



**LIBERTY ARTS COMMISSION
REVISED MEETING AGENDA
Thursday, February 13, 2025
6:00 pm
City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room**

Attendance: Garrett Brown, Greg Duncan, Molly Hon, Brian Kelley, Anna Knackstedt, Katie McDonald, Karly Schieder, Bill Stilfield, Kelley Wrenn Pozel, Nathan Wyman

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|-------------|--|------------------------|
| I. | Approval of Meeting Summary | January 9, 2025 |
| II. | Current Business | |
| | Film Festival Jan 24 &25- Wrap up summary | Karly Schieder |
| | Public Art Panel
RFP for Commissioned piece update | Greg Duncan |
| | Transient Guest Tax | Anna Knackstedt |
| | Art Grants | Molly Hon |
| | 2025 Annual Grant Application Northland Summer Singers \$5,000 request | |
| | 2025 Annual Grant Application Martha Lafite Nature Sanctuary \$5,000 request | |
| | 2025 Mini Grant Application Liberty Community Chorus \$1,000 request | |
| | 2025 Mini Grant Application HDLI Utility Boxes \$2,000 request | |
| | Recognition Committee | Brian Kelley |
| | Art on the Side Committee Representative(s) | Karly Schieder |
| III. | Art Partner Reports: | |
| | Liberty Arts Foundation | Greg |
| | Library | Katie |
| | William Jewell | Nathan |
| | Corbin Theatre | Bill |
| | Liberty Public Schools | Garrett |
| | Miscellaneous Matters from the Commission | Roundtable |
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**LIBERTY ARTS
COMMISSION**

**LIBERTY ARTS COMMISSION
MEETING SUMMARY
January 9, 2025
6:00 p.m. City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room**

Present: Garrett Brown, Greg Duncan, Molly Hon, Brian Kelley, Anna Knackstedt, Kelley Wrenn Pozel, Katie McDonald, Karly Schieder, Bill Stilfield

Absent: Nathan Wyman

Staff Present: Jeanine Thill, Community Development Manager

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by Chairwoman McDonald.

Approval of Meeting Summary

Commissioner Kelley made a motion to approve the December 12, 2024 meeting summary as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hon. The motion passed 8-0-1. Councilwoman Wrenn-Pozel abstained as she was not in attendance.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

A motion was made by Commissioner Kelley to elect Katie McDonald as Chairwoman of LAC. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schieder. Motion passes 8-0-1. McDonald abstained.

A motion was made by Commissioner Duncan to elect Anna Knackstedt as Vice Chair of LAC. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wrenn-Pozel. The motion passed 8-0-1. Knackstedt abstained.

Film Festival Jan 24 &25

- Commissioner Schieder reported that the event is two weeks away. We will cap ticket sales at 150. We sold 137 tickets as of today. Tickets are \$20 for all four movies.
- Anna and Katie will volunteer that weekend.
- The after-hours party is an extra \$10 to reserve a table but that will go toward their tab at the after party.
- We have special guests to introduce films.
- All Council members and LAC members will receive a swag bag and two tickets to the Film Fest.

Public Art Panel

- Commissioner Duncan reported that the RFQ for the Commissioned sculpture for outside City Hall's Kansas Street entrance was published earlier this month, applications due March 20th.
- We have a \$100,000 budget for this piece.
- Commissioner Kelley asked if an architect will be on the PAP review committee or jury.
- Staff said that the group hasn't been finalized yet but a broad representation of people is required per our public art policy.

Transient Guest Tax

- Vice Chair Knackstedt reported that the Mural RFP is live.
- Commissioner Duncan said that he recently spoke to Greg Crowley and he didn't know about the call for murals. He said he would be happy to participate.

Art Grants

2025 Mini Grant Application Mama & Me Music Classes

- The request is \$1000 this year.
- This was something LAC funded last year with a \$500 mini grant.
- This year the applicant wants to offer an activity with the music therapist classes the funds for snacks and additional activities.
- The commission felt that the requested amount of the grant seemed like a lot of money.
- Commissioner Hon commented that she had attended the classes last year and she felt that they are high quality, with repeat attendees adding that there are people from out of town that come to the classes. They do an excellent job with marketing. The classes are monthly for an hour. The classes are typically 7-10 children.
- The Commission thought \$700 or \$750 would be a reasonable amount for the grant.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kelley to approve the application in the amount of \$750. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wrenn-Pozel. The motion passed 9-0-0.

2025 Annual Grant Application Northland Summer Singers

- The application was tabled to next month due to the fact that the Committee was not ready to make a recommendation.
- Commissioner Hon said she is working on an informational pamphlet on how to write a strong grant application, that should be ready for the next meeting.

Recognition Committee

- Commissioner Kelley thanked everyone for what they did last year. He will be trying to reach out to artist to thank them.
- Commissioner Duncan said Pat Birt who recently had an art show at the Community Center was so thrilled with her thank you note.
- The commission thanked Commissioner Kelley for taking the time to send the cards.

Art Partner Reports:

Liberty Arts Foundation

- Commissioner Duncan said they are working to get a mailing out.

Library

- Chairwoman McDonald said the Library is still featuring the Kirk brothers at the Withers Branch.

Corbin Theatre

- Commissioner Stilfield reported that tonight is the first night of Fiddler on the Roof at Jewell, tomorrow night and Saturday matinee and an evening performance.
- Tickets are only \$15 or \$5 for children.

Liberty Public Schools

- No report.

Miscellaneous Matters from the Commission-Roundtable

- Commissioner Duncan reported that William Jewell is having financial troubles. It is important for us to be aware and supportive and encouraging to the people affiliated with the college. There is a press release on their website.

Art on the Side (AOS)

- Commissioner Schieder reported that AOS would like a representative from the Arts Commission on their planning committee, and she will be out of town for the event day.
- If anyone is interested in serving on that committee, please let Commissioner Schieder know.
- Commissioner Kelley reported that the Libertyopoly game has an image of the heart, similar to our Open Heart sculpture on the token.

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Kelley and seconded by Commissioner Knackstedt.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:50 p.m.

2025 Annual Art Grant

2025 Annual Art Grant - Application

Submission and Review: This application is for the 2025 calendar year. Applications will be reviewed as they come in, but funds will not be paid out until January 2025.

