

**Red Wing Arts & Culture Commission  
Workshop Meeting  
Community Development Building  
October 15, 2025**

**Members Present:** Chair Katie Nolan; Commissioners Zamira Mendoza, Stephanie Rogers, Alyssa Riegelman, Gary Stone, Mike Arturi, David Culver, Ashley Bickle, Mark Granlund, and Sam Brown

**Members Absent:** Commissioner Foos (excused absence)

**Others Present:** Melissa Hill, Staff Liaison

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Katie Nolan called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Roll call was conducted. Chair Nolan and Commissioners Mendoza, Rogers, Riegelman, Stone, Arturi, Culver, Bickle, Granlund, and Sam Brown were in attendance.

Commissioner Foos previously indicated she would be absent.

Commissioner Sam Brown introduced himself by stating that he grew up in Red Wing, went to Oregon for school, where he enjoyed taking some art classes. In 2009, Commissioner Brown returned to Minnesota and began organizing the Midwestern Music Festival in Winona, MN, where he also served on the Finance Commission. Commissioner Brown moved to Red Wing in 2018 to start the Big Turn Music Festival.

**3. Workshop Items**

**3.A Committee Check-Ins.**

Chair Nolan stated that there are no updates from the Public Art Committee.

Commissioner Riegelman of the Marketing Committee reported that the finishing touches on the website are almost complete.

Commissioner Mendoza of the Finance Committee reported that they have been trying to refine the Creative Laureate Program and are preparing goals for the next year.

Commissioner Mendoza stated that there may be an opportunity for the Finance Committee to support the Sculpture Walk in the future.

**3.B Further Development/Discussion of the Microgrant/Artist Laureate Program.**

Commissioner Mendoza provided background information on the Creative Laureate Program.

Commissioner Mendoza stated that over the past two years, the Commission has been discussing the creation of a program that would support and cultivate artists within the Red Wing Community. The goal is to uplift their work and find a way to have these artists design and implement their own community-engaged art programming.

Commissioner Mendoza explained that the program was initially geared towards a Microgrant Program designed to assist in the funding of the artists. Over time, the Program has developed into the Artist Laureate Program.

Commissioner Mendoza added that the idea is to select one to three artists per year to support their implementation of community-driven art programs.

Commissioner Mendoza expressed that the idea is to be inclusive of all forms of art.

A variety of ideas were shared, and additional discussion ensued regarding the implementation of the program and the related documentation.

Commissioner Mendoza shared a variety of documents with the Commission that portrayed what would be placed on the website, what the City Council needs to be informed about, what the artists would receive, and a more realistic listing of the relevant timelines.

Commissioner Granlund gave further details about the packet of information, and he requested some assistance from the Marketing Committee. Referring to the packet, Commissioner Granlund pointed out the responsibilities of his Committee and stated that the artist selection process requires an online application, and he suggested that two Public Art Committee Members and two Finance Committee Members read all completed applications, bring their top six applications before the entire Commission for review during an Arts & Culture Commission Workshop and at the next Arts & Culture Commission Regular Meeting, an official vote will be taken.

Commissioner Granlund reviewed the scoring scale. Each applicant will be scored on their artistic excellence, artistic merit, community impact, feasibility, budget appropriateness, and the artists' relationship with the broader Red Wing Community. All voting will be documented and archived; the Finance Committee will work with the City Staff to develop the contracts. Each awarded applicant will be assigned a Commissioner who will attend the City Council Meeting, where the applicant is awarded. There will be a mid-project check-in by the assigned Commissioner, and the assigned Commissioner should be present for the final product.

Commissioner Mendoza suggested that the artists should potentially be matched with a Commissioner who shares the same or a similar medium. The goal is that the Commissioner becomes a mentor figure to the artist.

Staff Liaison Hill asked if the funding source would be the Arts & Culture Commission's funding or the Municipal Arts funds. The answer to this question should

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dictate how the process goes. If using the Commission's funds, there is no need to get the City Council's permission. Going before the City Council is only going to be required if the plan is to use the Municipal Arts funds.

Commissioner Granlund stated that the proposal is to use the Commission's funds.

There was some discussion regarding the amount of funding needed and how that relates to the need to go through the City Council.

Commissioner Culver asked if the awarded funding is \$1,200 or up to \$1,200. The answer is changing the wording to include "up to" is a good idea.

Commissioner Brown asked if there is a requirement that at least one contract per year is awarded, or if it is only if there are applicants. The answer was that if no one applies, no contract will be awarded.

Commissioner Brown asked if there is a requirement for the applicants to reside within the city limits of Red Wing. The answer is yes, as defined by the school district.

Commissioner Culver stated that when the Arts & Culture Commission was started, it was understood that it was to serve "The Greater Red Wing Area," and that's why two of the Commissioners can be non-residents of the City.

Staff Liaison Hill stated that the majority of the Commissioners must reside within the limits of School District 256; however, two members can be drawn from two bordering counties.

