

Arts Commission - Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 25, 2026

Central Library events Room A/Teams

Meeting called to order at 4:32 PM by Suzanne Ostersmith

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

- No public comment

Attendance:

- Commission Members Present: Suzanne Ostersmith, Julie Shepard, Don Hamilton, Eva Silverstone, Aimee Brooks, Robert Thompson, Jackie Caro, Laura Rau, Sybil MacDonald, Kayleigh Dittmore, Trevor Iwata, Luis Mota
- Commission Members Not Present: none
- Non-Voting Members Present: Colten G., Sebastian Pedanielli, Carly Cortright, Rose Noble
- *Quorum Present:* Yes
- Staff Members Present: Lisa Edwards

Minutes: Minutes from 7/28/2026 approved unanimously.

Current Agenda: The current agenda was approved.

Briefing Session:

- **Spokane Arts Report - Carly Cortright**
 - Spokane Arts decided to delay the painting of the intersection in North Indian Trail
 - SAGA will be opening applications for round three in September
 - Spokane Arts Award winners will be chosen later this week and announced at the Arts Celebration
 - Heatherann is cutting down her hours and will be working 10 hours/week beginning in mid-September
 - The Spokane Arts Board is going to begin the first round of reviewing applications for the new Executive Director next week. There is no rush to hire, they are looking for the right fit.
 - Question - Are the applicants regional? Most are, but there are some from other areas.
 - Question - What is the Board looking for in a new ED? Someone who knows how to run a non-profit and has an appreciation for the arts/artists.
- **Visit Spokane Update - Rose Noble**
 - Rose provided information on the new Director of Film and Event Development position
 - Luis Mota has been hired for this position
 - This position is to develop and recruit events and film projects to Spokane
 - The position is with Visit Spokane, not the city
- **Chair Report - Suzanne Ostersmith**
 - The most up to date draft of the talking points was handed out to Commissioners
 - Committee Chairs were reminded to send in their reports a week before the meeting
 - Event volunteer sign-ups circulated. Volunteers are needed for First Fridays and the Arts Celebration
 - Commissioners are encouraged to invite people to the Arts Celebration
- **Staff Report - Lisa Edwards**
 - Nametags are here!
 - Reminder for commissioners to email Lisa once their city email is set up

- Commissioners can copy Lisa's email signature or use a different signature. There is no uniform signature required
- City of Spokane Arts and Culture Instagram and Facebook accounts are being set up. Commissioners are encouraged to follow the accounts and share posts.
- The call for the Chase Gallery 2027 season is live. Commissioners are asked to share the new link for submissions with their networks.
- Sebastian Pedanielli provided a council update about a temporary commercial use permit ordinance. This will be voted on at the City Council meeting in two weeks. Commissioners are welcome to testify about this ordinance. Sebastian will share a copy of the ordinance with commissioners. Commissioners are encouraged to reach out to CM Dixit with any questions.
- **Chase Gallery Committee Report - Julie Shepard**
 - Update on entertainment during First Friday events. Youth Poets will be there in September, nothing scheduled for October, Kori Ailene in November, and Spokane Irish Sessions in December
 - Commissioners are encouraged to share the new call for artists with their networks
 - Julie is creating the selection committee for the 2027 season. If interested, please reach out to her.
- **Public Art Committee Report - Luis Mota**
 - Updates provided on the Rogers, Perry, Audubon and Garland crosswalks
 - North Indian Trail crosswalk project postponed until spring 2027
 - These projects will conclude the intersection part of the Asphalt Arts program if no additional applications are received by September 1st.
 - Shelby is looking for evaluators for the adaptive design projects at Howard and Mallon. Please reach out if interested.
 - Shelby is now working full-time for Spokane Arts and is not leaving at the end of September.
- **Municipal Art Plan Committee Report - Jackie Caro**
 - MAP Committee is meeting bi-weekly
 - Waiting for the contract to get finalized and then there will be a kickoff meeting with Lesley Bain
 - The committee is working on a stakeholder list and events list
 - The committee is also working on a website
- **Arts Celebration Committee Report - Eva Silverstone**
 - Eva shared the order of events for the celebration
 - There are ten arts organizations that have requested to have tables at the event
 - Discussion of how best to update the master Arts Organizations List

Informational, Discussion and/or Action Items:

- **Creation of a Branding Committee**
 - Presentation provided by: Suzanne Ostersmith
 - Questions asked and answered.
 - Discussion ensued.
- **Vote on Banner Design**
 - Presentation provided by Suzanne Ostermith
 - Questions asked and answered.
 - Discussion ensued.
- **Discussion of Grants for Artists**
 - Presentation provided by Suzanne Ostersmith
 - Questions asked and answered
 - Discussion ensued.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:22 PM.

The next regularly scheduled Arts Commission Meeting is on Tuesday, September 22, 2026.