



Our Vision

Red Wing thrives as a vibrant, creative river town that values its natural environment, welcomes all people, and unlocks opportunity for everyone.

Our Mission

We strive to create a sustainable, healthy, accessible, resilient, and equitable community where every person feels at home.

Meeting Announcement and Agenda Arts & Culture Commission Regular Meeting City Council Chambers, 315 West 4th Street, Red Wing, MN & Virtually Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 5:30 PM

This meeting will be held in the City Hall Council Chambers and virtually via Webex at the same time. Members of the public can join this meeting either in person at City Hall or virtually. [Join the meeting via Webex](#). To join via telephone, please dial (415) 655-0001. Enter access code 2555 176 8375 and password 2026 when prompted.

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Approval of Agenda

4. Approval of Minutes

4.A. Motion to Approve Minutes.

1. January 21, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes
2. February 18, 2026, Workshop Minutes

5. Public Comment

We now invite anyone to share their thoughts on a topic that is not on the agenda. We welcome all opinions and ideas. We appreciate you stating your name at the lectern, and please remember that personal attacks may be ruled out of order. You will have up to three minutes to comment, and we appreciate your time in coming tonight.

6. Motions & General Business

6.A. Creative Laureate Program Update Including Promotional Video, Status Update, and Deadline Discussion.

6.A.1. Promotional Video Link: <https://youtu.be/jwYtmvIYCDc?si=XJviZA4G0qbLCcLs>

6.B. Large Jester Repairs.

The Commission has been considering the scope of work for the Large Jester repairs. Members have previously discussed getting alternative quotes and other ways to stay

within budget. The discussion will continue with members presenting updated information with the goal of reaching consensus on how to move forward with the repairs.

6.C. Sculpture Tour Capstone Events.

The Sculpture Tour Capstone Event has been moved to Wednesday, June 17, to coincide with Music in the Park featuring the Sheldon Brass Band. The commission should discuss what materials they will have at their table. Additionally, Red Wing Arts has invited the Commission to conduct an event during intermission that will engage the community from the stage. Lastly, as part of the SEMAC grant requirements, thank you letters from the Commission need to be drafted and sent to legislators. The Commission should create a committee for this task.

6.D. A.P. Gala Sponsorship Opportunity.

The Anderson Center has asked if the Commission would be interested in sponsoring the A.P. Anderson Gala through in-kind services. Please see the attached flyer for details.

6.E. Finance Report (Attachment Forthcoming)

7. Communication Items

7.A. Commissioner Comments

7.B. Announcements

8. Adjournment

Accommodations for signing interpreter, Braille, large print, etc. can be made. Call City Hall at 385.3600 seven days prior to the need. Hearing assistance devices are available during meetings.

**Red Wing Arts & Culture Commission
Regular Meeting
City Council Chambers
January 21, 2026**

Members Present: Chair Katie Nolan; Commissioners Evan Wert, Zamira Mendoza, Stephanie Rogers, Alyssa Riegelman, Gary Stone, Mark Granlund (arrived at 5:47 p.m.), and Sam Brown.

Members Absent: Commissioner Culver (excused absence)

Others Present: Becky Norton, Council Liaison; Cara Kvanbek, Stand-In Staff Liaison

1. Call to Order

Chair Nolan called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Roll call was conducted. Chair Nolan and Commissioners Wert, Mendoza, Rogers, Riegelman, Stone, Granlund (arrived at 5:47 p.m.), and Brown were in attendance.

Commissioner Culver previously indicated he would be absent/was absent and unexcused.

3. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Commissioner Rogers, seconded by Commissioner Stone to approve the agenda as drafted/amended. A vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously by a vote of 8:0.

4. Oaths of Office

A. The following Commissioners are sworn into their second term on the Commission.

1. Zamira Mendoza
2. Katie Nolan
3. Stephanie Rogers
4. Evan Wert

5. Election of Officers

A. Each year, the Commission conducts elections for officers. The staff liaison conducted elections for the following positions:

1. Election of Chair

Staff Liaison Cara Kvanbek opened the nominations.

Commissioner Rogers nominated Commissioner Katie Nolan for a second term.

A motion was made by Commissioner Nolan to approve Commissioner Katie Nolan as Chair by unanimous ballot. Commissioner Rogers seconded the motion. A vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously by a vote of 8:0.

2. Election of Vice Chair

Staff Liaison Cara Kvanbek opened the nominations.

Chair Nolan nominated Commissioner Brown.