Organization Name (If applicable)	William Baker Choral Foundation
Address	5450 Buena Vista St, Suite 100
Contact Name	Laura Baker
Title	Director of Development
Email	lbaker@festivalsingers.org
Phone	8169148791
Project Name	Northland Summer Singers
Has this project been held before?	No
If yes, please list the years and locations	<i>Field not completed.</i>
List any additional co-sponsors of the project:	Wardell and Holmes Real Estate
List any other organizations, government entities and/or grants that have offered financial support of the project:	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Do you intend to request support from businesses in the form of sponsorships, donations, materials or other means that will assist you in executing the project?	Yes

Is this a ticketed event?	No
If yes, please list price of ticket, admission, entry fee:	25
Total Liberty Arts Commission grant funds requested (not to exceed \$5,000):	5000

(Section Break)

Related Documents

Budget	Northland Summer Singers Budget 2025.pdf
Work Sample 1	St. James Catholic Church choral presentation Work Sample 1.jpg
Work Sample 2	Northland Summer Singers Work Sample 2 YouTube links.pdf
Work Sample 3	Danny Baker directing Work Sample 3.jpg
Work Sample 4	Northland Summer Singers.pdf
Non-profit 501(c)3 Documents (If Applicable)	WBCF 501(c)(3) Documents.pdf

(Section Break)

Narrative Questions

Please describe the proposed project, including activities, location and the number of people to be served.	<p>The proposed project is the inaugural season for a new community choir located in Liberty, the Northland Summer Singers, performing Baroque classics by Vivaldi + Martini. Weekly evening choir rehearsals with piano are to begin on Monday, June 9th at St. James Catholic Church. The rehearsal + concert home is located @ 309 Stewart Rd, with convenient access to Kansas Street (152 Highway) and Interstate 35. Free on-site parking is plentiful and accessible to the Church.</p> <p>There will be a dress rehearsal with orchestra (5 strings, oboe, trumpet + organ/harpsichord) and professional soloists (2 sopranos, 1 alto, 1 Tenor, and 1 Bass) on Saturday, August 9. The concert performance with all the musicians is set for</p>
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Sunday afternoon, August 10. The Northland Summer Singers will perform Antonio Vivaldi's GLORIA and BEATUS VIR + Giovanni Battista Martini's DOMINE AD ADJUVANDUM ME FESTINA.

Weekly rehearsals include vocal warm-ups with staff from the Choral Foundation's Institute for Healthy Singing & Voice Research (IHS&VR). And, during the summer one Healthy Singing workshop will be taught to the chorus by the director of IHS&VR, Dr. Jamea Sale.

In addition, a weekly email will be sent to all registered members by the director, Danny Baker, informing them of what they can prepare for the next week in self-study of the music. He may also share logistics of rehearsals, including break outs for sectional study.

At this point, Danny Baker is confident that he will have at least 60 enrolled singers for the performance. There will be 13 additional musicians contracted for orchestra and soloists. With the excitement and buzz around the project, we expect to have a large house for the concert. St. James seats well over 1,000, but we will plan for an audience of at least 350. Adding all the parties, we expect the Northland Summer Singers project to serve approximately 425 participants. This total does not include all the people that engage with social media through weekly posts, YouTube videos of the concert, and any readers of articles about the ensemble or director in local printed/online news outlets.

Briefly describe the value of the project as a way to attract outside visitors to the City of Liberty.

Include descriptions of the intended audience and estimated numbers. Why will this project be particularly attractive to tourists?

Our moto at the Choral Foundation is that 'Arts are essential' and make communities wonderful places to live and to raise a family! By adding a summer choral / orchestral ensemble to the community of Liberty, a unique opportunity is offered for artistic outlet during the summer months, when most performing ensembles are on break. In addition, there are not many live performances in summer months, so the Northland Summer Singers will serve the audience participants that appreciate classical music in the Northland areas, as well.

Another valuable attraction for singers is the opportunity to perform with members of the Kansas City Symphony, who is now considered one of the best orchestras in the country! People residing in the Northland may not make a trip into downtown KC for a symphony concert, but would very likely come to hear them in Liberty. Professional soloists are also a big draw for singers and also attract audience members.

Amateur singers working with professional musicians gives them an opportunity like no other.

We believe this project would be very attractive to outside visitors to the city of Liberty if they have family/friends performing in the chorus. In addition, the draw to see talented members of the KC Symphony performing familiar Vivaldi works, will be strong.

The intended audience will include family/friends of the performers, members of St. James church, members of other William Baker Choral Foundation ensembles, William Jewel students, friends of the director, Danny Baker to support his new project group, and classic music enthusiasts from the Northland areas. The St. James Church holds approximately 1,200 people and we intend to have a very large audience in the Northland Summer Singers inaugural concert!

Provide a brief timeline for the project (planning, implementation and evaluation).

October 2024 – planning meeting with Dr. Baker, Danny Baker and Laura Baker, finalize dates for Northland Summer Singers rehearsals and performance and create a budget for the project

November 2024 – Danny adds rehearsal and performance dates to calendar at St. James Church

December 8, 2024 – Danny makes an announcement at Liberty Community Chorus Christmas Concert inviting participants to join Northland Summer Singers in 2025

January 2025 – Add Danny to website as new staff member and make announcements to Choral Foundation ensembles

January/February 2025 – Send post card invitations to join Northland Summer Singers from the Choral Foundation to church leaders in Liberty and surrounding Northland communities (including St. Joseph), plus music educators at MO Western College, Park University, William Jewel and others.

January 30, 2025 - Make announcement to major supporters at Choral Foundation Gala Fundraising event about new ensemble to serve the communities in the Northland

February 2025 – create Facebook and Instagram pages for Northland Summer Singers and start to build the social media followers

March 1, 2025 – Early Bird registrations begin for all the Summer Singers ensembles, including Northland Summer Singers

June 2025 – Weekly posts on social media to help build interest and registration in the choir

June 9, 2025 – First rehearsal begins from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at St. James Church in the Nave

June 23, 2025 – Jamea J. Sale, PhD, the Director of the Institute for Healthy Singing and Voice Research, makes a presentation and choral training to the chorus

August 1, 2025 – WBCF admin staff to create concert program and send to printer

August 9, 2025 – Dress rehearsal from 9:00 to 12:00 at St. James Church, all singers and orchestra, and soloists are placed

August 10, 2025 – The inaugural Northland Summer Singers + special musical guests perform - Antonio Vivaldi's GLORIA and BEATUS VIR + Giovanni Battista Martini's DOMINE AD ADJUVANDUM ME FESTINA

August 11, 2025 – Evaluate the successes (artistic, reach to the community, audience participants) of the Northland Summer Singers with Choral Foundation staff, and make a final social media post to thank everyone involved with the new ensemble.

Describe the credentials and experience of the project leadership. Who are the artists and others to be involved in the project; including how and why they were chosen (If you have not yet selected the artists, describe the kinds of artists you intend to involve and how you will select them).

Danny Baker, Music Director/Founder Northland Summer Singers

Daniel A. Baker joined the Choral Foundation family as a member of the William Baker Festival Singers in 2022. Danny has many talents in addition to his singing talents. He is an accomplished piano/organist accompanist, music director, and is well-known over the Kansas City area for his professionalism & passion for music. Danny is excited to expand the Choral Foundation portfolio of ensembles into a growing area of the Northland of Kansas City with the ensemble, Northland Summer Singers, reaching out to the communities of Liberty, Parkville, KCMO, St. Joseph, and beyond.

Danny is presently the Director of Liturgy and Music with the historic St. James Catholic Church (est. in 1837) located in Liberty, MO. He is the principal organist, and is the music director of both the St. James Parish choir and St. James Parish Handbell choir. In addition to being a staff member, he served on a design team to help create the beautiful modern St. James Church that was built in 2019 to serve a growing Catholic community in Liberty. He continues to grow in his love for choral music by coordinating and serving as host to a variety of live choir performances at St. James, including local and traveling community choirs from across the country. Currently serving as Tenor Section Leader, Resident Organist,

and Rehearsal Accompanist for the William Baker Festival Singers, Danny is also an instructor of Keyboard Arts / Collaborative Pianist at William Jewell College located in Liberty, Missouri. In recent years, Danny has served as staff accompanist for Liberty Community Chorus + Northwest Missouri State University as well as offering private instruction in voice and piano.

