



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?

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

8:30 AM

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

A. Roll Call

- Present: Chair Ritcherson, Vice Chair Puleo Moyer, Klehr, Curet, Miquelon,
Fath, McKinney, Garrett

- Excused: Rose

- Absent: Parks Snider, Yudice

- Quorum was established

Call to order at 8:30 a.m.

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2025](#)
[MIN-491](#)

[MINUTES FROM THE 11/10/2025 ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS
COMMISSION MEETING]

Attachments: [2025 MIN-491](#)

A motion was made by Puleo Moyer to approve the minutes from the 11/10/25
Commission meeting.

The motion was carried unanimously by a voice vote.

C. Report from Commissioner McKinney

- Commissioner McKinney provided a report of Community Feedback on Future of Grant Allocation
- This community initiative was developed in response to limited available grant funds and increasing requests for funding. McKinney sought to determine if the current funding model continues to meet community needs, and whether other funding models should be considered.
- 193 participants were engaged, including 147 survey respondents and 46 focus group attendees. 75% of participants were based in Madison with remaining representation from Verona, Stoughton, Waunakee, Oregon, Sun Prairie, Mazomanie, Monona, and DeForest.
- The majority of participants believe Dane Arts fulfills its mission, but participants expressed confusion when asked to define the mission and purpose of Dane Arts.
- Areas for improvement include clarifying Dane Arts' purpose as a funding versus programming entity, strengthening connections outside of Madison, and continuing to serve as a connector, advocate, and collective voice
- 90% of recipients reported satisfaction upon news of receiving a grant award, but satisfaction dropped to 65% upon receiving news of the amount awarded
- Respondents noted that Dane Arts awards provide impact beyond dollars, including providing a "seal of approval," and serving as foundation for additional fundraising.
- Participants expressed support for segmenting grant applications into separate pools based on large and small organizations, with equity and access as primary concerns. Larger awards for fewer applicants, grants did not resonate with participants.
- Participants expressed interest in clear expectations around award amounts, and the potential for implementing a legacy funding model similar to opportunities provided by the Madison Arts Commission and Wisconsin Arts Board.

D. Staff Recommendations on Alternative Grant Allocation Models

Any decisions regarding updates to the grant process will be made based on community feedback with discussions starting in February 2026.

E. Introduction of New Commissioner

- Doug Fath is a lifelong artist who recently retired from the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art after 30 years of service.
- Fath continues to volunteer with local arts organizations such as the Textile Arts Center and Center for Black Excellence.

F. Commission Updates

1. Expiring Commissioner Terms

2. Renewal/replacement process

New process: Commissioners will be asked to send a letter directly to the County Executive via email indicating whether or not they would like to seek term renewal. Chair Ritcherson will communicate this process with the Dane County Executive.

G. Dane Arts 50th Anniversary Planning

Director Fraire and Vice Chair Puleo Moyer are scheduling a 50th anniversary planning meeting in the coming weeks to strategize and plan activities that increase awareness and celebrate the legacy of Dane Arts.

H. Friends of Dane Arts Update

- The purpose of the Friends of Dane Arts is to fully support the Dane Arts Commission and leverage private dollars with taxpayer dollars.
- Chair Ritcherson continues to develop the Friends of Dane Arts and has recruited several new members to the board of directors.
- Financial policies are in place, and a bank account has been opened.

I. Director's Report

Reference Director Fraire's notes.

J. Future Meeting Items and Dates

1. Next Meeting Date

The next commission meeting is on Tuesday, February 17th at 8:30 a.m.

2. Events Calendar

Commissioner Klehr encourages commissioners to sign up to attend upcoming Dane Arts supported events visible in the events calendar.

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 Miquelon to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 9:32 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Augusta Brulla pending commission approval.