

Arts Commission - Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 28, 2026

Central Library events Room A/Teams

Meeting called to order at 4:30 PM by Suzanne Ostersmith

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

- Daniel Schaefer - WE FEW, provided a brief history of the organization, shared about their new space, the Apple Box, in the Garland Theater, and shared the goals of the organization of building community confidence, workforce development and raising awareness.
- Dr. Joseph Sherwood and Colten Garske - advocating for a legal graffiti, street art space

Attendance:

- Commission Members Present: Suzanne Ostersmith, Julie Shepard, Don Hamilton, Eva Silverstone, Aimee Brooks, Robert Thompson, Jackie Caro, Laura Rau, Sybil MacDonald, Kayleigh Dittmore
- Commission Members Not Present: Trevor Iwata, Luis Mota
- Non-Voting Members Present: Daniel Schaefer, Dr. Sherwood, Colten G., Sebastian Pedanielli, Nicholas, Carly Cortright
- *Quorum Present:* Yes
- Staff Members Present: Lisa Edwards

Minutes: Minutes from 6/23/2026 approved unanimously.

Current Agenda: The current agenda was approved.

Briefing Session:

- **Chair Report - Suzanne Ostersmith**
 - Arts Commission Role
 - Commissioner Meeting with Chair
 - Committee Structure
 - Design Review Committee Update - Suzanne will serve as the Arts Commission liaison to the Design Review Committee
 - Clarification of current funds - the Commission has \$57,000 available
 - Active Arts Commission - volunteers needed for Symphony in the Park and First Fridays at the Chase
 - Please submit Arts Events to Lisa to be included in the agenda packet
 - Arts Celebration - put on by the City, Spokane Arts, and the Arts Commission. The event will be September 19th at 6:30 pm at the Central Library
- **Staff Report - Lisa Edwards**
 - Update on city emails and nametags
 - Update on software contract for the City/Commission to be able to issue artist calls. CaFE is the chosen provider, and the contract is with IT and legal for approval.
 - Brief update on everything I am working on/what my job entails
- **Governance Committee Report - Suzanne Ostersmith**
 - Commissioners are encouraged to recruit candidates from District 1
 - Committee is accepting applications through the end of August
 - Committee will hold interviews in September/October and make recommendations to the Mayor in November
- **Chase Gallery Committee Report - Julie Shepard**

- Julie shared the artist schedule for the rest of the year
- Contracts with artists will need not be updated as the City will not be handling the sale of art shown at the Chase
- Sent around a sign-up sheet for Commissioners to volunteer at First Friday receptions and provided updates about these events
- The artist call for the Chase will need to be extended due to having to set up a new platform for accepting submissions.
- **Public Art Committee Report - Aimee Brooks**
 - Rogers crosswalk - thermoplastic paid for and ordered
 - Audubon, Garland, and Perry crosswalks - designs have been giving to the thermoplastic company, and Shelby is waiting for quotes
 - The adaptive design project at Mallon and Howard is moving forward
 - Riverside neighborhood is looking for a location
 - Trinity and Woodland in West Hills was completed on July 12th
 - North Indian Trail is scheduled for mid-August
- **Municipal Arts Plan Committee Report - Jackie Caro**
 - The MAP committee is recommending a proposal from Framework as the consultant for creating the Municipal Arts Plan
 - Commissioners were sent a copy of the proposal from Framework in advance of this meeting
 - There will be a formal presentation and time to ask/answer questions during workshops and the Commission will vote on whether or not to proceed.
- **Spokane Arts Report - Carly Cortright**
 - Carly shared about the Arts Celebration
 - The idea of a joint meeting between the Commission and the Spokane Arts Board was proposed
 - Karen Mobley has agreed to serve as the Interim Executing Director of Spokane Arts until an Executive Director is hired or the end of the year
 - Carly is still the point of contact for the Commission and the City
 - Shelby has agreed to stay through next year to continue her work on Asphalt Art
 - Carly emphasized the importance of the partnership and open communication between the Commission and the Spokane Arts Board
 - The Spokane Arts Fund Board has 10 members and is working on regional projects in addition to their contracted work with the City of Spokane.

Informational, Discussion and/or Action Items:

- Resolution to support creation of Director of Film and Event Development Position
 - Presentation provided by: Suzanne Ostersmith
 - Questions asked and answered.
 - Discussion ensued.
 - Vote was tabled as Commissioners requested more information.
- Municipal Arts Plan Proposal
 - Presentation provided by Jackie Caro and Lesley Bain
 - Questions asked and answered.
 - Discussion ensued.
- Vote on Municipal Arts Plan Contract Proposal
 - Robert Thompson moved to approve the proposal and move forward with the contract with Framework.
 - Don Hamilton seconded the motion.
 - The motion passed 10-0.
- Discussion of Commission Talking Points

- Presentation provided by Suzanne Ostersmith
- Questions asked and answered
- Discussion ensued.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:31 PM.

The next regularly scheduled Arts Commission Meeting is on Tuesday, August 25, 2026.