Leslie Bunch, rehearsal/performance accompanist Northland Summer Singers

Leslie is a well-respected collaborative pianist with over three decades of experience in vocal music. Retired from a 29-year career teaching vocal music, Leslie continues to share her passion for music as an adjunct collaborative pianist at William Jewell College, most recently accompanying in numerous vocal music studios as well as the college's production of the fall opera THE MEDIUM.

In addition to her work at William Jewell, Leslie is an in-demand accompanist with Liberty Public Schools and frequently collaborates at regional festivals and contests throughout the Kansas City area. Her versatility as a pianist extends to her part-time role at Second Baptist Church in Liberty, Missouri, where she often contributes to worship services and special events.

Leslie's education began at Northwest Missouri State University, where she studied piano and developed a strong foundation in collaborative performance. During her time at NWMSU, Leslie was the primary accompanist for numerous choirs and musical theater productions, gaining invaluable experience in ensemble settings. Leslie also had the honor of accompanying the Missouri All-State Choir for three years. With a deep commitment to fostering musical growth in others, Leslie's career as a collaborative pianist has spanned diverse genres, including opera, choral music, musical theater, and sacred music.

Dr. Jamea J. Sale, Executive Associate Director of the William Baker Choral Foundation + Director of the Institute for Healthy Singing & Voice Research

Dr. Sale has a rich academic background, earning her Bachelor of Music Education in K-12 Vocal and Instrumental Music from Kansas State University in 1987. In 2012 she completed her Master of Music Education in Vocal/Choral Pedagogy at the University of Kansas in Lawrence and her Music Education PhD Vocal/Choral Pedagogy and Research Design from the same institution in 2022. To continue her

passion of the connection between the voice science and the art of singing, Jamea and her staff train all of the 12 ensembles of the Choral Foundation (located in 4 states) in healthy singing practices. Most recently, Dr. Sale forged a collaboration between the Institute for Healthy Singing and Voice Research and the voice specialists at Ascentist Healthcare to focus on preventative voice care and assist those in vocal recovery. Together, they serve people suffering from hoarseness, tension, limited range, and other health issues affecting the singing voice and advocate for lifespan-healthy vocal practices.

Dr. Sale has been an integral part of the music community in the Kansas City Metropolitan Area. She has been a member and soloist with the William Baker Festival Singers and the Summer Singers of Kansas City since 2002. Recently, Jamea received the 2024 Arts Advocate Award from The Arts Council of Johnson County, a recognition given to an individual who has dedicated significant time, effort, and leadership, leading to a positive impact on the creative economy and the arts in Johnson County, Kansas.

Other artists to be involved in the project

At this point the soloists and orchestra musicians have not been selected for the project. For the 7 players, the William Baker Choral Foundation uses an orchestra contractor, Alex Shum, to hire the instrumentalists. Alex is a principal violin player with the Kansas City Symphony Orchestra and has been the Choral Foundation's contractor for project orchestras for over 25 years. Each player will be personally selected by Alex from the Kansas City Symphony roster or substitute roster for the symphony, so we know they have the professionalism and skills to play beautifully with only one working rehearsal with the Northland Summer Singers.

The soloists will be chosen by the music director, Danny Baker, with recommendations by the Director of the Choral Foundation, William Baker. Most soloist recommendations will be members of the Choral Foundation's professional ensemble, The William Baker Festival Singers.

How will you know if this project has been successful? State the goals you will have achieved by its conclusion.

We will measure the success of the Northland Summer Singers project in a number of ways.

1. Quality of musicians

When a quality product is presented to a community, a high level of musician is attracted to participate. The reputation of the William Baker Choral Foundation (WBCF) is known in the

communities that we serve which leads musicians to inquire about joining ensembles. Members that have participated in other WBCF Summer ensembles will also recruit new musicians to participate based on their experiences.

2. Improvement of Music Skills

By improving music skills, a higher level of professionalism is introduced, bringing a level of excellence to the ensemble that improves the overall look/sound. This is an excellent indicator of success. Increased skills offer an experience of more complex and diverse repertoire keeping members engaged, increasing professional skills, and a mutual respect for fellow musicians in the ensemble.

3. Audience Participation + Revenue

The number of audience participants is always a good indicator that we have achieved a successful concert offering to the community. The expressions seen on audience participants can range from an outburst of joy/clapping to dissolving in tears. We provide a safe outlet for the audience participants to express their emotions and be involved in a life-changing arts experience. Ticket sales at concerts can provide a source of revenue for the organization, which we track and monitor through credit card and cash sales.

4. Critical Review and Buzz

Media coverage in local newspapers, arts magazines, and online calendars increases interest and buzz. The successes of social media posts and printed coverage increases morale and bring participants to a higher performance level. The Choral Foundation has a large social media presence on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube, engaging thousands of followers who use these platforms to learn about upcoming concerts and major announcements.

5. Community Impact

We see an impact on our community with texts, posts, cards, and emails from people expressing thanks to the members and staff. By building new relationships, we create stronger bonds between people in the music community. A successful concert bodes well for recruitment for the Northland Summer Singers in 2026. Next time, the singers bring their friends and family creating an impactful and bonding experience in the Liberty Community.

Goals that we plan to achieve after the conclusion of the Inaugural year of the Northland Summer Singers...

1) Recruit new voices in the Northland area to participate in a

life-changing masterworks through the Choral Foundation 2) Increase education of Healthy Singing to the Liberty community and improve on music skills in participants 3) Build a new audience of supporters for the Choral Foundation in a growing suburb of Kansas City 4) create a summer singing community chorus fostering the art of excellent choral singing 5) encourage through social media and press releases + critical reviews to bring tourism into the Liberty community

As you work toward the project date, what benchmarks will you use to assure progress toward your goals? Afterward, what tools will you use to evaluate whether or not the goals were achieved?

There are several benchmarks that will illustrate progress toward our goals of a successful recruitment choir & enthusiastic audience for the first Northland Summer Singers concert in Liberty.

In January of 2025, we will start making announcements and press releases to media about the new ensemble under the umbrella of the William Baker Choral Foundation (WBCF). This will include internal email blasts to our Kansas City musicians that participate in other WBCF ensembles, including the William Baker Festival Singers, Summer Singers of KC, Summer Singers of Lee's Summit, Summer Singers Academy, Kansas City Bronze, and Voces Festivas. Other announcements will go out on all the Kansas City area Facebook pages. We can tally interest by these activities from comments by friends/supporters.

As we begin to make it known in KC about the new ensemble, we will send press releases to a number of outlets to help us get the word out. WBCF has established connections with the Courier Tribune, the Independent Magazine, The Kansas City Star, and KC Arts Beat, who all have reporters that support the vibrant arts community in the KC Metro area & the growing arts community in Liberty. Printed articles by established newspapers and online pages to promote the project have a profound impact for recruitment of singers and audience at the concert.

Registrations begin in early spring and continue through the 2nd rehearsal date. We can quickly evaluate the success of the Northland Summer Singers by counting the number of people who register to participate. In its inaugural year, Danny Baker has a goal of attracting at least 60 singers, but the staff at WBCF thinks it could get much higher due to Danny's connections with 2nd Baptist Church, Liberty United Methodist Church, William Jewell College staff, and his connection with the Liberty Community chorus music director, Bryan Taylor, who are all highly supportive of the Northland Summer

Singers project success.

