

**Red Wing Arts & Culture Commission
Workshop
Community Development Building
August 20, 2025**

Members Present: Chair Katie Nolan; Commissioners Zamira Mendoza, David Culver, Emily Guida Foos, Stephanie Rogers, Mark Granlund, and Alyssa Riegelman (arrived at 5:32 p.m.)

Members Absent: Commissioner Gary Stone; Becky Norton, Council Liaison

Others Present: Melissa Hill, Staff Liaison; Heather Lawrenz, Red Wing Arts

1. Roll Call

The workshop was called to order by Chair Nolan at 5:30 p.m. Chair Nolan and Commissioners Mendoza, Guida Foos, Culver, Rogers, and Granlund were in attendance along with Staff Liaison Hill. Commissioner Riegelman arrived at 5:32 p.m. (Ashley Bickle has resigned from the Arts & Culture Commission.)

2. Workshop Items

A. 2026 Sculpture Tour Discussion.

Heather Lawrenz from Red Wing Arts reviewed the history of the Red Wing Sculpture Walk, which began with the purchase of 12 pedestals in 2021 and the leasing of rotating temporary sculptures. She reported that since 2021 four of the temporary sculptures have been added to the permanent collection. She noted that a pedestal was moved from Levee Park to near Liberty's in 2025 due to flooding issues, with the smaller pedestal at Liberty's moved to storage. She reviewed the locations of the seven pedestals that are available for temporary sculptures.

Ms. Lawrenz reviewed a breakdown of the \$35,000 cost of the sculpture tour program and discussed funding sources. She announced that a SEMAC grant has been approved toward future marketing activities and capstone events.

Ms. Lawrenz detailed the past process of leasing new sculptures, with assistance from the Eau Claire Sculpture Tour. She referenced the goal of promoting local and Midwest artists. She reviewed the anticipated lease fees and discussed how these funds are allocated.

Commissioner Culver commented that there is plenty of local talent. A potential call for artists process was discussed. It was suggested to research how other sculpture tours are structured. When asked whether Red Wing Arts has the capacity to manage a new structure, it was noted that Red Wing Arts is already performing a large portion of the administrative work. Commissioner Rogers provided examples from other programs. It was suggested to maximize artist compensation and tailor the sculptures to fit with the community.

The benefits and competitive advantages of the Red Wing Sculpture Walk were discussed. Current and potential future partnerships were discussed. Commissioner Culver suggested considering other types of art installations, in addition to sculptures on pedestals.

It was noted that the Arts & Culture Commission will be asked to vote on continued financial support toward the Red Wing Sculpture Walk and provide a recommendation to the City Council relating to the structure of the program. It was clarified that the City Council would need to approve both financial support and a contractual agreement with Red Wing Arts. It was stated that if a direct lease model is approved, the stakeholders would work together to design the specifics of the new program. The next steps and the anticipated timeline were reviewed. It was noted that Commissioner Guida Foos could provide background information but would need to recuse herself from ACC discussion and votes on this meeting agenda item, to avoid a conflict of interest.

A potential recommendation in terms of financial support toward the 2026-2027 sculpture walk was discussed. It was suggested to gather additional information prior to voting on this recommendation. It was recommended to develop a draft project model and budget, and Commissioner Rogers also suggested researching insurance costs.

Chair Nolan provided an update relating to the Municipal Arts Fund and recommended a long-range planning discussion relative to this fund. The City of Red Wing Capital Improvement Plan was referenced, and anticipated future fund revenue was discussed. Chair Nolan indicated that she will compile a cash flow forecast report.

B. Finance Committee Update on Microgrants Program Proposal.

Commissioner Mendoza summarized Finance Commission discussion of a campaign plan for a proposed Creative Laureate Award program. She stated that the focus of the program would be to provide honoraria to individual artists toward their artistic development. She noted that the program would also expand opportunities for community development via arts and culture programming and help position Red Wing as a local arts and culture destination.

Commissioner Mendoza highlighted supporting documents, including a sample application, selection criteria and process, reporting standards, and an anticipated timeline. She referenced information from similar programs and other resources. She reviewed a potential scoring rubric. She provided an example of a St. Catherine University microgrants program.

Commissioner Mendoza discussed potential program funding sources.

Commissioner Guida Foos summarized Finance Committee discussion of structuring the project as an award program, with the goal of eventually moving toward developing a microgrants program. Commissioner Granlund suggested initial award amounts.

Commissioner Mendoza further discussed the selection criteria and referenced opportunities for diversifying the types of artists and artist media that would align with the goals of the program.

It was discussed that, while the Municipal Arts Fund and the ACC budget cannot be used to support an individual artist, funds could be allocated toward community arts and culture projects. Commissioner Mendoza provided examples of ways to monitor and report progress.

Potential start-up program funding sources were suggested. The HRC Amos Owen Award was discussed as an example of an awards program. Fundraising opportunities and restrictions were reviewed.

Commissioner Rogers commented regarding the term “laureate” and suggested further discussion of the program title. Commissioner Guida Foos provided additional information and recommended clearly defining the structure, purpose, and goals of the program. The traditional focus of a microgrants program versus a creative laureate program were discussed.

Commissioner Mendoza suggested an emphasis on supporting and uplifting artists who are defined by Red Wing and building community through the vessel of this program. She referenced comparable arts initiatives from other communities. Commissioners offered examples of potential community arts and culture projects.

The next steps were discussed. It was suggested to further define and refine the framework and focus of a proposed creative awards program and investigate potential funding sources. Criteria relating to the artist’s connection to the Red Wing community were discussed.

Chair Nolan requested clarification of the selection process, committee membership, and time commitment. Commissioner Mendoza reviewed a potential process. Commissioner Granlund stated that the Finance Committee can further discuss the selection process and provide a recommendation. Commissioner Mendoza expressed appreciation for the discussion and feedback.

Commissioner Rogers referenced past ACC discussion of keeping the application process as simple and user-friendly as possible. Commissioner Mendoza reviewed a draft application.

Chair Nolan asked whether the City has requirements in terms of gathering information from applicants. Staff Liaison Hill indicated that she will research this question. Commissioner Rogers provided additional suggestions relating to the application form and recommended that the committee further streamline the application and process. Commissioner Culver provided additional comments.

Commissioner Mendoza requested clarification of the next steps in terms of project planning. Commissioner Granlund suggested that the Finance Committee meet to discuss further refinements of the program in terms of the process and who is involved in that process. Staff Liaison Hill indicated that she will research some of the questions that were raised and provide information to ACC members. Commissioner Mendoza stated that she will send an email to Staff Liaison Hill pertaining to outstanding questions, such as the potential use of existing funds to support the program. Commissioner Granlund commented regarding use of the ACC budget.

3. Adjournment

Commissioner Culver commented that the former Artist Sanctuary has items to donate or give away.

The workshop adjourned at 7:03 p.m.