

**Red Wing Arts & Culture Commission
Regular Meeting
City Council Chambers
November 19, 2025**

Members Present: Chair Katie Nolan; Commissioners Zamira Mendoza, Stephanie Rogers, Emily Guida Foos, Gary Stone, Mike Arturi, Ashley Bickle, Mark Grandlund, and Sam Brown. Commissioner Culver joined the meeting remotely at approximately 5:40 p.m.

Members Remote: Commissioner Riegelman attended the meeting remotely.

Members Absent: Commissioner Woerpel (excused absence). Commissioner Culver (excused absence, though later joined the meeting at approximately 5:40 p.m.).

Others Present: Becky Norton, Council Liaison, and 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, Guida Foos, Stone, Arturi, Bickle, and Grandlund were in attendance.

Commissioner Riegleman attended the meeting remotely.

AND

Commissioner Woerpel previously indicated he would be absent.

Commissioner Culver previously indicated he would be absent.

3. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Chair Nolan, seconded by Commissioner Rogers, to approve the agenda as drafted. A vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously by a vote of 7:0.

(Commissioner Granlund was not present for this vote)

4. Approval of Minutes

A. Motion to Approve Minutes.

- 1. September 17, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes.**
- 2. October 15, 2025, Workshop Minutes.**

A motion was made by Chair Nolan, seconded by Commissioner Rogers to

approve the minutes as drafted/amended. A vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously by a vote of 8:0.

5. Public Comment

Chair Nolan reviewed the public comment procedure.

No one was present to offer public comments.

6. Motions & General Business

A. Artist Laureate Program

Chair Nolan stated that the focus of the meeting is the votes on the Artist Laureate Program.

Chair Nolan drew the Commissioners' attention to their packet, which contained the most up-to-date version of the Artist Laureate Program.

Chair Nolan stated that, because the Arts & Culture Commission has spent a considerable amount reviewing the Artist Laureate Program, she suggested that there is no need to review the complete Program at this time.

Chair Nolan stated that the ACC Responsibilities document still references a Program Committee, and there is no Program Committee. Chair Nolan asked if there is a need to create a Program Committee or should that area be directed to a committee that currently exists.

Chair Nolan stated that in the Artist Version Document, there is an inconsistency regarding the number of work samples that are requested for the selection process versus what's in the application.

Commissioner Stone does not believe a specific number of artist samples should be stated. If the artist fails to give enough samples to earn the Commission's support, they will simply not receive the award.

Commissioner Mendoza concurred with Commissioner Stone but added that there should be a requirement of at least one sample, while making it clear that the work samples will greatly impact the decision-making process.

Chair Nolan brought up the phrase, "the quality of an artist," and Commissioner Stone took offense with the terminology.

Commissioner Granlund requested some rewording that simply referred back to the description of the Artist Laureate Program.

Commissioner Stone requested that "the quality of the artist" be changed to "the quality of the works of art."

Commissioner Mendoza suggested that Chair Nolan's first concern could be

resolved by changing the term “Program Committee” to “Public Art Committee.” Chair Nolan was satisfied with Commissioner Mendoza’s suggestion.

Commissioner Stone stated that there is a need to publish the full definition of the Artists’ Excellence Scoring Criteria because the public and the artists should know how the decision for the award will be made without having to dig for the information. Complete transparency is necessary.

Commissioner Granlund asked Commissioner Stone specifically what he would add that is not already present in the description of the Artist Laureate Program.

Commissioner Stone pointed out some sources that were cited in the document. Chair Nolan stated that the citation is not there for the purpose of forcing the applicants to dig for information. The citations are there to prevent plagiarism. Commissioner Mendoza stated that the citations were included at the request of Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone reiterated that he does not like the term “quality of the artist.”

Chair Nolan asked Commissioner Stone if there was a term that he would prefer to replace “quality of the artist” with.

Commissioner Stone would prefer to use the term “the quality of the works that the artist produces.”

Chair Nolan asked Commissioner Stone if he would be happy with the term “the quality of the artist’s work portfolio.”

Commissioner Rogers concurred with Commissioner Stone and further stated that the quality of the person is simply not applicable for this situation. The goal is to give a budding artist their first big project.

There was consensus among the Commission to make the change in wording.

Commissioner Foos asked if each of the five sections is weighted equally.

Commissioner Mendoza stated that all sections should be weighted equally.

Commissioner Rogers asked if there are a total of ten points for the category of Artistic Excellence, or ten points for 1(a) and ten points for 1(b), for a total of 20 points for the category of Artistic Excellence.

There was consensus to have equal weight, and a perfect score would be a total of 50 points.

Chair Nolan welcomed Commissioner Culver, who joined remotely at

approximately 5:40 p.m.

Commissioner Stone asked about the amount of money available. Commissioner Stone recollected that \$2,400 was available for the Artist Laureate Program.

Chair Nolan stated that \$2,500 is the amount of money that the Arts & Culture Commission receives every year to do with as the Commission so desires without having to request the City Council's approval.

Commissioner Stone requested clarification.

Chair Nolan stated that for the first year, \$1,200 can be awarded to three artists because there is a surplus of \$8,668.38 in the Arts & Culture Commission budget. In subsequent years, it will be necessary to stay within the \$2,500 budget.

Staff Liaison Melissa Hill explained that the Arts & Culture Commission has not spent its full budget of \$2,500 each year, so there is a surplus that must be committed tonight. Any surplus funds not committed this year will not be carried forward to next year. Staff Liaison stated that beginning January 1, 2026, the Arts & Culture Commission budget will be back down to only \$2,500.

