



**LIBERTY ARTS
COMMISSION**

**LIBERTY ARTS COMMISSION
MEETING SUMMARY
February 13, 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, Nathan Wyman

Absent: Anna Knackstedt

Staff Present: Jeanine Thill, Community Development Manager

Two members of the public were present; Jennifer Schuele and Anne Nickol.

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

Approval of Meeting Summary

Commissioner Duncan made a motion to approve the January 9, 2025 meeting summary as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wrenn Pozel. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Current Business

- Chair McDonald explained the process for the grant consideration.

Art Grants

- Commissioner Hon said the Grant Review Committee received an Annual Grant application at the end of last year for 2025 from the Northland Summer Singers.
 - They requested \$5,000 for their summer sing, with 60 singers and instrumentalist and it would be held at St. James Catholic Church.
 - Bill Baker puts on very good singers and they put on wonderful events that are very successful they know how to run a choral event and make it sustainable.
 - The only question was on the ticket prices. They do have entry fees of \$25 general admission \$20 for seniors and \$10 students.

2025 Annual Grant Application

- Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Sanctuary \$5,000 request-
 - They will host art and nature programming throughout the remainder of 2025.

- They would partner with the Plein Air event and on the same weekend it is held on the square, an expansion in essence.
 - Ms. Nickol said their focus is on Art and ways people can connect. There are seven artists booked and eight classes.
 - They will have their own prize money.
- Commissioner Hon said that the grant review committee was discussing awarding the \$5000 grant to the Martha Lafite.
 - They talked about also awarding a \$1250 to the William Baker group.
 - There is a portion of the grant budget is \$1000 for advertising then it could allocate all of the funds.
 - Commissioner Duncan asked for clarification on the \$11,000 budget.
 - Ms. Thill clarified that there is \$11,000 in the Art Grants line item, typically \$10,000 for grants and \$1,000 for advertising the availability of the grants.
 - She added that advertising will not be necessary this year, as we have more requests than grant dollars.
 - Commissioner Duncan commented to not award a grant to a qualified applicant now does not feel wise to him.
 - Commissioner Hon said that the Grant Review Committee felt that both annual grants are very strong. Both have inaugural years and have sponsors. The recommendation is to give \$5000 to Martha Lafite and \$1250 to Northland Summer Singers.
 - Commissioner Duncan asked if Martha Lafite will be able to give the match. Anne confirmed they would.
 - Commissioner Kelley asked if there was a plan b if there is inclement weather.
 - She said the artist come prepared rain or shine. They will follow the lead of the Plein Air event coordinators on the square.
 - Commissioner Duncan commented that in the case of Northland Summer Singers, they are charging so they could potentially make a profit.
 - Commissioner Brown commented that the Martha Lafite proposed events are something he would like the Liberty Arts Commission associated with.
 - Councilwoman Wrenn Pozel asked if they feel they have enough parking for large crowds.
 - Ms. Nickol said that years ago they accommodated large crowds for parking, so it is possible.
 - Commissioner Duncan asked if it will stay as an art gallery in the nature center.
 - Ms. Nickol said they will have it March through November, so it would not be permanent. Next year they are anticipating having a gallery aspect with a bird theme. They can reuse equipment in future years.
 - Commissioner Schieder asked about having the Plein Air next year.
 - Ms. Nickol said they hoped to make it an annual event.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hon to award the \$5000 annual grant to Martha Lafite. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wyman. The motion passed 9-0-0.

A motion was made by Commission Hon to award \$1,250 to the Summer sing for their grant application. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Duncan. The motion passed 9-0-0.

2025 Mini Grant Application Liberty Community Chorus \$1,000 request

- They would bring in Mark Hays for a concert. The money would cover half of his stipend for the event. They have other corporate sponsorship.
- Commissioner Hon commented that he would bring in a lot of people from outside of Liberty. The ticket price is \$15.00 and will be at St. James Catholic Church in Liberty.
- Commissioner Duncan said there are good optics to a long-standing Liberty chorus. Brian Taylor is involved in both events.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hon to award \$1,000 to Liberty Community Chorus for this project. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stilfield. The motion passed 9-0-0.

