



ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

Tuesday, September 30, 2025
Multicultural Family Center, 1157 Central Ave, Dubuque, IA 52001

Regular Meeting

Commissioners Present: Gail CHAVENELLE; Doug DONALD; Nick HALDER (chair); Jessica OCHOA

Commissioners Absent: David BARBA; Mary LONEY BICHELL; Shirley DAVIS-ORWOLL

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

Public Present: None

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 3:41 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 July 29, 2025.

CHAVENELLE motions to accept minutes, OCHOA seconds. No further discussion. Vote 3 in favor (CHAVENELLE; HALDER; OCHOA), 1 abstain (DONALD)

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 suggested that the deadline for the call for submissions for Art on the River 2026-2027 be moved up to November. This proposed change will allow selected artists more time to fabricate their work prior to instillation. The Art on the River Committee will discuss this prospect further and bring a full proposal to the Commission at the October meeting.

SPURLING provided an update on the Bloomberg Asphalt Art Initiative grant and the refinishing of the original sidewalk murals. Only one mural remains to be refinished and should be completed in the coming weeks. She also reported that the remaining GARE Grant funds will be used towards the upcoming Creative's Cafés.

The next Creative's Café is scheduled to take place on November 13 at The Lift. It will have a trivia night format, which will allow participants to network and play trivia simultaneously.

5. Updates from Master Plan Working Groups

Nothing new to report currently.

6. Old Business

Nothing new to report currently.

7. New Business

a. Five Flags Art Collection

SPURLING reported that she is working with the management company at Five Flags, Oak View Group, on the art collection that is housed at the Five Flags Center. There is a desire by the management company to display more of the items that are currently in storage.

b. Other

Commissioners requested that Commission goal setting for the upcoming fiscal year begin at the January meeting.

8. Events and Engagement Reporting from Commissioners

DONALD shared that Fly-By-Night Productions will present "An Evening of Vanity Theatre" on Saturday, November 1 at 7pm. The event will be held at the Smokestack.

9. Public Comment

SPURLING shared a letter of appreciation from the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra for the grant funding they recently received.

10. Adjourn

Adjournment motioned by OCHOA seconded by CHAVENELLE at 4:36PM.

Next meeting(s): Regular Meeting – October 28, 2025.

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

These minutes were passed and approved on October 28, 2025

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