

**Red Wing Arts & Culture Commission  
Regular Meeting  
City Council Chambers  
March 18, 2026**

**Members Present:** Chair Katie Nolan; Commissioners Zamira Mendoza, Stephanie Rogers, Gary Stone, Sam Brown (virtual due to scheduling conflict), and Evan Wert

**Members Absent:** Commissioner Riegelman (excused absence), Commissioner Granlund (excused absence), and Commissioner Culver (unexcused absence)

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

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Roll Call**

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

Commissioner Reigleman previously indicated she would be absent.

Commissioner Granlund previously indicated he would be absent.

Commissioner Culver was absent and unexcused.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Rogers suggested that time be allotted (7A) for discussion on Council Liaisons.

Staff Liaison Hill suggested that perhaps City Council Administrator Heineman could be moved up a little further in the agenda.

A motion was made by Chair Nolan, seconded by Commissioner Rogers, to change Item 6 A to Update from City Council Administrator Chris Heineman regarding City Council Liaisons, and approve the agenda as amended. A vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously by a vote of 6:0.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

**A. Motion to Approve Minutes.**

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

A motion was made by Chair Nolan, seconded by Commissioner Wert, to approve the minutes as drafted. A vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously by a vote of 6:0.

## **5. Public Comment**

Chair Nolan reviewed the public comment procedure.

No one wished to address the Commission.

## **6. Motions & General Business**

### **A. Update From City Council Administrator Regarding Council Liaisons.**

City Council Administrator Chris Heineman came forward and stated that as the Administrator, the Charter grants that he is an ex officio member of every City board and commission. It is the goal of Administrator Heineman to attend all board and commission meetings once or twice per year.

Administrator Heineman stated that in early February there were some discussions at a workshop meeting about Council Liaisons. Some Council Liaisons questioned the value of their presence at various meetings, and the time commitment was significant. A majority of the City Council members were in support of eliminating City Council Liaisons for the boards and commissions at the workshop, and a vote was ultimately conducted at another meeting that supported this. The vote was not unanimous. There were two City Council members who voted against the measure.

Administrator Heineman stated that an Annual Report from the Arts & Culture Commission would certainly be welcomed at a City Council meeting. Staff Liaisons can also relay information to the City Council.

Commissioner Mendoza asked for clarification that, as she understands, there will no longer be a City Council Member appointed to attend Arts & Culture Commission meetings. Administrator Heineman clarified that Commissioner Mendoza's understanding is correct.

Commissioner Rogers stated that her understanding is that some boards and commissions will continue to have Council Liaisons, and she requested clarification on which boards and commissions those were. Administrator Heineman stated that the Housing and Redevelopment Authority and the Port Authority will continue to have a Council Liaison.

Commissioner Rogers stated that she understands the time constraints, but she is going to miss having Council Liaison Norton present because she was super helpful. Commissioner Rogers reiterated that she both understands the reason, but she also stated that it feels like a loss for the Arts & Culture Commission.

Chair Nolan and Commissioner Mendoza concurred with Commissioner Rogers.

**B. Creative Laureate Program Update Including Promotional Video, Status Update, and Deadline Discussion.**

Commissioner Mendoza thanked the Arts & Culture Commission for all their help and stated that all the posters have been distributed. Commissioner Mendoza went on to list the various forms of media through which the Creative Laureate Program has been advertised.

Commissioner Mendoza stated that as of right now, the Creative Laureate Program is in the application period, which will extend through Monday, March 23, 2026. Commissioner Mendoza stated that to maximize the impact and allow applicants additional time, she requested a motion to extend the deadline to apply to Friday, April 10, 2026.

Commissioner Rogers asked how many applicants there are currently. Liaison Hill stated that there is currently one applicant, and another person has expressed interest but has not submitted an application.

Liaison Hill stated that the promotional video was boosted on social media today. If the Commission votes to extend the deadline, the promotional video will be boosted again next week.

The video was shared with the Arts & Culture Commission.

Chair Nolan stated that she would be happy to extend the submission deadline, but she wants to ensure Liaison Hill has enough time to have everything ready for the next workshop meeting.

Liaison Hill reminded the Arts & Culture Commission that the submitted applications are routed to the Finance Committee.

Commissioner Rogers stated that she's open to extending the deadline, but it has been her personal experience that artists tend to be last-minute submitters. Commissioner Mendoza stated that artists are notorious procrastinators.