Chair Nolan stated that having a laureate is not restricted by the same rules that the Commission has. Theoretically, we could commission an artist from New York City. Expanding the scope of where the artist lives without running into any logistical problems.

Additional discussion ensued regarding the capacity of expanding the applicant pool, if necessary. There seemed to be a consensus that the Marketing Committee would assist with the marketing and promotion of the program.

Commissioner Brown asked if the project is good; it could be extended. The answer is that the project is to be completed within one year.

Chair Nolan stated that there are restrictions on how taxpayer money can be spent. We cannot just give taxpayer money away. There must be some sort of product that is received in exchange for the money.

Staff liaison Hill stated that no matter what is decided about the residency of the artists, the product they produce is for the betterment of the Red Wing Community.

Commissioner Culver reiterated that the term “for the broader Red Wing Community” is written in the documents.

Additional discussion ensued regarding whether the Commission should broaden or narrow the geographical area from which the artists can reside.

Commissioner Rogers stated that she would like to see the geographical area narrowed, and she would like to have a vote on the topic next month and move on.

Commissioner Culver stated that the Commission is for arts and culture, and the culture doesn't stop at the border.

Commissioner Mendoza suggested that the parameter for the artists to apply will be the same as the parameters for the Commissioners to serve. There was consensus to move forward with that decision.

Commissioner Rogers asked if there is a difference between artistic excellence and artistic merit. The answer is yes, according to the National Endowment for the Arts standards for scoring.

Commissioner Stone asked how much of a burden this project is going to be on the City Staff.

Commissioner Granlund explained that the plan is to work with City Staff on the process of applying through the City's website and the marketing plan. Upon receipt of the applications, two members from the Finance Committee and two members from the Public Art Committee will conduct the initial review and present the top six applicants to the entire Commission for a vote.

The Commissioner Stone stated that a Special Meeting can be called in two weeks, and two weeks later, we can have the Regular Meeting and vote on it, so that we can proceed by December 1, 2025.

Additional discussion focused on how to make changes to the documents without violating the Serial Meeting Rules.

Chair Nolan stated that the November Regular Meeting has an extremely light agenda. It is conceivable that any last-minute changes could be easily hammered out at that time. A Special Meeting is not needed.

Additional discussion ensued regarding the artists' required submissions for their presentations.

The conversation returned to the funding of the program, and the numbers were re-stated.

Commissioners Mendoza and Granlund will make the recommended changes and forward the final product to the entire Commission.

Additional discussion continued regarding the budget and the use of funds that are currently available. A commitment of \$5,000 is required by December 31, 2025.

Commissioner Mendoza made a point of clarity by asking if the Arts & Culture Commission needs to commit the \$5,000 to three applicants by awarding them \$1,200 each?

Staff liaison Hill stated that she believes that is possible, but she will double-check. Staff liaison Hill stated that there would not be a signed contract for anything.

Commissioner Culver asked if it was possible to allow up to three artists rather than three.

There was consensus amongst the Commissioners to change the language to reflect the “up to three” artists.

### **3.C 2026 Goal Planning.**

Commissioner Granlund stated that the Finance Committee has three goals for 2026. The first goal is to get the Microgrant/Artist Laureate Program up, running, and successfully launched. Goal number two is to figure out how to use the SEMAC (Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council) money differently. The Finance Committee’s final goal is to support other committee goals.

Commissioner Brown recommended a smaller stage/venue for budding artists to perform in that wouldn’t be as intimidating as the larger bandshell in the park. Chair Nolan stated that this should be a goal for the Public Art Committee.

Chair Nolan stated that the goals for the Public Art Committee are to create a smaller stage/venue, to create a map of potential public art locations, and to develop a procedure for interacting with businesses that want to create public art.

Commissioner Rogers stated that the Marketing Committee supports the Art Walk, supports the Microgrant/Artist Laureate Program, continues to improve and update the ACC pages, and recruits volunteers and community experts to serve on the Commission and Subcommittees.

Chair Nolan stated that the Executive Committee will continue planning the Arts & Culture Commission Meetings.

Chair Nolan gave a financial update so that the Commission would be prepared to vote at the next meeting.

Commissioner Reigelman stated that there will be \$3,600 for the Creative Laureate,

and there will be \$100 for marketing. Commissioner (?) asked if someone would be proposing alternative uses for the remaining amount from the \$5,900. Chair Nolan stated that she has Public Art that has been identified as needing to be addressed on the agenda to discuss. There are plenty of repairs that need to be completed.

Commissioner Culver stated that he would be away for five weeks and requested permission to Zoom into the meeting. This request prompted some discussion regarding the Statute changes for being able to attend the Commission Meetings remotely via Zoom.

Staff liaison Hill stated that the Statute changed in 2025. The Statute is clear that you can attend a Meeting remotely, but every single vote must be conducted via roll call.

Commissioner Mendoza asked if it is necessary to physically be present in each meeting now.

Staff liaison Hill clarified that it would be better for people to be in person, but it is permissible to attend remotely via Zoom.

#### **4. Adjournment**

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