



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes

Commission on Cultural Affairs

Monday, February 9, 2026
4:15 PM

Regular

City Hall
Room 1C
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: 9 - Molly Froidl, Diana Moxon, Stacey Thompson, Kathleen Murphy, Kate Nolte, Jennifer Jennings, Greg Aker, Sarah Howard and Symonne Sparks

Excused: 2 - Ryan Hobart and Spencer Thompson

II. INTRODUCTIONS

There were no introductions.

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 Jennings, seconded by Commission member Nolte: motion carried.

Minutes from Jan. 12, 2026

Attachments: [1.12.26 Draft Minutes](#)

V. OLD BUSINESS

Artist Laureate Finalist Interviews

Each of the artist laureate finalists had a 20 minute time slot to answer questions. The questions included the following:

- What would your timeline look like for this project?
- How would you propose the budget is structured for this project?
- What challenges do you think might arise and how might we approach them together?
- What kind of support, partnerships, or resources would be most helpful to make this project successful?
- How would you make this project welcoming and engaging for individuals of differing backgrounds and skill sets?
- How do you see the finished work being shared, preserved, or used in the community?

After discussing all of the finalists, commissioners also discussed the extent of OCA funding for the Artist Laureate program and possibly designating budget allotments for the 2027 Artist Laureate program.

Motion to select Audra Sergel as Artist Laureate and Sarah Nguyen as runner up was made by Chair Moxon, seconded by Commission member Aker; motion carried.

4:20 p.m.: Sarah Nguyen

4:40 p.m.: Bethanie Irons

5 p.m.: Sharon SingingMoon Feltman

5:20 p.m.: Audra Sergel

VI. NEW BUSINESS

None

VII. REPORTS

Commission

Secretary's Report

None

Standing Committee on Public Art

There are three calls for artists that are closing today, Feb. 9. Flat Branch Park public art project (heart-themed art) and North Village Park (entrance sign and art bench projects). The Standing Committee on Public Art will plan to meet later this month to review applications.

Also, the SCPA met last week to review possible artworks for a Sculpture on the Move program, which is facilitated by the Creative Communities Alliance. Columbia would be a new participating city in this program, with rotating sculptures to go in the North Village Park. Artworks matched with cities are on a two-year rotation. The SCPA's ranked selection will be part of the "selection draft" that determined which matches are eligible to come to Columbia starting later this year. The hope is that these artworks would be able to be installed as soon as the park is finished, while those other art projects are also in the works for completion.

Funding Process Subcommittee

The committee met last week to review any updates to the FY27 annual grant funding process. The group determined that no major changes should be proposed for this coming year. The group did discuss a possible "on year" and "off year" scenario for applicants, which staff will continue to research and discuss internally at the City before bringing a recommendation forward to the group for consideration for implementation the following year.

Staff

Columbia Arts Fund Update

The current balance is 410,076.87. This includes a partial disbursement from CoMoGives, with the expected balance to be deposited in the coming weeks. The Advisory Committee will plan its next meeting in the coming months to determine the total distribution for FY27 annual funding.

Columbia Values Diversity Celebration

Thank you to all who were able to attend the 2026 event a couple weeks ago. The event had around 950 people from the community attend.

Poetry Out Loud

The Regional Competition is still scheduled for Feb. 11, 2026 at 10 a.m. at the Daniel Boone Regional Library. Thank you to those Commissioners who are volunteering to help make it happen. There are three students who will be attending.

Agency Assistance

Staff is in the early planning stages of some workshops for later this spring to be held before the end of June.

Arts Advocacy Day at the Capitol

Thank you to the members of the Commission who attended last week's advocacy day! We had Diana, Stacey, Jenn, Kate, Greg go with us. Also had representatives from "We Always Swing" Jazz Series and Access Arts attend as well. We were able to meet with various legislators and promote restoring the core funding for Missouri Arts Council at \$10.1 million.

Status of FY25 & FY26 Funding

All FY25 final reports have been completed. No reports due for FY26 until June.

VIII. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, MEMBERS AND STAFF

None.

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be Mar. 9 at 4:15 p.m.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 6:32 p.m. made by Moxon, seconded by Nolte; motion carried.