

**Red Wing Arts & Culture Commission
Workshop Meeting
Community Development Building
June 10, 2026**

Members Present: Chair Katie Nolan; Commissioners Zamira Mendoza, Stephanie Rogers, Alyssa Riegelman, Gary Stone, David Culver (Attended Virtually due to scheduling conflict at 5:47 p.m.), Mark Granlund, and Evan Wert

Members Absent: Commissioner Samuel Brown (excused absence)

Others Present: Melissa Hill, Staff Liaison; Megan Tsui, Creative Laureate Award Recipient; Lora Skelton, Creative Laureate Award Recipient; Jessica Zuehlke, Creative Laureate Award Recipient; Margaret Pearce, Cartographer/Artist; and Meya Callstrom, Historian with the Mississippi Dialogues Project

1. Call to Order

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

2. Workshop Items

A. Creative Laureate Awards.

Commissioner Mendoza thanked the award recipients for supporting the City of Red Wing through the Creative Laureate Program to advance as an artistic and cultural destination.

Commissioner Mendoza presented the Creative Laureate Award to Jessica Zuehlke. Ms. Zuehlke thanked the Commission.

Commissioner Mendoza presented the Creative Laureate Award to Megan Tsui. Ms. Tsui helped create the Arts and Culture Commission, and she thanked the Commission for bringing more artwork to Red Wing.

Commissioner Mendoza presented the Creative Laureate Award to Lora Skelton. Ms. Skelton thanked the Commission and stated that the plan for the future is to hold a four-session class to help caregivers with coping assistance.

Commissioner Rogers thanked the Commission for its belief in this program and in the award recipients. The importance of a community lies in its people.

Chair Nolan confirmed that the award recipients will be assigned a Commission liaison as a point of contact and support person throughout the process.

B. Mississippi Dialogues Project Update.

Commissioner Rogers introduced Margaret Pearce, Cartographer/Artist, and Meya Callstrom, Historian with the Mississippi Dialogues Project.

Ms. Pearce, Cartographer/Artist, stated that the project includes a public art piece and requested permission to install the two panels at Colvill Park to depict the history of the Mississippi River, particularly how it relates to indigenous people. The launch will take place in 2026 at two sites, with one site downriver in Illinois. The panel structures would sit side by side, measuring seven and a half feet wide by five feet high, and two feet above the ground in a wooden structure. The project is funded through grants ranging from 2024 to 2026. Coordination has been incorporated into the project to involve the Preservation Office and partner with the Anderson Center.

Ms. Callstrom, Historian, added the location details. In about two weeks, a pastry picnic will be hosted from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Colville Park to share stories from around the community. Commissioner Rogers provided the flyer with the information to the Commission. Ms. Pearce, Cartographer/Artist, shared the timeline, which includes the upcoming public event, a project website launch in September 2026, and the installation of the panels in the first week of October 2026.

Ms. Pearce, Cartographer/Artist, confirmed that the structures will be made of white oak and that carving will be done in the panels with wood inlay and turquoise. In the sketch, the concrete footings will no longer be completed. The working designs are currently underway. The maintenance for the structure would be to treat the wood with natural marine oil, with a new coat applied in four to five years. Budget funding is available from the Public Works Department. Maintenance for the metal would be about three to five years, and budget funding is included to reprint the panel designs. The panels would be the property of Red Wing, with the wood artwork and the designs' copyright held by the artists.

Chair Nolan asked whether the panels could be moved in the event of flooding. Ms. Pearce, Cartographer/Artist, confirmed that the chosen site is within a flood zone, which would require the panels to be moved. The Public Works Department will work with the artist to remove the panels from the posts if needed.

Commissioner Granlund requested that the sign files be shared with the City of Red Wing in case the artists cannot be reached to reprint the artwork. The artwork's long-term condition and life expectancy would need to be assessed to inform maintenance planning.