Throughout the year, at all WBCF concerts, we will have flyers announcing the new ensemble, and we also plan to make announcements at the Liberty Community Choir rehearsals and pass out flyers at their concerts throughout the Spring 2025 semester. Depending on comments by interested singers and the number of flyers distributed, we can estimate a successful recruitment for the ensemble, based on other WBCF ensembles located in KS and MO.

At the concert in August, we will be able to determine the success of the new music experience in Liberty by the number of singers enrolled in the choir and audience participants who purchase tickets. A large number of participants illustrates the impact from WBCF and a great need for this type of community choir ensemble in the community of Liberty. Furthermore, we plan to invite a music critic to include a review of the concert in their publication, bringing further recognition to the project and promoting the unique arts offering in Liberty.

Briefly describe how the project will be publicized and promoted to reach potential tourists, as well as the general public. All marketing materials must include the LAC logo and language stating the project was made possible in part by the LAC.

To publicize the project, we intend to submit our event to the online calendar www.visitlibertymo.com

The Choral Foundation will place an advertisement in the Liberty Courier-Tribune to promote the event
Northland Summer singers' members will be invited to put up Concert Posters in downtown Liberty to attract visitors from retail and restaurants.

Use hashtags on social media marketing #ThatsMyMO

#LibertyMO #GiveMeLiberty

The Choral Foundation has an email list of supporters in the Northland and will use that to promote and market the concert in Liberty

We will also print a promotional postcard to attract participants in the choir, sending them to education and church choir programs in Liberty, Parkville, St. Joseph

All printed promotional materials such as concert posters, and concert programs would all add the LAC logo and say 'This Concert is Sponsored in part by the Liberty Arts Commission'.

Describe the extent of community support for this project, including collaboration/partnerships, financial and in-kind

Community support for the Northland Summer Singers will come in many forms as a result of the various connections that the music director Danny Baker has already formed as a successful leader in the Liberty Arts community.

Firstly, the St. James Catholic Church, where Danny Baker is the Director of Liturgy and Music, is very supportive of music

contributions, volunteers, etc.

endeavors in Liberty and will support the Summer Singers by providing a rehearsal and performance venue as an in-kind contribution to the Choral Foundation. Furthermore, they will promote for singer recruitment and for the performance in announcements to the congregation, that reaches well over 2,400 members.

One of Danny's choir members works for a real estate company called Wardell and Holmes, and she has pledged a donation to support the project, but we are unaware at this time of the donation amount.

Since Liberty is such a close-knit community, the churches are especially supportive of each other and the many music offerings in Liberty. We expect to attract singers from the following congregations, St. James, Second Baptist, Hosana Lutheran Church, and Liberty UMC with Danny's colleagues at each location.

Danny & Leslie serve as a staff accompanists at William Jewel College, so as staff members they can promote the Northland Summer Singers with the students. The Choral Foundation offers a special student rate for tuition, which should be especially appealing to the Jewel choral students.

Discussions have already been started with Bryan Taylor, the music director of Liberty Community Chorus, which draws a large chorus throughout the year, but does not sing during the summer months. We feel that given the option, the Northland Summer Singers will draw participants from LCC, as well.

Bryan is pleased to support our efforts to add a quality choral/orchestral option in the summer months in Liberty.

Regarding community support, Danny Baker has an established relationship with Kellie Houx, the Community Editor at the Courier-Tribune newspaper that serves the communities of Liberty, Excelsior Springs, and Kearny. In the past, Kellie has been very supportive of the Arts in these communities and we expect her to be supportive of the new ensemble, Northland Summer Singers, located in Liberty.

William Baker Choral Foundation
December 31, 2024

NORTHLAND SUMMER SINGERS BUDGET

Project: BAROQUE MASTERWORKS by Antonio Vivaldi's GLORIA and BEATUS VIR + Giovanni Battista Martini's DOMINE AD ADJUVANDUM ME FESTINA

STAFF

Danny Baker, Artistic Director/Founder	\$1500
Leslie Bunch, Rehearsal accompanist	\$1000
Dr. Jamea J. Sale, IHS&VR workshop	\$750
Niccole Williams, Admin staff	\$1000
Alex Shum, Orchestra Contractor	\$500

CONTRACTORS

Orchestra (including 7 players)	\$2500
Organist	\$500
5 pro soloists (2 sopranos, alto, tenor, bass)	\$1250

MARKETING

Costs for printing flyers, postcards, stamps, and ads placed in Liberty Courier-Tribune	\$1500
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TOTAL	\$10,500
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2025 Annual Art Grant

2025 Annual Art Grant - Application

Submission and Review: This application is for the 2025 calendar year. Applications will be reviewed as they come in, but funds will not be paid out until January 2025.

Organization Name (If applicable)	Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Sanctuary
Address	407 N. La Frenz Road, Liberty MO 64068
Contact Name	Anne Nickel
Title	President of the Board
Email	anne.nickel2@gmail.com
Phone	816-810-5268
Project Name	Bridging Art & Nature
Has this project been held before?	No
If yes, please list the years and locations	<i>Field not completed.</i>
List any additional co-sponsors of the project:	Liberty Plein Air/Art on the Side
List any other organizations, government entities and/or grants that have offered financial support of the project:	Applying for City of Liberty Tourism Grant for advertising
Do you intend to request support from businesses in the form of sponsorships, donations, materials or other means that will assist you in executing the project?	No

Is this a ticketed event?	Yes
If yes, please list price of ticket, admission, entry fee:	\$5 donation requested for gallery, there will be a cost for art classes
Total Liberty Arts Commission grant funds requested (not to exceed \$5,000):	\$5000

(Section Break)

Related Documents

Budget	Bridging Art Nature Budget.xlsx
Work Sample 1	Bridging Art and Nature.jpg
Work Sample 2	Nano.jpg
Work Sample 3	Holly.jpeg
Work Sample 4	Tom.jpg
Non-profit 501(c)3 Documents (If Applicable)	Tax Exempt Form MLTNS.pdf

(Section Break)

Narrative Questions

Please describe the proposed project, including activities, location and the number of people to be served.	Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Sanctuary is approaching its 50th anniversary in 2026. To increase community engagement, we have been creating exhibits to focus on a yearly theme, including The Legendary Lafite and Dino-mite Dino Life! The theme for 2025 is Bridging Art & Nature and will include more activities and events than just an exhibit. There will be four Engagement Components to our year of nature art, each designed to connect with the following demographics within our community: K-12 students, art enthusiasts of varied ages, hobby and professional artists, retirees, and nature enthusiasts. Our overarching goal is to make MLTNS more known to the community, and by doing so, raise operational funds to fulfill our mission to provide a place for people to
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“Connect with Nature.”

Engagement Component 1: Exhibition Gallery. The 1500 ft² exhibit space in the Nature Center will be transformed into an art gallery featuring at least four different artists whose works center on nature. Confirmed artists include Nano Nore, Holly Schenk, Tom Holle, and student artists studying at Orange Easel Art Studio. Besides highlighting artists of all ages, these artists span an array of mediums—acrylics, charcoal, pastels, oils, photography—and styles—realism, pointillism, and expressionism. In addition to the gallery, visitors will have the opportunity to contribute to a community art project that will grow and evolve as individuals add their element to the collective work.

