



**LIBERTY ARTS
COMMISSION**

**LIBERTY ARTS COMMISSION
MEETING SUMMARY
April 10, 2025
6:00 p.m. City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room**

Present: Garrett Brown, Greg Duncan, Brian Kelley, Anna Knackstedt, Katie McDonald, Karly Schieder, Bill Stilfield, Christian Vetter

Absent: Molly Hon, Kelley Wrenn Pozel, Nathan Wyman

Staff Present: Jeanine Thill, Community Development Manager and Claire Rodgers, Asst Director Communications

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

Approval of Meeting Summary

Commissioner Kelley made a motion to approve the March, 2025 meeting summary as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Karly. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Chairwoman McDonald arrive at approximately 6:05 pm.

Current Business

Transient Guest Tax Update- Anna Knackstedt

Mural Project Update – Finalist & Proposed Design

- Claire Rodgers is the City Staff member managing the mural project, she gave the group an update on the mural that is proposed for the retaining wall near 291 & 152 by Crowley Furniture and Hy-Vee. The wall is at Forest Ave and Kansas at the light, facing 152 and is made of poured concrete panels.
- The Tourism Committee budgeted for a mural for this location and earlier this year they put out a call for artists on Cafe. They received over 200 applications and did two rounds of scoring.

- The mural review committee selected Katie McCoy, a local artist for the design she submitted. The jury scoring the murals were half Arts Commission members and half Tourism Committee members. The design was inspired by Liberty Parks.
- The mural committee discussed asking the artist to change the colors of the buildings so they are closer to the true colors and hone in on fine details.
- Ms. Rodgers has interviewed several companies about installation of the mural. They were looking at a wall vinyl application but because the stamped concrete texture it makes it a challenge. They are considering using metal panels for the vinyl to be affixed to and to have it framed.
- Commissioner Schieder asked if the commission should vote on it without the final design.
- Ms. Thill said it would be appropriate for this Commission to vote on the concept design and have the details worked out by the mural committee adding that if the Commission is comfortable, a vote tonight to accept the concept design of the mural would be nice to they can move forward. Otherwise we could do it next month after the edits.
- Ms. Rodgers said they might have to make some edits.
- Commissioner Kelley said they wanted something colorful and bold they may need to make some edits to the size. 4 ft tall x 200 ft wide metal sheets that would be laminated and fade resistant to a degree. They could be wrapped again if needed for repairs.
- Ms. Rodgers said the City could event consider changing out the mural design in the future.
- Commissioner Duncan asked what Crowley Furniture representatives think about the design.
- Ms. Rodgers said the property owners were involved and they gave input on the design of the finalists. They expressed they were happy with any of those that the group selected.
- Commissioner Duncan said part of what makes it cools is the design and he would be fine with the building remaining the colors that the artist used. He added that the emphasis seems to be fishing, as it is the largest and more prominent than anything else on the mural. The Belvoir building doesn't bother him because it is a historic building.
- Commissioner Vetter asked if the lake could be moved and the courthouse be moved over to the 1895 building. The courthouse is covered by the tree.
- Commissioner Brown commented that he likes how she has it designed.
- Commissioner Knackstedt said the overall design is well done and suggested that this commission's role isn't to hone in on the design details.
- Staff reminded the group that the art purchasing policy states that LAC is to approve artwork.
- Another reason this design was chosen was because the sweeping design and being able to see it driving by and also appealing standing close to it.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kelley to accept the mural design as presented with changes as the mural committee sees fit. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Duncan. The motion passed 8-0-0.

- Ms. Rodgers said they will keep the Arts Commission involved. The installation target date depends on the material that we use.
- Commissioner Brown asked if there will be a plaque near the mural.
- Ms. Rodgers said there is room for a sign.

LAC Branding Update

- Commissioner Brown said he has a Google form survey that he will send tonight. There are five simple questions that will help him make a recommendation on what branding items we should order for this year. He encouraged them to share their ideas on how to broaden the LAC footprint.

