



## ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

**Tuesday, June 24, 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); Aaron HEFEL; Shirley DAVIS-ORWOLL

**Commissioners Absent:**

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

**Public Present:** Jenni Peterson-Brant

**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 3:43 PM.

**2. Roll Call**

Roll call was skipped due to no public being present at the start of the meeting.

**3. Review and Approve Minutes from May 27, 2025.**

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

**4. 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 plans for the Art on the River opening reception on August 1, 2025, are progressing. The committee is continuing to meet to solidify everything ahead of the reception.

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

Nothing new to report currently.

## **6. Old Business**

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

Nothing new to report currently.

## **7. New Business**

### **a. FY'26 Grant Funding Recommendations**

SPURLING presented the scoring and funding recommendations for the Operating Support and Special Projects Grant Programs. The Operating Support Grant had twenty eligible organizations, with operating expenses ranging from \$20,607 to \$1.93 million, applying for this year's funding cycle, collectively requesting \$331,244 in support. The Special Projects Grant Program received 12 eligible applications collectively requesting \$80,050. Discussion continued between the Commissioners about the two funding options that were presented for each grant program.

CHAVENELLE motions to recommend Option B for the FY'26 Operating Support Grant Program and roll over the remaining funds of \$122.84 to FY'27, DAVIS-ORWOLL seconds. No further discussion. Vote unanimously passed.

DONALD motions to recommend Option B for the FY'26 Special Projects Grant Program, HEFEL seconds. No further discussion. Vote unanimously passed.

The Commissioners express their appreciation to the review panels and staff members for their work in helping make these recommendations.

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

Commissioners shared upcoming events that they will be participating in, including Gail CHAVENELLE at the Galena Center for the Arts on June 18, and events at The Lift and Grand Opera House.

## **9. Public Comment**

Jenni Peterson-Brant shared an update about the Dubuque County Fine Arts Society and their new partner organizations. She also provided details about DubuqueFest which will take place August 2 and 3 at Washington Park.

## **10. Adjourn**

Adjournment motioned by DAVIS-ORWOLL seconded by HEFEL at 4:48 PM.

**Next meeting(s):** Regular Meeting – July 29, 2025.

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

These minutes were passed and approved on July 29, 2025

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