

**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.