A motion was made by Commissioner Nolan, seconded by Commissioner Rogers, to approve Commissioner Sam Brown as Vice Chair by unanimous ballot. A vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously by a vote of 8:0.

3. Election of Pro Term (if desired by the Commission)

Staff Liaison Cara Kvanbek asked the Commission if they would like an election of Pro Term. Commissioner Nolan stated that there doesn't seem to be a level of energy in the room that would support such a vote.

6. Approval of Minutes

A. Motion to Approve Minutes.

1. **November 19, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes.**
2. **December 17, 2025, Workshop Minutes.**

A motion was made by Commissioner Stone, seconded by Chair Nolan, to approve the minutes as drafted. A vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously by a vote of 8:0.

7. Public Comment

Chair Nolan reviewed the public comment procedure.

City Council Administrator Chris Heineman introduced himself to the Commission and mentioned that in his capacity as Administrator he is an ex parte member of all City Boards and Commissions. As such, he may occasionally attend meetings or carrying information to and from the Council to the Arts & Culture Commission.

8. Motions & General Business

A. Motion to Adopt 2026 Meeting Schedule.

The proposed meeting schedule was discussed at the December Workshop Meeting. The Commission was asked to vote to formally adopt the schedule.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stone, seconded by Commissioner Brown, to adopt the 2026 Meeting Schedule as proposed. A vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously by a vote of 8:0.

B. Creative Laureate Program Update.

This item was addressed after Commission Review of Maintenance and Repair of Large Jester Statue.

C. Review of Maintenance and Repair of Large Jester Statue.

More cost information has come back regarding the repair of the Large Jester statue. The Commission members were asked to review the email chain and discuss the level of restoration they would like to commit to.

Chair Nolan stated that the original quote for the repair was \$5,500, which did not include the repairs to the lamp. There were a few other costs that were referenced in the letter but not included in the quote. In addition to the repair cost of \$5,500, the company is requesting \$1,800 for scaffolding, an extra \$500 contingency for materials, and the cost of paint.

There was a brief pause in the recording.

Commissioner Granlund asked if the company could clean the statue and use cold wax to give it an additional three years of life.

Commissioner Rogers raised concerns about paying for the time to extend the life for three years and then still having to make the costly repairs.

Commissioner Mendoza stated that \$4,818 has already been approved.

There was additional discussion regarding the appropriation of funds and where the additional funding can come from.

Commissioner Granlund stated that four items need work. Would it make sense financially to complete the other three and come back to the statue? Chair Nolan stated that quotes were collected for all of the repairs, but the Large Jester statue was selected because it was one of the more urgent repairs needed.

Council Liaison Norton stated that an additional reason for selecting the Large Jester statue was that the Commission had requested to encumber funds from 2025 for this project.

Chair Nolan gave the Commission a list of options. The first option is to take a vote about what to do with the Large Jester statue. The second option would be

to forego the Large Jester statue and work on Life-Long Learning, Small Jester, and Lindburg the Boy statues. The third option would be to punt the conversation to the March meeting.

Commissioner Stone asked if there has been any consideration to seeking bids from a different qualified repair company for the Large Jester statue. No other bids have been sought.

Additional discussion ensued regarding the difficulty in finding qualified exterior art repairs.

No action was taken, and it was decided to discuss the topic at the March Meeting.

B. Creative Laureate Program Update

Chair Nolan departed the meeting 6:02 p.m. and requested Vice Chair Brown to proceed with the meeting.

Vice Chair Brown requested an update on the Creative Laureate Program.

Commissioner Mendoza presented a poster to the Commission and stated that it was decided to use the tagline, "Our Community is Your Canvas." Additional marketing tools were also presented.

Commissioner Mendoza asked how to access the printing fees from the Marketing Fund. Staff Liaison Cara Kvanbek stated that an invoice can be submitted to City Hall.

Several methods of outreach were discussed. Commissioner Rogers agreed to reach out to "Springboard for the Arts." All Commissioners are requested to use word-of-mouth to share the Creative Laureate Program with others. Council Liaison Becky Norton agreed to be a point of contact for the local schools.

The question was raised about how the artists would access the funding for their projects. Will they submit invoices? It was agreed that there would be an installment of \$500, then \$200, and a final installment of \$200.

The Creative Laureate Program would like to have an updated financial overview, and they would like a copy of the SEMAC Grant Application that was approved in the Agreement.

Commissioner Brown asked how the posters would be distributed. Commissioner Mendoza stated that she can bring the posters to the next meeting, and decisions can be made at that time on which community partners should hang them. Council Liaison Norton stated that it would be great to have the posters displayed at the large Red Wing weekend event that is scheduled in February.

