

**Red Wing Arts & Culture Commission
Regular Meeting
City Council Chambers
September 17, 2025**

Members Present: Chair Katie Nolan; Commissioners David Culver, Mark Granlund, Stephanie Rogers, Gary Stone, Mark Woerpel, Alyssa Riegelman, and Zamira Mendoza

Members Absent: Commissioner Emily Guida Foos (excused absence)

Others Present: Melissa Hill, Staff Liaison; Becky Norton, Council Liaison

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Nolan at 5:32 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Roll call was conducted. Chair Nolan and Commissioners Culver, Stone, Granlund, Woerpel, and Rogers were in attendance. Commissioners Riegelman and Mendoza arrived late.

3. Approval of Agenda

4. Approval of Minutes

A. Motion to Approve Minutes.

- 1) **May 21, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes.**
- 2) **June 11, 2025, Special Workshop Minutes.**
- 3) **August 20, 2025, Workshop Minutes.**

A motion was made by Commissioner Granlund, seconded by Commissioner Culver and unanimously carried, to approve the meeting and workshop minutes as drafted.

5. Public Comment

Chair Nolan reviewed the public comment procedure. There was no public comment.

6. Motions & General Business

A. Support for the 2026-2027 Sculpture Walk.

Heather Lawrenz from Red Wing Arts attended the meeting remotely. She referenced the agenda materials. She discussed the seven currently leased sculptures and reviewed the current contract with Sculpture Tour Eau Claire.

Ms. Lawrenz summarized a proposal for the 2026-2027 Sculpture Walk. She noted that the lease fees would be \$2,400 per sculpture, with Red Wing Arts assuming the role currently performed by Sculpture Tour Eau Claire.

Chair Nolan asked about the sculptures that were directly leased from the artists this season. Ms. Lawrenz discussed these two sculptures, noting that Red Wing Arts had relationships with the artists. She noted that the other five sculptures were leased through Sculpture Tour Eau Claire.

Commissioner Culver requested clarification of the responsibilities and the expenses relating to sculpture insurance and sculpture placement and removal. Ms. Lawrenz and Staff Liaison Hill provided information in this regard.

Staff Liaison Hill requested clarification of the amount that would be going to each artist under the new proposal. It was clarified that this amount would be increased from the current \$1,000 to \$1,400. Commissioner Rogers noted that increasing this amount would help attract more sculptors and higher quality work.

Ms. Lawrenz discussed other benefits of the new proposal. She noted that the proposal will help align the Red Wing Sculpture Walk with the City's goals, will enable local artists to be involved in the project, and will keep the project funds within the community.

Staff Liaison Hill asked whether the call for artists would extend beyond Minnesota. Ms. Lawrenz stated that the call for regional artists would extend into Wisconsin and Iowa. She clarified that the same criteria and scoring process would be utilized. She commented that Minnesota artists could potentially receive priority status.

Commissioner Granlund requested clarification of an increased budget allocation pertaining to social media communication. Ms. Lawrenz discussed staff time that would be dedicated to the campaign. Commissioner Rogers commented regarding the importance of project promotion.

Ms. Lawrenz requested that the Arts & Culture Commission consider a recommendation to accept the proposal for seven sculptures to be selected and installed on existing pedestals for the 2026-2027 Sculpture Walk season.

Chair Nolan requested clarification of requested ACC actions at this time. Staff Liaison Hill suggested a motion relating to the proposed direct lease model and a motion relating to the level of contribution by the Arts & Culture Commission.

1. Sculpture Walk Leasing Model.

A motion was made by Commissioner Culver to switch from the current leasing model to a direct leasing model through Red Wing Arts. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rogers, a vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously. Staff Liaison Hill clarified that all contracts would need to be approved by the City Council.

2. Sculpture Walk Financial Support.

Chair Nolan commented that a City contribution of \$12,000 from the Municipal Arts Fund was approved earlier this year toward five of the current sculptures. She noted that Red Wing Arts has proposed a budget of \$16,800 for all seven sculptures for the 2026-2027 season. She referenced an Arts & Culture Commission cash flow forecast. She clarified that there are already plans for the SEMAC (Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council) grant funding that has been awarded.

