CITY OF URBANA

CITY OF URBANA
ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION

DATE: Tuesday, November 10, 2026
TIME: 4:30 PM
PLACE: 400 South Vine Street, Urbana, IL 61801

AGENDA

A. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Declaration of Quorum

B. Changes to the Agenda

C. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

1. May 10, 2016 - Minutes of Regular Meeting
2. February 26, 2019 - Minutes of Regular Meeting
3. May 12, 2026 - Minutes of Regular Meeting
4. July 14, 2026 - Minutes of Regular Meeting
5. August 11, 2026 - Minutes of Regular Meeting

D. Public Input

E. Communications

1. Staff Report
2. 40 North Annual Partnership Report (FY25-26 and FY27 to Present)

F. Old Business

G. New Business

H. Annoucements

I. Adjournment

PUBLIC INPUT

The City of Urbana welcomes Public Input during open meetings of the City Council, the City Council's Committee of the Whole, City Boards and Commissions, and other City-sponsored meetings. Our goal is to foster respect for the meeting process, and respect for all people participating as members of the public body, city staff, and the general public. The City is required to conduct all business during public meetings. The presiding officer is responsible for conducting those meetings in an orderly and efficient manner.

All City meetings are broadcast on Urbana Public Television and live-streamed on the web. Details on how to watch are found on the UPTV webpage located at https://www.urbanail.gov/executive-department/page/urbana-public-television.

Public Input will be taken in the following ways:

Email Input
Public comments must be received prior to the closing of the meeting record (at the time of adjournment unless otherwise noted) at the following: Rachel.Storm@UrbanaIL.gov. The subject line of the email must include the words "PUBLIC INPUT" and the meeting date. Emailed public comments labeled as such will be incorporated into the public meeting record, with personal identifying information redacted. Copies of emails will be posted after the meeting minutes have been approved.

Written Input
Any member of the public may submit their comments addressed to the members of the public body in writing. If a person wishes their written comments to be included in the record of Public Input for the meeting, the writing should so state. Written comments must be received prior to the closing of the meeting record (at the time of adjournment unless otherwise noted).

Verbal Input
Protocol for Public Input is one of respect for the process of addressing the business of the City. Obscene language, or other conduct that threatens to impede the orderly progress of the business conducted at the meeting is unacceptable.

Public comment shall be limited to no more than five (5) minutes per person. The Public Input portion of the meeting shall total no more than two (2) hours, unless otherwise shortened or extended by majority vote of the public body members present. The presiding officer or the city clerk or their designee, shall monitor each speaker's use of time and shall notify the speaker when the allotted time has expired. A person may participate and provide Public Input once during a meeting and may not cede time to another person, or split their time if Public Input is held at two (2) or more different times during a meeting. The presiding officer may give priority to those persons who indicate they wish to speak on an agenda item upon which a vote will be taken.

The presiding officer or public body members shall not enter into a dialogue with citizens. Questions from the public body members shall be for clarification purposes only. Public Input shall not be used as a time for problem solving or reacting to comments made but, rather, for hearing citizens for informational purposes only.

In order to maintain the efficient and orderly conduct and progress of the public meeting, the presiding officer of the meeting shall have the authority to raise a point of order and provide a verbal warning to a speaker who engages in the conduct or behavior proscribed under "Verbal Input". Any member of the public body participating in the meeting may also raise a point of order with the presiding officer and request that they provide a verbal warning to a speaker. If the speaker refuses to cease such conduct or behavior after being warned by the presiding officer, the presiding officer shall have the authority to mute the speaker's microphone and/or video presence at the meeting. The presiding officer will inform the speaker that they may send the remainder of their remarks via e-mail to the public body for inclusion in the meeting record.