C. Communication Items

a. Sculpture Tour Update.

Vice Chair Brown reported that nineteen different artists have submitted proposals. The next step is for the Selection Committee to narrow down the options to the top six contenders.

Commissioner Riegelman asked who is on the Selection Committee. Vice Chair Brown did not know the answer to her question.

Commissioner Granlund asked the Commissioners if anyone had been asked to serve on the Selection Committee. When no one responded in the affirmative, Commissioner Granlund stated that at least one person from the Arts & Culture Commission should be on the Selection Committee.

Vice Chair Brown asked the Commissioners if anyone would like to be on the Selection Committee. Commissioner Granlund volunteered to be on the Selection Committee.

b. Commissioner Comments.

Vice Chair Brown stated that this would be the area that Commissioner Mendoza may like to address potential grant opportunities.

Commissioner Mendoza drew the Commissioners' attention to a copy of a grant application included in their packet. Commissioner Mendoza explained that the outline would assist in pinpointing upcoming grant opportunities.

Commissioner Mendoza drew the Commissioners' attention to the Finance Commission's Funding Report on the next page of their packet. During the Finance Committee Meetings, different funding priorities and opportunities have been discussed.

Commissioner Mendoza stated that the Minnesota Community Ideas Grant Program by the St. Paul and Minnesota Foundation was introduced last year, but it was not approved because the Creative Laureate Program was demanding a lot of attention at that time. The Interest Form for this program is due before 1:00 p.m. on January 28, 2026. The application is a two-step process, and there is a \$750 stipend for whoever progresses to round two.

Vice Chair Brown asked for the actual grant amount. Commissioner Rogers stated that the grant amount is \$125,000.

It was stated that the City Council would have to approve the Arts & Culture Commission's intent to submit an Interest Form.

Council Liaison Becky Norton stated that the City Council would want to know the intended purpose of the grant funding. Is there a particular project or specific idea that the Arts & Culture Commission has in mind for the grant funding?

Commissioner Mendoza stated that the Creative Laureate Program would be the primary consideration for the grant funding. At the current budget funding, there is not enough money to continue fully funding the Creative Laureate Program.

Council Liaison Becky Norton asked if cities could apply for the grant in question. Commissioner Mendoza stated that, indeed cities can apply.

Commissioner Granlund asked how long the Commission would have to spend the money if selected. Commissioner Mendoza did not have the answer to that question.

Council Liaison Becky Norton expressed concern about the tight turnaround. Commissioner Brown expressed concern about the fact that the funding intent is for a program that doesn't even exist yet.

Commissioner Mendoza stated that the other grant options have better timelines. The NEA Our Town Program with the National Endowment for the Arts has two program cycles, one of them being due February 12, 2026, and the other one being due July 9, 2026.

Commissioner Mendoza stated that the Bush Foundation has Community Innovation Grants that are open year-round.

Commissioner Mendoza stated that the Phillip S. Dove, Jr. Endowment Fund is a Red Wing Community Grant Program that is also open year-round.

Commissioner Rogers stated that if the Arts & Culture Commission is going to consider applying for a National Endowment for the Arts Grant in the future, it is important to know that NEA will want to review three years of successful programs that the Arts & Culture Commission has accomplished, and that's something that we do not have.

Commissioner Rogers stated that NEA Grants have traditionally required one match, so some very serious consideration would need to be given to where that money would come from.

Commissioner Rogers stated that the smaller local grants are currently scaled to match the Arts & Culture Commission.

Commissioner Mendoza asked the Commissioners if any of the grant funding opportunities resonated with them. When asked if Commissioner Mendoza had a particular project in mind for grant funding, her response was the Creative Laureate Program. Commissioner Brown raised concern that the community may become burned out by the attempt to grow the Creative Laureate Program at too fast a pace. Commissioner Brown also raised concern that the prospect of having to write grants every year to keep up is a little daunting. Commissioner Rogers

stated that it would be helpful to explore the potential future of the Creative Laureate Program after the first year is up and running.

Commissioner Rogers requested that the last few minutes of the meeting be dedicated to sharing who is on the committees.

- Public Art Committee: Commissioners Nolan, Culver, and Stone
- Finance Committee: Commissioners Granlund and Mendoza
- Marketing Committee: Commissioners Wert, Rogers, Riegelman and Brown

c. Announcements

Vice Chair Brown stated that on January 31, 2026, there will be a Big Turn Pre Party. The Big Turn Music Festival is scheduled for February 20-21, 2026.

