



## ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

**Tuesday, January 21, 2025**  
**Multicultural Family Center, 1157 Central Ave, Dubuque, IA 52001**

### Regular Meeting

---

**Commissioners Present:** David BARBA; Gail CHAVENELLE; Doug DONALD; Nick HALDER (chair); Aaron HEFEL; Shirley DAVIS-ORWOLL

**Commissioners Absent:** Franco MENCHACA;

**Staff Present:** Bonnie SPURLING (Arts & Cultural Affairs Manager)

**Public Present:** Ali Levasseur

#### 1. Call to Order / Assurance of Iowa Open Meeting Compliance

HALDER called the meeting to order following staff assurance of Iowa Open Meeting compliance at 3:34 PM.

#### 2. Roll Call

Roll call was skipped due to familiarity with commissioners, City staff and public present.

#### 3. Oath of Office

HALDER administered the oath of office to newly appointed Commissioners BARBA, CHAVENELLE and HEFEL.

#### 4. Review and Approve Minutes from October 24, 2024.

DONALD motions to accept minutes, DAVIS-ORWOLL seconds.  
Vote: 3 Yeas (DONALD; HALDER; DAVIS-ORWOLL) and 3 abstain (BARBA; CHAVENELLE; HEFEL). Motion passes.

#### 5. Officer and Committee Appointments

Discussion took place about the Commission's committee structure to inform new Commissioners about how the Commission functions. Committee appointments for new Commissioners will take place at a future meeting.

## **6. Status Reports from Staff for Review and Acceptance**

SPURLING shared that the most recent Creative's Café took place on January 9 at the Smokestack. Five presentations were given by local creatives and representatives from arts and cultural organizations. Table discussions followed with the presenters.

SPURLING presented "Flow of Wellness" as the Art on the River Theme for 2025-2026. The Art on the River planning committee put together accompanying documents that can be used for marketing purposes. City staff will finalize details in the coming days and publish a call for artist by the end of the month.

The Winter Arts-Snow Sculpting Festival will take place February 6 – 9 at Washington Park. Snow stopping will take place February 4, with activities taking place Sunday, February 9 from 12-4pm, culminating with an awards ceremony at the Dubuque Museum of Art.

## **7. Updates from Master Plan Working Groups**

Discussion took place about the City's Arts Master Plan to inform new Commissioners about how it has been implemented and next steps.

## **8. Old Business**

### **a. Commission Strategic Plan Goals- Reporting and Discussion**

Discussion took place about the Commission's strategic plan to inform new Commissioners about its development, implementation, process and next steps. Committee appointments for new Commissioners will take place at a future meeting.

## **9. New Business**

### **a. FY26 Grant Modifications**

SPURLING and HALDER shared changes that were made to the FY26 Operational Support and Special Projects grants programs. Discussion took place among the Commissioners.

DONALD motions to approve both grant programs with the proposed changes, DAVIS-ORWOLL seconds. Vote unanimously passed. No further discussion.

This recommendation will be added to the upcoming City Council meeting for their approval. Staff will finalize the information in preparation of announcing the programs.

**b. Proposed Arts & Culture Advisory Commission Ordinance Changes**

DONALD and DAVIS-ORWOLL provided an update about the discussions taking place about updating the Commission's ordinance. Discussion followed among the Commissioners. DONALD and DAVIS-ORWOLL will take information back their committee to continue their work.

**10. Events and Engagement Reporting from Commissioners**

**11. Adjourn**

Adjournment motioned by BARBA seconded by CHAVENELLE at 5:13 PM.

**Next meeting(s):** Regular Meeting – February 25, 2025.

Respectfully submitted:

Bonnie Spurling  
Arts & Cultural Affairs Manager, City of Dubuque

These minutes were passed and approved on February 25, 2025

Witnessed By *Nick Halder* (signature)  
Nick Halder (printed)  
Char (officer position)