

# Laurel Arts Council Meeting Minutes – Sept 10, 2025

at 6:30pm ( In-Person at Gude Mansion)

now reachable as LaurelArtsCouncil@gmail.com

## Preliminaries

1. Pre-meeting, informal discussion on lapsed members; also Mayor has at least 2 applicants (Matty, Melissa). Take Roll: *Melissa, Sandy, Ella, Bharati, (Angie online)*. Guests: *Aselin Flowers, Margaret Panebianco (liaison to Laurel Arts Guild)*
2. Determine Quorum: yes (5)
3. VOTE: Approval of July Minutes: *approved*
4. Updates on Membership & New Applicants; *Aselin Flowers is an artist, former teacher, former directory of community arts org in DC*

## Agenda:

5. News from City Government – Bill
  - o *mayor had interest meeting a few weeks back, 20 or so attendees*
  - o *Sweitzer Park table got vandalized (tie die-like chemicals, likely accidental), Bill is working with sign-o-rama who replaced at no cost; new one mounted on ceiling*
6. Google Drive – under review - Ella
  - o *tutored Melissa/Bharati on it*
  - o *note our FY is July 1 - June 30*
  - o *Instagram account up, Ella is now lead*
  - o *(owned by same as FB so you can click in FB to also post to Insta)*
  - o *Current FB people are Inka, Melissa, Ella (coordinated by James in IT)*
  - o *Requests go to Melissa's phone number*
  - o *We have a GMail account, laurelartscouncil@gmail.com. Very spammy.*
  - o *We also have official laurelartscouncil@laurel.md.us but not sure where it goes (Sandy just sent test email)*
  - o **Access to the GMail account is unknown, so we did a password reset in the meeting. See Ella for password. Verifications go to Melissa's phone for TFA.**
7. Budget for 2026 – Planned \$14,470 vs Available \$13,000 (p.2)
  - o *currently has ~\$7K from the development fund as well (that doesn't expire)*
  - o *dev fund being saved for major projects, not yearly operations*
  - o *e.g. Bird Mural on 5<sup>th</sup> and Main Street was \$18K – paid for by contributions; sponsored by Laurel for the Patuxent*
8. **New Projects for FY26** – selected by vote (July meeting)
  - **Traffic box art wraps (underway)** - Bharati
    - o *Members voted for 3 Traffic Boxes . (\$1,500 per box)*
    - o *Call for Artists: to go out by the end of this month (got needed specs)*
    - o *Call distro– mailing list, social media (?)*
    - o *Selection method – panel, voting scheme (?)*
    - o *Art application method - wrapping the boxes vs. painting directly on box.*
    - o *Bharati-- cost may be higher, cleanup also a cost.*
    - o *moving along, might be delayed by a month*
    - o *call for artist will be via Laurel Art Guild as well as others*
    - o *Aselin suggestion: open call first to Laurel, next month to wider PG; she also knows other arts organizations*

- LAG usually uses language of 'must live within X miles'
  - should we use 'live in', or 'live or work in' Laurel?
  - *Bill: include language 'preference given to City of Laurel residents'*
- decision is via a panel of judges, artists who Angie is rounding up
- design process can occur over Fall/Winter
- need for warmer weather means March for actual execution
- Bill can put it on City of Laurel Parks & Recs social media
- LAC is free to approach local papers to see if they'll list it
- **ACTION: rest of details via subcommittee**
- **Trash can painting** (underway) – Melissa
  - Partner: City Sustainability V3 subcommittee (Voice, Vision, Volunteers)
  - McCullough Field & Sturgis Moore Rec Area – 11 trash cans
  - Other parks?
  - *we have the materials, can come up with themes.*
  - *very popular on our facebook*
  - *Is there sticker-white paint (Angie via phone) because acrylic is bleeding into background. Melissa has key to shed with materials and wants to meet with Angie at the field. Bill can also have someone meet her there also. She agreed to wait.*
  - *Bharati: reach out to schools? **ACTION: Melissa agreed to reach out to schools***
- **Poem installation** – Jennifer, Melissa
  - Partner: Laurel for Patuxent (L4P)
  - Propose Riverfront Park
  - *with a ceiling mount, using a poem Jennifer curated, by Michael Glazer.*
  - *Have Jennifer do a workshop again to build excitement.*
  - *Aiming for Spring*
  - *Bill confirms no issues with Riverfront Park, just pick a pavilion.*
- **City Pride Festival** – Angie
  - *is October 11th*
  - *Do we have an activity, or a table booked? Angie: yes, we have a table. Rock painting or a paint-and-sip canvas or similar.*
  - *Should be no cost (don't let them charge us!), **ACTION: Angie will get the Point of Contact/form to get table***
  - *Supply cabinet at Armory likely suffices: **Don't buy supplies till check existing***
- **Selborne house art exhibit** – Angie, Melissa
  - *last year was early November*
  - *should do it at Selbourne House or Gude Mansion as municipal hall was too noisy*
  - **ACTION: Anglie or Melissa needs to get in touch with Paul to see if we should do it again**
  - *more next meeting, with Inka availability*
- **Farmer's Market music** - Sandy
  - *prior: \$180/event for band, Michelle Blair runs it (mblair@laurel.md.us), all slots for calendar 2025 scheduled.*
  - *prior Suggested: City have a form or process so anyone can apply, rather than opaque word of mouth approach*
- **Scotchtown Hills Elementary School & Laurel Elementary School** - Melissa, Angie
  - *do what we did last year: partially funded after-school workshops and an exhibit at the Armory*

- *Melissa will meet with Scotchtown to get the details*
- **Laurel High School** - Melissa
  - *budgeted like last year's poetry chapbook and storefront, \$500*
  - *ongoing partnership with Laurel Town Center where students submit digital art and LTC + sign-a-rama create wraps*
  - *still tbd*
- **Writing club** – Sandy
  - *has 3 names, no traction yet, tbd*
  - *Library or Gude to meet*
  - *definitely promote at Library*
- **Main Street Festival** (TBD)

## 9. Member Ideas

- **Take Advantage of Preakness 2026?**
  - *It's the 3rd Saturday in May*
  - *City has a Preakness committee, looking for signups*
  - *movies celebrating horseracing or similar*
  - *Preakness wants the arts to be part of Preakness*
  - *'The Art of Racing' contest has prizes*
  - *Main St Ghost Tours*

*we would help individuals/entrepreneurs if they want to launch this*

  - **ACTION: Sandy will reach out to connect with Laurel Historical Society to see interest**
- **Action: Bill will reach out to member, then mayor on lapsed members--** *in past year: Denise Walker (thru Dec 2026)*  
*Melissa has reached out, has seen her, but haven't been able to get responses.*
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**Next Meeting:** October 8, 2025 (virtual)

<b><u>FY26 Proposed Budget:</u></b>	<b><u>\$14,470 TOT (13,000 available)</u></b>
Box wraps (3),	\$4500
Trashcan sealant	\$250
Poetry sign & supplies	\$550
2 ESs (Scotchtown, Laurel)	\$1000
Laurel HS,	\$500
Swag & misc for LAC	\$300
Art supplies	\$400
Farmer's Market music	\$4320 (Michele Blair)
Main St Festival artists	\$2500
Selborne House art expo	\$150