Commissioner Rogers stated that the Anderson Center is hosting chamber music this Saturday at 7:00 p.m. The cost is \$25.

Commissioner Granlund stated that on Friday evening from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. is the Red Wing Arts Member Show opening.

D. Adjournment

Vice Chair Brown adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

**Red Wing Arts & Culture Commission
Workshop Meeting
Community Development
Building, 419 Bush Street,
Red Wing, MN
February 18, 2026
5:30 p.m.**

Members Present: Chair Katie Nolan; Commissioners Stephanie Rogers, Gary Stone, Mark Granlund, Zamira Mendoza (late 5:56 p.m.), and Evan Wert

Members Absent: Commissioner Brown (excused absence), Commissioner Culver (unexcused), Commissioner Riegelman (excused absence)

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

1. Roll Call

Roll call was conducted. Chair Nolan and Commissioners Wert, Rogers, Stone, and Granlund were in attendance.

2. Workshop Items

A. Annual Board/Commission Training.

The City has created several training/refresher videos for annual training for boards and commissions, which the Commission will view.

The following videos were shown during the meeting:

- Board and Commission Training Episode 1: Overview of Boards and Commissions: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Trwmmta3igA>
- Board and Commission Training Episode 2: Meetings and Workshops: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g_nSwoJZMcM
- Board and Commission Training Episode 3: Main Motions and Voting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a6KdaeHtozM>

Each Commissioner received the Board & Commission Quick Reference Guide in their packet.

B. Proposed Agenda Items for the Year.

Chair Nolan presented her overview for the coming year. Each Commissioner received a copy of the overview in their packet.

C. Large Jester Repairs.

The Commission has committed funds for the repair of the large jester and needs to determine the level of restoration/repair they would like to commit to, as the

cost varies widely.

Commissioner Stone stated that the discussion regarding the large jester repairs should wait until more members are present to discuss the project.

None of the City-owned sculptures has ever been maintained outside of what the Arts & Culture Commission has done.

Chair Nolan reminded the Commission that the reason for the discussion is that the price originally quoted did not include scaffolding.

Chair Nolan stated that the question was raised about the possibility of making smaller repairs on other City-owned sculptures rather than repairing the large jester.

Staff Liaison Hill stated that her concern that the Commission voted to dedicate the funds specifically to the large jester, with any overflow going to other sculptures. It was ultimately decided that spending the money on smaller projects would be consistent with the original idea.

There was a discussion about getting a competing bid.

There are two different pathways to take with the Max Cora & Gita Ghei quote. The first pathway is to accept the quote as is and ask the City Council to approve additional funding to complete the project. The second pathway ask Max & Gita to reduce the scope of the restoration to stay within the approved amount.

Commissioner Granlund stated that it would be better to complete one entire project, move on to another, and set up a maintenance schedule.

Council Liaison Norton stated that from a Council perspective, getting the most expensive project done would be great. Norton suggested submitting an art maintenance schedule to the Council so they could approve it all at once rather than the Commission asking for each repair.

Commissioner Mendoza arrived at 5:56 p.m.

There was a discussion regarding the need for credentials by the people who present bids for the work.

There was consensus to collect some competing bids for the sculpture and to see what can be completed by Max & Gita if the scope of work is reduced for the large jester sculpture.

It was noted that when evaluating applications for the Creative Laureate Program, potential maintenance for completed projects needs to be considered.

The Creative Laureate Program will not likely produce any “permanent art” for the City.

It was recommended that an estimate be requested from an electrician to determine the repair cost for the lamp.

D. Creative Laureate Program Update.

Commissioner Mendoza apologized for her tardiness as she commuted from work.

Commissioner Mendoza brought the posters advertising the Creative Laureate Program.

Commissioner Mendoza thanked Staff Liaison Melissa Hill for uploading the Creative Laureate application to the City’s website.

According to Commissioner Mendoza, the Creative Laureate Program is currently in the marketing phase.

The Arts & Culture Commission was able to view the website with all the links in place.

Commissioner Mendoza shared that she created a blog entry regarding the Creative Laureate Program that included a quote from Commissioner Stone. Commissioner Mendoza has been sharing the information across all her social media platforms to get the word out.

Commissioner Mendoza suggested that each Commissioner take five or ten posters to distribute throughout the City.

It was noted that one of the reasons for the quick turnaround time for the posters was that Big Turn Music Festival is this weekend, and the desire to get the posters up in all the venues before the Festival began.

