



Dane County

Minutes - Final Unless Amended by Committee

Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission

Consider:

Who benefits? Who is burdened?

Who does not have a voice at the table?

How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?

Monday, November 10, 2025

4:30 PM

Hybrid Meeting: Attend in person at the City County
Building in Room 209; attend virtually via Zoom.

A. Call To Order

Present: Chair Ritcherson, Vice Chair Puleo Moyer, Klehr, McKinney, Yudice,
Garrett

Excused: Miquelon, Rose, Curet, Parks Snider

Staff: Mark Fraire, Augusta Brulla

Call to order at 4:31 p.m.

Present 6 - Chair RODERICK RITCHERSON, MARY KLEHR, Vice Chair FRAN PULEO
MOYER, JENNIFER GARRETT, KELSEY YUDICE, and DESHAWN MCKINNEY

Excused 4 - AMNERIS CURET, MARCIA MIQUELON, KELLY PARKS-SNIDER, and RICK
ROSE

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2025](#)
[MIN-366](#)

[MINUTES FROM THE 10/16/2025 ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS
COMMISSION MEETING]

Attachments: [2025 MIN-366](#)

A motion was made by Ritcherson to approve the minutes from the 10/16/25
commission meeting.

The motion was carried unanimously by a voice vote.

C. Executive Committee 2026 Extension (action item)

As a sub-committee of the Commission, the Dane Arts Executive Committee
must be renewed annually.

Chair Ritcherson made a motion to renew the Dane Arts Executive Committee
through December 2026.

The motion was carried unanimously by a voice vote.

D. Approve 2026 commission meeting calendar (action item)

- Dane Arts staff proposed that in 2026 the commission meet every third Tuesday at 8:30 a.m. with the exception of April and October during which the commission will meet the second Tuesday.

- No commission meetings will be held in July or December.

A motion was made by Garrett to approve the 2026 commission meeting dates as outlined above.

The motion was carried unanimously by a voice vote.

E. 2025 cycle 2 wrap up

Funds are being distributed as grant awardees return required paperwork.

F. 2026 Dane Arts/County budget, future projections

- The Dane County 2026 budget has been approved.

- The Dane Arts grant program anticipates a \$14,000 budget cut planned in 2026.

G. Alternative grant award allocation discussion

Consensus was that Dane Arts staff will make a recommendation for several grant allocation model options, directed by feedback collected through focus group sessions led by Commissioner McKinney.

H. Areas of Focus end of the year reports

Marketing & Branding Area of Focus:

- Puleo Moyer discussed several areas of focus for Dane Arts marketing and branding established by Puleo Moyer, McKinney, Curet and Dane Arts staff.
- Consensus was to consistently use the name "Dane County Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission (Dane Arts)."
- Upcoming meetings will address the following topics: defining target audiences, addressing the mission and vision, discussing the logo, and website updates.

Community Grant Focus Groups:

- McKinney is leading a series of 11 grant feedback focus groups from October 27 - November 20.
- Preliminary findings identify Dane Arts as a positive force in the community, while the grant application was cited as a work-in-progress.
- Positive references were made to the Wisconsin Arts Board Legacy Grant.
- There was an interest in possibility of segmentation based on operating budget or other criteria, while there is less interest in models that could potentially limit creative freedom.
- Dane Arts grants are seen as a piece of a larger budget puzzle for local arts organizations.
- Survey responses have plateaued at about 100, and McKinney encourages commissioners to push out the survey to their networks for wider engagement.
- McKinney is mindful of soliciting representation from across Dane County (beyond Madison).

Dane Arts Events:

- Commissioner Klehr continues to keep the Dane Arts event calendar updated to facilitate Commissioner attendance at events.

Dane Arts Handbook:

- Klehr and Puleo Moyer will work together to update the Commissioner Handbook.

Friends of Dane Arts:

- The Friends of Dane Arts held their first meeting in April, 2025. Financial

policies, code of ethics, statement of values, and conflict of interest statement will be approved during the November meeting.

- A goal of Friends of Dane Arts is to build an endowment. \$50,000 is required to initiate an endowment.

- Ritcherson continues to build a list of potential funding partners.

- Administrative procedures will be in place prior to accepting funds.

Other:

- Yudice expressed interest in developing a base of volunteers for Dane Arts.

I. Executive Director's Report

- Reference Director Fraire's notes

- Upcoming events include Ho-Chunk Land Acknowledgement on November 20th, and Dane Arts Holiday Pop-up Market at Aubergine gallery December 5th - 6th.

- The next Business of Art Conference is set for April 24th - 25th.

- Director Fraire met with mayors from Middleton, Verona, Sun Prairie, Fitchburg, and Monona to discuss collaborating with Dane Arts to increase impact of community arts in each municipality.

J. Future Meeting Items and Dates

The next Dane Arts Commission meeting is set for Tuesday, January 20th at 8:30 a.m.

1. Dane Arts Calendar of Events

Klehr continues to update the Dane Arts event spreadsheet.

K. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

None.

L. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

None.

M. Adjourn

A motion was made by Ritcherson to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 5:24 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Augusta Brulla pending commission approval.