

# Arts Commission - Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 24, 2026  
Central Library events Room A/Teams  
Meeting called to order at 4:30 PM by Audrey Overstreet

**Public Comment:** Citizens are invited to address the Arts Commission on any topic not on the agenda.  
3 Minutes each.

- Darby Meegan- advocating for more money for music/musicians

## **Attendance:**

- Commission Members Present: Audrey Overstreet, Suzanne Ostersmith, Julie Shepard, Kelly Baker, Don Hamilton, Jackie Caro, Eva Silverstone, Aimee Brooks, Robert Thompson, Luis Mota (5:30)
- Commission Members Not Present: none
- Non-Voting Members Present: Sebastian Pardinielli, Skyler Oberst, Devonte Pearson, Darby Meegan
- *Quorum Present:* Yes
- Staff Members Present: Lisa Edwards

**Minutes:** Minutes from 1/27/2026 approved unanimously.

**Current Agenda:** The current agenda was approved.

## **Briefing Session:**

- **Chair Report - Audrey Overstreet**
  - Introduction of new Commissioners
  - Arts Advocacy report- thanks to Karen Mobley and push for others to help advocate next year
  - Congratulations to Skyler for speaking at Rotary last week and Karen who will be the next president of Rotary 21
  - Read document to remind Commissioner of their role
- **Vice Chair Report - Suzanne Ostersmith**
  - Circulated a final copy of bios and terms for approval
- **Secretary/City Liaison Report - Lisa Edwards**
  - Update on timeline for the Office of Arts, Culture and Historic Preservation
- **Municipal Arts Plan Committee Report - Audrey Overstreet**
  - Review of documents from the agenda packet
  - Jackie Caro has joined the committee to replace James Pakootas who had to step down as a Commissioner
  - Discussed next steps - big emphasis on the need to hire an outside consultant. Is there a budget for this?
  - Once a budget is determined there will be an RFP process through the city
  - Eva brought up that Darya Pilram has a survey ready to go out to creatives in the community which might be helpful.
  - Discussion of the importance of community input and in educating artists and the community on what an arts ecosystem looks like.
- **Governance Committee Report - Suzanne Ostersmith**
  - Welcome to new Commissioners
  - Shared the process of bringing on new Commissioners
  - Suzanne is looking for committee members to begin work by the end of March.
- **Public Art Committee Report - Luis Mota**
  - Luis is the new chair of the Public Art Committee

- Luis and Shelby will schedule a meeting to discuss how this committee can best support her work.
- **Chase Gallery Committee Report - Julie Shepard**
  - Personal Landscapes will be opening March 6<sup>th</sup> with a reception from 5:00-7:00
  - Music is scheduled for the First Friday reception
- **SPKN Arts Update - Skyler Oberst**
  - Skyler presented a slide deck with information on current and future projects
  - Partnership with the City
  - Current highlights- signed MOU with Innovation High School, SAGA funds fully sequestered, presented at Rotary 21, public art call for Youth Poet Laureate position, Spokane Arts Awards September 19, 2026
  - Organizational Sustainability
  - Updates on regionalization
  - Updates on fiscal environment and fundraising as well as strengthening the organization
  - Looking ahead at the next 12-24 months

**Informational, Discussion and/or Action Items:**

- **Vote to create Finance Chair position**
  - Presentation provided by: Suzanne Ostersmith
  - Questions asked and answered.
  - Discussion ensued.
  - Julie Shepard moved to rename to the position as Fiscal Chair and create it.
  - Eva Silverstone seconded.
  - The motion passed 10 to 0.
- **Review Committee Structure and Chair Responsibilities**
  - Presentation provided by: Suzanne Ostersmith and Audrey Overstreet
  - Questions asked and answered
  - Discussion ensued
- **First Friday/Chase Gallery Discussion**
  - Presentation provided by: All
  - Questions asked and answered
  - Discussion ensued

Meeting Adjourned at 6:24 PM.

The next regularly scheduled Arts Commission Meeting is on Tuesday, March 24, 2026.