

City of Phoenix

*Meeting Location:
City Council Chambers
200 W. Jefferson St.
Phoenix, Arizona 85003*



City of Phoenix

Agenda

Wednesday, March 11, 2026

10:00 AM

City Council Chambers

Economic Development and the Arts Subcommittee

*Councilwoman Ann O'Brien, Chair
Councilwoman Laura Pastor
Councilman Kevin Robinson
Councilwoman Debra Stark*

If viewing this packet electronically in PDF, open and use bookmarks to navigate easily from one item to another.

OPTIONS TO ACCESS THIS MEETING

Virtual Request to speak at a meeting:

- Register online by visiting the City Council Meetings page on phoenix.gov at least 2 hours prior to the start of this meeting. Then, click on this link at the time of the meeting and join the Webex to speak:

<https://phoenixcitycouncil.webex.com/phoenixcitycouncil/j.php?MTID=me41491b695d90e409ba919cd30c715bc>

- Register via telephone at 602-262-6001 at least 2 hours prior to the start of this meeting, noting the item number. Then, use the Call-in phone number and Meeting ID listed below at the time of the meeting to call-in and speak.

In-Person Requests to speak at a meeting:

- Register in person at a kiosk located at the City Council Chambers, 200 W. Jefferson St., Phoenix, Arizona, 85003. Arrive 1 hour prior to the start of this meeting. Depending on seating availability, residents will attend and speak from the Upper Chambers, Lower Chambers or City Hall location.

- Individuals should arrive early, 1 hour prior to the start of the meeting to submit an in-person request to speak before the item is called. After the item is called, requests to speak for that item will not be accepted.

At the time of the meeting:

- Watch the meeting live streamed on phoenix.gov or Phoenix Channel 11 on Cox Cable, or using the Webex link provided above.

- Call-in to listen to the meeting. Dial 602-666-0783 and Enter Meeting ID 2551 218 8337# (for English) or 2554 060 6856# (for Spanish). Press # again when prompted for attendee ID.

- Watch the meeting in-person from the Upper Chambers, Lower Chambers or City Hall depending on seating availability.

Para nuestros residentes de habla hispana:

- Para registrarse para hablar en español, llame al 602-262-6001 al menos 2 horas antes del inicio de esta reunión e indique el número del tema. El día de la reunión, llame al 602-666-0783 e ingrese el número de identificación de la reunión 2554 060 6856#. El intérprete le indicará cuando sea su turno de hablar.

- Para solamente escuchar la reunión en español, llame a este mismo número el día de la reunión 602-666-0783; ingrese el número de identificación de la reunión 2554 060 6856#. Se proporciona interpretación simultánea para nuestros residentes durante todas las reuniones.

- Para asistir a la reunión en persona, vaya a las Cámaras del Concejo Municipal de Phoenix ubicadas en 200 W. Jefferson Street, Phoenix, AZ 85003. Llegue 1 hora antes del comienzo de la reunión. Si desea hablar, regístrese electrónicamente en uno de los quioscos, antes de que comience el tema. Una vez que se comience a discutir el tema, no se aceptarán nuevas solicitudes para hablar. Dependiendo de cuantos asientos haya disponibles, usted podría ser sentado en la parte superior de las cámaras, en el piso de abajo de las cámaras, o en el edificio municipal. If viewing this packet electronically in PDF, open and use bookmarks to navigate easily from one item to another.

CALL TO ORDER

000 CALL TO THE PUBLIC

MINUTES OF MEETINGS

1 Minutes of the Economic Development and the Arts Subcommittee Meeting

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Attachments

[Attachment A - 2.11.2026 EDA Minutes.pdf](#)

CONSENT ACTION (ITEMS 2-3)

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INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION (ITEM 4)

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000 CALL TO THE PUBLIC

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURN

For further information or reasonable accommodations, please call the City Council Meeting Request line at 602-262-6001. 7-1-1 Friendly.

Persons paid to lobby on behalf of persons or organizations other than themselves must register with the City Clerk prior to lobbying or within five business days thereafter, and must register annually to continue lobbying. If you have any questions about registration or whether or not you must register, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 602-534-0490.

