

TOWN OF WINDSOR AGENDA REPORT

Public Art Advisory Commission Meeting Date: January 28, 2026

To: Chair and Commissioners
From: Mike Kovanis, Recreation Program Supervisor
Subject: Downtown Windsor Photo Gallery

Recommendation:

Receive a presentation on the 2026 Windsor Photo Contest and by motion make a recommendation to Town Council.

Background:

At the April 27, 2022 regular meeting of the Public Art Advisory Commission (Commission), Creative Sonoma presented a new placemaking initiative called ArtSurround. ArtSurround is a collaborative effort among the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to enhance Sonoma County's creative vitality by supporting artists and infusing the arts into our public realm. The Commission was in favor of partnering with ArtSurround and discussed various projects to be included in the program. By motion, the Commission recommended the Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) Windsor Station Fence – located on Emily Rose Circle – which has been listed as a priority project for the Commission to be considered as part of this program.

At the August 24, 2022, regular Commission meeting, local artist Ann Weber (Artist) presented project ideas which included a budget, website content and material samples. The Commission provided feedback to the Artist and Town staff for the final project and the Artist executed the management, promotion, and curation of the Downtown Windsor Photo Gallery (Gallery). One goal of the project was to create a temporary art installation to eventually be affixed on the SMART station fence in Windsor.

The original Photo Contest took place in the fall of 2022. Community members were asked to submit up to one photo in each of the eight categories: Parks, Nature, Events, Learning, People, Arts, Culture, Food. Following the closure of the contest, the Commission served as the jury to select the top photos in each category. The Artist then took all the photos and jurying results and curated a photography exhibit displayed along the construction fence line north of the Bell Village Shopping Center (Oliver's) on Old Redwood Highway.

At a November 29, 2023, special meeting, the Commission recommended the Windsor Photo Contest become an annually recurring public art program and expand the temporary Gallery to other locations. The location selected for the 2024 Gallery was the fencing located at 8400 Windsor Road, south of the Public Works building entrance. The Photo Contest generated 15 new images for display along the fencing, facing the public sidewalk.

In the summer of 2025, the Gallery moved to its permanent location at the Windsor SMART station. The Town received tentative approval from SMART for the permanent Gallery installation along the fence of the new railway station, divided into two components with the parameters and locations for each:

- Gallery Installation - Railway Facing
- Gallery Installation - Pathway Facing

The **Railway Facing Gallery** was installed along a small stretch of fence opposite the station platform and can be viewed from the train or the platform. This location and installation will be considered a pilot program and evaluated on an annual basis with SMART.

The **Pathway Facing Gallery** received approval for approximately 800-feet of fence from the platform to the roundabout, and south of the roundabout to the undercrossing at Private Road F and Duncan Drive. This gallery installation will be expanded each year as part of the annual Windsor Photo Contest.

Following approval from SMART, Gallery panels from 2023 and 2024 were relocated to these new locations. As the program continues to grow in future years, new images will be vetted by the Commission to enhance the Gallery near the SMART station. These installations uplift the community, celebrate the Town and tell stories of Windsor's culture through art. The program is managed by the Parks and Recreation Department and juried by the Commission.

Discussion:

The 2026 Downtown Windsor Photo Contest received public submissions from October 1 – November 14, 2025. Community members were asked to submit up to one photo in each of the eight categories: Parks, Events, Learning/Education, People, Arts, Culture, Food and Nature. The Town received 46 submissions from 16 different community members. The Commission will serve as the jury to select the top photos in each category to forward on to Council.

The 2026 Gallery will be installed on Pathway Facing fencing near the SMART station. Staff is looking to the Commission for direction on the number of panels to produce and which area(s) to use for the Gallery. Location options for the 2026 Gallery include:

- 1) Northwest of the roundabout along Wild Oak Dr (Attachment 2)
- 2) SMART pathway Southeast of the roundabout near Johnson St. (Attachment 3)

Fiscal Impact:

There are adequate funds in the FY 2025-26 budget to produce up to 20 ACM panels for the Gallery.

Attachment(s):

1. [2026 Windsor Photo Contest Entries](#)
 2. [Gallery Location Map near Wild Oak Dr](#)
 3. [Gallery Location Map near Johnson St](#)
- [Windsor Photo Contest 2026 Presentation \(distributed 1-28-26\)](#)

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