



ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Multicultural Family Center, 1157 Central Ave, Dubuque, IA 52001

Regular Meeting

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

Commissioners Absent: Doug DONALD; Jessica OCHOA

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 3:33 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 September 30, 2025.

CHAVENELLE motions to accept minutes, HALDER seconds. No further discussion. Vote 2 in favor (CHAVENELLE; HALDER), 2 abstain (BARBA; DAVIS-ORWOLL)

4. Status Reports from Staff for Review and Acceptance

SPURLING reported that the proposed Commission ordinance changes have been resubmitted to the City's legal department for review.

SPURLING provided an update on the Bloomberg Asphalt Art Initiative grant and the refinishing of the original sidewalk murals. All murals have been completed at this time, as well as all grant funds being expensed. The Grants Committee has continued their work in preparing information for the upcoming FY'27 grant cycle. Materials will be shared with the full Commission at an upcoming meeting.

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.

SPURLING reported that she is still looking into the art collection that is currently at Five Flags.

SPURLING shared that the theme for the 2026 Art on the River will be "Stillness in the Driftless." Promotional materials have been created, including a call for artist to go out November 3, to begin the process of identifying next year's sculptures.

SPURLING provided an update about the open seat on the Commission. The City Clerk's Office is currently seeking applications to fill the open seat.

5. Updates from Master Plan Working Groups

Nothing new to report currently.

6. Old Business

Nothing new to report currently.

7. New Business

Nothing new to report currently.

8. Events and Engagement Reporting from Commissioners

Nothing new to report currently.

9. Public Comment

Nothing new to report currently.

10. Adjourn

Adjournment motioned by DAVIS-ORWOLL seconded by CHAVENELLE at 4:57PM.

Next meeting(s): Regular Meeting – November 18, 2025.

Respectfully submitted:

Bonnie Spurling

Arts & Cultural Affairs Manager, City of Dubuque

These minutes were passed and approved on November 18, 2025

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