Commissioner Mendoza stated that Chair Nolan had the great idea to translate the application into Spanish for Hispanic outreach, which Commissioner Mendoza was able to do. Unfortunately, the translated applications were not as timely as would have been ideal. Commissioner Mendoza believes that extending the deadline would help people in the Hispanic community.

Commissioner Brown asked why there was a three-week window for applications. Commissioner Mendoza stated that it was decided to be flexible with the deadline because it is a pilot program. Commissioner Brown stated that he would vote to extend the deadline for as long as possible.

Chair Nolan stated that the full Commission could only discuss about six candidates.

Commissioner Rogers asked for the latest date that the applications could be placed in a packet. Liaison Hill stated that the Thursday before an Arts & Culture Commission Meeting would be the cutoff date. Chari Nolan stated that the actual date would be Thursday, April 9, 2026.

Commissioner Brown suggested extending the deadline to the Workshop Meeting date so that all applications can be discussed during the Workshop Meeting and voted on during the following Regular Meeting.

Liaison Hill stated that the cut-off date should be April 8, 2026, so that she could get them in the packet on April 9, 2026.

A motion was made by Chair Nolan, seconded by Commissioner Wert, to change the application deadline for the Creative Laureate to 11:59 p.m. on April 8, 2026. A vote was conducted, and the motion carried by a vote of 5 ayes and 1 nay (Stone).

A motion was made by Commissioner Rogers, seconded by Chair Nolan, to amend the selection process to provide the full application for each applicant to be included in the packet, and the full Commission will discuss each application at the April 15, 2026, Regular Meeting. A vote was conducted, and the motion carried by a vote of 5 ayes and 1 nay (Stone).

1. Promotional Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jwYtmvIYCDc>

### **C. 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.

Chair Nolan stated that Max & Guida is willing to reduce the scope of work for the repairs to the Large Jester. The suggestion by Max & Guida is to leave the steel base work to be done at another time.

Commissioner Wert stated that he sent the information to a friend who is a professional sculptor, and he suggested not painting it because it is not very difficult to re-wax a sculpture.

Liaison Hill stated that she did not believe that supplies were included in the quote from Max & Guida.

Commissioner Stone brought up the fact that if the materials are not included in the quote, the labor for painting is presumably included in the quote. That needs to be clarified before a decision can be made.

Commissioner Wert asked if the goal is to make the Large Jester look brand new. Chair Nolan stated that the Public Art Committee recognizes that things that are living outside cannot realistically look brand new.

Commissioner Rogers stated that she is of the understanding that the artist's intention was for the Large Jester to be painted in two bright colors.

Commissioner Mendoza suggested that perhaps Max & Guida could come up with two separate quotes, one with the cost of paint and labor, and one without the paint and labor.

Commissioner Rogers is in support of not painting the Large Jester, and she supports taking care of the preventative maintenance that needs to be done.

Commissioner Brown agrees with Commissioner Rogers.

Commissioner Mendoza asked if the original artist could be consulted about the intent to paint the Large Jester in two bright colors. Chair Nolan stated that it was her hope to vote on the repairs tonight rather than prolonging the process any longer.

Commissioner Stone stated that he's not comfortable voting for something without all the pertinent information.

Commissioner Rogers agreed with Commissioner Stone.

#### **D. Sculpture Tour Capstone Events.**

The Sculpture Tour Capstone Event has been moved to Wednesday, June 17, 2026, 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.

Chair Nolan stated that coloring buttons were a popular item at the Sculpture Tour Capstone Event last year.

Chair Nolan asked Liaison Hill to provide additional information on creating a committee. Liaison Hill stated that as a condition for accepting the SEMAC grant, the Commission has to put an acknowledgement statement on all promotional materials, and there is a requirement to send certain legislators

thanking them for making the funds available.

Chair Nolan asked the Commissioners who would like to help with the thank-you letters. Commissioner Stone volunteered to assist.

Commissioner Rogers and Commissioner Wert stated that the Marketing Committee can just knock it out.

Chair Nolan asked if the Arts & Culture Commission wants to have a table.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wert, seconded by Chair Nolan, to approve having a table at the Sculpture Tour Capstone Event. A vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously by a vote of 6:0.

**E. 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.

Commissioner Rogers stated that she will be recusing herself from any voting regarding this topic.

Commissioner Rogers stated that the A.P. Anderson Gala is a fundraiser for the Anderson Center, but the main focus is on honoring someone who has made a significant contribution to arts and culture in Minnesota. The recipient will be officially announced tomorrow.

