



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes

Commission on Cultural Affairs

Monday, July 14, 2025
4:30 PM

Regular

City Hall
Council Chambers
701 E Broadway
Columbia, MO

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Moxon called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Staff present: Sarah Dresser and Andrea Quiroz Jira.

Present: 8 - Molly Froidl, Diana Moxon, Stacey Thompson, Kathleen Murphy, Kate Nolte, Vera Elwood, Jennifer Jennings and Spencer Thompson

Excused: 3 - Kristin Gadsden, Linda Helmick and Ryan Hobart

Unexcused: 1 - Cameron Dorth

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Spencer Thompson is our new commissioner replacing Phil Overeem. Introductions to the commission were made.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda made by Murphy, seconded by Nolte; motion carried.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes from the June 17, 2025 meeting made by Murphy, seconded by Nolte; motion carried.

Minutes from June 17, 2025

Attachments: [6.17.25 Draft Minutes](#)

V. OLD BUSINESS

FY25 Mid-Year Grant Update

At the last meeting, the Commission reviewed an updated proposal from Talking Horse Productions for the Mid-Year Grant opportunity. It was noted that aspects of the proposed program would include fundraising activities, which is not eligible to receive funding. Staff reached out to the organization and they made the decision to return the grant funding to the City as there were not any other eligible projects to be considered.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

None.

VII. REPORTS

Commission

Secretary's Report

None.

Standing Committee on Public Art

Dresser reported that the Standing Committee on Public Art (SCPA) met last week to review artwork from Adrienne Luther Johnson for the pilot project pollinator art pole project. The goal of the project is to contribute to beautification efforts in the pollinators on N. Providence Rd. in Ward 2. The SCPA recommended her designs and the artist will begin work on painting the 6 ft. poles to be installed by mid-September.

In addition, as plans come together for the North Village Park, the committee will plan to reconvene sometime in the fall to discuss next steps and opening calls for artists.

Staff

Columbia Arts Fund Update

Current balance is \$377,436.99

Make Music Day

Jira reported that Make Music Day was a success. This year OCA partnered with the District's Busker Festival. There were over 30 performances throughout the day. We had more venues and musicians this year than previously, however the audience participation needs improvement.

Celebration of the Arts

Jira stated that the invitations have been mailed; and will be emailed as well. Planning for the event is underway. Many restaurants have been contacted and the arts agencies have until the end of the month to submit a nominee for the arts award. She provided a brief outline of the event for the new commissioners in attendance.

Agency Assistance

Nothing to report

Status of FY25 Funding

Dresser reported that final reports are due from Unbound Book Festival, Vox Nova of Columbia, Columbia Art League, and The Missouri Symphony.

VIII. FY26 ANNUAL ARTS GRANTS (to begin at 5:15 p.m.)

Ratify Scores and Finalize Funding Levels

Before the Chair runs us through the recommendation process, Dresser shared details about the handouts presented today. First, there is the updated score summary sheet that reflects the changes that were made at the June meeting. Then, there is the calculated FY26 Award Calculations document. The funding formula is determined by the following: request x score x adjusting percentage. The adjusting percentage equals the total available funds (minus three bonus awards of \$500 each), divided by the total amount requested.

Total available funding is \$200,000. Due to one applicant rescinding its application, the total requested came in at \$198,955. Once the scores factored in, the resulting adjusting percentage came in at 102.7765%. The Commission will note that this has created a scenario where the top applicants have an award calculation that is greater than the original request amount. Staff went back to all of these applications to look at their project budgets. Grant awards must be matched one-to-one with applicant cash or in-kind

revenue. All of these applicants have budgets that would accommodate the one-to-one match with the award levels. OCA plans to request a revised project budget and narrative ahead of a contract agreement, and thus, we anticipate no issues in budgeting in slightly more than requested in all of these projects.

Motion to approve scores and finalize funding levels presented made by Froidl; seconded by Murphy; motion carried.

Yes: 8 - Froidl, Moxon, Thompson, Murphy, Nolte, Elwood, Jennings and Thompson

Excused: 3 - Gadsden, Helmick and Hobart

Unexcused: 1 - Dorth

Approve Stipulations

Moxon stated that the Commission will need to approve the stipulations that were discussed at the June meeting. the following can be approved all at once:

- Jabberwocky Studios: Provide finalized schedule of programs.
- Talking Horse Productions: Provide dates of new play festival and children's theatre tour productions when known.
- The Curators of the University of Missouri: Provide final schedule of performances.
- Vidwest: Provide final schedule of workshops.

Motion to approve the stipulations made by Moxon, seconded by Jennings; motion carried.

Yes: 8 - Froidl, Moxon, Thompson, Murphy, Nolte, Elwood, Jennings and Thompson

Excused: 3 - Gadsden, Helmick and Hobart

Unexcused: 1 - Dorth

Public Hearing (comments on funding process will be taken from individuals [3 minutes] and organizational representatives [5 minutes])

The following organizational representatives made comments in support of grant funding from the Office of Cultural Affairs: CoMo Preservation (Elena Vega), Vidwest (Matt Schacht), Boone County Historical Society (Chris Campbell), We Always Swing Jazz Series (Jon Poses), Odyssey Chamber Music Series (Ayako Tsuruta).

IX. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, MEMBERS AND STAFF

Dresser shared that typically the Chair of the Commission presents remarks at the first City Council meeting in August, which is the public hearing for the annual budget, coming up on August 4, 2025. Dresser will follow up with Moxon about a letter from the Commission to be attached to the public hearing item as well as remarks for the meeting.

Dresser also updated the group that federal advocacy efforts are underway regarding the National Endowment for the Arts. She will provide the Commission with more information and updates. There is also a planned trip with Missouri arts advocates to Washington DC in September, and that is when we would also plan to time communications.

The group discussed the update on the announcement of the closure of Mareck Center for Dance.

X. NEXT MEETING DATE

If there are action items needed to be brought before the Commission, the next meeting will be on August 11, 2025.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 5:38 p.m. made by Jennings, seconded by Elwood; motion carried.