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, September 8, 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, Klehr, Curet, Miquelon, Garrett, Yudice
Excused: Puleo Moyer, Rose, Parks Snider, McKinney
Quorum was established

Staff: Mark Fraire, Augusta Brulla

Call to order at 4:30 p.m.

Present 6 - Chair RODERICK RITCHERSON, AMNERIS CURET, MARY KLEHR, MARCIA MIQUELON, JENNIFER GARRETT, and KELSEY YUDICE

Excused 4 - KELLY PARKS-SNIDER, Vice Chair FRAN PULEO MOYER, DESHAWN MCKINNEY, and RICK ROSE

B. Consideration of Minutes

2025 MIN-229 [MINUTES FROM THE 6/16/2025 ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETING]

Attachments: 2025 MIN-229

A motion was made by Miquelon to approve the minutes from the 6/16/2025 Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission meeting, seconded by Curet.

The motion was carried unanimously by a voice vote.

C. 2025 Cycle 2 Grants Update

1. Number of grant applications (by discipline), dollar amount of requests

Project Grant applications by discipline include: 2 Local History ($10,500), 5 Theater ($23,325), 5 Visual Arts ($18,083), 6 Dance ($25,350), 11 Arts in Education ($49,674), 12 Multidisciplinary Arts and Culture ($42,264), and 21 Music ($86,192).

2. Number of short order grants, dollar amount of requests

5 eligible Short Order grant applications were received, totaling $4,450 in requests.

3. Percentage of budget allocation for short order grants/recommendation

Dane Arts staff recommends a budget limit of $2,225 for short order grant awards. This number reflects 50% of 2025 Cycle 2 short order requests.

4. Number of capital grants, dollar amount of requests

- 7 eligible Capital grant applications were received, totaling $15,879 in requests.

- The Capital Grant budget is not to exceed 5% of total available funds in any given cycle.

5. Anticipated 2025 cycle 2 budget (overall)

- 2025 Cycle 2 total available funds equal $97,262

- Final budgets for each funding opportunity will be discussed during the next executive committee meeting for recommendation to the full commission on October 16.

6. Projected number of panel review teams needed, progress

- 62 project grant applications are divided into 6 panels (5 reviewers / panel).

- Each panel will review 10-11 applications. Dane Arts staff has recruited the 30 panelists required, and the six panel dates are set.

D. Approve Grants Process Improvement Recommendations (action item)

1. Grant Application Category Change

- Commissioner Curet presented a summary of recommendations for improving the current grant process. The document is available for commissioners to review via Google Drive.

- Curet recommends updating the grant application categories to better align with the Dane Arts Mission. Updates would be made to the 2026 Cycle 1 application.

- Current grant categories: Arts in Education, Dance, Music, Multidisciplinary Arts/Culture, Theater, Visual Arts

- Recommended updated grant categories: Arts Education, Dance, History & Heritage, Music, Theater & Performance, Visual Arts

A motion was made by Curet to update the grant categories to Arts Education, Dance, History & Heritage, Music, Theater & Performance, and Visual Arts, seconded by Klehr.

The motion was carried unanimously by a voice vote

2. Grant Application Budget Updates

- Based on grant panelist feedback, Commissioner Curet presented a list of recommended updates to the budget section of the application.

- Budget updates include additional explanatory text and resources for recording in-kind contributions.

A motion was made by Curet to approve changes to the budget section of the application as noted in the provided document with the addition of a mandatory request to note the total percentage of applicant's budget that is comprised of in-kind contributions, seconded by Miquelon.

The motion was carried unanimously by a voice vote.

E. Approve Revised October Meeting Date

A motion was made by Miquelon to reschedule the October Commission meeting date to Thursday, October 16th at 8:30 a.m., seconded by Klehr.

The motion was carried unanimously by a voice vote.

F. Areas of Focus Reports

Friends of Dane Arts:

- Members Ritcherson and Parks Snider, along with Executive Director Fraire, met with Madison Community Foundation to discuss creating an endowment for the Friends of Dane Arts.
- A set of financial policies and procedures will be developed and approved prior to accepting any funds.

Dane Arts Branding:

- Commissioner McKinney developed a survey for Dane Arts staff to distribute to constituents. Dane Arts staff have committed to send the survey by the end of September.

- Chair Ritcherson connected McKinney and Curet with Puleo Moyer's current work within the branding area of focus.

- A discussion took place about consistency in Dane Arts logo usage.

G. Executive Director Report

1. Budget Reduction

The reduction to the Dane Arts budget has not been officially confirmed yet.

2. Other Activities

- Dane Arts Buy Local Art Market takes place at the Farley Center in Verona, September 13th, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

- The 2026 Poster and Calendar reception is set for November 7th, 5 - 9 p.m. at Aubergine Gallery in Madison.

- A Dane Arts Holiday pop-up market is scheduled at Aubergine December 5 - 6.

- Artwork for the City-County Building has been approved and includes a photograph by Tom Jones and two sculptures created during the Harry Whitehorse International Sculpture Festival.

- The 2026 Business of Art Conference theme is "Arts Business Community" with several keynote speakers confirmed to date.

H. Future Meeting Items and Dates

1. Dane Arts Calendar of Events

Commissioners are encouraged to sign up to attend Dane Arts produced and supported events as well as chair grant review panels for the current cycle.

2. Next Meeting Date

Thursday, October 16th, 8:30 a.m.

3. Other

None.

I. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

None.

J. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

None.

K. Adjourn

A motion was made by Garret to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Augusta Brulla pending commission approval.