



# 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?*

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Wednesday, August 9, 2023

8:00 AM

Hybrid Meeting: Attend in person at the City County  
Building in Room 421; attend virtually via Zoom.

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#### A. Call To Order

- Present (in person): Puleo Moyer

- Present (virtual): Chair Ritcherson, Vice Chair Klehr, Curet, Gallagher, Garrett, Handy,  
Yudice

Staff: Mark Fraire, Augusta Brulla

Call to order at 8:01 a.m.

**Present** 8 - Chair RODERICK RITCHERSON, AMNERIS CURET, Vice Chair MARY KLEHR,  
FRAN PULEO MOYER, LAURA GALLAGHER, JENNIFER GARRETT, JAY  
HANDY, and KELSEY YUDICE

**Excused** 1 - MARCIA MIQUELON

**Absent** 2 - KELLY PARKS-SNIDER, and Supervisor OLIVIA XISTRIS-SONGPANYA

#### B. Consideration of Minutes

[2023  
MIN-219](#)

[MINUTES FROM THE 06/14/2023 ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS  
COMMISSION MEETING]

**Attachments:** [2023 MIN-219](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Handy to approve the 6/14/2023  
Commission meeting minutes, seconded by Commissioner Curet.

The motion was carried unanimously by a voice vote.

#### C. Presentation Group

**1. Sara Young, Managing Director, American Players Theatre**

- *APT Serves a great number of Dane County students. This year's student matinee series is estimated to serve 3,000 students.*
- *Many students served reside in rural areas of Dane County. For many students, APT performances are their first experience with Shakespeare or live plays.*
- *The Potency of Poetry program which APT applied for in the most recent Dane Arts grant cycle gives students an accessible breakdown of poetry.*
- *The Words Between Us program, taught by guest teaching artists, uses literature by authors of color as an entry point for students to practice engaging in difficult conversations.*
- *Educational programs are offered primarily at no cost to schools, however full or partial purchase options are available.*
- *APT attendance is currently at 90% of pre-pandemic numbers.*
- *COVID-19 has prompted a reckoning in the theater industry around labor practices.*
- *Vice Chair Klehr Recommended a relevant book authored by Diana Hess, UW-Madison School of Education Dean titled "Controversy in the Classroom: The Democratic Power of Discussion":  
<https://www.taylorfrancis.com/books/mono/10.4324/9780203878880/controversy-classroom-diana-hess>*
- *Dane Arts is part of the APT Community Liaison Committee.*

**D. August Discussion Topic**

- *Commissioner Gallagher discussed the significant role government plays in local arts and culture, and the challenges of Wisconsin faces as the state with the lowest federal arts funding in the nation (\$0.14 per capita).*
- *Commissioner Handy pointed out that the funding in certain cities, such as Milwaukee, have higher arts funding per capital than the statewide average.*
- *Commissioner Gallagher suggested connecting with Emida Roller, one of the founding members of DAMA, about arts funding in Connecticut where she now resides.*
- *Commissioner Garrett discussed exploring arts lobbying in Wisconsin. Director Fraire cited Create Wisconsin as a lobbying entity for arts support in the state.*

**E. Reports to Committee**

**1. Chair/Executive Committee Report**

- *Chair Ritcherson requested that each Area of Focus have one written description describing the objective of the group.*

## 2. Areas of Focus Updates

### *Executive Committee:*

- *Executive Committee objectives are as follows:*

1. *Keep commission at full capacity*
2. *Make sure we are operating according to the county board's policies, procedures, practices*
3. *Encourage innovation*
4. *Make Dane Arts the "Commission of Choice"*
5. *Make the arts equally accessible to all, and our Dane Arts funding equally accessible by all*
6. *Continue to make sure the commission is representative of Dane County residents*
7. *Continue to support the arts community to the benefit of Dane County tax payers*

### *Community Engagement:*

- *Commissioner Puleo Moyer announced that Commissioner Yudice will join the Community Engagement Area of Focus.*

- *The objective of the Community Engagement Area of Focus is centered around Dane Arts representation at community events.*

- *Commissioner Yudice is currently exploring options for presenting a monthly calendar of events to commissioners and polling commissioners about their event preferences to increase commissioner engagement in Dane Arts supported events.*

- *Commissioner Puleo Moyer presented the idea of adding a question to the grant application to collect testimonials about why Dane Arts matters to their organization. These statements could be used in future marketing efforts.*

### *Fund Development:*

- *Commissioner Gallagher connected Dane Arts (Commissioner Handy, Chair Ritcherson, and Director Fraire) with the Bank of Sun Prairie for a preliminary discussion about an employee-giving program.*

- *Director Fraire will meet with Susan Schmitz to consult on the implementation of a Dane Arts friends group.*

- *Commissioner Handy expressed his confidence that resources invested in the current fund development project will yield a great return in time.*

- *Chair Ritcherson discussed current questions concerning the formation of the Friends of Dane Arts including feasibility, scope, structure, sustainability, and timeline.*

### *Grants Review:*

- *Commissioner Curet is examining various aspects of the grant process.*

- *The first step is a Webgrants software update scheduled for late 2023.*

### *Policy and Procedures:*

- Objectives for the Policy and Procedures Area of Focus are as follows:

1. Maintain Dane Arts Commissioner handbook
2. Update handbook as needed with new information, members, policies
3. Provide language for proposed policy changes or handbook adjustments
4. Crosscheck compliance with the county board's policies, procedures, practices
5. Provide Orientation sessions for new Commissioners
6. Cohere handbook with Dane Arts webpage, in collaboration with Augusta
7. Track commissioner terms and attendance

Marketing/Arts and Economic Prosperity:

- Commissioner Gallagher has been a member of the Marketing/AEP Area of Focus, but has engaged primarily with the Fund Development Area this summer.

Prospect Pool:

- Chair Ritcherson would like to reinstate the Prospect Pool Area of Focus to more efficiently replace commissioners as they exit the commission.

Youth Engagement:

- Supervisor Xistris-Songpanya worked with the County Board of Supervisors to secure a \$40,000 grant included in the County Executive budget for arts programming that provides equitable opportunities for under served youth to participate.

### 3. Executive Director's Report

- Dane Arts is applying for an Evjue Foundation grant due August 25th.

- Dane Arts is receiving requests for local artwork from various county departments, as well as private businesses.

- Reference Director Fraire's notes for additional updates.

### F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

- Commissioner Curet will provide an overview of the grants process and review panel chair/co-chair duties during the September Commission meeting.

### G. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

- Vice Chair Klehr would like to speak with Dane Arts staff about a mural for Leopold School.

- Supervisor Xistris-Songpanya will receive a plaque of recognition upon exiting the commission.

- Commissioners are asked to save the date for the 2024 Dane Arts Calendar reception at 5 p.m. on Monday, October 23rd at the Memorial Union Sunset Lounge.

## H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

*None.*

## I. Adjourn

A motion was made by Commissioner Puleo Moyer to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Augusta Brulla, pending commissioner approval.