



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes

Commission on Cultural Affairs

Monday, December 8, 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 4:16 p.m.
Staff present: Sarah Dresser and Kristin Gadsden

Present: 9 - Molly Froidl, Linda Helmick, Diana Moxon, Kate Nolte, Jennifer Jennings, Spencer Thompson, Greg Aker, Sarah Howard and Symonne Sparks

Excused: 3 - Stacey Thompson, Kathleen Murphy and Ryan Hobart

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made. Commission and Staff welcomed new Commissioner Sparks.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Minutes from Nov. 10, 2025

Attachments: [11.10.25 Draft Minutes](#)

V. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to be discussed.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Small Request Application

We received a small request application from Como Craftcycle Collective, which is a new nonprofit and first time applicant to OCA. The organization supports the creative community by providing affordable access to craft materials, encouraging art-making through education, and building awareness around sustainability. They run a creative reuse boutique inside the Show Me Central Habitat for Humanity ReStore where they sell secondhand fabric, yarn, art and craft supplies, and many materials with creative potential.

The project request is "What Have We Here: An art show celebrating recycled and reused materials" planned for March 2026. The request is for \$500. The exhibit would be installed in the Columbia Art League and also overlap with the True/False Film Fest during its display. The City funds will be used to pay a show juror, purchase food and supplies for

the opening reception and pay cash award to four winners.

Motion to approve the small request application was made by Commission member Froidl, and was seconded by Commission member Nolte. Questions were raised about the specified use of requested grant funds. Staff noted that the use was acceptable. Motion carried with Jennings abstaining.

VII. REPORTS

Commission

Secretary's Report

None to be reported.

Standing Committee on Public Art

No update.

Staff

Columbia Arts Fund Update

The current balance in the Columbia Arts Fund is \$406,045.99.

CoMoGives

The month-long campaign is underway. Columbia Arts Funds is participating and we have been doing a light campaign with targeted emails to past supports as well as some social media posts. With an overall goal of \$5,000, we have currently raised \$3,825 to date.

Columbia Values Diversity Celebration

As a reminder, the event will take place on Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2026, 7:00-9:00 a.m. at the Wyndham Expo Center. (Breakfast service is 7-7:30 a.m., program is 7:30-9 a.m.) The deadline to purchase tickets or sponsorships is Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2026. And physical tickets will be mailed starting the week of Dec. 15, 2025.

Regarding the Diversity Awards, the time period for public comment on the City's Be Heard page (beheard.como.gov) is closed now. The panel of judges will meet next week to make their final selections for the awards.

Regarding the student writings for the booklet to be distributed at the Celebration, the Planning Committee has made their selections. The OCA staff are choosing from those which to highlight in a video to be shown at the event. Creative Services will be meeting with the student writers to record them sharing their writings.

Artist Laureate Program

Staff have continued to publicize the program via email, social media, and printed media. The deadline for applicants is December 19, 2025. Currently, there are 2 applicants. Staff will share applications for review after the deadline for discussion at the January meeting to determine finalists. The Commission will interview selected artists at the February Commission meeting.

We have flyers for each Commissioner to give to an artist they believe might be interested in applying.

Poetry Out Loud

The Central Region Competition is still scheduled for Feb. 11, 2026 at 10 a.m. at the Daniel Boone Regional Library. Currently, there are 3 schools registered. Commissioners are invited to participate as a judge or prompter at the event.

Agency Assistance

Nothing to report.

Status of FY25 & FY26 Funding

Currently have FY25 final reports due from Columbia Art League, Compass Inc., Talking Horse Productions, Jabberwocky Studios, The Missouri Review, Boone County Historical Society, Mid-Missouri Traditional Dancer, Columbia Community Band, Orr Street Studios, Vidwest, Maplewood Barn Association, GreenHouse Theatre Project, and Odyssey Chamber Music Series. No reports due at this time for FY26 projects.

VIII. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, MEMBERS AND STAFF

Staff and Commissioners shared upcoming art happenings.

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE

Next meeting date is Jan. 12.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Chair Moxon, seconded by Commission member Spencer Thompson: motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

Yes: 9 - Froidl, Helmick, Moxon, Nolte, Jennings, Thompson, Aker, Howard and Sparks

Excused: 3 - Thompson, Murphy and Hobart