



## ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

**Tuesday, March 25, 2025**  
**Multicultural Family Center, 1157 Central Ave, Dubuque, IA 52001**

### Regular Meeting

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

**Commissioners Absent:** Aaron HEFEL; Franco MENCHACA

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

**Public Present:**

**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 3:31 PM.

**2. Roll Call**

Roll call was skipped due to no public being present.

**3. Review and Approve Minutes from February 25, 2025.**

BARBA motions to accept minutes with corrections, DONALD seconds. No further discussion. Vote unanimously passed.

**4. Officer and Committee Appointments**

Committee appointments for new Commissioners will take place at a future meeting.

**5. Status Reports from Staff for Review and Acceptance**

SPURLING provided an update that the Operating Support Grant closes on March 11, 2025. To date, there has been one completed submission and five in

progress. She also shared that the Special Projects Grant recently opened and will close on April 25, 2025.

SPURLING shared the next Creative's Café will take place on April 10, 2025, at Bluff Strokes. There will be a similar format as the previous event with five presentations being given by local creatives and representatives from arts and cultural organizations. Discussion followed about identifying ways to expand the reach of the Creative's Cafés.

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

Nothing new to report currently.

## **7. Old Business**

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

The grants committee has nothing new to report currently. The committee reviewing the Commission's ordinance will present their work as an agenda item under new business.

## **8. New Business**

### **a. Proposed Arts & Culture Advisory Commission Ordinance Changes**

Committee members, DONALD and DAVIS-ORWOLL have been working closely with the City Clerk's office to update the membership qualifications to better align with the Commission's current needs, as well as to provide clarity between the qualifications. Discussion took place among the Commissioners regarding the proposed changes. The committee will present the changes to the City's Legal department for their input before presenting a final version of the proposed changes to the ordinance to the Commission.

### **b. Art on the River Artist Contract Change**

SPURLING shared that there will be an update made to the artist contracts for Art on the River, beginning this year, to provide more clarity as to the duration a piece is expected to be on display.

### **c. Art on the River Selections**

SPURLING presented the 11 selected pieces, and four alternate pieces, that the jury recommends for the upcoming Art on the River. These pieces were selected from the 61 total applications.

DONALD motions to recommend the selected pieces, DAVIS-ORWOLL seconds. No further discussion. Vote was 4 Yeas, with CHAVENELLE abstaining, motion passed.

This recommendation will be added to the upcoming City Council meeting for their approval. Staff will finalize the information in preparation of announcing the selected pieces. The Commission expressed their

appreciation to the Arts on the River Committee, Staff, and the review panel for their dedication to this program.

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

**10. Adjourn**

Adjournment motioned by DAVIS-ORWOLL seconded by CHAVENELLE at 4:49 PM.

**Next meeting(s):** Regular Meeting – April 22, 2025.

Respectfully submitted:

Bonnie Spurling  
Arts & Cultural Affairs Manager, City of Dubuque

These minutes were passed and approved on April, 22, 2025

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