Accommodation
If an accommodation is needed to participate in a City meeting, please contact the City Clerk's Office at least 48 hours in advance so that special arrangements can be made using one of the following methods:

- Phone: 217-328-8262
- Email: Rachel.Storm@UrbanaIL.Gov

CITY OF URBANA

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING **DRAFT**

URBANA ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION

DATE: **May 10, 2016**

TIME: **4:30 p.m.**

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

MEMBERS ATTENDING: Barbara Hedlund, Eric Jakobsson, Sara Jones, Ilona Matkovszki, John Morrison, Jason Patterson, Pat Sammann, Ginny Waaler

MEMBERS EXCUSED: None

STAFF PRESENT: Pauline Tannos, Public Arts Coordinator; Sukiya J. Reid, Recording Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT: Joe Madden, Rachel Storm

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

Urbana Arts and Culture Commission was called to order at by Chairperson Sammann. Roll was called with a quorum present.

B. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

There were none.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Commissioner Waaler moved to approve the April 12, 2016, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hedlund. Votes were taken by voice and the motion passed.

D. PUBLIC INPUT

There was none.

E. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Grant Presentation

Chairperson Sammann introduced Joe Madden, Executive Director of the Champaign Urbana Symphony Orchestra (CUSO), and welcomed him to the floor. He presented background information for the CUSO, as well as an update to present works, such as the 2015 Youth Concerts: *The Orchestra's Rainbow of Color*.

- Founded in 1959, it serves as the professional orchestra in residence at the Krannert Center for Performing Arts.
- CUSO has brought elementary children and adults together through live performance, and to inform the community about music education.
- In 2015, 3200 local students attended multiple concerts and were able to see their peers in concert. Music Director & Coordinator *for The Orchestra's Rainbow of Color* was Stephen Alltop, with television news personality Paul Davis greeting students. Students from participating schools were able to participate in Interactive Demonstrations, receive Classroom Materials and Community Engagement with musicians who are their peers.

2. Grant Presentation

Chairperson Sammann introduced Rachel Storm, from *girl radio, inc!*, a radio show 2-day camp geared toward middle-school aged young girls, immersing them in all forms of media from performance with zines to poetry, and radio.

- This event was possible through partnerships with multiple organizations and resources in the Champaign-Urbana community.
- It will then be broken down into an 8-episode series and shared with viewers on WRFU 104.5 and online.
- As this was a continuation of a former Urbana Art Grant award program run by Ms. Storm (*Out of the Mouths of Babes*), she noted that she did not apply for a new grant to fund *girl radio, inc!*

Commissioner Jakobsson noted that seeking resources from the Park District might be a viable option in the future.

3. Staff Presentation

Chairperson Sammann invited Pauline Tannos, Public Arts Coordinator, to give the Monthly Progress Report as a staff presentation.

- Artist of the Corridor, ending on June 3, 2016.
    - Art by Judy Lee will be placed early due to Peggy Flavin's artwork having issues with retention on the walls. Pauline mentioned Peggy's work will remain stored in her office until Peggy's exhibition ends.
- Art at the Market takes off on Saturday, May 14, 2016, at 8 a.m.
    - Maxx Gogski will be hosting a workshop for children. Pauline noted that she did a short promo video to be watched on UPTV6. Mackville, a local gospel Bluegrass band, will also be in attendance.
- *Urbana Celebrates the Boneyard 2016,* occurred on Saturday, April 9 from 1-4 p.m. at the Boneyard Creek Improvement Project.
    - Brought live music, food trucks, and activities, including USD#116 students bringing a banner exhibit, scavenger hunt designed by Judiee, with prizes.
- Fundraising update regarding *Open Scene,* a collaboration with the Independent Media Center, sent to the National Endowment of the Arts regarding the youth (18-to-24-year -olds) of Urbana
    - A joint announcement will take place on Tuesday, May 10 at the Independent Media Center (202 S. Broadway) at 7:30 p.m. with the City of Urbana and the UCIMC. Performances and a press event will be held.

