



**LIBERTY ARTS COMMISSION
REVISED MEETING AGENDA
Thursday, August 14, 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, Christian Vedder, Nathan Wyman

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|-------------|--|--------------------------------|
| I. | Approval of Meeting Summary | July 10, 2025 |
| II. | Current Business | |
| | Great Americans Update | Katherine Sharp |
| | Transient Guest Tax Budget Update | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• LAC Branding Update• 2026 Budget Update | Garrett Brown
Staff |
| | Public Art Panel | Greg Duncan |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vote to recommend approval of Commissioned Sculpture• Rotating Sculptures installed Sept. 8-23/ locations | |
| | Update on Fall Fest Parade entry by LAC | Sub-Committee |
| | Recognition Committee | Brian Kelley |
| | Film Fest 2026 – Alien Theme Update
America 250 Film Fest Meeting update | Karly Schieder |
| | Other Business: | |
| 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
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

Approval of Meeting Summary

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

Current Business

- Mayor Canuteson attended the meeting to share his vision for the arts, one idea that is being considered is a 1% for the arts. Also, 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 Vetter 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 Schieder 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 Schieder 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 there are a lot of things to consider. This will be discussed more at future meetings.

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

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



MEMORANDUM

To: Liberty Arts Commission
From: Katherine Sharp, Director of Planning & Development
Date: August 14, 2025
Subject: A request by Ford to allow an investment in public art in lieu of tree replacement required

INTRODUCTION:

Ford Motor Company is in the planning process to expand their stamping plant. That expansion plan identified that a fee-in-lieu of planting trees would be paid into the City tree replacement fund for trees which would not be planted on site. Ford is requesting to give a portion of the money toward The Great Americans Project instead of paying into the tree fund.

DISCUSSION:

The city’s development ordinance (“UDO”) requires landscaping and trees to be planted at each new development and when trees are cleared. If the site cannot accommodate the required landscaping on site, the UDO allows the developer to request a variance from City Council to substitute public art in lieu of some the required landscaping.

In this case, Ford requests a variance that would allow them to put money toward The Great Americans Project statue in lieu of their tree planting requirement. This request is specifically for public art, and appears to meet the intent of the ordinance.

There are three Great Americans statues already installed in the downtown area. The existing statues are George Washington at the corner of Mill Street and Leonard Street, Mark Twain at the SE corner of Kansas Street and Missouri Street, and Susan B. Anthony at the NW corner of Kansas Street and Water Street. The next statue will be similar in size and design and will be located in the downtown area.

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS:

The Liberty Arts Commission will be asked to consider this request at their meeting on August 14, 2025. The Planning and Zoning Commission will vote on this item after a public hearing to be held on Tuesday, August 12, 2025. The City Council will vote on this item after a public hearing to be held on Monday, August 25, 2025.



Sec. 30-97.4. - Development and design standards, landscaping 10(c)

If, through the development review process, the city determines that the site cannot accommodate the number of required replacement trees, the developer shall, prior to final occupancy, provide an equivalent fee-in-lieu of trees to a dedicated parks tree account. The fee per tree shall be posted in the city's schedule of fees. The fee-in-lieu shall be used for the future planting of trees in parks, rights-of-way, and public spaces, the location of which shall be determined by the director of parks and recreation. When a fee-in-lieu of trees provision exists and a variance is granted in accordance with section 30-21.11, the developer may receive a dollar-for-dollar credit for investment in public art in the City of Liberty when such art is deemed to be of public value by the arts commission and the city council. Aforementioned art may or may not be located on the development site.