2025 Mini Grant Application HDLI Utility Boxes \$2,000 request

- The artwork on utility boxes has been an ongoing project. Two years ago, LAC awarded a \$2,000 grant for this project and last year we granted \$1000.
- Commissioner Schieder asked if the LAC had a say in the design.
- Ms. Schuele said that there is a public voting process on HDLI's website.
- Chairwoman McDonald commented that she loves the connection with the schools.
- The Commission loved that it won a state award for this project.
- The total budget request is \$2,000.
- Commissioner Brown added that he likes this project and that students are involved.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hon to approve two \$1,000 mini grants for the utility boxes project. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kelley. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Film Festival Jan 24 &25- Wrap up summary

- Commissioner Schieder said surveys were sent out to those that attended the event.
- We booked the same weekend for next year at B&B.
- We are planning to sell 200 tickets next year, this year we sold 150.
- Commissioner Duncan asked how B&B felt about it.
- Commissioner Schieder said that they felt it went very well.
- Councilwoman Wrenn Pozel said she received a lot of good feedback and shared that one person shared that one family said they spent an hour and a half talking about the films as a family.
- The committee said they might consider doing a second event in 2027.
- The Independent film coalition was at this year's event. We are discussing themes for next year. People like the old and newer films.
- Chairwoman McDonald said logistics were great, people loved the swag. The after hours could be more structured and the themed cocktails could be promoted more.
- Next year they might do a themed trivia night leading up to it.

Public Art Panel

- Chairwoman McDonald reminded the group that they should vote for their favorite rotating sculpture.
- Staff will send out a link.
- Commissioner Duncan reported that the City Hall Sculpture pre-application meeting is on March 13th with a small group. The RFQ applications are due March 20th. We are finalizing the panel that will be involved in that selection panel, per the policy. The panel will review for the commissioned piece and the rotating sculpture applications.

- Those in the panel include; Greg Duncan, Brian Kelley, Molly Hon, Shawn Garland, Erika Brant, Aimee Gray, Karen Ritter, Jerry Brant and Adam Travis, possibly. Aimee and Adam are not on the PAP but would be on the Commissioned piece review.

Make Music Day Report

- Commissioner Stilfield reported that the committee met and Danelle from HDLI attended the meeting.
- We will be coordinating with them as MMD is on a Saturday this year and the Farmers Market will be happening.
- HDLI will also be celebrating their 20-year anniversary as an organization with booths along Main Street.
- Staff reported that the budget is \$5,000 for this year.
- They plan to have an after hours at the Corbin Theatre with a band.

Recognition Committee

- Commissioners Kelley and Schieder will send out thank you notes.

Art on the Side (AOS) Committee Representative

- All LAC members will have an option for attending the AOS meetings virtually.
- Commissioner Schieder will include everyone on the meeting invite and anyone who can join is welcome. The event is June 7th.

TGT Report- Submitted by Anna

- TGT mural subcommittee: there were so many initial applicants it made it difficult to narrow it down to 5 finalists through just one round of jurying. So, the group took a selection of some of the top scoring artists and is meeting again on 2/14 to discuss the second-round jurying.
- TGT Tourism grants: the online tourism grant application is live now. The deadline for those is March 5. If you know anyone who may be interested, please encourage them to apply!
- The TGT committee will meet 3/13 to review the grant applications.

Art Partner Reports:

Liberty Arts Foundation

- Commissioner Duncan reported that they are narrowing down their mailing/donor list.

Library

- Nano Nore will have her work there in early March.
- Also, C'est La Vie will be moved to the Library for a year soon.
- We are finalizing the MOU.

William Jewell

- Commissioner Wyman reported that Nano Nore is at Stocksdale.
- Then the Liberty Public Schools will have an exhibit for the remainder of the semester.

Corbin Theatre

- Commissioner Stilfield said Jazz at the Garrison is going to change due to some members having health problems. They will have rotating bands.

- Brahm Wymans and his ensemble will be there the first Monday of March.
- Sax Pack will be there in April.
- And another band comprised of members from Vine Street Rumble.
- It will all still be free.
- Maggie Thomas and Laura Barge will do a show on the 16th Love Songs from the Heart.

The Mural Committee

- 205 applications were reviewed.
- They will meet again tomorrow to narrow it down to five from 25.

Miscellaneous Matters from the Commission - Roundtable

- Commissioner Kelley suggested that we might want to look at partnering with Orange Easel.
- Commissioner Duncan asked about sample completed applications of the grants.
- Commissioner Hon said she will bring that up at the March meeting.
- Councilwoman Wrenn Pozel will be attending the film festival in Columbia.

A motion was made by Commissioner Brown to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wrenn Pozel.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:26 p.m.