



**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
URBANA ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION**

APPROVED

DATE: January 13, 2026

TIME: 4:30 p.m.

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

MEMBERS ATTENDING: Hannah Andresen, Sarah Buckman, Xander Hazel, Barbara Hedlund, Abby Heras, Robert White

MEMBERS EXCUSED: NONE

STAFF PRESENT: Vivian Krishnan

OTHERS PRESENT: NONE

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

The Urbana Arts and Culture Commission was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Barbara Hedlund with a quorum declared present.

B. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

There were none.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of November 12, 2025, Regular meeting were presented to the Commission. With no changes or discussion, Robert White moved that the Arts & Culture Commission approve the minutes as written. Xander Hazel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

D. PUBLIC INPUT

There was none.

E. COMMUNICATIONS

1. STAFF REPORT

Chair Hedlund opened the presentations session to the Commission. Vivian Krishnan, Arts Program Specialist, presented the following:

- Downtown Urbana: Winter Lights: This event was rescheduled due to extreme cold weather and snowstorms. Ms. Krishnan shared brief background and photos.

- 40 North
 - PostMark Urbana served as an effective anchor for same-day event promotion for the second year.
 - Crag Gray's "Ice Pops" sculpture located at Boneyard Creek Crossing is being replaced with "Heal Us" by Nicole Beck
 - The owner of the Parking Deck Mural will complete initial cleaning/power-washing. City Arborist may assist with tree trimming and site cleanup.
- Programs & Grants
 - Regarding the Urbana Arts Grants 2026, a clarification was made for Tier 2 indicating that Letters of Recommendation are required, and letter writers should also match the funds awarded.
 - The application for the 2026 Poet Laureate has not yet been released.
- Exhibitions & Events
 - For Artist of the Corridor, Ms. Krishnan introduced Mili Vishwakarma, who features nature photography and will exhibit from January through June 2026 at the Urbana Free Library, as well as participate in the Boneyard Arts Festival taking place from April 10 through April 12, 2026.
 - PostMark celebrates Poetry Month, Lunar New Year, and Valentine's Day at the Urbana Free Library in partnership with the Asian American Cultural Center, and it will feature cultural musical performances.
 - Make and Take at the Market operates as a partnership between The Idea Store and the Winter Farmers' Market.

F. OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

G. NEW BUSINESS

A discussion about the UAC Bylaws was had. Ms. Krishnan agreed to follow up with the City Clerk regarding the necessary range of commissioners required by City ordinances. The commissioners discussed the secretary and administrative aspects of the commission, agreeing that more direction was needed. They also identified adding a permanent Vice-Chair position, forming subcommittees, holding study sessions, and establishing commission goals as areas of interest for future discussion. Commissioner Buckman then motioned to add a study session to the February 10 agenda, during which the commissioners would discuss revisions to the November 4, 2014, UAC bylaws, finalize the edits, and make a plan for utilizing the bylaws to set commission goals. The motion was seconded by Ms. Andresen and passed.

Following this, a discussion pertaining to the Boneyard Creek Crossing Public Arts, Programs, and Maintenance was held. Commissioner Hazel moved that the commission approve a motion to move the Boneyard Creek Crossing Public Arts Program and Maintenance discussion to the February 10 agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. White and passed.

H. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There was none.

I. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rachel Rosson
Temporary Administrative Support