

**Phoenix City Council  
Economic Development and the Arts (EDA) Subcommittee  
Summary Minutes  
Wednesday, September 10, 2025**

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

**Subcommittee Members Present**

Vice Mayor Ann O'Brien, Chair  
Councilwoman Debra Stark  
Councilwoman Laura Pastor

**Subcommittee Members Absent**

Councilman Kevin Robinson

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Mayor O'Brien called the Economic Development and the Arts Subcommittee to order at 10:07 a.m. with Councilwoman Laura Pastor present. Councilwoman Debra Stark attended virtually.

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

None.

**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 June 12, 2025, Economic Development and the Arts Subcommittee meeting. Vice Mayor O'Brien seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 2-0.

Councilwoman Pastor abstained from voting on the June 12, 2025, meeting minutes as she was not present at the subcommittee meeting.

**CONSENT ACTION (ITEMS 2-4)**

Items 2-4 were for consent action. No presentations were planned, but staff were available to answer questions.

**2. One Stop Operator Services Contract – RFP-CED25-OSO-Request for Award**

Consent only. No Councilmember requested additional information.

**3. 2026 Downtown Enhanced Municipal Services District Work Plan and Budget**

Consent only. No Councilmember requested additional information.

**4. Maricopa Community College Foundation's Venture Café Events Programming Sponsorship Amendment**

Consent only. No Councilmember requested additional information. Councilwoman Pastor declared a conflict of interest on item 4.

## **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION (ITEM 5)**

### **5. Fiscal Year 2025-26 Bioscience Healthcare Strategic Initiative**

Community and Economic Development Deputy Director Nathan Wright and Program Manager Claudia Whitehead presented the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Bioscience Healthcare Strategic Initiative.

Councilwoman Stark noted that Phoenix had gained a strong recognition in the bioscience industry internationally. Councilwoman Stark voiced her support for this item.

Councilwoman Pastor expressed interest in whether the MindCrowd study could expand to explore how neurodivergent brains in youth, such as those with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) or Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), develop over time. She emphasized supporting associations are essential to advancing research needed to proactively address and combat the diseases we face today.

Vice Mayor O'Brien thanked Nathan Wright and Claudia Whitehead for their presentation, and she expressed her support for this item.

Vice Mayor O'Brien highlighted Arizona's rapid growth in the life sciences sector, noting it now ranks second in the nation for job growth in the field and eighth for the economic impact of clinical trials. She noted that roughly 80 percent of the state's clinical trials take place in Phoenix, where groundbreaking treatments are being developed. Vice Mayor O'Brien emphasized the importance of continued global engagement, such as participation in BIO and BIO International, to maintain Phoenix's competitive edge and attract high-paying bioscience jobs.

Vice Mayor O'Brien made a motion to approve the item. Councilwoman Pastor seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 3-0.

### **CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

None.

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Councilwoman Stark suggested an update on the activities of the Sister Cities program, including potential plans to establish new sister cities in Africa. Councilwoman Stark noted TSMC as one of the most significant success stories but highlighted that many other initiatives were helping to raise Phoenix's international profile.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairwoman O'Brien adjourned the meeting at 10:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dayana Rosas  
Management Fellow