Engagement Component 2: Art classes. We will offer at least 4 single event nature-themed art classes taught by local artists. Two classes will be geared toward artists under the age of 15 and two will be geared toward adults 16 and over. A preliminary lineup of classes offered include a parent/child circuit bugs class, a tween metal tooling insects class, and adult cyanotyping, watercolor, and drawing classes.

Engagement Component 3: Plein Air. In conjunction with Plein Air Liberty, MLTNS will be a host-site for a nature-themed Plein Air on October 5. As artists create their works for a quick paint, local citizens will have the opportunity to observe and interact with the artists as well as purchase artwork created at the event.

Engagement Component 4: Bridging Art & Nature Year End Gala. Participating artists from the entire year, parents of student artists, MLTNS members, and distinguished invited guests will have the opportunity to view the gallery and purchase art in a festive gala held on a date between October 27 and November 26.

Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Sanctuary will be the location for all Engagement Components of the year of nature art.

Estimates for number of people served:

Gallery—300, Art Classes—80, Plein Air—20 artists and 100 community members, Year End Gala—100.

Briefly describe the value of the project as a way to attract outside visitors to the City of Liberty.

Include descriptions of the intended audience and

MLTNS is the best-kept secret inside and outside Liberty, but we are earnestly trying to change that. All Engagement Components of Bridging Art & Nature will appeal to locals, but we also feel visitors from the KC Metro and beyond will find these offerings unique and intriguing. The gallery artists have followers outside Liberty which we hope to attract, in addition

estimated numbers. Why will this project be particularly attractive to tourists?

to parents of Orange Easel students and general art enthusiasts of all ages. The Art Classes will attract youth and adult artists from across the Metro because of their unique course offerings. The Plein Air will have the largest opportunity to attract outside visitors because of the collaboration with Plein Air Liberty. Participating artists often travel from all over the region to compete and tourists who enjoy Plein Air activities will be drawn to this 3-day event. Most Plein Air are urban or suburban-centric, so including a competition in a nature setting will appeal to a different subset of artists and tourists alike. The Year End Gala will focus on Liberty guests but some members and distinguished invitees will be from the KC Metro. These guests will include featured artists, parents of student artists, MLTNS members and supporters, elected City officials, and prominent business owners with whom we have affiliation.

Provide a brief timeline for the project (planning, implementation and evaluation).

Planning:
November 2024-February 2025: contact artists for participation in gallery, establish collaborations with local entities (Orange Easel School of Art, The Artisan Market), set dates for art classes, detail plans for Plein Air, collect contacts for Year End Gala guests and contributing artists to art sale, seek sponsorships
Implementation:
February 2025: prepare gallery space and installation of art, advertising and internet sign-up for Art Classes
March 2025: gallery opens
March – September 2025: gallery open, at least 4 art classes offered, collaborate with Plein Air Liberty as needed for Plein Air event
August - September 2025: detail plans & send invitations for Year End Gala
October 5, 2025: Plein Air event at MLTNS
October 5-November 26: Plein Air art on display (in addition to gallery), Bridging Art & Nature Year End Gala
Evaluation:
December 2025: Complete evaluation and submit final report. Data and receipts will be collected for each Engagement Component of Bridging Art & Nature immediately following the conclusion of each element including:
Gallery—number of artist participants, number of visitors/month
Art classes—number of participants in each class

Plein Air—number of artist participants, number of visitors, hometown of visitors

Year End Gala—number of guests

A post-event survey will also be employed for the Gallery, Art Classes, and Plein Air to quantify satisfaction, monetary and educational value, likelihood to return to MLTNS, and which advertising avenue was effective.

Careful and timely data collection will ensure the final report is submitted on time.

Describe the credentials and experience of the project leadership. Who are the artists and others to be involved in the project; including how and why they were chosen (If you have not yet selected the artists, describe the kinds of artists you intend to involve and how you will select them).

This project is led by Anne Nickel, President of the Board of Directors at MLTNS. Anne has a B.A. in Biology from William Jewell College and a Master's in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Iowa State University. After teaching in the Department of Biology at William Jewell College for 15 years, she now owns her own small business, Bloom Landscaping. Anne has served as President of the Board for 8 years. In 2023 she created The Legendary Lafite: Rediscovering Martha and Her Enduring Legacy, an exhibit based on research into Martha Lafite's life and times. In conjunction with the exhibit opening, Anne hosted a VIP gala which was met with much success. In 2024, Anne created the interactive dinosaur exhibit, Dino-mite Dino Life! This was again based on academic research and the fossils generously loaned by Smithville residents Bruce and Judith Wake. Anne has been a Liberty resident for almost 22 years and has many connections to local business owners and community leaders.

Artist Holly Ann Schenk

Holly grew up in Nebraska, where she received both Bachelors and Masters degrees in Art Education. She has lived in the Kansas City area since 1982 and was an art director at Hallmark Cards for twelve years. She has taught art in numerous settings, including both public and private elementary and high schools, the University of Nebraska-Kearney, and the Kansas City Art Institute. Holly's artwork consists primarily of acrylic paintings and pastels, although she is comfortable with many different media. Her favorite style is a form of pointillism. She counts Seurat and Van Gogh as major influences.

Holly's subject matter comes primarily from personal reference photos, but color is always a central focus in her work. The world surrounds us with an amazing array of colors, shapes, and relationships. Holly enjoys incorporating those elements in her artwork in order to share her wonder with the viewer.

Holly is a former Board Member at MLTNS and is passionate about supporting MLTNS while cultivating the arts.

Artist Nano Nore

Nano Nore is a retired Professor emeritus at William Jewell College where she taught art history, printmaking, and advanced painting. She graduated from the Kansas City Art Institute in 1974 and earned an MA and MFA in 1976 and 1990 respectively from Texas Woman's University. Nano Nore has exhibited her art in 23 one-person shows, and 48 juried and group exhibits. Her work is in collections in Norway, England, Canada, Australia and the United States. Her studio, Nano Nore Artworks, is located in Liberty.

Nano has used Rush Creek and MLTNS for 30 years as inspiration for numerous works of art, as well as a location for teaching college art classes. Her deep connection to nature, and MLTNS in particular, is her reason for inclusion in the gallery.

Artist Tom Holle

Tom Holle was born in Clinton, Iowa but lived most of his life in Kansas City, Missouri. He served 25 years as a Kansas City Fire Fighter and retired with the rank of Captain. Tom was a member of the Northern Exposure Art Gallery and was well known by family and friends for his beautiful photographs. He participated in and won several photography contests at MLTNS. Tom passed away on December 25, 2017. He donated many of his photographs to MLTNS with the desire to have them displayed in an art show. Tom's wife, Jeanie, volunteers with the Northland Wood Carvers, which meet every second Saturday at MLTNS. We would like to honor Tom and Jeanie's love of nature photography and support of MLTNS by including Tom's photographs in the gallery.

Collaborator Allison Jenson: Artist & Owner of Orange Easel School of Art

Collaborator Shawn Garland: Artist, Owner, & Curator of The Artisan Market

There is a high likelihood that several other artists will be displayed in the gallery. Additional artists will be chosen based on artistic merit and type of medium in order to maximize the diversity of nature art and the diversity of artists creating the works.