Commissioner Wert stated that the artists would retain copyright in the artwork,

but the City of Red Wing could promote it. Commissioner Rogers suggested researching whether this language is included within the Commission's documents, and language for the donations should be included as well.

Chair Nolan asked whether approval would be requested before the October 2026 installation or whether a special meeting would be requested. Commissioner Rogers added that the timelines for approvals will be discussed internally.

Commissioner Culver suggested including copyright information within the language and a fundraiser promotion to cover the maintenance expenses.

Commissioner Wert stated the project cannot start until the agreement is fully signed. Ms. Hill, Staff Liaison, stated that the review of the agreement will go through legal counsel review. City Council would request a recommendation from the Commission to ensure the project is fully vetted and within scope. The agreement approval would be included in the consent agenda for routine business approval.

C. Discussion Regarding Changes to the Public Art Maintenance Plan and Public Art Decommission Plan.

Chair Nolan confirmed that the Public Art Maintenance Plan was developed by Commissioners Stone, Culver, and Chair Nolan last year. The plan was approved in January 2026, and feedback was requested.

Ms. Hill, Staff Liaison, stated that the artists complete a donation form confirming the art pieces as City property. Subsequently, the City could decommission or move the sculptures without needing the artists approval. Commissioner Rogers requested that the artists sign a waiver if the structure would need to be removed. Ms. Hill, Staff Liaison, confirmed she will research these concerns.

Commissioner Stone requested that the Metro Transit Decommission Plan be shared with the Commission to use as a basis for the City of Red Wing's Decommission Plan.

Ms. Hill, Staff Liaison, suggested that perhaps the City or Commission could find other locations within the community for decommissioned artwork, such as nursing homes.

Commissioner Wert asked if the City's insurance covered vandalism. Ms. Hill, Staff Liaison, confirmed that the coverages would fall under the City's umbrella policy and that the deductible would be included in the City's expenses. The funding for repairs would be covered under the Municipal Arts Fund budget.

Commissioner Stone stated that the purpose of the Commission is to maintain artwork or to create art. Commissioner Culver added that the Commission also fosters opportunities in art and culture.

Commissioner Rogers stated it was challenging to operate, develop, and execute plans for the City's art collection, but that taking the time to ensure the system of intended checks and balances remains in place is necessary.

Chair Nolan suggested that the Public Art Maintenance Plan remain unchanged, with any changes to be made at the next meeting. A schedule should also be included for evaluating the artwork.

Ms. Hill, Staff Liaison, added that quotes were received for the lighting repairs to the large jester art piece for \$8,000. Since the cost was so high, the Public Works Department installed a solar globe that lights up at night instead, for a cost of \$70. Commissioners expressed appreciation for the economy of sustainability of this solution.

Commissioner Reigelman thanked Chair Nolan for the work that was performed on the plans. Commissioner Stone added that with a preventative maintenance schedule, the Commission would save money in the long run.

Chair Nolan asked about the steps for fundraising opportunities. Ms. Hill, Staff Liaison, stated that a separate organization, like the Friends of the Library, or Friends of the Sheldon Theatre, would need to file for nonprofit status as the Commission itself cannot fundraise.

Chair Nolan stated that the capstone event for the Sculpture Walk will be held on June 17, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. The Arts & Culture Commission will have a table at the event and will offer guests assistance and materials to create their own debris tree, mimicking one of the sculptures on the tour this year.

Staff Liaison Hill noted that River City Days will be held from July 31, 2026, through August 2, 2026, and the City of Red Wing will have a table at the event. The Commission is invited to host the table through some or all the festival to promote the Commission and engage with festival attendees. Commissioner Culver and Chair Nolan volunteered to attend and help staff the table. Chair Nolan added that a Pride event will be held on Saturday, June 20.

D. Finance Report.

There have been no changes since the report was given at the May 2026 Commission meeting.

2. Adjournment

Chair Nolan adjourned the meeting at 7:02 p.m.