



**LIBERTY ARTS
COMMISSION**

**LIBERTY ARTS COMMISSION
MEETING SUMMARY
July 10, 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.

Guest: Mayor Canuteson

Absent: Garrett Brown, Kelley Wrenn Pozel, Katie McDonald, Molly Hon, Nathan Wyman

Staff Present: Jeanine Thill, Community Development Manager

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm by Vice Chair Knackstedt

Commissioner Kelley made a motion to approve the June, 2025 meeting summary as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Scheider. The motion passed 5-0-1 Duncan abstained.

Current Business

Mayor Canuteson attended the meeting to share his vision for the arts, in the short term, there are opportunities for expanded art initiatives in 2026. He encouraged the Commission to explore ways LAC can participate in the America 250 activities.

America 250- Mayor Canuteson reported that the City has a budget of \$250,000 to celebrate America 250. We are going to be all about America 250 in Liberty. The goal is to have event each month throughout the year. Some of the events are; a book/lecture series and a lecture series, a July 4 Parade / Block Party and unveil the next Great American sculpture, they plan to plant 250 trees. Perhaps LAC could have an art contest. He is encouraging rebranding existing events that are already planned and embrace the America 250 theme. He would like to have a patriotic year and market it to the entire metro area. The intent tonight is to put it on the table and get more ideas but not make any decisions. We could do a history of American art throughout the city. He would like to have something for everyone. Commissioner Duncan said if we could look at our planned activities and explore how we might co-promote or rebrand them accordingly.

Commissioner Vedder suggested we use a hashtag, LAC and the City should shine during this time. They are doing some time capsules.

Vice Chair Knackstedt suggested that the Plein Air event might be an opportunity to incorporate the America 250 theme, perhaps there could be an award category for this. Other ideas were shared by the group; an art contest in the galleries, a winter art walk indoors, at downtown locations. Maybe we could tag onto wine about winter with this theme. Commissioner Duncan commented that we could do more by partnering with other organizations. Mayor Canuteson encouraged the Commission to “always think bigger, better and bolder”.

Transient Guest Tax Budget Update- Vice Chair Knackstedt reminded the group that the budget request is due on July 30th. A draft budget was shared with the group and discussed.

The group discussed the idea of installing artwork to hang from the ceiling of the atrium- we have continued to talk about it. We have a window of opportunity with the Mayor being so supportive of the arts. We should strike while the iron is hot. Staff will get information on the timeline and impact of the new building and how it affects the atrium. We might want to ask for funding for art in the atrium after construction of the new police building is finished, possibly in 2027.

The commission discussed the proposed projects and budget amounts. Ms. Thill reported that Commissioner Hon previously recommended that we increase the art grant line item by \$1,000 due to the demand, this year all of the grants were awarded in the first quarter of the year. Commission Scheider suggested that we might want to consider more money for a purchase piece going forward. The group agreed that a \$10,000 increase to that line item would be helpful in obtaining quality sculptures for our permanent collection. Also, expanding the budget for the bases for the permanent piece would be important. The Commission agreed that we should increase our honorarium to \$3,000 for the rotating sculpture program to remain competitive and attract quality artists. The honorarium has been at \$2,000 since the inception of the program nearly 9 years ago. We should ask for more funding for supplies for the bases for the rotating and permanent sculpture programs and funds to outsource labor, if needed. The commission agreed that a Public Art Master plan is important and the timing is right. It will be helpful in making future decisions for purchase pieces, determining locations, exploring new ideas and initiatives. Staff will do some research on the total cost of a master plan and a timeline and email the commission for feedback. Staff said the Make Music Committee met and would like to request an additional \$2,000 for next year’s Make Music Day to rent cooling fans, a tent, tables and chairs. HDLI will work with the committee in future years to help bring more performances and vendors similar to the block party theme they hosted this year. For the America 250 projects Commissioner Duncan suggested that we could put money for a placeholder for ideas. Vice Chair Knackstedt reminded the group that is how we approached the Film Fest line item, putting a place holder in the budget for a “new event” it was determined later that we would do the Film Festival. We will ask for \$10,000 for this line item. A motion to approve the budget as amended by Commissioner Duncan. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kelley. The motion passed 6-0-0.

Public Art Panel (PAP)– Commissioner Duncan reported that five finalists for the City Hall Commissioned Sculpture were each paid \$1,500 for their concept designs and presentations. The PAP conducted interviews and listened to the presentations from the five finalists on June 26 & 27. We had many good pieces. The PAP narrowed it to a primary and a secondary. With the primary person, we met with her to go over the questions from the panel. She is reworking the piece to make some minor design edits. Part of what the PAP liked about her concept design is the use of both pads. He shared the concept proposal image with the Commission. We will be working with the artist on the contract wording and hope to go to the City Council in the next month for approval of the contract.

Update on Fall Fest Parade Theme “Masterpiece in Motion” – Commissioner Kelley reported that the sub-committee met and they are putting together a float. Commissioners Wyman and Brown are working on the images that will be used on the float. Commissioner Duncan said he would be happy let the committee use his car for the parade.

Make Music Day Post Event Report- Commissioner Stilfield reported that Make Music Day went well there were 26 venues and 75 performances, including the open mic’s that occurred. He was impressed by the performers. He will send thank you notes to the 26 venues.

Recognition Committee- Commissioner Kelley reported that he gave LAC tumblers to the artists that displayed at our galleries recently.

Film Fest 2026 – Commissioner Scheider reported that the Alien Theme is being developed. The committee will be meeting with the Mayor to discuss how we might help with the America 250 Film Fest idea that the Mayor has.

Other Business:

Public Art at Liberty Commons discussion- Ms. Thill reported that the developer of Liberty Commons has inquired about possibly placing public art on their property, in the area where there is a failing fountain. Staff will be having internal meetings to discuss a possible policy of public art on private property. The city attorney advised that we establish a policy. Staff will be meeting internally to discuss but would like feedback from the Commission. The commission agreed that are a lot of things go consider. This will be discussed more at future meetings.

A motion was made by Commissioner Scheider to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kelley.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:55 p.m.