How will you know if this project has been successful? State the goals

The mission of Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Sanctuary is to protect native habitats and wildlife while providing opportunity for people to discover and connect with nature. This project will

you will have achieved by its conclusion.

be considered successful if we introduce more people to MLTNS and all it has to offer the community. Each Engagement Component of the project will draw upon demographics not currently being reached, primarily those who appreciate art across all age ranges. More specifically, we aim to reach 300 visitors to the Gallery, 80 students to Art Classes, 20 artists and 100 community members to the Plein Air, and 100 guests to the Year End Gala. Each of these events will intentionally increase awareness of MLTNS in the community, which will have ripple effects of increasing participation in future education and summer camp programs. Bridging Art & Nature events will also generate revenue to support operations.

As you work toward the project date, what benchmarks will you use to assure progress toward your goals? Afterward, what tools will you use to evaluate whether or not the goals were achieved?

The timeline for completion will serve as a benchmark for completing all tasks related to the entirety of the Bridging Art & Nature project. The planning stage will be particularly important as dates will be set for Art Classes and art will be installed in the gallery. Online sign-ups for Art Classes will be a barometer for the effectiveness of advertising and if needed, more and/or different advertising can be done to boost enrollment. In collaboration with Art on the Side we can track artist registration and help as needed to promote our part of the Plein Air to artists and the community. Afterward, data collection and post-event surveys will help determine if our goals were achieved.

Briefly describe how the project will be publicized and promoted to reach potential tourists, as well as the general public. All marketing materials must include the LAC logo and language stating the project was made possible in part by the LAC.

All Engagement Components of Bridging Art & Nature will be promoted on Facebook, the City of Liberty's e-mail newsletter, the HDLI e-mail newsletter, the Courier-Tribune, KC Studio magazine, and two radio ads on KCUR. MLTNS also has an extensive e-mail distribution list. The Plein Air will be publicized and promoted through Art on the Side. Other opportunities for promotion will arise as sponsorships with local businesses are established and via participating artists. Because of Bridging Art & Nature's focus on nature images, effort will be made to increase usage of Instagram for promotions. Please note that funding for the Bridging Art & Nature advertising campaign is being requested from The City of Liberty Tourism Grant.

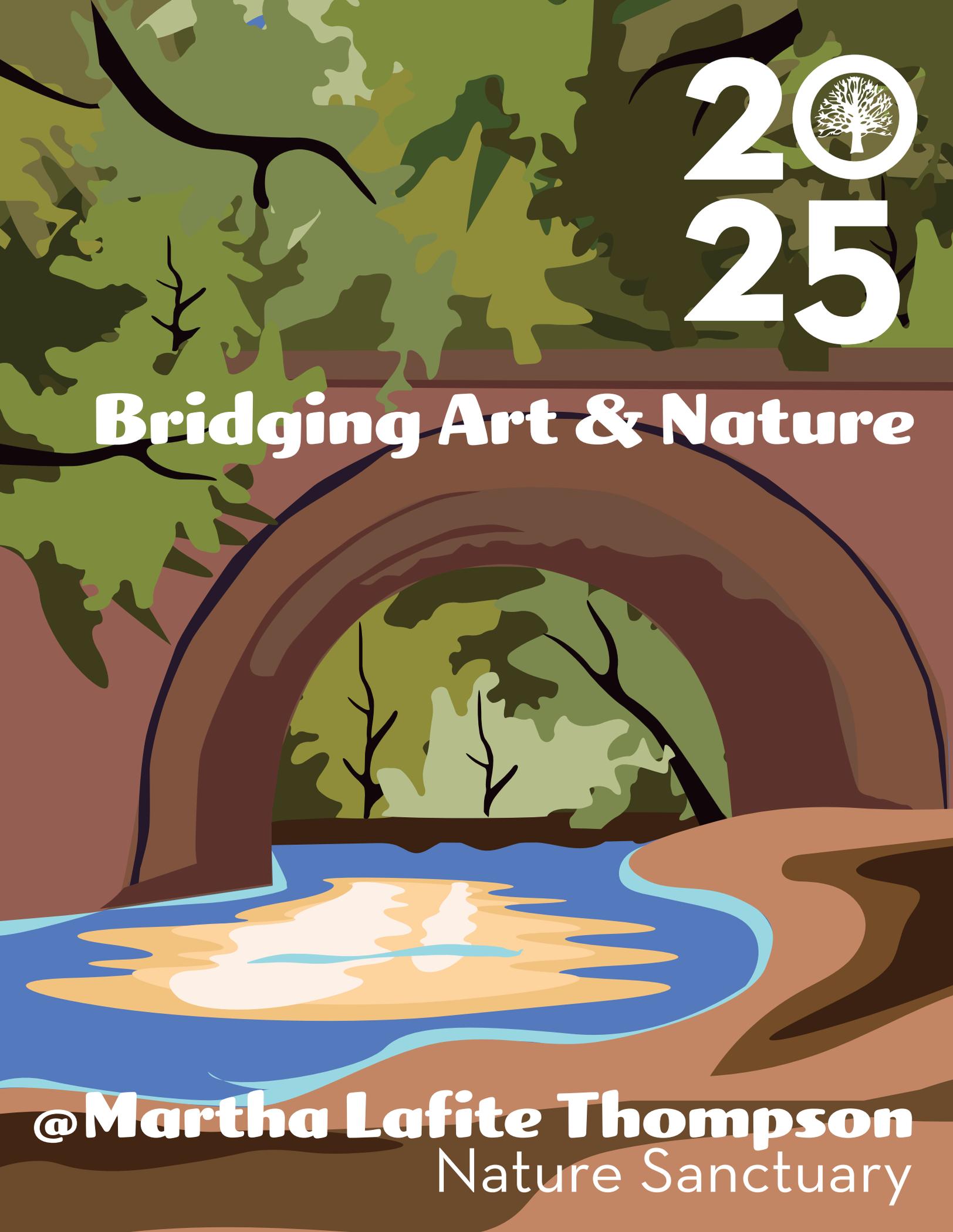
Describe the extent of community support for this project, including collaboration/partnerships,

Community support will be vital for the success of this project. Our collaboration with Orange Easel and The Artisan Market/Art on the Side are crucial for the gallery to have pieces from young artists and for us to be part of the Liberty Plein Air.

financial and in-kind contributions, volunteers, etc.

We will be utilizing volunteers to support on-site activities, including the Art Classes and Plein Air. Other Board members will also be volunteering their time and energy as needed in the planning and implementation stages. Financial and in-kind contributions will be necessary to offset the cost of the project, as our goal is to ultimately raise revenue. We have a number of businesses that regularly donate to MLTNS, so we will be requesting additional donations as well as reaching out to new businesses and individuals that could meet specific needs.