Members:

Councilwoman Ann O'Brien, Chair
Councilwoman Laura Pastor
Councilman Kevin Robinson
Councilwoman Debra Stark



Report

Agenda Date: 3/11/2026, Item No. 1

Minutes of the Economic Development and the Arts Subcommittee Meeting

This item transmits the minutes of the Economic Development and the Arts Subcommittee Meeting on February 11 for review, correction or approval by the Economic Development and the Arts Subcommittee.

THIS ITEM IS FOR POSSIBLE ACTION.

The minutes are included for review as **Attachment A**.

Responsible Department

This item is submitted by Assistant City Manager Ginger Spencer and the City Manager's Office.

Attachment A

Phoenix City Council Economic Development and the Arts (EDA) Subcommittee Summary Minutes Monday, February 11, 2023

City Council Chambers
200 W. Jefferson St.
Phoenix, Ariz.

Subcommittee Members Present
Councilwoman Ann O'Brien, Chair
Councilwoman Debra Stark
Councilman Kevin Robinson
Councilwoman Laura Pastor

Subcommittee Members Absent

CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman O'Brien called the Economic Development and the Arts Subcommittee (EDA) to order at 10:01 a.m. with Councilwoman Debra Stark and Councilman Kevin Robinson present. Councilwoman Pastor attended virtually.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

MINUTES OF MEETINGS

1. Minutes of the Economic Development and the Arts Subcommittee Meeting

Councilwoman Stark made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2023, Economic Development and the Arts Subcommittee meeting. Councilman Robinson seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 4-0.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

2. Artist to Work Grant Programs

Interim Arts and Culture Director Carrie Brown and Grants and Community Engagement Program Manager Sarah Leon presented on the item.

Deputy City Manager Frank McCune introduced the Artist to Work Grants Program. The program supported the creation and presentation of original, new, and progress artistic work in the City. He continued to introduce Interim Arts and Culture Director Carrie Brown to continue the presentation.

Councilman Robinson noted about the \$10,000 in support per artist and questioned how artists could sustain their livelihoods with that amount. He asked whether artists supplemented income through other engagements, and work beyond the City's grants.

Ms. Brown noted artists generally sought funding from multiple sources and the City was one of the sources.

Ms. Leon added that the City awards funds only to artists producing original work. Additionally, she added that many artists also worked for major arts and culture institutions, while creating art independently or running small volunteer-led organizations.

Councilman Robinson thanked Ms. Leon for her explanation and stated he wished the City would invest more in the arts because of artists strong economic impact. He noted visitors typically spend additional money when attending arts events, contributing to the local economy.

Councilwoman Stark asked staff how the City promoted its arts grant programs and what methods or partnerships are used to ensure artists are aware of available opportunities.

Ms. Leon shared information about outreach methods and during the pandemic they learned very quickly how to promote effectively and to build trust and relationships with artists and the arts community. She added Arts and Culture staff partnered with community groups, used bilingual outreach, and relied on an accessible grant platform to spread the word. Ms. Leon stated they were confident their approach reaches a wide range of artists and offered to share more details with Council Offices.

Councilwoman Stark said she was eager to help promote the City's Arts Programs and shared her District would soon begin an art project in Cave Creek Park. She emphasized the importance of selecting artists with a connection to the park or surrounding community, noting public art created local pride and identity. She thanked staff for the presentation and reiterated her interest in helping spread the word.

Councilwoman Pastor thanked staff for the presentation and expressed appreciation for how the department responded during the 2020 pandemic, particularly in quickly distributing funds to artists and building trust. She encouraged staff to continue their work and explore new ways to support the arts community.

Chairwoman O'Brien asked for clarification on whether the location requirement applied to both the grant recipient and paid collaborators.

Ms. Leon clarified the slide showed the locations of the collaborators participating in the projects, not the grant recipient.

Chairwoman O'Brien thanked staff for their work and for improving outreach to local artists. She expressed strong support for the program, encouraged staff to continue partnering with Council Offices to expand outreach.

3. Phoenix Economic Overview and Update

Community and Economic Development (CED) Director Ryan Touhill presented on the item.

Mr. Touhill thanked the Council and recognized his predecessor and the CED team for strengthening Phoenix's economic position. He noted the meeting marked the start of a six-part series on the Phoenix economy, focusing on diversification, resilience, and long-term competitiveness.

Councilwoman Stark thanked Mr. Touhill for the information and shared about the importance of considering housing supply and affordability in future discussions. She noted recent projects in her District and emphasized the need for housing to complement new development. She encouraged staff to ensure middle-income housing and other affordable options in the City's economic strategy so Phoenix could support both high and lower wage workers.