Commissioner Rogers stated that this year's A.P. Anderson Award Recipient is Jeff Shotts, Executive Editor at Graywolf Press, an internationally known powerhouse of publishing. Commissioner Rogers stated that often the A.P. Anderson Center honors creators, but occasionally the honor goes to exceptional, behind-the-scenes people who support creators, and Jeff Shotts is one of those people.

Commissioner Rogers stated that the program at the Gala will be about thirty minutes of Commissioner Rogers interviewing Jeff Shotts, with an opportunity for the audience to ask some questions.

Chair Nolan asked what sort of "in-kind services" the Arts & Culture Commission could provide to make the A.P. Anderson Gala a success.

Commissioner Rogers stated that the proposal requests audiovisual support from City staff, videography by City staff, and the video would be aired on Channel 6. In return, there would be six complimentary tickets, which include a catered dinner by Chef Leo. There would also be promotion and recognition of the Arts & Culture Commission, along with the use of the City logo.

Commissioner Wert asked if this is more for the City or for the Arts & Culture Commission. Chair Nolan stated that it sounds like this would be more of a promotion of the City. Commissioner Rogers stated that both logos can be used.

Chair Nolan stated that because of the use of City resources, the Arts & Culture Commission would have to make a recommendation to City Council. Liaison Hill stated that Channel 6 is operated by PEG funding, which is essentially government funding. There are very strict requirements regarding what can and cannot be aired on Channel 6.

Liaison Hill stated that normally, the City could not air the A.P. Anderson Gala; however, because the Arts & Culture Commission is a function of local government, they would be entitled to use Channel 6 because it is an event that the Commission sponsored.

Commissioner Mendoza asked if there could be enough tickets for the entire Arts & Culture Commission to be at the table? Commissioner Rogers asked how many tickets would be needed. Chair Nolan stated that there are nine Arts & Culture Commissioners. Commissioner Rogers stated that she could probably make that happen.

A motion was made by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve the Arts & Culture Commission as a sponsor for the A.P. Anderson Gala Event. A vote was conducted, and the motion carried by a vote of 5 ayes and 1 recusal (Rogers).

#### **F. Finance Report.**

Chair Nolan provided an overview of the Financial Report.

Chair Nolan stated that the actual number in the Arts & Culture Commission account differs by approximately \$1,700 from the forecasted amount. Chair Nolan further stated that the cause of the discrepancy needs to be identified and the forecasted balance updated.

Liaison Hill stated that the current balance in the Arts & Culture Commission account is \$42,968.40. The forecast went off estimates of what we thought would be deposited into the account.

Chair Nolan stated that her plan is to make a financial update part of the agenda for all Workshop Meetings.

Commissioner Mendoza stated that she went through the meeting minutes, pulled all of the motions that dealt with funding, and attempted to update the financials.

Commissioner Granlund requested a forecasted amount for what should be forthcoming this year. Liaison Hill cannot provide that information.

Commissioner Mendoza inquired about the funds that are deposited into the Municipal Arts Fund and the Arts & Culture Commission fund. Liaison Hill stated that the Arts & Culture Commission voted in November of 2025 to encumber or roll over the \$4,818 for the Large Jester repairs. There was a slight balance of \$100.38 that remained unencumbered and rolled back over to the City as of January 1, 2026.

Liaison Hill further explained that on January 1, 2026, the City gives each Board and Commission \$2,500 as a Commission Budget to spend throughout the year. That money is separate from the Municipal Arts Fund. The Municipal Arts Fund requires the City Council's permission for each request. The Arts & Culture Commission budget does not require approval from City Council to spend the funds.

Chair Nolan reminded the Commissioners that the Arts & Culture budget is a use it or lose it budget, because it cannot roll over into the next year.

Commissioner Rogers stated that the Arts & Culture Commission needs to define the standards for projects that are to be used in place of the 1% fee. Chair Nolan stated that the Public Art Committee was working on those standards, but the process got derailed.

## **7. Communication Items**

### **A. Commissioner Comments.**

Commissioner Mendoza stated that she met a new Red Wing Arts staff member named Molly. She coordinates the Clay and Creative Center Space. If there are any Creative Laureate applicants who need a venue to host an art workshop, she would be happy to open their space.

### **B. Announcements.**

There were no announcements.

## **8. Adjournment**

Chair Nolan adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m.