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20
25

Bridging Art & Nature

@Martha Lafite Thompson
Nature Sanctuary

Category	Item Description	Quantity	Cost
Gallery	Print Name Plates, Artist Biographies, Signs		\$200
	Gridwall Wire Panels Display Rack (I shape)	3	\$540
	S hook hangers for Display Rack (30 pack)	6	\$54
	LED Track Lighting fixtures & bulbs		\$300
	Art Supplies for community project		\$250
Art Classes	Art Teacher, 2 hour class	4	\$800
	Art Supplies for 20 students	4	\$400
	Scholarships (for student artists)	2	\$225
Plein Air	Prize Money (BIS, 1st, 2nd, 3rd)		\$1,000
	Judge	1	\$100
	Hangars for art	2	\$18
	Artist Lunch	20	\$300
	Artist Goodie Bags	20	\$160
	Photographer (\$50/hr)	6	\$300
	Year End Gala	Invitations	150
Stamps		125	\$110
Food, plates, bartender			\$1,500
Tables & Tablecloths Rental			\$300
Flowers			\$200
DJ, lights & sound			\$300
All		Graphic Designer (\$35/hr)	4
	Volunteer hours (Anne)\$25/hr	75	\$1,875
	Volunteer hours (Rebecca) \$25/hr	25	\$625
	Volunteer hours on site (\$25/hr)	32	\$800
	(1 vol. 8 hrs, 4 vols. 6 hours)		
			\$10,647

2025 Mini-Grant Program

2025 Mini Art Grant - Application

Submission and Review: Applications must be submitted a minimum of 60 days before the proposed project or event takes place. Accepted year-round, applications received before the first Thursday of each month will be reviewed during the following week's LAC meeting. Award decisions will be announced within two weeks of each review session.

This application is for the 2025 calendar year. Applications will be reviewed as they come in, but funds will not be paid out until January 2025.

Applicant's Name	Kim Kankiewicz, Administrative Assistant
Organization's Name (If Applicable)	Liberty Community Chorus
Email Address	kim.kankiewicz@gmail.com
Phone Number	816-510-5933
Address	PO Box 884, Liberty, MO 64069
Project Name	Singing the Music of Mark Hayes
Total Grant Funds Requested	1,000
Total Project Budget	\$8,720
Expected Project Start Date	March 16, 2025
Expected Project Completion Date	March 16, 2025
Describe the proposed project and how this project will drive tourism in Liberty.	Our spring concert, "Singing the Music of Mark Hayes," will feature music composed, arranged, conducted, and accompanied by internationally-renowned, Kansas City-based Mark Hayes, one of the nation's greatest and most prolific writers of contemporary choral music. The opportunity to experience Mark Hayes conducting and accompanying his own music will attract an audience from the entire Kansas City metro area and beyond. Many of these visitors to Liberty will bring business to our

community by dining in our restaurants, shopping in our stores, and in some cases staying in our hotels.

Explain why you need the money and specifically how it will be spent.

A grant from the Liberty Arts Commission will cover half of the \$2,000 artist's stipend we are paying Mark Hayes to participate in the concert and to attend our March rehearsals. The remainder of our concert budget includes the purchase of sheet music (90 copies of 8 songs = \$2,000), quarterly stipends to our artistic director (\$3,000) and rehearsal accompanist (\$1,680), stipends for additional instrumentalists (\$1,200 total), rehearsal space (\$250), performance venue (\$300), and videography (\$290).

Explain how you anticipate that the project will be funded in the future, if applicable.

We fund our concerts through ticket sales, choir member dues, corporate sponsorships, individual donations, and grants.

Provide a description of the event location.

The concert will take place at St. James Catholic Church, 309 S. Stewart Rd., in Liberty. We've chosen this venue because it accommodates our 90-member choir while providing ample accessible seating and parking.

Map showing the event / project location.

[st_james_church.png](#)

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

2025 Mini-Grant Program

2025 Mini Art Grant - Application

Submission and Review: Applications must be submitted a minimum of 60 days before the proposed project or event takes place. Accepted year-round, applications received before the first Thursday of each month will be reviewed during the following week's LAC meeting. Award decisions will be announced within two weeks of each review session.

This application is for the 2025 calendar year. Applications will be reviewed as they come in, but funds will not be paid out until January 2025.

Applicant's Name	Jennifer Schuele
Organization's Name (If Applicable)	HDLI
Email Address	jschuele@libertymo.gov
Phone Number	8164394545
Address	11 Gallatin St.
Project Name	Utility Box Art Wrap Installations (applying for two mini-art grants to cover both installations)
Total Grant Funds Requested	2000
Total Project Budget	3500
Expected Project Start Date	Feb. 2025
Expected Project Completion Date	April 2025
Describe the proposed project and how this project will drive tourism in Liberty.	This project is to help continuing to add to the downtown flair by giving the utility boxes an attractive facade wrapped with art from local students representative from each high school, specifically focusing on the Mill St. corridor this time to promote Mill St. visibility and connecting it more to our downtown. We anticipate that beautifying the utility boxes will contribute to the vitality and attractiveness of the streetscape. This gives students a public

place to showcase their talent and pride in the hometown. We expect it will attract tourists utilizing them for selfie stations, especially the artist and their family, friends and classmates.

Explain why you need the money and specifically how it will be spent.

The grant funds will help pay for the vinyl itself and the installation. A competition amongst the Graphics Design students at both High Schools was conducted to come up with winning the design. The entries have been narrowed down to the top 4 choices for each location and are currently being put out to a vote to the community determine the top choices. A monetary gift for the winning artist will be provided by HDLI to each winner.

Explain how you anticipate that the project will be funded in the future, if applicable.

We are hoping each of these installations are awarded a grant and are as well received as the previous two years, we hope to conduct the same process in the coming years to cover the remaining utility boxes with future student art as well. We are asking for two mini grants to place both installations at this time, we anticipate covering the remaining cost with the CID.

Provide a description of the event location.

Box number one is the traffic signal utility box located at the SE corner of Mill and Leonard (by Cody's), box #2 is the traffic signal box located on the NE corner of Harrison and Mill. The artists have made their final submissions, but the winning art designs are currently being voted on by the community. Please see the locations and depictions attached. <https://historicdowntownliberty.org/who-we-are/utility-cabinet-wrap-design/2025-utility-cabinet-wrap-vote/>

Map showing the event / project location.

[Utility Box - Art Grant Submission 2025.docx](#)

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Traffic Signal box at Harrison and Mill



