



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes

Commission on Cultural Affairs

Monday, March 9, 2026
4:15 PM

Regular

City Hall
Council Chambers
701 E. Broadway
Columbia, MO

I. CALL TO ORDER

Staff present: Sarah Dresser and Kristin Gadsden

Chair Moxon called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

Present: 11 - Molly Froidl, Diana Moxon, Stacey Thompson, Kate Nolte, Ryan Hobart, Jennifer Jennings, Spencer Thompson, Greg Aker, Sarah Howard, Symonne Sparks and Jamie Scheppers

Excused: 1 - Kathleen Murphy

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Commission welcomed new Commissioner Scheppers and she introduced herself.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Nolte, seconded by Commissioner Hobart: motion carried.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Jennings, seconded by Commissioner Froidl: motion carried.

Minutes from Feb. 9, 2026 meeting

Attachments: [2.9.26 Draft Minutes](#)

V. OLD BUSINESS

None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Small Request Applications

Staff provided the following summary and then the Commission discussed small funding requests for two organizations: So far in FY26, we have funded three requests totaling \$1,500 (CoMo Craftcycle Collective, Columbia Gadget Works, Columbia Art League). We have a remaining balance of \$1,500 this year.

We received two small requests from Vidwest and "We Always Swing" Jazz Series. Both are not part of their annual grant funding request.

Vidwest: Requests \$500 funding for a project "Vidwest Fest: a community media concert showcase" on April 18 at Cafe Berlin. The event will celebrate community media and local

musicians by showcasing four bands in a live broadcast through partnerships with Vidwest, KOPN and Cafe Berlin. City funds will provide stipends to the bands and MC. This is a free, family-friendly concert.

"We Always Swing" Jazz Series: Requests \$500 funding for a project "Jazz Appreciation Month In The Schools," occurring April 6-8 at Hickman High School, Rock Bridge High School and Battle High School. The project includes concentrated series of rehearsals at each school, followed by an evening public performance ("CPS Jazz Night!") featuring all of the three high school jazz bands (this year performed at Rock Bridge High School).

In addition, the Annual Children's Concert will occur on April 6 at Hickman High School. This event is open to all grades K-5 and schools sign up for the "informance" on a first-come, first-serve basis until the 900 seat venue fills up.

Motion to approve funding request for Vidwest was made by Chair Moxon seconded by Commissioner Sparks; motion carried.

Motion to approve funding requests for "We Always Swing" Jazz Series was made by Chair Moxon seconded by Commissioner Spencer Thompson; motion carried.

VII. REPORTS

Commission

Secretary's Report

None

Standing Committee on Public Art

The SCPA met on Feb. 23 to review applications for the Flat Branch Park public art project, which will feature a heart-themed sculpture. Two finalists were selected, and they will be interviewed at their next meeting on Mar. 16.

In addition, the SCPA has another meeting scheduled for April 8 to review applications for the North Village Park art project (entrance sign and benches).

Staff

Artist Laureate

Audra Sergel accepted the artist laureate designation and has signed the agreement with the City. The agreement is on the next City Council meeting agenda for Mar. 16 to be approved. OCA plans to formally announce her selection next Tuesday, Mar. 17. We will have a website with information about her project and schedule, and we plan to work with the artist and our communications team to promote her project events.

In addition, OCA staff spoke with Diana about future subcommittee to evaluate this program. Sarah recommends that in the fall when the next term application and details are coming together, Commissioners can weigh in on that process ahead of the application opening. The Commission discussed possible future guidelines for budgets and sponsorships.

Columbia Arts Fund Update

The current balance is 419,564.62. The CAF Advisory Committee just met immediately preceding this meeting and recommended that \$10,000 be distributed from CAF this year to augment the FY27 grant funding budgeted for the City (\$200,000). This will bring the available funding to \$210,000.

FY27 Grant Funding

Applications are now open for the FY27 grant funding, application deadline will be the last Monday in April - April 27th at 5 p.m. Organizations have been contacted about applications being open.

At next month's meeting, OCA will provide Commissioners with a bit more information to prepare for grant review. There will be approximately 4 weeks to read applications.

Poetry Out Loud

The Regional Competition was Feb. 11, 2026 at the Daniel Boone Regional Library. The event went smoothly with the support of the volunteers. A Hickman High School student won first place and competed in the State Competition held Mar. 3 at Memorial Union. A senior from Stockton High School won first place and will go on to compete in the national competition in Washington, DC, April 27-29, 2026.

Agency Assistance

Partner for Better will be leading a 90-minute training, April 28 at 11:30 p.m. tentatively in Conference Rm. 1A/1B. Lunch will be provided. This workshop dives deep into the heart of how organizational storytelling can increase revenues and build a volunteer base. Through engaging, interactive exercises, participants gain practical tools, innovative strategies, and the confidence to tell stories that build lasting relationships that create lasting impact.

Make Music Day

OCA Staff will begin this week reaching out to artists and venues to generate participation in the June 21 event. Staff will also be promoting upcoming registration which begins in April.

Celebration of the Arts

The deadline for the 2026 Commemorative Poster is next Monday, Mar. 16. (Include information about the special America 250 component). Since it is part of that program, the Mayor will make the final selection on the poster to be represented. In meeting with staff, Mayor Buffaloe also stated that she and her husband could serve as hosts for this year. Staff will be working with her to potentially secure a venue as well that would tie into the historical anniversary.

Staff plans to not have a separate committee for the event planning, rather input will be requested at upcoming Commission on Cultural Affairs meetings.

Status of FY26 Funding

No final reports due until June.

VIII. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, MEMBERS AND STAFF

Staff follow up with Commissioners if the date Tuesday, June 16 would work for our monthly meeting where the annual grants are discussed (from 4:30-7:30 p.m.).

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date is set for Apr. 13 at 4:15 p.m.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:04 p.m. was made by Chair Moxon, seconded by Commissioner Froidl: motion carried.