- Art Now May Episode
  - March Issue included the interview of Dennis Rowan. Travis Hocutt will be interviewed in the May Issue. Travis is a mixed-media artist, and his interview will be available on the Art Now YouTube channel or online.
- Urbana Sculpture Project
  - 12 participants from Clark Linsday Retirement Village toured 7 sculptures by van with help from staff. 90 minutes were spent taking photos, asking questions, and driving in the community
- Urbana Art Expo begins on Sunday, September 18, 2016, at 10 a.m. and will be located at the Urbana Civic Center.
  - Planning with Kelly White (40North) will start soon with more updates in later meetings.
- Marketing Update
  - Facebook: fans +74 from last month (1159 currently)
  - Instagram: followers +67 (188 as of meeting)
  - Twitter: followers +54 (1702 as of meeting)
  - Urbana Public Arts Program ads promoting Artist of the Corridor and Art Now will run on SmilePolitely.com.

4. Staff Presentation

Ms. Tannos attended a workshop hosted by Arts Alliance Illinois who had Randy Cohen, an arts analyst with the Americans for the Arts in DC, and informed the commission of the most current Art Study/census:

- Cultural Programming – exhibitions, performances, etc.
- Community Collab – through Urbana Free Library, Local TV, farmers market
- Grantmaking – this study included private and public Local Arts Networks (LANs). Private LANs (e.g. 40North) do not have grant programs in place, but Public LANs do
- Facility Management – City of Urbana does not participate in this
- Arts Services – featuring artists on local television media
- Arts Education – Arts in the Schools initiatives, etc.
- Cultural Planning – City of Urbana does not participate in this as it includes intensive data gathering and publishment of studies.

5. Urbana Arts Expo

- Walls and additional lighting were provided by the city the previous year but were heavy and were not pleasant to use
- For 2016, Ms. Tannos suggested using Travis Hocutt's walls as they are lighter and sustainable across events over a period of time. She noted that they were also looking into changing how lighting could be done differently.

Commissioners discussed how well Ms. Tannos handled the planning for these events.

F. OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

G. NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

H. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Waaler and her husband, Jack Waaler, will make contributions toward the purchase of the sculpture *"Stranger Reduction Zone"* by Timothy C. Flood which was placed at the Urbana Free Library for passersby to interact with.

Jenelle Orcherton will become the latest commissioner for the Public Arts Commission; she will be introduced during the next meeting.

Commissioners Hedlund and Matkovszki spoke about the Universalist Unitarian Church on Green Street becoming second Royer building being listed as a historic building from downtown Urbana. and Commissioner Hedlund agreed to share photographs so they could be added to the next meeting's staff report.

Commissioner Jakobsson and Waaler's final meeting will be June 2016, and commissioners discussed taking them to a celebratory lunch as was tradition.

With nothing more, Chairperson Sammann closed announcements.

I. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned with a motion and a second. Time was not available on the video.

Respectfully submitted,
Rachel Rosson
Temporary Administrative Support

CITY OF URBANA

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING **DRAFT**

URBANA ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION

DATE: **February 26, 2019**

TIME: **5:00 p.m.**

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

MEMBERS ATTENDING: Courtney Becks, Barbara Hedlund, Sara Jones, Jenelle Orcherton, Stacey Robinson, Patricia Sammann, Jessica Snyder

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Katie Harrell, Eric Jakobsson

STAFF PRESENT: Brandon Boys, Economic Development Manager; Rachel Storm, Public Arts Coordinator; Sukiya J. Reid, Recording Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT: Seth Fein and Patrick Singer (via Skype); Paris Baldarotta; Kelly White; Rob Krumm and Tom Besset

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

Urbana Arts and Culture Commission was called to order by Chairperson Sammann. Roll was called with a quorum present.

2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Chairperson Sammann notified the commission that they would not be touching on *AsiaFest* during this meeting.

3. PUBLIC INPUT

There was none.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Tier III Grant Application Presentations

Chairperson Sammann introduced Rachel Storm, Public Arts Coordinator, and welcomed her to the floor. Ms. Storm offered information to commission regarding the removal of *AsiaFest* from the agenda as it had been re-listed as a Tier II applicant. Four presentations would take place with live scoring during the meeting by the commissioners, and she reminded the commission that confidentiality regarding the scoring was necessary should they require additional time away from meeting that evening. She then outlined the scoring process for all in audience. If commissioners required further information on a proposal,

they will be given time to ask the applicant; the applicant may then respond, or if time is limited, they may correspond via email until Friday March 1, 2019.

