



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes

Commission on Cultural Affairs

Monday, November 10, 2025
4:15 PM

Regular

City Hall
Council Chambers
701 E. Broadway
Columbia, MO

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Moxon called the meeting to order at 4:14 p.m.

Staff present: Sarah Dresser and Kristin Gadsden

Present: 9 - Molly Froidl, Diana Moxon, Stacey Thompson, Kate Nolte, Ryan Hobart, Jennifer Jennings, Spencer Thompson, Greg Aker and Sarah Howard

Excused: 2 - Linda Helmick and Kathleen Murphy

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Staff and Commissioners introduced themselves and welcomed new Commissioners Sarah Howard and Greg Aker.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve made by Jennings, seconded by Nolte; motion carried.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes made by Nolte, seconded by Hobbart; motion carried.

Minutes from Sept. 8, 2025

Attachments: [9.8.25 Draft Minutes](#)

V. SPECIAL ITEMS

OCA Staff Update

Dresser welcomed Gadsden as new OCA Program Specialist.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

None to report

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Nominees for Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary

Dresser provided a handout with listing of officers along with other committees. The current members for the officers are: Diana Moxon (Chair), Stacey Thompson (Vice Chair), and Molly Froidl (Secretary). In FY25, the three officers began their first, one-year term. All three can serve an additional one-year term. Commission discussed present officers remaining in their current positions for the next term.

Motion to approve current officers for another term made by Moxon, seconded by

Nolte; motion carried.

Standing Committee on Public Art Representatives

This group works with the Commission on Cultural Affairs and assists the City Council in any consideration of public art. Makes recommendations on type of art to be commissioned, location of the art, and aspects of calls for artists (reviewing applications, selecting finalists, artist recommendation and design review). Three members are appointed by City Council. Two members are of the Commission on Cultural Affairs, one of which serves as the Chair. Meets on an as-needed basis, depending on active public art projects.

Current Commission members: 2 vacancies due to Kristin Gadsden and Cameron Dorth cycling off the Commission.

We need two new representatives for the Standing Committee on Public Art, one of which to serve as the Chair.

Funding Process Sub-Committee Membership

Reviews the annual arts funding process including topics related to funding levels or tiers, allocation and formula, application and evaluation, timeline for changes, and other topics as needed. Meets two to three times between November and February. There are three Commission members on the committee with two designated alternate members. Quorum to meet is three.

Current members: Diana Moxon, Molly Froidl, Linda Helmick, Stacey Thompson, Kate Nolte (alternate)

These members are welcome to stay on the committee, unless changes proposed. Staff needs clarification on who is the second alternate (in addition to Kate Nolte).

Motion was made by Spencer Thompson to appoint Sarah Howard and Spencer Thompson to the Funding Process Sub-Committee (with Froidl and Thompson leaving the subcommittee), and Stacey Thompson and Molly Froidl, the latter as Chair, to the Standing Committee on Public Art. Seconded by Hobart; motion carried.

Columbia Arts Fund Advisory Committee

Meets as needed to direct the fund's investments, make recommendations for distributions from the fund, generate ideas to promote the CAF and participate in fundraising activities.

Current Members: Diana Moxon (Chair of the Commission), Jenn Jennings, Kathy Murphy, Kate Nolte, and Sarah Dresser (Manager of Office of Cultural Affairs).

These members are welcome to stay on the committee. Only update if there is a new Chair for the Commission. No updates. The Committee will remain the same.

VIII. REPORTS

Commission

Secretary's Report

None to report.

Standing Committee on Public Art

The Pollinator Art Poles have been installed on N. Providence Rd. There will be a small

dedication this Thursday, Nov. 13 at 4 p.m.

Other projects are being discussed at the City, with meetings possible upcoming early 2026. North Village Park will be one of the projects coming up. Dresser also updated Commission on a damaged sculpture on East Campus.

Commission Vacancy

With Kristin starting work with OCA, there is another vacancy on the Commission. Appointment to be made at this next Council meeting on Nov. 17.

Staff

Columbia Arts Fund Update

The current balance is 402,430.12

CoMoGives

We are participating again in the CoMoGives campaign next month raising funds for the Columbia Arts Fund. If Commissioners are so inclined, there are various ways to help spread the word about the campaign. Peer-to-peer fundraising - CoMoGives allows individuals to create their own fundraising pages to raise funds for specific cause. You could also share social media posts created by OCA or make your own post. OCA will be doing some targeted fundraising to past supporters of CAF and Celebration of the Arts. Dresser addressed questions and reviewed the purpose of the Fund as a means of distribution and long-term financial stability of arts funding.

Columbia Values Diversity Celebration

OCA is coordinating the annual City event, scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2026 at the Wyndham Expo Center. This year's theme is "Our Beloved Community: Why We Stand Together." Tickets will be open to the public starting next week, and staff is currently soliciting sponsorships. This Friday, Nov. 14 is the deadline for both the Student Writings Program and the Diversity Award nominations. In addition, we are working on a community video featuring individuals who can share a sentence or two about what they love about Columbia. Dresser asked if any members of the Commission are interested in being filmed for the video.

Artist Laureate Program

OCA has launched the new Artist Laureate Program! This was brought to the Commission for consideration earlier in 2025 and OCA is receiving grant funding from our Missouri Arts Council grant to administer the program. Handouts with full guidelines are provided. Deadline for applicants is December 19, 2025.

We will plan to involve the Commission in the selection, with applications provided to the group for discussion at the January meeting. Finalists will be chosen to invite to interview at the February Commission meeting.

Please share this opportunity with your artist networks. OCA will also be promoting the opportunity through our artist networks and social media later this week. Moxon suggested hosting an event for our funded agencies to introduce them to the new program.

Poetry Out Loud

This annual program is a national competition funded by the National Endowment of the Arts. This year is a special America 250 edition. The Missouri Arts Council oversees 10 regions for the state competition. Individual schools will hold their own competitions by Jan. 30, 2026. The OCA will host the Central Region Competition Feb. 11, 2026 at 10

a.m. at the Daniel Boone Regional Library. So far there are 2 schools registered.

Agency Assistance

Nothing to report

Status of FY25 & FY26 Funding

The following organizations have final reports due for FY25 funding: "We Always Swing" Jazz Series, Columbia Art League, Choral Arts Alliance of Missouri, and Compass, Inc.

FY26: All grant agreements have been approved by City Council, no final reports due until June 2026.

Also sharing that the North Village Arts District contacted us about their small request project for the installation project, to have occurred in early October 2025. They were unable to complete the installation within the contract time frame (term was through Oct. 31, 2025). The organization is looking into returning the funds to the City since the project was not completed.

IX. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, MEMBERS AND STAFF

Froidl inquired about the plans to celebrate Nick Cave. Moxon shared that plans are paused in light of the uncertainty caused by decreased national funding for the arts.

X. NEXT MEETING DATE

Dec. 8, 2025 at 4:15 p.m.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:10 p.m. made by Spencer Thompson, seconded by Jennings; motion carried.