

Arts Commission - Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 28, 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.

- No public comments

Attendance:

- Commission Members Present: Audrey Overstreet, Suzanne Ostersmith, Julie Shepard, Kelly Baker, Don Hamilton, Eva Silverstone, Aimee Brooks, Robert Thompson, Luis Mota, Jackie Caro (5:47)
- Commission Members Not Present: none
- Non-Voting Members Present: Karen Mobley, Skyler Oberst, Adam McDaniel, CM Dixit
- *Quorum Present:* Yes
- Staff Members Present: Lisa Edwards

Minutes: Minutes from 3/24/2026 approved unanimously.

Current Agenda: The current agenda was approved.

Briefing Session:

- **Chair Report - Audrey Overstreet**
 - Audrey congratulated Lisa Edwards on her new role as Community Arts Manager
 - Commissioners and guests introduced themselves
 - Audrey read the mission of the Commission
- **Vice Chair Report - Suzanne Ostersmith**
 - No report at this time
- **Secretary/City Liaison Report - Lisa Edwards**
 - No report at this time
- **Report from Mayor's Policy Advisor - Adam McDaniel**
 - Adam presented on updates to the 1% for the Arts Ordinance and Public Art Selection Process Policy
 - Commissioners are encouraged to reach out to Adam and/or Lisa with any questions
 - He is hoping for a recommendation from the Commission at the May meeting
- **Quarterly Report from Spokane Arts - Skyler Oberst**
 - Skyler updated the Commission about the use of city funds, a SAGA update, the Innovation High School MOU, the Arts Awards, Queer Art Walk, Poet Laureate and Youth Poet Laureate programs, and Artist Calls
 - Please see the written report on pages three and four of the minutes
- **Governance Committee Report - Suzanne Ostersmith**
 - Suzanne provided an update on the interview process for new Commissioners
 - New Commissioners should be ready to start in June
- **Municipal Arts Plan Committee Report - Audrey Overstreet**
 - Jackie will be taking over as chair
 - Kelly is joining the committee
 - The committee is currently reading plans from other municipalities in order to determine which elements they would like to see in our plan
- **Public Art Committee Report - Aimee Brooks reporting for Luis Mota**
 - Mural clean-up on May 8th at 10:00am
 - Post/Lincoln alley activation mural has been finalized. Painting will start mid May
 - Trent alley
 - MLK Center - finished

- Aimee will be at Audubon STEAM night representing the Commission, Spokane Arts and SPARK Central
- Aimee will share the Asphalt Arts maintenance log with Commissioners via email
- Chiefs' jersey art opportunity coming soon
- **Chase Gallery Committee Report - Julie Shepard**
 - Julie shared about the success of the April show in the chase and the First Friday event
 - The April show will stay up through the month of May
 - We need to make sure City Hall security is available on Friday May 1st to have the gallery open.
 - The June show is titled 'Beneath the Open Sky' featuring artists Abby Joy and Jamie Rose
 - Julie would like to be able to present a report on sales of art at the Chase to the Commission
 - The question was raised about perhaps looking for a college intern to help with the Chase
 - Julie brought up the fact that there are currently two Facebook pages for the Chase and neither is being regularly updated

Informational, Discussion and/or Action Items:

- **Vote on Suzanne Ostersmith as Chair effective July 1, 2026**
 - Presentation provided by: Audrey Overstreet
 - Questions asked and answered.
 - Discussion ensued.
 - Eva Silverstone moved to approve Suzanne Ostersmith as Chair of the Arts Commission effective July 1, 2026.
 - Don Hamilton seconded the motion.
 - The motion passed with 8-0-1. (Suzanne Ostersmith abstained, and Luis Mota had left the meeting.)
- **Perception of the Commission within the Community Discussion**
 - Presentation provided by: Suzanne Ostersmith
 - Questions asked and answered
 - Discussion ensued

Meeting Adjourned at 6:37 PM.

The next regularly scheduled Arts Commission Meeting is on Tuesday, May 26, 2026.

Spokane Arts Executive Director Quarterly Report

Spokane Arts Commission

April 28, 2026

1. Use of City Funds

Current Cash Flow Projection

Spokane Arts continues to actively manage cash flow while navigating delayed reimbursement timelines and increased operational pressures. Current priorities include ensuring continuity of contracted city programming while maintaining appropriate financial oversight.

Current Focus Areas:

- Maintaining payroll stability amid delayed contract reimbursements
- Monitoring restricted vs. unrestricted funds carefully
- Aligning expenditures with current City contract obligations
- Strengthening long-term sustainability planning

Income Statement Snapshot (YTD)

Revenue (Jan. 1 - April 8, 2026): \$317,043.89 Expenses (Jan. 1 - April 8, 2026): \$210,927.23

Net Position: +\$106,116.66

Significant P&L Variances

Fixed Costs

- Staff salaries/benefits remain the organization's largest fixed expense
- Insurance and administrative costs remain within expected ranges

- Technology/accounting infrastructure upgrades implemented this quarter

Variable Costs

- Increased grant-writing and fundraising expenditures as Spokane Arts diversifies revenue sources
- Project-based costs associated with seasonal programming preparation
- Public programming expenditures fluctuate based on event schedules

2. SAGA Update

Current Grant Cycle

- Current grant cycle remains on track
- Staff continues reviewing applications and preparing for award distribution timelines
- Ongoing efforts to ensure equitable access for emerging and historically underserved artists

Additional Notes

- Continued strong community interest in SAGA funding opportunities
- Staff is evaluating ways to streamline future application processes

3. Innovation High School MOU

Spokane Arts continues discussions with Innovation High School leadership regarding a potential partnership model focused on creative workforce development, student engagement, and potential shared space opportunities.

Current conversations remain exploratory and no formal agreement has been finalized.

4. Arts Awards

Planning is underway for this year's Arts Awards program.

Current focus areas include:

- Venue coordination
- Honoree selection planning
- Sponsorship outreach
- Event timeline development

5. Queer Art Walk

Staff continues early planning efforts in partnership with community stakeholders to support this year's Queer Art Walk programming.

Updates include:

- Partnership coordination

- Artist outreach
- Timeline planning

6. Poet Laureate + Youth Poet Laureate

Poet Laureate

Continued community programming remains strong, including:

- Poetry at the Podium (to be back online in July)
- Community workshops
- Public engagement programming

Youth Poet Laureate

Significant progress continues toward launching Spokane's first Youth Poet Laureate program, including:

- Partnership development
- Selection process planning
- Youth leadership collaboration efforts

9. Artist Calls

Staff continues managing artist opportunities tied to public projects and general community engagement opportunities.

Recent efforts include:

- Artist outreach
- Application management
- Coordination with project partners

Closing Note

Spokane Arts remains focused on delivering high-quality city programming while continuing to strengthen organizational systems that support long-term sustainability and effective service delivery. Thank you for your continued partnership.