Grant Application Presentation – *Pygmalion*
Seth Fein and Patrick Singer of Fein-Bursoni Inc were welcomed to the floor and introduced their grant proposal to the commission for 2019 via Skype. They outlined their proposal requesting $10,000 as cash sponsorship, plus use of all City of Urbana festival racking from Public Works.

Commissioners asked clarifying questions regarding the free events hosted, whether underserved populations such as children would be future targets, the products or skills taken from Pygmalion participation were possible, and how the presenters are vetted through Pygmalion curators/owners.

Grant Application Presentation – *Urbana Sweetcorn Festival 2019*
Paris Baldarotta, Executive Director of the Urbana Business Association, was welcomed and gave a brief background on the Sweetcorn Festival's history. Ms. Baldarotta is requesting $10,000 to be used for her proposal.

This is a family-friendly festival which brings in sponsorships from 23 businesses, cash and in-kind funding totaling $85,650 at previous year's program. Commissioners sought additional information on how the tri-level programming works together between artists, performers, and funding. Ms. Baldarotta mentioned discretion on areas to pull from budget but noted programming and administration fees were the bulk of this. The festival activities are free to the public—all demonstrations and community engagement are free—only food and drink items would incur costs from festival goers.

Grant Application Presentation – *Boneyard Arts Festival 2019* from April 4-7th
Kelly White, Executive Director at 40 North|88 West, shared background on Boneyard's history. This festival allows over 400 artists to engage with the Champaign-Urbana community spaced out over 3 days.

Commissioners sought clarification on how artists are counted in the proposal, whether pop-ups are presenters, and if they are paid through funding received for this project proposal. Ms. White confirmed all artists, regardless of media or craft, are tallied in this total; and all are paid as performers; none are charged to participate in the festival. Venues are charged a fee of $50, and this becomes the main income source for Boneyard Festival. As Kelly is the sole staff member for Boneyard, any matching funds required from the Arts Program Grant come from her.

Grant Application Presentation – *2019 Champaign-Urbana Folk and Roots Festival*
Rob Krumm and Tom Basset were given the floor to speak about the Folk and Roots Festival which will occur from Thursday, October 24 – Saturday, October 26, 2019, in and around downtown Urbana. Events are free to the public on Saturday, and a crowd of 1400+ people are anticipated.

Commissioners had questions regarding the types of musicians and music which is presented as folk music, and how the participating musicians are brought in. Of the $9050 sought by

the applicants, commissioners wanted more information on how the funds would be separated from their regular annual funding.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned. Motion, second, and time was not available on the video.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Rosson
Temporary Administrative Support

CITY OF URBANA

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING **DRAFT**

URBANA ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION

DATE: **May 12, 2026**

TIME: **4:31 p.m.**

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

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

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Hannah Andresen, Ty Lewis

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 4:31 by Commissioner Buckman. Rachel Storm called roll and declared a quorum present.

B. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

There were none.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Commissioner Hazel moved to approve the March 12, 2026, meeting minutes. Chair Hedlund 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

There was none.

E. COMMUNICATIONS

1. STAFF REPORT

Rachel Storm, Interim Arts and Culture Coordinator 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 following programs, staffing and initiatives that are happening this month with the Commission.

- Urbana Arts Grants
  - Jury process for Tiers I-II, and Arts and the Schools grants will continue.
- "Sneak Peek" at Gallery Art Bar (119 W. Main) 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.
- Poet Laureate Program
  - A finalist will be chosen by jury later in May. Inauguration Celebration will take place on June 16th from 6-8 p.m. at Analog Wine Library.
- Boneyard Arts Festival was held from April 10-12
  - Exhibition of visual, performance, and literary art
- "PostMark" DANCE! outside the Urbana Free Library on May 2nd.
  - A family-friendly arts programming dance event in collaboration with local artists, businesses, and community partners.
- Free Pop-Up Concerts concluded on April 25th with POP-UP PLAYERS at Urbana Free Library
  - The final pop-up mini concert of the summer featured professional musicians, music educators, and student performers.
- Murals on Glass
  - Latest works include John Odum's "*Terraqueous"*, and Ruth Lantz's "*Ferranti"* located at the south and east entrances of the Lincoln Square Mall.
- Lakehouse Candlelight Serenade (Jazz Edition) May 22nd from 8:30-10 p.m.
  - A partnership with 40North/88West and the Urbana Park District, featuring live jazz, family-friendly boat rides at night.

