

Laurel Arts Council Meeting Minutes – Dec 9, 2025

at 6:30pm (virtual)

now reachable as LaurelArtsCouncil@gmail.com

Preliminaries

1. *Take Roll:* Sandy, Jennifer, Rubama, Melissa, Angie, city: Bill, Naomi
2. *Determine Quorum:* yes
3. *VOTE: Approval of November Minutes:* approved
4. *Updates on Membership & New Applicants:*

Mayor said just 1 to renew in January, let new member candidates reach out again. So did they lose the applicants?

Sandy will reach out to Matty, Melissa #2, Barbara-- have them send resume to Bill directly to make it into January session of City Council.

Agenda:

1. *News from City Government – Bill*

-Naomi is our new Economic Community Development Coordinator. She'd love ideas on how we and her should get engaged.

-New director of ECD hired as well, just started: Jay Meashey

-Mayor's party for volunteers is tomorrow night Dec.11.

-Wreaths across America on Sat. Dec. 13, starting at City Hall at 11 a.m. honoring fallen vets.

-Looking to fill Giselle's position, mayor's assistant.

-Preakness: everything on hold due to holidays but city has different committees on this. Anne Arundel County also on hold with this until January (it's their party, Laurel Racetarck officially in AA County.) Maybe City of Laurel will create a QR code to go with it, verify we can use "Preakness" as a term, etc. Expecting 5-6,000 attendees, scaled down from the Baltimore venue. They won't have enough parking, so City of Laurel will be busy with visitors' cars.

~~2. *Social media and Google share drive/email – Ella*~~

3. *Upcoming art shows and events around Laurel – Angie*

Laurel Art Guild exhibit up currently at Montpelier thru Jan 31. (Angie has a piece in the show.)

4. *Trash can painting update - Melissa*

-Sturgis-Moore/McCullough Field: 6 completed, including all blue cans (Laurel HS student painted last one). 5 remain, all green cans.

-Gude Park (lake) – Carla Conway resumed painting (LAC shared on Facebook, lots of likes)

5. *Traffic box wrap update, issues – Bharati and Ella*

Spent a lot of time on the technical specs. Est \$4500 for the 3 boxes but need to check costs with printing company. Can re-use 2023 Call for Artists. Currently will send to the same people (Google email prior recipients, LAG, Facebook). Duplicate prior call and timeline. Ella will create Google form this time to streamline submission and judging.

Call for Artists to go out late January or early February. Installation of winning images in May.

6. *Schools - Melissa*

- *Laurel HS participated in trash can painting at McCullough/Sturgis-Moore*
- *Laurel HS in County Honors Chorus, Laurel TV covered.*

Kevin Lewis (LHS music director) selected to direct. Melissa shared on FB, got lots of likes (~20) & shares (~10).

- *Scotchtown Hills Elementary: Katherine Ortiz organizing a playground refresh -- possible ground mural or sidewalk art (LAC will take on)*

Get a teaching artist to engage the children in creating sidewalk art or a ground mural as part of the effort to refresh the playground. (Creative Outlets, Inc. has teaching artists).

7. *Preakness local art contest – Laurel Art Guild (LAG) to work with LAC. Discuss – Melissa, Angie*

Margaret & Angie connected Melissa to head of LAG, Ephrain Montanez, who are doing the Montpelier art exhibit. Call for artists in January, notify winners in April.

Q1: Digital or Physical? Digital generally the way to go (unless the Anne Arundel/Preakness people were to offer wall space to display onsite at the Preakness.)

Q2: Infrastructure – Guidelines, advertising, submission portal, evaluation? LAG can use their existing infrastructure. LAG can reach 35K people via their ads, \$100-200 for two weeks

Q3: Fee to enter? Modest fee (\$10) ensures only serious applicants will submit.

Q4: Eligibility? For <18 yrs old, you need parental permission, so let's limit call to 18-and-over.

Q5: Display venue – how, where. Can enlarge selected images and show multiple sites – Gude Mansion, Towne Center, etc. Can we use Racetrack facilities? **Reach out to Estrada Group to verify if The Preakness will hold a nationwide contest in 2026. Also whether we can display in racetrack facilities.**

8. *Poems in Parks – Jennifer workshop and curator for poem to be installed Riverfront Park*

Pavillion ceiling, April 11th for workshop, April 18th for installation event. Cheryl has already reserved Pool Room for workshop. Bill will reserve Pavillion right now for the 18th.

Author for poem chosen passed away this year, so Jennifer still trying to reach estate to get permission to use poem (via MD State Arts Council, St Mary's, still searching). If not, will pivot to find another poem/poet.

9. *Hope House (in-patient rehab) - TBD*

May need certifies art therapist. Also consider Multi-Service Center for art for wellness workshop.

10. *Farmer's Market Music - Sandy - pushed to Jan.*

run by Michele Blair, is currently 1/3rd our budget

Next Meeting: January 14, 2026 (in person)