Councilman Robinson asked why life sciences degrees were growing so quickly. He wondered whether the growth was driven solely by the bioscience campus and projects in North Phoenix or whether other sub-industries were contributing to the trend.

Mr. Touhill explained the rapid growth in life sciences degrees was driven by targeted university investments and the expansion of local medical and bioscience programs. He shared an example of an University of Arizona student who launched a health-care startup at the Phoenix Bioscience Core and lived nearby, illustrating how local programs supported both education and entrepreneurship.

Councilman Robinson inquired what key factors led Phoenix to move from one of the nation's weakest economies in 2009 to one of the strongest by 2025.

Mr. Touhill explained Phoenix's improvement from one of the weakest to one of the strongest economies was not the result of a single factor. Instead, it reflected years of strategic decisions, including targeting future-focused industries such as advanced manufacturing, bioscience, and aerospace.

Councilman Robinson followed up by asking what the term "18-hour economy" meant and then asked if this implied that from midnight to about 6 a.m. not much activity was occurring in the downtown Phoenix area.

Mr. Touhill explained the "18-hour economy" term referred to the shift away from the traditional model in which downtowns functioned only during typical work hours, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and everyone would leave and go home to the suburbs. Now, people might stay downtown because they lived here or be drawn in to visit a new restaurants or cultural events. He emphasized the term was used to convey that the City had evolved from being solely an employment center to being a lifestyle center as well.

Councilwoman Pastor thanked staff for the presentation and noted that the progress shown had been built on decades of work by many previous Mayors and Councils, she noted that the vision of a downtown where people could work and play was finally becoming reality. Councilwoman Pastor expressed excitement about the City's growth and optimism for what could still be accomplished in the future.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chairwoman O'Brien asked for more information on education partnerships and apprenticeship programs had been developed to ensure Phoenix residents and nearby communities could benefit from ongoing strategic investments. She highlighted the importance of preparing local talent to participate in the City's economic growth.

Councilwoman Pastor requested an update on Roosevelt Road and First Friday's activity.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairwoman O'Brien adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dayana Rosas
Management Fellow

DRAFT



Report

Agenda Date: 3/11/2026, Item No. 2

Acquisition of Vacant Land in Spark Area 2 Located at 627 S. 9th Place - District 8

Request the Economic Development and the Arts Subcommittee recommend City Council approval to acquire all rights, title, and interest to vacant real property located at 627 S. 9th Place within the City's appraised value plus usual and customary closing costs. Acquisition is to be by voluntary purchase from Michele N Chavez Trust. Funding is available through the City's 2023 General Obligation Bond program.

THIS ITEM IS FOR CONSENT ACTION.

Summary

Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport's Land Reuse Strategy (LRS) was developed in 2017 to address the reuse and redevelopment of fragmented City-owned parcels acquired through the Community Noise Reduction Program, located roughly between 7th and 16th streets, Washington Street and University Drive. LRS identified three Spark Areas with Spark Area 2 and its City-owned parcels generally located northeast of the corner of 7th Street and Buckeye Road. In 2023, the City sought General Obligation Bond funds for LRS Spark Area 2 Land Acquisitions project. This project will fund the acquisition of private parcels, as they become available, to fill in ownership gaps and facilitate redevelopment in this area.

A number of City departments, led by the Aviation Department, conducted community participation sessions over a two-year period. The Aviation LRS plan was the outcome of this community collaboration. In order to execute on the LRS, additional sites will need to be acquired in order to ensure the contiguous properties needed to develop the plan. The contiguous properties would then move forward through the Request for Proposals process at the City Council's approval.

The property to be acquired is strategically located within the LRS's Spark Area 2. The property consists of one vacant parcel and is approximately 4,370 square feet owned by Michele N Chavez Trust (Owner). The Owner agreed to voluntarily sell the real property to the City for appraised value. The purchase agreement will contain terms and conditions deemed necessary or appropriate.

The parcels to be acquired are located at 627 S. 9th Place, identified by Maricopa County Assessor's parcel number 116-37-041.

Financial Impact

Funding is available through the City's 2023 General Obligation Bond Program's Spark Area Land Acquisition project.

Location

627 S. 9th Place
Council District: 8

Responsible Department

This item is submitted by Assistant City Manager Ginger Spencer and the Community and Economic Development Department.