Ms. Storm provided an update on the planning process for the proposed mural project at 115 Main. This project is expected to extend into late summer or early fall 2026. Ms. Storm encouraged meaningful engagement between stakeholders, the artist, review committee, and property owner were necessary in this process.

Ms. Storm mentioned that city staff are coordinating the transition of sculptures at the Boneyard Creek Crossing. This transition will include de-commissioning the existing "*ICE POPS"* sculpture by Craig Gray and the installation of a new piece called "*Heal Us"* by Nicole Beck. Ms. Storm informed the commission that a ribbon-cutting ceremony would take place, and the commissioners were invited to attend.

Ms. Storm and members of the Commission engaged in a discussion regarding the scope and the Commission's role in establishing and overseeing the Mural Review Committee for the current downtown mural initiative. Commissioner Hazel requested clarification on the operational shift of the selection process from the full Commission to an external review jury, raising concerns that this transition might limit the Commission's oversight and authority compared to past projects. Ms. Storm provided context on best practices for the City's historical arts grant juries, noting that appointing no more than two Commissioners alongside key external stakeholders, such as the property owner, 40 North, and district representatives, ensures broad stakeholder buy-in while complying with Open Meetings Act regulations. Ms. Storm also noted this arrangement allows for a more candid evaluation

of artwork. In response to questions on whether the Commission must formally vote to establish subcommittees under its governing ordinance, Ms. Storm stated that she would consult with city staff to clarify the Commission's legal authority and reporting back to the Commissioners with further guidance before finalizing the committee's structure.

F. OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

G. NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

H. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

I. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Rosson
Temporary Administrative Support

CITY OF URBANA

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING **DRAFT**

URBANA ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION

DATE: **July 14, 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, Ty Lewis, Robert White

MEMBERS EXCUSED: NONE

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 4:28 by Commissioner Hedlund. Rachel Storm called roll and declared a quorum present.

B. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Commissioner Hazel requested to add the following to New Business: *a vote to approve the artist recommendation for the mural on 115 Main Street in Urbana.*

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Commissioner Hazel moved to approve the March 12, 2026, meeting minutes. Chair Hedlund 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

There was none.

E. COMMUNICATIONS

1. STAFF REPORT

Rachel Storm noted that her contract was extended on a part-time basis, and she would remain

to assist in the transition of a new Coordinator by the City, whenever this occurs. She then reminded the Commissioners that vacancies remain on the commission.

Ms. Storm provided an update on the following programs, staffing and initiatives that are happening this month with the Commission.

- Urbana Arts Grants
  - 25 awardees were selected and introduced to the Commissioners.
- "Sneak Peek" at Gallery Art Bar (119 W. Main) 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.
- Poet Laureate Program
  - Ninetta "Nina" DeBoni became the 2026-2027 Urbana Poet Laureate. Ms. Storm mentioned bringing to the next meeting potential projects and media outreach, with tentative dates.
- Urbana Sculpture Project (Boneyard Creek Crossing)
  - June 12th – "*ICE POPS* "was deinstalled and disposed of per contract, and in its place, "*Heal Us"* by Nicole Beck was successfully installed.
- PostMark Urbana! Series: "Kaleidoscope of Colors – hosted outside the Urbana Free Library on June 6th.
  - A family-friendly arts programming event in collaboration with local artists, businesses, and community partners with live mandala painting, and more.
- PostMark Urbana! Series: "Theater Arts" – in partnership with Krannert Center for the Performing Arts Costume and Props department was hosted outside the Urbana Free Library on July 11th
  - Costumes were on display, and a costume parade was held.
- Pop-Up Concerts with Urbana Pops Orchestra
  - Concluded on June 27th with *From Sea to Shining Symphony* at Urbana High School.
- Urbana Fall Fusion Festival, in Partnership with 40North/88West
  - 4th Annual Festival will take place on October 10, 2026. Live music, performances and activities will take place.
- Downtown Festival Season confirmed dates are as follows:
  - Pygmalion Festival – September 24-27th
  - Fall Fusion Festival – October 10th
  - C-U Jazz Festival – October 15-18th
  - CU Pride Fest – October 17th

F. OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. 115 Main – Mural Project

The Mural Review Committee was created during June 9, 2026, meeting to include the following representatives:

- Chris Evans (Urbana City Council member for Ward 2)
- Xander Hazel and Robert White (Arts and Culture Commissioners)
- Elsie Hedspeth (Director of Operations and Outreach at 40North/88 West)
- Kelly White (Executive Director at 40North/88 West)
- Mike Hosier, the property owner (R&R Rentals)
- Rachel Storm (Interim Arts and Culture Coordinator)

On June 25th, the Review Committee discussed the Top 5 finalists, with criteria including: artistic excellence, experience with large-scale mural projects, nontraditional wall texture, technical capacity, community engagement, feasibility, and fit with the Arts and Culture Commissions goals of the project and multiple artists were interviewed. José Vasquez eventually became the committee's recommendation. Ms. Storm noted that a muralist series was being discussed to further explore community artists and procure private sponsorships.

Commissioner White then moved that the commission: *approve the Committee's recommendation of José Vasquez for the artists for the 115 West Main Mural.* Commissioner Heras seconded the motion.

Roll call on the motion was taken. The motion was approved and passed unanimously.

H. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Storm updated the commission that Shakespeare in the Park *Get, Set, Romeo and Juliet!* would be occurring later in July and she would be in touch with the Illinois Shakespeare Festival as they will be partnering with the Urbana Arts and Culture Program.

I. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Rosson
Temporary Administrative Support

CITY OF URBANA

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING **DRAFT**

URBANA ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION

DATE: **August 11, 2026**

TIME: **4:30 p.m.**

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

MEMBERS ATTENDING: Sarah Buckman, Barbara Hedlund, Abby Heras, Ty Lewis, Sheila Parinas, Robert White

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Hannah Andresen, Xander Hazel

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 4:38 p.m. by Chair Hedlund. Ms. Rachel Storm called roll and declared a quorum present.

B. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

No revisions were made to the agenda. However, Ms. Storm noted that the vote to approve the 115 Mural recommended artist from the mural review committee was placed on the agenda again for this meeting, as last month's vote was invalid since the topic had not been properly listed on the agenda.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Commissioner Buckman made a motion that the Commission: *approve all four minutes for January, March, April, and June.* Commissioner White seconded.
Minutes of January 13, 2026, Regular Meeting
Minutes of March 17, 2026, Regular Meeting
Minutes of June 9, 2026, Regular Meeting

Minutes of April 14, 2026, Regular Meeting
Approved with the following amendment to the minutes as recommended by Commissioner Heras: *last name "Austin" was changed to "Allston" on the Public Input section, p. 9, Letter D of the April 14, 2026, meeting.* Chair Hedlund seconded.

The vote passed by 5-0, with Commissioner Parinas abstaining.

D. PUBLIC INPUT

There was none.

E. COMMUNICATIONS

1. STAFF REPORT

Rachel Storm, Interim Arts and Culture Coordinator, introduced the new Urbana Arts and Culture Commissioner, Sheila Parinas, and reminded the commissioners that one vacancy remains on the commission and holds 8 of 9 allotted commissioners at this meeting.

She advised that the city has announced the Economic Development Manager position, and this placement will be the direct supervisor to their much-needed Arts and Culture Coordinator.

Ms. Storm provided an update on the following programs, staffing and initiatives that are happening this month with the Commission.