Commissioner Culver asked about the possibility of leaving a pedestal open for a future sculpture. Ms. Lawrenz provided information in this regard and recommended deciding upon the number of sculptures to be installed. Chair Nolan suggested focusing on the 2026-2027 season.

Chair Nolan asked about the potential for SEMAC grant funds to pay for sculpture leases, under the new direct lease model. Ms. Lawrenz reviewed the grant application process and timeline, noting that grant funding could be requested toward the 2027-2028 season. Commissioner Rogers provided additional information. Chair Nolan suggested further exploring this option. Ms. Lawrenz stated her opinion that SEMAC grant funding could potentially be allocated toward sculpture leases, noting that the call for artists may need to specifically target the Southeastern Minnesota region. Commissioner Rogers suggested asking the Finance Committee to research potential funding options and propose a plan.

Chair Nolan stated that if \$16,800 is funded from the Municipal Arts Fund, the remaining balance in this fund would be \$42,850. She added that a 2025 allocation of \$12,000 is projected, noting that this is not a guarantee. She stated that the Arts & Culture Commission budget fund has a balance of \$8,668.38, including funds carried over from the 2024 budget. She recommended allocating these funds before the end of the year. Staff Liaison Hill clarified that, for budget funds to be encumbered into the next year, they would need to be dedicated toward a specific project.

Chair Nolan discussed the possibility of adding another sculpture to the permanent collection, noting that this would increase the cost of maintenance.

Commissioner Granlund referenced past Arts & Culture Commission discussion of allocating funding toward a creative laureate program in 2026. Chair Nolan suggested earmarking a portion of the current fund balance toward the creative laureate program and asked about the amount to be encumbered. Commissioner Granlund referenced plans to discuss this topic during the next ACC meeting.

Commissioner Riegelman asked whether project funding sources would need to be identified during this meeting. Staff Liaison Hill provided suggestions in this regard.

Commissioner Culver asked whether the Arts & Culture Commission could purchase small art pieces and dedicate them to the City's public art collection.

Chair Nolan noted that decisions would need to be made during the last regularly scheduled voting meeting of the year in November. She stated that she is not committed to adding anything to the permanent collection but referenced this as an option.

Staff Liaison Hill reviewed estimated maintenance expenses for the *Jester* sculpture. She stated that uncommitted budget funds could be dedicated toward specific sculpture maintenance. She commented that there are several options to utilize ACC budget funds and the Municipal Arts Fund.

Commissioner Rogers asked about the Art & Culture Commission's ability to contract with artists to provide services to the City. Staff Liaison Hill clarified that expenditures would need to benefit the community. Council Liaison Norton reviewed the intended purposes of the Municipal Arts Fund and the ACC budget fund.

Chair Nolan asked about the timing of a funding commitment toward the 2026-2027 Red Wing Sculpture Walk. Ms. Lawrenz commented that the recommendation would need to be approved by the City Council before a call for artists could go out. Chair Nolan reviewed potential options.

A motion was made by Commissioner Culver to recommend that the City Council allocate up to \$16,800 from the Municipal Arts Fund to support the direct lease of seven sculptures for the 2026-2027 Red Wing Sculpture Walk. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stone, a vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Consider Motion to have a Table at the Fall Arts Festival on October 11-12, 2025.

Chair Nolan provided background information and noted that there are leftover printouts and buttons from the Sculpture Walk capstone event. Commissioner Culver expressed interest in staffing a table. The festival hours were reviewed, and other Commissioners noted scheduling conflicts. Commissioner Woerpel offered to have materials available at his table. Chair Nolan indicated that she will coordinate dropping off the materials.

C. Discussion of 2026 ACC Goals.

Commissioner Granlund suggested asking each committee to submit goals for 2026, to be discussed during the October workshop, finalized during the December workshop, and voted on during the January 2026 meeting. He referenced information from the Incubate plan and from the Arts & Culture Commission Five-Year Plan.

