



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes

Commission on Cultural Affairs

Monday, January 12, 2026
4:15 PM

Regular

City Hall
Room 1A/1B
701 E. Broadway
Columbia, MO

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Moxon called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m. Staff present: Sarah Dresser and Kristin Gadsden

Present: 10 - Molly Froidl, Diana Moxon, Stacey Thompson, Kathleen Murphy, Kate Nolte, Jennifer Jennings, Spencer Thompson, Greg Aker, Sarah Howard and Symonne Sparks

Excused: 2 - Linda Helmick and Ryan Hobart

II. INTRODUCTIONS

There were no introductions made.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Commission member Murphy, seconded by Commission member Jennings; motion carried.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Commission member Nolte, seconded by Commission Chair Moxon; motion carried.

Minutes from Dec. 8, 2025

Attachments: [12.8.25 Draft Minutes](#)

V. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to be discussed.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Artist Laureate Application Review

Gadsden provided score and comments handouts. Chair Moxon lead discussion of each applicant before determining finalists to invite to interview at the February Commission meeting.

Motion to invite four applicants to be interview at February's Commission meeting was made by Chair Moxon, seconded by Commission member Aker; motion carried. The chosen applicants are Bethany Irons, Audra Sergel, Sarah Nguyen, and Sharon Singingmoon Feltman.

VII. REPORTS

Commission**Secretary's Report**

Staff and Commissioners were saddened to hear about the passing of Kenny Greene. He made a significant impact on the arts community. Kenny also served on the Commission on Cultural Affairs from 2002-2009 as well as represented on the Standing Committee on Public Art. Froidl has drafted letters to the North Village Arts District board of directors, the Orr Street Studios board of directors, and Kenny's partner for the group to sign.

Standing Committee on Public Art

Staff is excited to announce that there are currently three open calls for artists for projects in local parks. The first is for a heart-themed public art project in Flat Branch Park, to be installed near the new pedestrian bridge that connects the park to Providence Rd.

There are also two open calls for the new North Village Park. One is for the entrance sign, which is open to Missouri artists and adjacent states. There is also a art benches call open to Missouri artists. Staff also shared that they are exploring participating in a rotating sculpture program, Sculpture on the Move, for other art pieces to be featured in the park.

All of these RFQs have a deadline of February 9. There will be SCPA meetings starting next month.

Staff

- Present:** 10 - Molly Froidl, Diana Moxon, Stacey Thompson, Kathleen Murphy, Kate Nolte, Jennifer Jennings, Spencer Thompson, Greg Aker, Sarah Howard and Symonne Sparks
- Excused:** 2 - Linda Helmick and Ryan Hobart

Columbia Arts Fund Update

Current balance is 407,687.46

CoMoGives

We surpassed our goal and had a total of \$5,020 for the Columbia Arts Fund. Staff also added that they received a separate year-end donation in the mail for \$1,000 (that is not reflected in that total).

Columbia Values Diversity Celebration

Just over two weeks away from the event. Ticket sales are strong and close this week. We are looking forward to the morning's program, which will feature the Missouri Symphony musicians and narration by Joseph Wilson.

Poetry Out Loud

There are now six schools registered! (Hickman, Battle, Smithton HS, Eldon HS, Sunnydale, Mid-Missouri Co-op of Home Educators) The Regional Competition is still scheduled for Feb. 11, 2026 at 10 a.m. at the Daniel Boone Regional Library. Commission members are encouraged to come out and support the students. Staff are still coordinating volunteers to assist with the event. The judges will include Sarah Howard and her colleague at the library, Molly Froidl, and Jenn Jennings. The prompter will be Symonne Sparks. An emcee is still needed. The state competition will be held at MU Tuesday, March 3, 2026 10:00 am - 2:00 pm.

Agency Assistance

Nothing to report (plans will be made after this event).

Arts Advocacy Day at the Capitol

Once again, Missouri Citizens for the Arts is planning its annual advocacy day at the Capitol next month on Wednesday, Feb. 4. Staff invites any Commissioners interested in joining us along with any local arts organizations to attend the event to meet with legislators to advocate for continued state arts funding. We typically leave Columbia a little after 9am, to arrive at 10am for a morning briefing with MCA group. Legislative meetings take place between 11:30-1, and staff stays for the state arts awards in the rotunda that begins at 1pm. Staff will follow up via email with more information and link for those to register. We have also carpooled in the past.

Status of FY25 & FY26 Funding

We are waiting on FY25 final reports from Compass, Inc., Maplewood Barn Association, and GreenHouse Theatre Project. No FY26 final reports due until June. Also, the Funding Process Subcommittee will meet on Feb. 5 at 1pm to discuss the FY27 grant process.

VIII. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, MEMBERS AND STAFF

No comments were shared.

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Commission meeting is Feb. 9.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:18 p.m. made by Chair Moxon, seconded by Commission member Spencer Thompson: motion carried.