



# 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 21, 2024

8:30 AM

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

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#### A. Call To Order

- Present: Chair Ritcherson, Vice Chair Puleo Moyer, Supervisor Rose, Commissioner Handy, Commissioner Curet, Commissioner Klehr, Commissioner Garrett, Commissioner McKinney

- Excused: Commissioner Miquelon, Commissioner Parks Snider, Commissioner Yudice

- Quorum was established.

- Staff: Mark Fraire, Augusta Brulla

Call to order at 8:31 a.m.

**Present** 8 - Chair RODERICK RITCHERSON, AMNERIS CURET, Vice Chair MARY KLEHR, FRAN PULEO MOYER, JENNIFER GARRETT, JAY HANDY, Chair DESHAWN MCKINNEY, and RICK ROSE

**Excused** 3 - MARCIA MIQUELON, KELLY PARKS-SNIDER, and KELSEY YUDICE

#### B. Consideration of Minutes

[2024  
MIN-188](#)

[MINUTES FROM THE 06/26/2024 ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS  
COMMISSION MEETING]

**Attachments:** [2024 MIN-188](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Klehr to approve the June 26th  
commission minutes, seconded by Commissioner Garrett.

The motion was carried unanimously by a voice vote.

### **C. Presentation Group: Christina Dollhausen, Development Coordinator, Stoughton Opera House**

- *The 24-25 season was recently announced with 80 shows that encompass a large range of musical disciplines, generating record ticket sales.*
- *Stoughton Opera House was built in 1901, restored, and re-opened in 2001.*
- *As bookings grew at the Stoughton Opera House, there was noticeable economic development in the surrounding local area. This sparked Christina's interest in the creative economy and the economic impact of local arts.*
- *A Stoughton Opera House Friends Association has been established to support the Opera House beyond ticket sales.*
- *New programming at the Ghost Light Lounge in the Opera House showcases local artists and enhances the guest experience.*
- *Christina Dollhausen is currently researching the economic impact of the Stoughton Opera house within the Stoughton economy.*

## D. Area of Focus Reports

### *Executive Committee:*

- *Dane County legal counsel advised against Dane Arts hosting a County Executive debate forum.*
- *Director Fraire encouraged commissioners to attend upcoming forums and pose a question about each candidates' position on supporting local arts.*

### *Fund Development:*

- *A breakfast was held at the Madison Club to present the Change for Art employee giving program to local business executives.*
- *Several business owners attended the event and opted in to the program.*
- *Commissioner Handy noted that the breakfast provided valuable feedback from potential business partnerships.*
- *Director Fraire extends his gratitude to Chair Ritcherson and Commissioner Handy for funding the breakfast at Madison Club.*
- *Dane Arts has an existing fund at Madison Community Foundation prepared to receive funds, but a mechanism for employees to opt into the Change for Art giving program is still needed.*
- *A new donation page has been published on danearts.com. All funds raised through this donation portal will go directly to support the arts.*
- *Chair Ritcherson will meet with an attorney prior to the September Commission meeting to discuss next steps for incorporating the Friends of Dane Arts 501 (c)(3).*

### *Grant Reviews*

- *Panel dates are as follows:*
  - Monday, September 16th, 8:30 AM – 11:00 AM: Music (1)*
  - Thursday, September 19th, 8:30 AM – 11:00 AM: Multidisciplinary Arts/Culture*
  - Monday, September 23rd, 8:30 AM – 11:00 AM: Dance/Visual Arts*
  - Wednesday, September 25th, 8:30 AM – 11:00 AM: Music (2)*
  - Friday, September 27th, 8:30 AM – 11:00 AM: Arts in Education*
- *One commissioner will need to chair each panel. Commissioners who have not chaired yet are encouraged to serve as co-chairs.*
- *Commissioner McKinney proposed discussing the philosophy of how Dane Arts distributes grant dollars in the future. This conversation will be addressed during the September Commission meeting.*

### *Community Engagement/Publicity*

- *Vice Chair Puleo Moyer initiated a conversation about commissioner attendance at Dane Arts presented and supported events.*

- *Obstacles to commissioner engagement include: staff time to create a list of events and key event personnel, not having clear expectations of roles when attending events, and the time requirement of attending in-person events.*

- *Consensus was that significant advance notice of upcoming events is necessary, as well as clear expectations for commissioners when attending events.*

- *Commissioner McKinney suggested a more user-friendly calendar interface to present upcoming events, identifying a primary contact for each event, and discussing the upcoming month's events during each commission meeting.*

- *Commissioner Klehr offered assistance with future event organization.*

- *A continued discussion on commissioner attendance at Dane Arts supported events will take place during the September commission meeting.*

- *Commissioner Garrett and Vice Chair Puleo Moyer hold quarterly meetings with Dane Arts staff to discuss government engagement in the arts.*

#### *Commissioner Handbook*

- *Commissioner Klehr will explore the current handbook processes and how it can continue to be a resource for all commissioners beyond initial onboarding.*

#### *County Board*

- *Commissioners may reach out to Supervisor Rose with any questions related to the County Board of Supervisors.*

- *Supervisor Rose is in conversation with the Dane County Airport and is leading an initiative to purchase artwork by an artist from the Ho-Chunk nation for permanent display in the City-County Building. Dane Arts staff are currently exploring artist options.*

## **E. Executive Director Report**

- *Reference Director Fraire's Notes.*

- *Dane Arts launched an online directory of local artists, accessible to the public at [dablmarket.com/artist-directory](http://dablmarket.com/artist-directory)*

## **F. Future Meeting Items and Dates**

*The next commission meeting is on Wednesday, September 18th at 8:30 a.m.*

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

*None.*

## **H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law**

*None.*

## I. Adjourn

A motion was made by Commissioner Garrett to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 9:36 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Augusta Brulla pending commission approval.