals, including to support the goals of creative placemaking. Goger emphasized that we don't need to work on the recommendations all at once, but that it can be fluid. Dubois referred to a list created in 2017 with the data that backs up the Economic Vitality Strategy, and offered to send it to everyone as a fluid document that can inform current projects.

e. Discussion on CPSAC's 2025 Goals

Burns requested from Harrison if there was anything to share from the annual report. The goals listed in that report from 2025 were continue the work on the database, continue to review projects that are requested to be recommended for review with the BOS, and assist with community project, such as the Frost Shop Site, the Artist-in-Residency Program, and the Historic Preservation in the Present Tense Grant.

As to the importance of the committee, Goger stated that it is important for the Arts Council that the committee remains active. Dubois proposed a motion that we write a statement to the Board affirming this, but Harrison indicated that we do provide

that through our annual report and that it was well received. Dubois requested a copy of this annual report.

f. Discussion on Project Review Matrix

Burns presented the review matrix as a way to evaluate projects that are being proposed for recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. Harrison suggested we create an Ad Hoc committee to address this and make it more of an established policy. Burns agreed with suggestion. Goger and Dreifus said they would not be at the meeting on July 21st, but they would like to be on the Ad Hoc committee.

6. Future Agenda Items

Miller requested to add an agenda item to the next meeting regarding the Mariposa Creek Parkway planting project with the library, Sierra Foothill Conservancy and Mariposa County in the fall.

The creation of an Ad Hoc to create a process for evaluating public art project will also be on the agenda.

7. Adjournment

Burns adjourned the meeting at 1:16 PM.