Report

Agenda Date: 3/11/2026, Item No. 3

Youth Workforce Development Services Contract - RFP-CED25-YWS - Request to Award

This report requests the Economic Development and the Arts Subcommittee recommend City Council approval to contract with Neighborhood Ministries, Inc. and Jewish Family & Children's Services, Inc. to provide youth workforce development services under the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I-B Youth Program. The aggregate value of the contracts will not exceed \$9,325,000 for the life of the contracts.

THIS ITEM IS FOR CONSENT ACTION.

Summary

The Community and Economic Development Department serves as the Fiscal Agent and staff for the Phoenix Business and Workforce Development Board (Board), ensuring compliance and supporting governance functions. The Department administers the Youth Program under the ARIZONA@WORK statewide system by procuring and managing contracted service providers to deliver youth workforce services. The Board provides governance and oversight of the WIOA funds and sets strategic direction for workforce development initiatives. The Board ensures that youth workforce programs align with federal, state, and local priorities and monitors performance outcomes.

The Youth Program services are delivered through contracted providers; this year-round program serves youth ages 14-24 who face barriers to employment. It focuses heavily on out-of-school youth, including those who are homeless, in foster care, justice-involved, or otherwise considered opportunity youth. Services include work experience, career guidance, tutoring, and job training, with the goal of preparing participants for employment in high-demand fields, post-secondary education, or apprenticeships, ensuring they build career pathways and earn industry-recognized credentials.

Procurement Information

The Youth Workforce Development Services Request for Proposals (RFP-CED25-YWS) was issued on October 8, 2025, and conducted in accordance with City of

Phoenix Administrative Regulation 3.10. Seven proposals were received, five of which were responsive to the RFP's requirements. An evaluation panel scored the responsive proposals based on the following criteria:

- Approach to Scope of Work (0-300 points)
- Assigned Staff's Qualifications and Experience (0-250 points)
- Proposer's Qualifications and Experience (0-225 points)
- Proposed Budget (0-225 points)

Staff recommends the proposals offered by Neighborhood Ministries, Inc. and Jewish Family and Children's Services, Inc. as the highest-scored, responsive, and responsible proposals.

Contract Term and Extension Options:

The term of the initial contract will be for approximately 14 months, beginning on or about May 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, with three one-year renewals.

Financial Impact

Total funding will not exceed \$9,325,000 for the life of the contracts.

Concurrence/Previous Council Action

The Phoenix Business and Workforce Development Board approved this item as part of its 2024-26 Procurement Plan on May 23, 2024.

Responsible Department

This item is submitted by Assistant City Manager Ginger Spencer and the Community and Economic Development Department.



Phoenix Economic Overview and Update: Part 2 - Global Positioning and Market Access

This report will provide the Economic Development and the Arts Subcommittee with an update of the current state of Phoenix's economy and economic transformation since the Great Recession.

THIS ITEM IS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION.

Summary

Phoenix has evolved, since the Great Recession of 2008, from a regional growth center into a globally competitive metro positioned to attract investment, talent, and international partnerships. Strategic planning, infrastructure investment, and coordinated policy alignment have strengthened the City's ability to compete for global capital and support export-oriented industries.

Phoenix's economic strength is anchored by a diversified industry base led by semiconductor and advanced manufacturing, bioscience and health innovation, advanced business services, and emerging technologies. Major investments, including Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company's multibillion dollar fabrication facilities and a growing supplier network, have established Phoenix as a global production hub while creating high-wage employment opportunities.

The City's bioscience ecosystem, anchored by Mayo Clinic Discovery Oasis, the Phoenix Bioscience Core, and the Phoenix Medical Quarter, supports translational research, commercialization, and global talent attraction. These assets position Phoenix as a leader in health innovation and clinical research.

International partnerships remain central to Phoenix's economic development strategy. The Phoenix Mexico Trade Office, Phoenix Sister Cities organization, and global trade relationships strengthen business connections, support market access, and promote foreign direct investment. Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport further enhances competitiveness by expanding international connectivity and supporting trade and tourism.

The presentation is part two of the six part series led by the Community and Economic Development Department. The second part establishes that together, these assets position Phoenix as a global City built for innovation, trade, and long-term economic resilience.

Responsible Department

This item is submitted by Assistant City Manager Ginger Spencer and the Community and Economic Development Department.