



APPROVED

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

URBANA ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION

DATE: June 9, 2026

TIME: 4:30 p.m.

PLACE: Community Development Services Conference Room, City Hall, 400 South Vine Street, Urbana, Illinois

MEMBERS ATTENDING: Hannah Andresen, Sarah Buckman, Xander Hazel, Barbara Hedlund, Abby Heras, Ty Lewis

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Robert White

STAFF PRESENT: Rachel Storm

OTHERS PRESENT: NONE

A. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Urbana Arts and Culture Commission was called to order at 4:30 by Rachel Storm with a quorum declared present.

B. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

There were none.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Commissioner Buckman moved to approve the May 12, 2026, meeting minutes. Commissioner Hazel seconded this motion. However, as no official minutes were provided in the packet, staff will resubmit them for approval at a subsequent meeting.

D. PUBLIC INPUT

Chris Evans shared input regarding the relocation of the Boneyard popsicle sculpture to the front porch of the Independent Media Center (IMC). Mr. Evans noted the sculpture's deterioration and, following discussions with the artist, gauged commissioners' interest in refurbishing and relocating it. He clarified that he lacks the authority to negotiate on behalf of IMC but is rather just initiating the conversation to gather general information and explore possibilities. Furthermore, Mr. Evans noted that restoration and relocation costs would be covered by the IMC. Commissioner Hedlund and Ms. Storm added that the artist had spoken with them, explaining that because the artist resides out of state, travel expenses are too high for him to undertake the restoration and maintenance personally.

E. COMMUNICATIONS

1. STAFF REPORT

Rachel Storm introduced the new Urbana Arts and Culture Commissioner, Ty Lewis, and reminded the commissioners that vacancies remain on the commission.

Ms. Storm provided an update on the 2026 Urbana Arts Grant applications received. She stated that a total of 50 applications were received, and the city was able to fund 25 of them, with \$90,000 available in funding. Ms. Storm mentioned that the grantees have been notified and a public release for all selected will go out by the end of the week.

Ms. Storm then informed the commissioners of upcoming arts and culture events, sharing details on when each event is taking place and its purpose. This list included:

- "PostMark" outside the Urbana Free Library on June 9th.
 - A family-friendly arts programming event in collaboration with local artists, businesses, and community partners.
- Pop-Up Concert at Urbana High School on June 13th at 7:00 p.m.
 - The final pop-up concert of the summer features a performance by the Urbana Pops Orchestra entitled "From Sea to Shining Symphony."
- Poet Laureate Inauguration Celebration at Analog Wine Library on June 16, 2026, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
 - A celebration in honor of Ninetta DeBoni, who was selected to be the 2026 Poet Laureate.
- "Sneak Peek" at Gallery Art Bar on June 18th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
 - An opportunity to meet and greet with all Urbana Arts Grant awardees and discuss their upcoming projects.

Ms. Storm provided an update on the planning process for the proposed mural project. This project is expected to extend into late summer or early fall 2026. Ms. Storm noted that a more detailed summary will be discussed in the New Business portion of the meeting.

Ms. Storm mentioned that city staff are coordinating the transition of sculptures at the Boneyard Creek Crossing. This transition will include the de-installation of the existing Ice Pops sculpture and the installation of a new piece called *Heal Us* by Nicole Beck. Ms. Storm expanded on the conversation held at the beginning of the meeting related to the Ice Pop sculpture, stating that unless something major happens before the end of the week, the Ice Pop sculpture is scheduled to be destroyed at that time.

Lastly, Ms. Storm notified the commissioners that the newly selected Murals on Glass installations have been completed and are located on the south and east entrances of Lincoln Square Mall.

F. OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

G. NEW BUSINESS

Rachel Storm notified the commissioners that they are being asked to vote on the approval of the 115 W. Main St. Mural Selection Committee. Ms. Storm elaborated that this selection committee will consist of the mural location's building owner, Mike Hosier; two members of the Urbana Arts and Culture Commission, Xander Hazel and Robert White; the Director of 40North/88West, Kelly White; a resident of the ward where the mural will be located, Christopher Evans; and a member of the City of Urbana Arts and Culture Staff, Rachel Storm.

At the May 2026 Arts and Culture meeting, a question was raised by Commissioner Hazel asking if the Urbana Arts and Culture Commission should formally approve the subcommittee prior to its inception. Ms. Storm stated that since that meeting, staff have reviewed city code, consulted with the City Clerk, and determined that the Arts and Culture Commission should provide formal approval of the subcommittee and its members. Ms. Storm then gave a detailed summary of the purpose of the mural review committee and the Arts and Culture Commission's role in the process. She further outlined a tentative timeline, aiming for fabrication and installation to be completed by October.

A discussion among the commissioners and Ms. Storm followed. Ultimately, Commissioner Hazel motioned to approve the establishment of the Mural Review Committee as a temporary subcommittee for the 115 W. Main St. Mural Project. Commissioner Hedlund seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

H. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There was none.

I. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Hillary L. Ortiz
Executive Assistant