The Commissioners divided the posters amongst themselves to distribute prior to Friday’s opening of Big Turn.

Staff Liaison Hill introduced the idea of a Commission member speaking during the Mayor’s hour-long radio show to promote the Creative Laureate Program.

Commissioner Mendoza asked if it was possible to advertise on the City Beat Newsletter, and the answer was yes.

E. Sculpture Walk Update.

Staff Liaison Hill provided an update on the Sculpture Walk activities. Through a conversation with Heather Lawrenz of Red Wing Arts, Liaison Hill reported that the community votes, which included the Arts & Culture Commission members,

narrowed the sculptures down to the final twelve. Red Wing Arts will narrow it down to the final eight based on sculpture availability, size, and other logistics. The final selections will be complete by the end of this week.

Commissioner Rogers stated that there will be two concerts at the Anderson Center in the coming weeks. On March 6, 2026, in Room 3, there will be a Jazz fusion band from The Twin Cities. On March 27, 2026, Salty Dog will be performing. The doors open at 6:00 p.m., and the music starts at 7:00 p.m.

Commissioner Stone attended the Fredrick Douglas Show at the Sheldon Theatre, reporting it was so good that it brought tears to his eyes. Commissioner Stone expressed gratitude for such quality programing in our community.

3. Adjournment

Chair Nolan adjourned the meeting at 6:41 p.m.

From: [gita ghei](#)
To: [Katie Nolan](#)
Cc: [Hill, Melissa](#); [Max Cora and Kim Hall](#)
Subject: Re: Question about large jester repair
Date: Monday, March 9, 2026 10:30:49 AM

Hi Katie, thanks for this email! I spoke to Max and we think it would be doable to do the repair for \$4818, we would want to leave the steel base off the repair and leave that for another time. It does not require a scaffold to work on that, so we could fit that in later. If this sounds good for you, we would want to remind you that we had recommended the painted coating that the artist uses now. And the board could pick 2 colors. The artist Kimber often uses very bright colors. But it would be up to you!

all the best, gita

thank you SUN for your time and energy
gita ghei, she/her, owner/operator [Gita Patina, LLC](#)

On Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 01:49:37 PM CST, Katie Nolan <kate.me.nolan@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Gita,

I hope you're doing well and enjoying the slightly warmer weather! We discussed the large jester repair at our last ACC workshop meeting, and I wanted to check in with you.

We currently have \$4,818 explicitly set aside for the repair, which would not cover the full cost of the original quote + the scaffolding & supplies you quoted last time we spoke. To get additional funds, we would have to make a recommendation to the City Council and have them approve the expenditure.

Would it be possible to reduce the scope of work to bring the quote within or closer to the amount we currently have set aside, and what would the disadvantages be to not doing the full recommended repair? I'd like to have that information to present to the rest of the commission at our voting meeting on March 18th.

Thank you so much!

Katie Nolan (they/them)
Arts & Culture Commission

Sponsorship Opportunity

Taking place outdoors on the Anderson Center's Rooftop Deck, the A.P. Anderson Gala event celebrates creativity and artistic innovation in Red Wing and beyond. The annual award is named for Dr. Alexander P. Anderson, who invented the process for creating Quaker Puffed Rice and Puffed Wheat cereals. An educator, botanist, writer and naturalist, Anderson built the Tower View Estate. Today this site of historic site of innovation is stewarded by the Anderson Center as a living laboratory for ideas and creativity.

Gala sponsorship demonstrates broad support for the arts and closely associates your commission with the annual award for significant contributions to the cultural and artistic life of Minnesota.

In Kind

Contribution

- AV Support for event by city staff
- Videographer for event by city staff
- Edited video of event provided to Anderson Center
- Video of event to air on channel 6
- Video posted to Anderson Center Youtube channel, website, etc

- Six Complementary tickets (one table)
- Logo on poster, program and signage
- Recognition on website, social media and announcements
- Verbal acknowledgements by emcee during event
- Optional logo banner at event
- Commission may have information table at event

Benefits

Past Winners

- Gary Hines 2025
- Daniel Bergin 2024
- Nirmala Rajasekar 2023
- Kao Kalia Yang 2022
- Ananya Chatterjea 2021

Individual tickets and tables go on sale to the public March 19. Individual tickets are \$125. A table of 6 tickets is \$675. Please contact me at laurel@andersoncenter.org or 651-388-2009 x4 with any questions, to purchase your pre-sale table or to arrange your sponsorship.