Commissioner Rogers asked where the artist's connection to the Red Wing Community is located within the application packet.

Commissioner Rogers further clarified her concern by stating that perhaps there could be the addition of "Please describe your connection to the Red Wing Community" to the scoring section.

There was consensus to add Commissioner Rogers' suggestion to the scoring criteria.

Staff Liaison Hill stated that the applicants would be held to the same standard of "community belonging" that the members of the Arts & Culture Commissioners are held to.

There was consensus to add "a brief description of the artist's connection to the Red Wing Community" as number 5.

Commissioner Stone expressed concern about the wording of the conflict-of-interest clause.

Commissioner Mendoza stated that this was discussed during the last Workshop Meeting.

Chair Nolan concurred with Commissioner Stone that the artist would not have

any conflict-of-interest because the artist would not have a vote. Only Arts & Culture Commission voting Members can have conflicts of interest.

There was a consensus to strike the conflict-of-interest clause from the artists' application documents. It would still stay in the Arts & Culture Commission documents.

Commissioner Brown suggested that the Arts & Culture Commissioners should not be allowed to apply for the Artist Laureate Program.

Council Liaison Norton lobbied to keep the conflict-of-interest clause in the artists' application documents.

Commissioner Foos stated that a conflict-of-interest does not mean that the artist can't apply; it simply means they are responsible for disclosing the potential conflict of interest.

Commissioner Foos stated that being transparent is the most important reason to leave the conflict-of-interest clause in the document.

Chair Nolan asked if there was any additional input from the Commission.

Commissioner Stone stated that all artists and cultures are creative. You cannot stop them from making art. They will work under any conditions, whether of public support or in isolation. Sometimes they are restricted to a community, sometimes they are recognized broadly, or belatedly, or even not at all. Art is the thing that makes us most universally human and most humanly connected to each other.

Commissioner Stone stated that the payment schedule needs to be addressed. There was some previous discussion about paying half at the beginning of the artists' projects and the other half upon completion.

Commissioner Granlund stated that payment should be spelled out in the actual contract.

A motion was made by Commissioner Granlund, seconded by Commissioner Rogers, to approve the Artist Laureate Program with the discussed changes. A vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously by a vote of 9:0.

A motion was made by Chair Nolan, seconded by Commissioner Granlund, to approve up to \$3,600 from the Arts & Culture Commission Budget to Fund the Honorarium for The Artist Laureate Program. The motion was tabled.

Commissioner Foos inquired about the availability of funding to pay for the repair of a sculpture that is mentioned later in the agenda.

Chair Nolan stated that there will still be some money to spend on the sculpture repairs.

Chair Nolan stated that she wants to table her motion until later in the meeting.

Commissioner Mendoza asked if the repair for the sculpture could come from the Municipal Arts Fund.

Chair Nolan stated that it could, which is why a discussion needs to be had.

Commissioner Granlund suggested that if the cost of the repair for the Jester sculpture is \$5,500, the remaining balance could come from our other funds.

Staff Liaison Hill stated that it sounds like the Arts & Culture Commission would like to prioritize the Artist Laureate Program funding for \$3,600. The second priority is funding some marketing for the Program. The remaining balance is the third priority, and the Jester sculpture repair is simply an idea.

Commissioner Rogers asked if the sculpture repair could be partially funded from more than one fund. The answer is yes.

Commissioner Brown raised concerns about earmarking \$3,600 this year, knowing that the funds will be substantially lower next year. For the sake of consistency, Commissioner Brown recommended that \$2,400 be used for year one, because \$2,400 will also be available in year two.

Commissioner Mendoza stated that it makes more sense to allocate the funds to the first year of the Program and let the sculpture repairs come from the Municipal Arts Fund.

Commissioner Stone stated that there is no reason to make all three grants the same amount of money.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rogers, seconded by Commissioner Foos to fund the Artist Laureate Program from the Arts & Culture Budget for up to Three Laureates for up to \$1,200 Each. A vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously by a vote of 9:0.

Chair Nolan asked how much the Commission would like to spend on marketing.

Chair Nolan stated that there is a balance of \$5,000.

There was discussion about the potential for stuffing a flyer in the utility bills, using the City's Facebook page for advertising, posters, videos, and newspapers.

A motion was made by Chair Nolan, seconded by Commissioner Brown, to Commit up to \$150 for marketing of the Artist Laureate Program from the Arts &

Culture Commission Budget. A vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously by a vote of 9:0.

B. Jester Repairs.

Chair Nolan provided an overview of the repair costs for the Jester.

Commissioner Culver asked if the remaining balance of the Arts & Culture Commission budget could be allocated to a repair fund.

Commissioner Rogers stated that she would like to see some decisions and progress made regarding the public art in Red Wing.

Chair Nolan stated that the idea is to have Max Cora & Gita Ghei access some pieces of public art each year for preventative maintenance on a rotating basis, so that not all of the public art is being accessed every year.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rogers, seconded by Commissioner Granlund, to use the remaining \$4,818 from the Arts & Culture Commission budget for the restoration and repair of the large Jester sculpture, and any funds left over will be used for the restoration and repair of the LaGrange Park bronze sculptures. A vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously by a vote of 9:0.

7. Communication Items

A. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Foos stated that the sculpture walk call for artist submissions is almost finalized.

B. Announcements

There were no announcements.

8. Adjournment

Chair Nolan adjourned the meeting at 6:59 p.m.