

**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 exparte 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

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**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

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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.