CITY OF BUCKEYE
Regular Planning & Zoning Commission
COUNCIL ACTION REPORT

MEETING DATE: 10/13/26	**AGENDA ITEM:** 3.A. Arts and Culture Plan
DATE PREPARED: 10/08/26	**DISTRICT NO.:** Citywide
STAFF LIAISON: Ilana Holden, Arts & Culture Manager, iholden@buckeyeaz.gov, (623) 349-6365	
DEPARTMENT: Community Services	**AGENDA ITEM TYPE:** Consent Agenda Items / New Business

ACTION/MOTION: (This language identifies the formal motion to be made by the Council)
ARTS AND CULTURE PLAN - Presentation and discussion by City staff and consultant Keen Independent Research to seek the Planning and Zoning Commission's feedback regarding the Arts and Culture Plan, a planning document that will guide future development around arts and culture in the City (Approximate time: 1 hour).

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOCUS AREAS:
Economic Growth

SUMMARY

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Community Services Department, working alongside consulting firm Keen Independent Research, launched the Arts & Culture Plan process in January 2026. This comprehensive, long-range planning initiative was first identified as necessary by the City Council in early 2024 when they recommended establishing an Arts & Culture Manager position. Following budget approval, Keen was retained to inventory local assets, evaluate the municipality's current cultural landscape, and construct a ten-year strategic roadmap for the newly created Arts & Culture Division.

To ensure the framework reflects the needs of Buckeye residents and stakeholders, Keen and department staff conducted an extensive public engagement campaign. Gathering input from over 700 participants, the engagement effort utilized event visits, vision boards, specialized surveys, and focused stakeholder interviews. Focus groups featured community volunteers and key organizations, including representatives from local municipalities, the arts community, the Buckeye Main Street Coalition, Creative Arts Production Academy (CAPA), and What’s Happenin’ Art Movement (WHAM!). Staff also presented plan overviews and survey feedback during two sessions with the Community Services Advisory Board, the Planning and Zoning Commission, and the Chamber of Commerce.

The resulting recommendations provide a vision and framework for expanding public art and cultural programming over the next decade and beyond. The draft plan and executive summary were submitted to the Mayor and Councilmembers for review in early April 2026, followed by a presentation on the plan's core themes and overarching goals to the Buckeye City Council on September 1, 2026. Moving toward formal adoption, the Community Services Advisory Board voted to recommend approval to the City Council on October 7, 2026, with the Planning and Zoning Commission passing a matching motion on October 13, 2026.

BENEFITS:

The Arts & Culture Plan provides the blueprint for the growth and expansion of the arts and cultural system.The future public art and programming will enhance the quality of life for Buckeye residents.The Arts & Culture Plan forecasts the growth in population and the associated need for additional public art, services, programming, and event spaces.

FUTURE ACTION:

After approval, the Community Services Department will begin working on the strategic implementation items recommended in the plan.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT:
N/A

BUDGETED:
Yes

FISCAL YEAR:
2026

Items related to a project or facility location must include an attached vicinity map for Council Review.
ATTACHMENTS:
FinalReport_BuckeyeArtsandCulturePlan_09182026.pdf