

Meeting Minutes

Chandler Cultural Foundation

Regular Meeting

September 25, 2025 | 5:30 p.m.
Chandler Museum, Saguaro Room
300 S. Chandler Village Dr., Chandler, AZ



Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by David Woodruff at 5:34 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Member Attendance

LaTricia Woods, Vice-Chair
Sherida McMullan, Treasurer
Christopher McMullan
David Woodruff
Ellie Watland
Eric Piepenbrink
Jennifer Sanchez
Kim McCarthy
Mike Halle
Peppur Chambers

Staff Attendance

Michelle Mac Lennan
Terri Rettig
Sandra Bassett
Lindsay Bernardez
Rosemary Soto
Veronica Coronado

Guests

Hermelinda Llamas
Austyn Ruppel
Dennise Brice Walker
Lori Rasmussen
Peggy Indrelunas

Absent

Julia Marreel, Chair
Erika Castro, Secretary
Candy Yu
Jyoti Pathak

Scheduled and Unscheduled Public Appearances

None.

Consent Agenda

1. August 28, 2025, Chandler Cultural Foundation Board Meeting Minutes
 - ELLIE WATLAND made a motion to approve the minutes of the August Board Meeting. Eric Piepenbrink seconded the motion.
 - The motion carried unanimously 9-0. The minutes were approved as written.

Action Agenda

2. Approve Special Event Funding Recommendation
 - HERMELINDA LLAMAS & AUSTYN RUPPEL representing the Cultural Development Department, presented the panel's recommendations for sponsorship funding allocations following the September 10th review. A total of 14 applications were evaluated, including three new applicants. Funds were awarded based on scoring, with most organizations receiving full or partial funding. Ellie Watland and Kim McCarthy served on the review panel, and the Board expressed appreciation for their service and the committee's work.
 - Peppur Chambers made a motion to approve the Special Event Funding Recommendations. Chris McMullan seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously 9-0.
3. Approve Recommendation CCF Board Member
 - MICHELLE MAC LENNAN presented the recommendation of Dr. Timothy Russell who currently serves on the CCF Special Events Committee.
 - The Board's recommendation will be forwarded to the Mayor's Office for consideration.
 - Ellie Watland made a motion to approve the recommendation. Sherida McMullan seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously 9-0.
4. Approve Event Budgets
 - TERRI RETTIG proposed a revised budget for the 2025-2026 season, Pat Metheny w/ Sideye Plus and 12 proposed events for the 2026-2027 season: Boz Scaggs, Rumors of Fleetwood Mac, Black Violin, Peking Acrobats, #IMomSoHard, Tower of Power, 27th International Guitar Night, The Wailin' Jennys, The Golden Girls: The Laughs Continue, Chiquis, Kalani Pe'A/ Taimane, Christopher Cross.
 - Chris McMullan made a motion to approve the event budgets. Peppur Chambers seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously 9-0.

Briefing

5. Mission Moment

- LINDSAY BERNARDEZ presented a slideshow of photos highlighting events and activities that have taken place since the last meeting, showcasing the Foundation's ongoing community engagement and artistic achievements.

6. CCF Annual Accomplishments

- MICHELLE MAC LENNAN presented the FY25 annual accomplishments, highlighting the Center's 35th anniversary season and its highest-grossing year on record, featuring major events such as the 25th Annual Mariachi Festival, *The Wizard of Oz*, and the Arizona premiere of *Louis Live* with Wynton Marsalis. She reported strong attendance with multiple sold-out performances and expanded community engagement through sensory-friendly programming, an artist-in-residency initiative, collaborations, and fundraising efforts. Michelle also shared her participation in a cultural exchange with Chandler's sister city in Ireland and acknowledged staff leadership roles across local, regional, and national arts organizations.

7. FY25 End of Year Financial Report

- SHERIDA MCMULLAN presented the FY25 year-end financial overview, reviewing current assets, liabilities, and equity. She shared that the Foundation closed the fiscal year with a profit, meeting budget expectations, reflecting strong financial management.
- A full report was provided in the agenda packet.

8. August Financial Report

- SHERIDA MCMULLAN presented a graph of the financial report for August 2025, noting that while expenses currently exceed income, the organization is on a positive trajectory. With upcoming events and emerging program development, she expressed confidence in the financial outlook for the year.
- A graph was provided in the agenda packet.

9. Strategic Plan | Year 3

- MICHELLE MAC LENNAN provided an update on the Foundation's progress toward its Year 3 goals, noting the evolution of the plan from its initial version to its current form. She highlighted advancements across the three core pillars: Leadership in the Arts, Community Impact, and Expanded Facilities, outlining key initiatives and outcomes within each area.
- A detailed list of the goals under each category is provided in the complete packet.

10. Center Stage Update

- SANDRA BASSETT provided updates on the upcoming Center Stage Fundraiser: *Mosaic of Us Gala*, celebrating community, diversity, and the arts. She highlighted the gala's arts awardees, the list of performing artists, as well as a culturally inspired multi-course menu and distinctive table décor designed by the Special Event Committee. Sandra reviewed important deadlines for submissions, ticket purchases, and mystery box items to ensure smooth event preparation. Board Members were encouraged to participate in and support the gala.

11. Development Report

- SANDRA BASSETT reported strong momentum in FY26, noting that membership goals have already been met, new and returning sponsors have been secured, grant goals have surpassed target at 116%, and upcoming fundraising activities, including mystery boxes and a live auction, are expected to help close remaining gaps. She emphasized the importance of continued outreach and donor engagement.
- A report was included in the agenda packet.

Friends Announcements

Dennise Brice Walker announced there were 8 events since the last board meeting that equated to 505.50 volunteer hours. There are 179 volunteers including 11 new members. There are 160 total active volunteers.

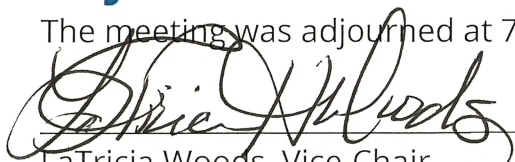
Member Comments/Announcements

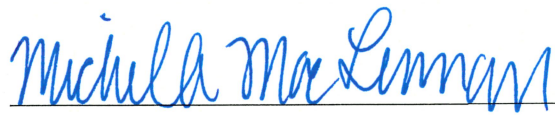
Calendar

12. The next board meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, October 23, at 5:30 p.m.**, at the Chandler Museum, Saguaro Room, 300 S. Chandler Village Drive.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.


LaTricia Woods, Vice-Chair


Michelle Mac Lennan, Staff Liaison