



MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
URBANA ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION

APPROVED

DATE: March 17, 2026

TIME: 4:30 p.m.

PLACE: Council Chambers, City Hall, 400 South Vine Street, Urbana, Illinois

MEMBERS ATTENDING: Hannah Andresen, Xander Hazel, Barbara Hedlund

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Abby Heras, Sarah Buckman

STAFF PRESENT: Olivia Jovine, Rachel Storm

OTHERS PRESENT: Kelly White (via telephone)

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

Urbana Arts and Culture Commission was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Chair Hedlund. A quorum was not present.

B. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

There were none.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

There were none.

D. PUBLIC INPUT

There was none.

E. COMMUNICATIONS

1. STAFF REPORT

Chair Hedlund opened the presentations session to the Commission. Olivia Jovine, Director of Community Development Services, began the report.

Interim Arts & Culture Commission Coordinator, Rachel Storm, was introduced, and summarized her background.

The 2026 Poet Laureate cycle began on February 1 and will be extended to April 27, 2026. Commissioner Buckman will be volunteering as support.

UAC Grants Program 2026-2027 point of contact will be Ms. Storm, and Ms. Jovine noted the schedule for the commissioners. For 2026, \$90,000 in funding is available to support arts projects in Urbana. The Sneak Peak Event will take place in June, though exact date is TBD.

The commission clarified the process which applicants would use, with a pre-recorded virtual workshop offering guidance for first-time users. Both Ms. Jovine and Ms. Storm gave updates as to advertising streams, stating these will occur via the City of Urbana website, Press Releases, and the UAC Newsletter, potential Commissioner support by word of mouth. Commissioner Hazel mentioned availability for the Jury panels, which occur on May 18-19, beginning at 5 p.m., alongside fellow members of the public.

F. OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

G. NEW BUSINESS

UAG Parking Deck Jury Selection and Ms. Jovine introduced Kelly White, Executive Director of 40 North, the potential artists, and noted that experience in use of lifts, heights, and textured medium should be considered. The commission discussed the following artists:

- Alixandra Jade (Casey, IL): has experience with multi-level designs, and varying medium.
- EKAH (Mahomet, IL) and Lisa Kesler (Champaign) collaboration: a joint application of 2 artists who are seeking to combine efforts to produce a project.
- Jose Vasquez (Champaign, IL): has broad experience in art style, commissioned projects, and varying medium, and level design.
- Langston Allston (New Orleans): uses historical and contemporary art and community to create pieces. Certified boom operator.
- Matthew Mederer (Chicago, IL): creates large-scale projects using trompe l'oeil and community storytelling techniques.

H. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rachel Storm will be working on a part-time basis while an Arts Coordinator is being secured through FY 2027 budgeting which opens on July 1.

I. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rachel Rosson
Temporary Administrative Support