Public Art Panel (PAP)

- Commissioner Duncan reported that the PAP scored 115 applications. We did a training session for the panel on how they score the artists body of work, credentials and background. Per the public art policy, the panel consists of people from a variety of backgrounds including an artist, architect, property owner, a representative from HDLI among others. There is a distinct change in scoring after the top 8 were scored. We will ask the PAP to individually eliminate two or three. We are trying to get to 5 finalists. Staff will vet them by checking references of the top five, those five finalists will be paid \$1,500 to create a concept design, which will be presented to the PAP and a recommendation sent to the City Council. That will likely happen in June or July. The goal is to have the commissioned sculpture installed at the Kansas Street entrance to City Hall by the middle of 2026.

The Rotating Sculptures

- The People's Choice voting still has the top scoring as Twist in Time.

Make Music Day Report

- Commissioner Stilfield reported there are 11 confirmed performances and 14 Registered. There will be after hours performances from 6-8pm. The Heartland Men's Chorus will be part of the after-hours performances. He tried to book Toms Town but they were not available.
- They should have several performances at the Corbin Theatre.
- Any volunteers can contact Ms. Thill.

Recognition Committee

- Commissioner Kelley reported that he will send out a thank you to Rocky Buford, currently displaying his work at the Community Center. He also hand delivered thank you cards to those involved in Reel Liberty.
- He will send a thank you to the teachers that have the student show at Stocksdale and give them some of our branding items.
- Commissioner Brown said it might be nice to give certificates with our logo.

- Commissioner Brown said he will find out the name of the gentleman at the film fest that was taking photos so we can also send him a thank you.

Art on the Side Update

- Commissioner Schieder reported there are only 3 spots left for artist on Main Street. They are still accepting sponsors, please spread the word.
- Commissioner Vetter said he will be taking drone footage on June 7. They do need another artist that could be a judge at the event, it starts at 9 am and takes about an hour it pays \$50.
- Commissioner Brown said that he will serve as a judge.
- They will put LAC branded materials to put in the artists bags.
- Commissioner Kelley said he will do the last shift on the booth at Art on the Side and will help take down the booth from 4-5:30.

Film Fest 2026 Theme

- Commissioner Schieder reported that the theme will be aliens. In June we will be meeting with B&B to talk about logistics, after hours.

Volunteers needed!

- **Art on the Side on Sat. June 7 8am-5pm**
- **MMD Booth on Sat. June 21 8am- 7pm.**

Art Partner Reports:

Liberty Arts Foundation

- Commissioner Duncan said they are still working on a mailing. They are looking at having the mailing go out in the next few months. They are still open to new board members. There is a vacancy on the board. They need someone younger ideally.

Library

- Chairwoman McDonald reported that the same artist is at the Library. The MOU to move C'est La Vie to the library property is being considered by the City Council next week.

William Jewell

- Commissioner Wyman. No report.

Corbin Theatre

- The next play is the Lost Virginitiy Tour from April 24-27th.
- Corbin Kids Camp ages 6-12 will be June 16-26th with performances of The Magic Tree House from June 27-29th and it is only \$15 per person.

Liberty Public Schools

- Commissioner Brown reported Liberty High School will have their Art Shows **April 28-May 2nd** (in the Black Box Theater) and Liberty North High School's Art Show is **April 24th** (not sure if it's multi-day).
- Theatrical productions --
 - Liberty North High School - Steel Magnolias Between Thursday April 10 2025 and Friday April 11
 - Heritage Middle School - Ronald Dahl Matilda the Musical JR Between Thursday April 10 2025 and Saturday April 12
 - Discovery Middle School - Disney The Little Mermaid JR Between Thursday April 10 2025 and Saturday April 12
 - Liberty. High School - Peter/Wendy Between Wednesday April 16 2025 and Thursday April 17

Roundtable

- Commissioner Kelley said the 1 percent tax passed for the new police station, which will likely affect two of our rotating sculpture locations.
- Ms. Thill said she is planning for those two location to not be used for 2026 therefore we will have 10 rotating sculptures next year rather than twelve.
- Commissioner Knackstedt said the half marathon used our heart on their shirt on the front and back. We should send him a card and some of our stickers.
- Commissioner Vetter said he took a photo the blood moon the night of his first LAC meeting and it was hovering over campus.

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

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:12 p.m.