



**LIBERTY ARTS COMMISSION
MEETING SUMMARY
June 12, 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, Christian Vetter, Nathan Wyman

Absent: Greg Duncan

Staff Present: Jeanine Thill, Community Development Manager

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chairwoman McDonald.

Commissioner Kelley made a motion to approve the May, 2025 meeting summary as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stilfield. The motion passed 6-0-2.

Current Business

Fall Fest Parade Theme- Masterpiece in Motion is the theme for this year's Fall Fest Parade. It will be Saturday, September 27th in downtown Liberty. The Chamber asked if the LAC would be the parade marshal and have an entry. Chair McDonald said the LAC should take this opportunity. Commissioner Kelley said we could put C'est la Vie on a trailer and have the commission wear their LAC Shirts. Commissioner Brown suggested flat versions of the permanent sculptures, and that the LAC could use some of the marketing funds to create a float or something that could be used. Commissioner Brown added that the LAC might want to look into something magnetic with the LAC logo on it to put on the side of a car or truck. Commissioner Brown suggested that the LAC ask Commissioner Duncan if they can use his convertible. Commissioner Vedder said he will be there cover and take videos at Fall Fest. Subcommittee members are Commissioners Wyman, Kelley, Brown and McDonald. The subcommittee members will come back at the next LAC meeting with a recommendation of what should be done and how to make it engaging.

Transient Guest Tax Budget Update- Commissioner Knackstedt said it is time to start thinking about our 2026 budget request. The LAC's budget request is due by July 30th and now is the time to have a discussion; the request will be finalized at the July LAC meetings. The main things to discuss are possible new projects.

- There has been some discussion about developing a Public Art Master Plan. It was suggested that this could be a discussion at the City Council level. Chair McDonald suggested that we come up with some options and ideas and added that the LAC might need buy-in for the idea of a master plan before requesting the budget. Chair McDonald added that it may be too early to put this in the 2026 budget. She added that when the LAC talks about big ideas and conversations that it might want to lay the ground work now and look to implement next year or the year after. The group likes the idea but they might want to do some relationship building with the Council and others before requesting the budget.
- Commissioner Kelley said the LAC might want to add funding to the budget for annual recognition awards. The LAC could ask for nominations for individuals, institutions and organizations, and one of them could be the annual grant recipient. The LAC might want to add a line item for Recognition or possibly have this as part of the marketing line item.
- It was suggested that the LAC consider increasing the Art on the Side line item. That line item should perhaps be rounded up to \$5,500 as the number of artists increases.
- Film Fest Budget- The LAC might want to increase it to \$10,000, to cover additional expenses for selling more tickets at the Film Fest.
- The LAC might want to look at increasing the Rotating Sculpture program, including potentially increasing the lease stipend to \$2,500. It was suggested that the LAC look into branding the City's existing permanent sculptures.
- Commissioner Hon asked about possibly increasing the Art Grants budget line items now that there is high demand for the grants and they were all awarded in the first few months of this year. It was suggested that the LAC increase the Art Grants line item to \$12,000.

LAC Branding / Marketing – Commissioner Brown said there are a lot of marketing and branding items to consider.

- Commissioner Brown said in the results of the survey that he sent out showed that people really liked the stickers, which are a nice low investment.
- The LAC might want to do a drinking glass with our logo on it.
- Commissioner Brown said items that were suggested were trading cards of our permanent collection, mouse pads, or other items that may involve collaboration with other businesses.
- The LAC might want to explore ways to connect to the youth with these items.
- The LAC should think about what it can offer that will be the next level, perhaps a brochure of its own. This might include a brochure for the City's permanent collection.
- Councilwoman Pozel suggested a collapsible fan with the LAC logo on it.
- Also, as the LAC looks into elevating its brand, it might want to consider embracing color, maybe even a tie dye or reverse tie dye.
- The commission liked the ideas Commissioner Brown suggested.
- Rather than adding a new line item for recognition, the LAC can have the marketing budget line item at \$10,000.
- The commission is committed to being out in the community so additional branding items are justifiable.

Rotating Sculptures – Staff presented the top 10 sculptures. The commission approved of the pieces as presented.

Make Music Day Report- Commissioner Stilfield reported that there was an article in the Courier Tribune about Corbin and Make Music Day. There are currently 56 Performances confirmed with 61 registered performers. There will be an after-hours performance at 6pm on Make Music Day by jazz musician Bram Wynjam at the Corbin Theatre, including a trio and a vocalist.

Recognition Committee- Commissioner Kelley reported that the Art on the Side artists received thank you cards. Commissioner Kelley will recognize Rocky Buford, an emerging artist that recently had his work featured at the Community Center. Commissioner Kelley thanked the commission for all they do, and said he received feedback from someone who attended Art on the Side that really liked the event and the quality of artists.

Art on the Side- Commissioner Schieder stated that Shawn submitted a report. There were about 7,000 attendees, 90 Vendors, and 6 emerging vendors. Commissioner Brown was a judge at the event, and Commissioners Wyman, Kelley, Wrenn-Pozel, and staff worked the info booth during the event.

Film Fest 2026- Commissioner Scheider reported Aliens will be the theme for the 2026 Film Festival. The four films are:

- It Came from Outer Space
- Mars Attack
- Close Encounters of the Third Kind
- War of the Worlds

This year it is the LAC's goal to sell 268 tickets, which would fill three theatres, and they hope to sell out. There is an option to open a fourth theatre if needed. The LAC is working on the logistics. There is a plan to do a costume contest and to make improvements to the after-hours party.

Art Partner Reports:

Liberty Arts Foundation- No Report

Library- Chair McDonald reported that they are doing a call for artists for a winter reading challenge. They will award \$1,500 for the artwork selected. She encouraged the Commission to spread the word.

William Jewell- Commissioner Wyman reported they are doing improvements at the gallery on campus. They will have one show in the fall.

Corbin Theatre- Commissioner Stilfield reported that there are three bands that rotate and play the first Monday of every month at the Corbin. The attendance increased from about 12 to 45 people after a recent article in the newspaper.

Liberty Public Schools- Commissioner Brown reported Creative Arts Academy will host Madagascar on June 26th at 6 pm.

Roundtable:

Councilmember Wrenn Pozel said she has 7 or 8 artist that might be interested in a show at a gallery. She asked for details about how their work can be considered. She will send emails with sample works. Chair McDonald will connect Kelley with Stephen at the Library. Commissioner Vedder asked if there would be an opportunity to highlight the exhibit. Commissioner Wrenn-Pozel said that would be wonderful.

Commissioner Kelley said they are continuing to work with the installer for the mural that will be installed near Kansas & 291. There are a lot of details to still be worked out.

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

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:32 p.m.