



## ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

**Tuesday, July 29, 2025**  
**Multicultural Family Center, 1157 Central Ave, Dubuque, IA 52001**

### Regular Meeting

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**Commissioners Present:** David BARBA; Mary LONEY BICHELL; Doug DONALD; Nick HALDER (chair); Jessica OCHOA; Shirley DAVIS-ORWOLL

**Commissioners Absent:** Gail CHAVENELLE

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

#### 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 no public being present at the start of the meeting.

#### 3. Oath of Office

DONALD administered the oath of office to the newly appointed Commissioners, LONEY BICHELL; HALDER; OCHOA; DAVIS-ORWOLL

#### 4. Officer and Committee Appointments

BARBA nominated HALDER for the position of chair, LONEY BICHELL seconds. HALDER accepts the nomination. No further nominations. Vote unanimously passed.

DAVIS-ORWOLL nominated DONALD for the position of vice-chair, BARBA seconds. DONALD accepts the nomination. No further nominations. Vote unanimously passed.

The following committee assignments were agreed upon by the Commissioners:

Art on the River: LONEY BICHELL; CHAVENELLE; DAVIS-ORWOLL

Commission Strategic Initiative 1: BARBA; DONALD; OCHOA

Grants/ Commission Strategic Initiative 2: BARBA; HALDER; OCHOA

**5. Review and Approve Minutes from June 24, 2025.**

DONALD motions to accept minutes, DAVIS-ORWOLL seconds. No further discussion. Vote 4 in favor (BARBA; DONALD; HALDER; DAVIS-ORWOLL), 2 abstain (LONEY BICHELL; OCHOA)

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

SPURLING reported that the proposed Commission ordinance changes are still with the City's legal department for review.

SPURLING shared that everything is coming together for the Art on the River opening reception. Deinstalls have taken place of last year's sculptures, with instillations beginning to take place for the new pieces. The opening reception takes place on August 1, 2025, beginning at 5pm.

The next Creative's Café will take place August 14 at the Dubuque Arboretum & Botanical Gardens. Several hands-on activities will be provided by Urban Sketchers, Planted, and Centrally Rooted.

SPURLING provided an update on the Bloomberg Asphalt Art Initiative grant and the refinishing of the original sidewalk murals. SPURLING also shared that materials for the City's Arts & Culture grant programs have been updated to reflect recent changes to legislation.

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

Nothing new to report currently.

**8. Old Business**

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

Nothing new to report currently.

**9. New Business**

**a. New Commissioner Orientation**

A discussion followed between Commissioners to share information with new members about the major initiatives/programs of the Commission.

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

Nothing new to report currently.

## **11. Public Comment**

Letters of appreciation from the Dubuque Arts Council and the Dubuque County Historical Society for recently awarded grants were shared with the Commission.

## **12. Adjourn**

Adjournment motioned by OCHOA seconded by DAVIS-ORWOLL at 5:18 PM.

**Next meeting(s):** Regular Meeting – August 26, 2025.

Respectfully submitted:  
Bonnie Spurling  
Arts & Cultural Affairs Manager, City of Dubuque

These minutes were passed and approved on August 26, 2025

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