Commissioner Granlund also discussed the budget planning process. He referenced expenses relating to sculpture maintenance, the 2026-2027 Sculpture Walk, and the creative laureate program.

Chair Nolan highlighted goals listed on the Arts & Culture Commission Five-Year Plan and referenced goals that have been accomplished, goals that are in progress, and goals that have not yet been initiated.

Commissioner Granlund asked whether the City has a Google drive that could be used to share information. Staff Liaison Hill discussed committee communication and referenced quorum considerations. She also suggested posting information on the ACC web page.

Staff Liaison Hill asked Commissioner Granlund to comment regarding goals from the Incubate Plan. Commissioner Granlund referenced a list of 2024 goals.

Commissioner Mendoza inquired regarding agenda topics for the October workshop. Chair Nolan reviewed the preliminary workshop agenda.

Commissioner Mendoza referenced Finance Committee discussion of funding toward the creative laureate program. She provided background information regarding the program and asked whether the Municipal Arts Fund could be utilized to support this program. Council Liaison Norton provided additional information and stated that the community would need to benefit from this program. Commissioner Mendoza referenced discussion of structuring the program to include some type of public art project.

Commissioner Rogers suggested discussion of spending or allocating the ACC budget balance toward a specific project or projects.

Chair Nolan summarized the 2024 Arts & Culture Commissioner Work Plan, noting that this document is available on the ACC web page. She stated that this document was used as the basis of the Arts & Culture Commission Five-Year Plan.

Commissioner Rogers suggested reviewing the ACC Five-Year Plan and arrive at a shared understanding of goals that have been accomplished, goals that are making good progress, and goals that remain to be accomplished.

Chair Nolan further reviewed a list of strategies and action steps.

Chair Nolan stated that the Public Art Committee worked with City staff on the Municipal Arts Fund process for developers.

Commissioner Culver and Chair Nolan discussed ACC involvement in the welcome sign project.

It was noted that a database of public art has been created. It was discussed that a maintenance plan for public art has been developed, with the plan to be reviewed annually.

A goal related to the creation of an informative digital story map based on the City's artwork collection was discussed. Staff Liaison Hill commented that videos depicting the sculptures have been developed. She noted that the City's GIS specialist could potentially provide assistance with a digital story map.

Chair Nolan asked whether development of a map of potential public art locations should be added to the list of 2026 goals. Commissioner Rogers suggested creating a list of potential future public art projects. Commissioner Mendoza suggested including potential public art installations on private property. Council Liaison Norton cautioned the ACC to clearly differentiate between potential public art installations on public spaces and private spaces.

Commissioner Culver also suggested expanding the definition of public art and provided examples. Council Liaison Norton suggested that the Arts & Culture Commission partner with the Human Rights Commission on accessibility and inclusivity.

A future goal relating to a public art acceptance policy was referenced.

It was noted that a goal related to partnering with Red Wing Arts on the Red Wing Sculpture Walk is ongoing.

A goal related to identifying resources, building website pages, and recruiting community experts was discussed. Commissioner Culver referenced the name of a prospective ACC member. It was noted that there are currently two openings on the Arts & Culture Commission. The membership criteria, application process, and appointment procedures were reviewed. Staff Liaison Hill and Council Liaison Norton provided additional information in this regard. Commissioners asked about ACC involvement in the process, and suggestions were provided in this regard. It was suggested to add this topic to a future workshop agenda for further discussion.

It was noted that the goal to develop and operate a microgrants program has evolved into a creative laureate program.

Chair Nolan and Commissioner Rogers reiterated the suggestion to ask the Finance Committee to investigate the possibility of using SEMAC grant funding to support the Sculpture Walk in the future and develop a timeline for grant applications.

Commissioner Culver suggested incorporating cultural ambassadors into the creative laureate program.

7. Communication Items

A. Commissioner Comments.

There were no Commissioner comments.

B. Announcements.

There were no announcements.

8. Adjournment

Chair Nolan adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.