- Urbana Arts Grants
    - Projects are underway and updates can be found on the Urbana Arts and Culture website and social media pages.
- Poet Laureate Program
    - Laureate Nina DeBoni begins their "Found Poetry" workshop series in September and is actively participating in events around the community.
- Boneyard Creek Crossing Engagement
    - Urbana Public Works installed new lighting at the site, and the Urbana Arts and Culture Program created new programming and engagement. Volunteers have also swept sediment and cared for this greenspace.
- Shakespeare in the Park presents *Get Set, Romeo and Juliet!* at 11 a.m., Sunday, July 26, 2026 at Boneyard Creek Crossing.
    - In partnership with the Illinois Shakespeare Festival, this live production shares engaging humor, action, and themes for all audiences.
- PostMark! Urbana events from 2–4 pm. on select Saturdays, outside the Urbana Free Library
    - July 11th *Theater Arts!* included costumes and props provided from Krannert Art Museum, and a costume parade.
    - August 8th *Back-to-School* brought Busey Bank, Urbana Free Library, and Urbana Park District together to offer games and school supplies.
- Urbana Fall Fusion Festival from 3–7 p.m., Saturday, October 10 in Downtown Urbana
    - Organized by 40North and the Urbana Arts and Culture Program, enjoy free, live music in partnership with C-U Folk & Roots Festival. Demonstrations, interactive experiences, and retail sales available.
- Downtown Festival Season confirmed events and dates
    - Urbana Bazaar – September 12
    - Pygmalion Festival – September 24-27
    - C-U Folks & Roots Festival – October 8-10
    - C-U Jazz Festival – October 15-18
    - CU Pride Fest – October 17

- CornStock 2026 was briefly mentioned as being a grantee of the UAC grant for this year. No date was presented to the commission officially and Ms. Storm will continue to provide updates as they come in for others.

Ms. Storm provided an update on the proposed mural project. The commission will recommend Jose Vasquez as the intended artist. A projected timeline with Design development phase, and Final mural concept will be discussed at later meetings. Project completion is anticipated in late September/Early October 2026. Meet the Muralist, Jose Vasquez, outside Common Ground Co-Op on August 19th from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. and enjoy working together to solve an Urbana Word Association community engagement activity.

Commissioner Lewis asked how arts programming is selected. Ms. Storm explained that programming may come from the arts coordinator, commissioners, or community input, and that new programming can sometimes be incorporated into existing budgets or funded separately.

During discussion, a question arose regarding residency requirements for commissioners, and current policy will be verified by Ms. Storm before the next meeting.

F. OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

G. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner White moved that the Arts and Culture Commission approved Jose Vasquez as the 115 W. Mural selection artist. Chair Hedlund seconded the motion. A voice vote was called and passed unanimously.

H. ANNOUNCEMENTS

As it wasn't on the Staff Report, Chair Hedlund reminded the commission that the Candlelight Serenade at The Lake House in Crystal Lake Park would be on September 4, alternatively on September 5, if it rains, with music from Rogers and Hammerstein musicals.

I. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rachel Rosson
Temporary Administrative Support

4. 40 North Reports to Urbana Arts & Culture Commission: 40 North shall submit to the City, within ninety (90) days following the close of the City Fiscal Year, its written annual partnership report which shall (i) describe the activities which 40 North has undertaken for, on behalf of and/or for the benefit of the City, and of events located within the City during the immediate past City Fiscal Year; (ii) provide a summarized accounting of all funds received by 40 North during the aforesaid City Fiscal Year, including but not limited to the City Funds provided for in Sub-Paragraph A(1) of this Agreement; and (iii) provide a summarized accounting of all expenditures and disbursements made by 40 North during the aforesaid City Fiscal Year.

40 North shall annually provide a representative of 40 North to present the aforesaid annual partnership report to and address questions from the City of Urbana Arts & Culture Commission at such time as the City may direct. All reports and accountings provided in this Sub-Paragraph B(5) shall be in writing and shall appear on the letterhead of 40 North.