Traffic Signal box at Leonard and Mill



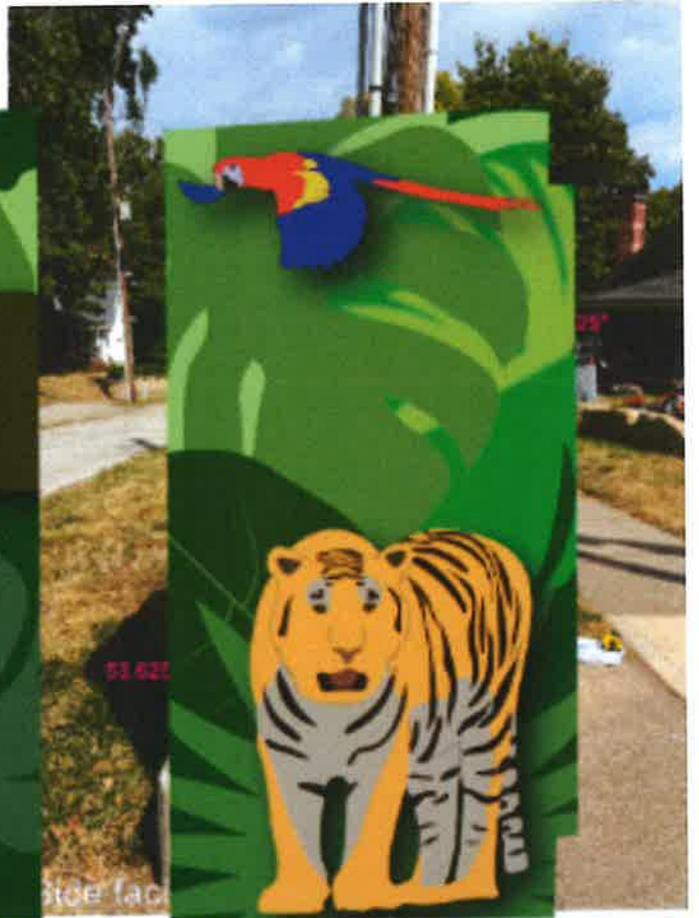
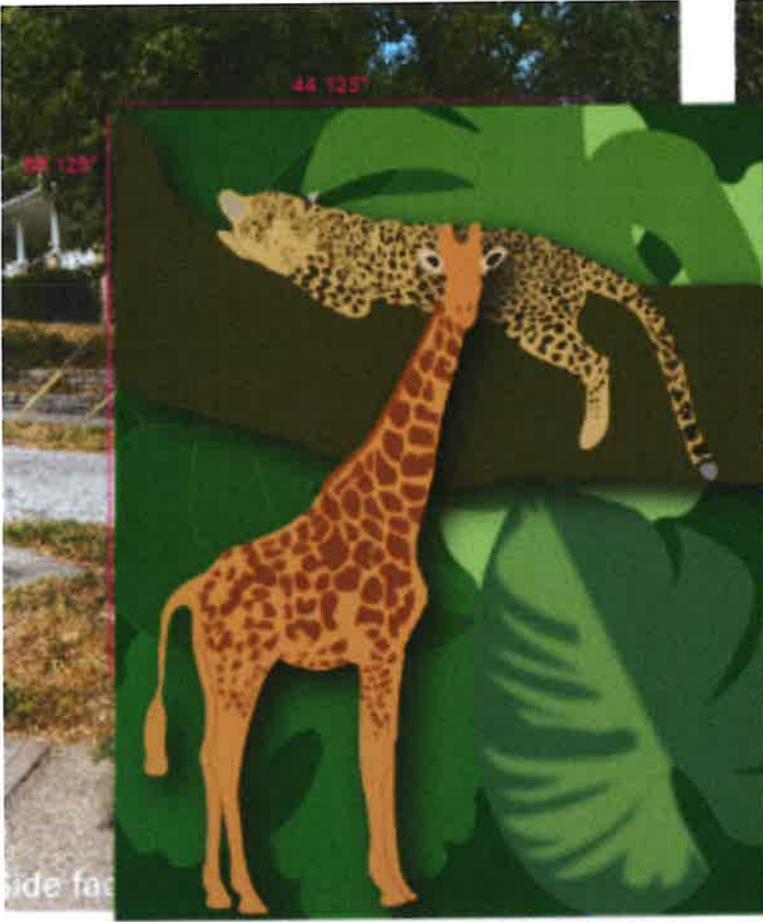
Option 1 - Harrison and Mill Streets



Side facing traffic and onlookers



Option 2 - Harrison and Mill Streets



Option 3 – Harrison and Mill Streets



Front facing traffic and onlookers



Side facing traffic and onlookers



Option 4 – Harrison & Mill Streets



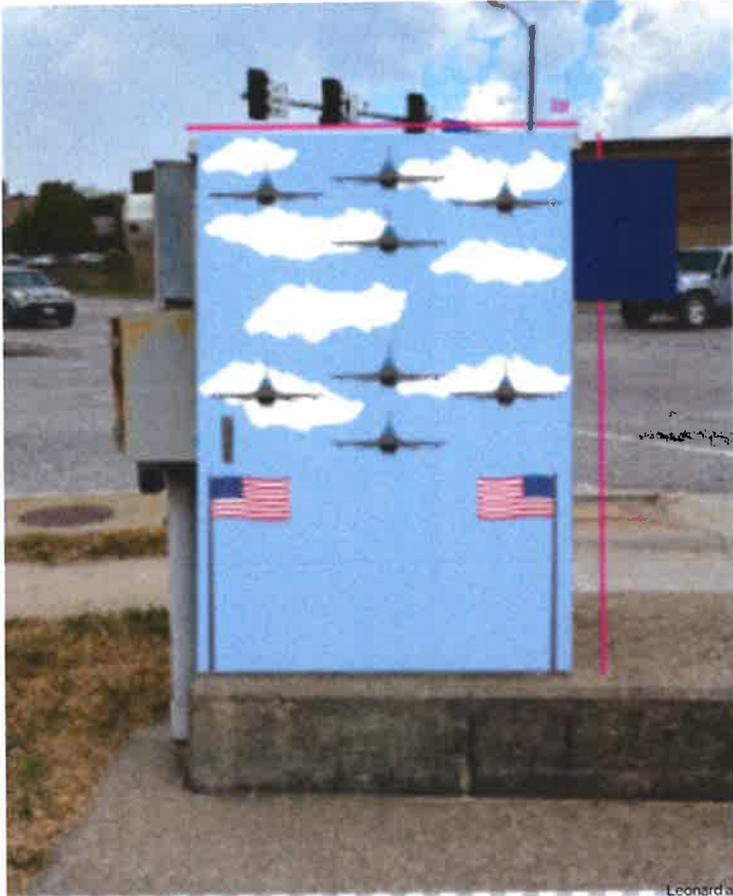
Side facing traffic and onlookers



Side facing traffic and onlookers



Option 1 - Leonard and Mill Streets



Leonard and Mill



Side-facing traffic and onlookers



*Vinyl will not stick to rust

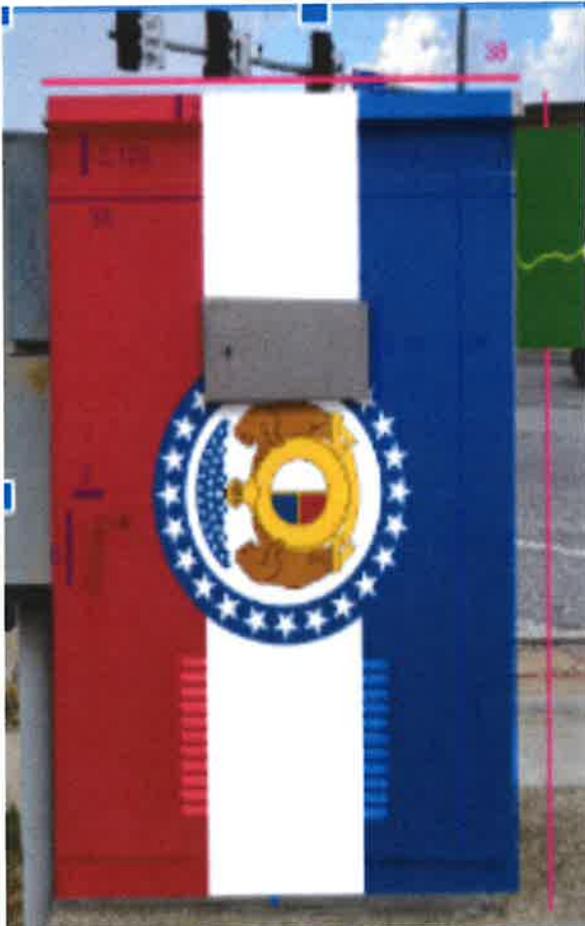
Option 2 - Leonard and Mill Streets



Side facing traffic and onlookers

*Vinyl will not stick to rust

Option 3 - Leonard and Mill Streets



Option 4 - Leonard and Mill Streets

