



**LIBERTY ARTS COMMISSION**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**Thursday, January 8, 2026**  
**5:30 pm**  
**City Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room**

Present: Garrett Brown, Greg Duncan, Molly Hon, Brian Kelley, Katie McDonald, Karly Schieder, Kelley Wrenn Pozel, Christian Vedder, Nathan Wyman

Absent: Anna Knackstedt

One member of the public was present, Brad Austin.

**Approval of Meeting Summary**

A motion was made by Commissioner Kelley to approve the meeting summary as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Duncan. The motion passed 7-0-2. Commissioners Schieder and Wyman abstained.

**Guest: Brad Austin-** Creative art producer for KC PBS, he does documentaries. He has lived in Liberty the last 8 years and attended the meeting to learn more about LAC.

**Current Business:**

**Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

Commissioner Kelley made a motion for Katie McDonald be elected as Chair and Anna Knackstedt as Vice Chair for 2026. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wrenn Pozel. The motion passed 9-0-0.

**Consideration of 2026 Art Grant Applications**

- Commissioner Hon reported that we received a mini grant application from Martha Laffite Thompson Nature Sanctuary. They were the recipient of the annual grant last year.
  - Ms. Thill commented that they met all of the grant requirements last year and the project was very successful. They want to do an event “Blue Grass in the Tallgrass” for their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
  - They are requesting a \$1,000 Mini Grant for this project, which would take place in the fall of 2026. They are looking into arrangements for parking.
  - The subcommittee is recommending approval of the application. It is free and family friendly.
  - Duncan said they have established and proven themselves. This seems like an appropriate use of public funds.
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- Commissioner Hon commented that it checks all the boxes of projects we should fund with our mini grants.

Commissioner Duncan made a motion to approve the mini grant in the amount of \$1,000, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Vedder. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Annual Grant application from Northland Summer Singers – William Baker.

- They are requesting \$5000. Last year we gave them \$1250 last year for a similar event.
- They are expecting an audience of 350 people and 60 singers. They hope to do a summer sing.
- Commissioner Hon commented that she has seen their work before and they do an incredible job.
- They have a long list of people that will attend and they have a great media plan.
- Commissioner Hon added that this provided excellent music in the summer time, which is a low time.
- The grant committee is recommending approval.
- Commissioner Kelley asked if they are aware of the construction at city hall for the new police station, potentially reducing the available parking for the event, which will be at Second Baptist Church.
- Commissioner Duncan said there is still the county lot and other lots nearby that they can use.
- Commissioner Brown said he feels that parking is their challenge to solve. A shuttle might be a good idea.
- The Commission felt it is good project, but they want some additional information before they decide.
- Commissioner Duncan said we might want to ask for a revenue and expense budget from the applicant.
- The commission would like to table it for a month.
- We will request a budget that shows the other revenue sources. Also, a more detailed revenue side of the budget for the event, including expense and revenue budgets based on the event last year share their financial and attendance results.
- The group agreed that next year we should set first round consideration deadline date for the Annual Grant so we can consider all Annual Grant applications at the same time.

#### **Film Fest 2026 – Alien Theme Update**

- Commissioner Schieder reminded the Commission that the film fest is in two weeks. We have sold about 70 tickets the goal is to sell 300 tickets.
  - More advertising will be happening over the coming weeks. She said if anyone would like to volunteer to let her or staff know.
  - Volunteers will work Friday and Saturday Jan. 23 & 24 to help with set up and check in at the event.
  - Friday volunteers should arrive around 3:30 to set up there is also a shift from 5-9 to help with checking. On Saturday there is a shift from 3-7 pm and another from 7-10 pm, which includes the after-hours party at Jonnies.
  - Commissioners McDonald and Brown said they will help both nights.
  - Swag items will be given to everyone.
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- We will do themed cocktails and a costume contest the prizes will be B&B gift cards for the top three winners
- Commissioner Schieder commented that this would not happen without the help of Bailey Ball in the City's Communication Division.
- Ms. Thill added that Commissioner Schieder's leadership is amazing and this event possible because of her hard work and vision. Add that it is an amazing team effort.
- Commissioner Brown agreed, adding that the idea of the trailer videos, to be shown between films, featuring LAC events was discussed and with two days it was done.
- Commissioner Wrenn Pozel wrote the copy for the video and Commissioner Vedder put it together.
- Commissioner Wrenn Pozel added that we have people volunteering to introduce the films. Rich Chamberlin is coming to intro films of both of the films that are on Friday.
- Commissioner Vedder will intro both of them on Saturday.

### **2026 Transient Guest Tax/LAC Budget**

- Ms. Thill presented the approved 2026 LAC Budget and commented that a line item was added this year, funding a Public Art Master Plan. The goal is to have the RFP issued by late Spring, bring on the consultant this summer and have the public involvement portion to start in the fall.
- Commissioner Duncan added that the Public Art Master Plan should serve as a guide for us to use, a structured way for us to test ideas against the plan and have an accountability. We need to have a full plan. It could be a recommendation for specific projects. Art comes from various entities in Liberty, we need to make sure we all work together to develop the plan. These plans are built heavily on public input and it will allow us to not be limited by the ideas.

### **Commissioned Sculpture**

- Planning for the unveiling this summer.
- Staff commented that we need to start thinking about volunteers to plan for unveiling of Commissioned Sculpture. We will discuss this at the next meeting in more detail.
- Commissioner Duncan said the larger Public Art Panel would be a good group to have involved.
- Chair McDonald said she would like to be involved.

### **Other Business:**

#### **Consider Garrison School Cultural Center and Museum as a partner gallery**

- Commissioner Vedder has met with Shelton, AJ and Cecila they plan to have weekday hours at the Garrison Gallery. There are exhibit rooms, like a big size class room.
  - Commissioner Wyman asked if the exhibits rotate out.
  - Commissioner Vedder said they do rotate out, but he is unsure of how often.
  - Commissioner Duncan said when we have a gallery as a partner, we know exactly what that is.
  - Commissioner Brown said if we could have a meeting at Garrison that would be helpful to get a better feel for the space.
  - Commissioner Vedder will see if we can have a meeting there in the future.
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## **Art Partner Reports:**

### **Liberty Arts Foundation**

- Commissioner Duncan reported that the LAF received a few gifts at the end of the year. They also have business cards for board members. They are meeting next week. They hope to have a photo booth at the Farmers Market in a retro camper. He also shared that Shane Immelt passed away on December 19<sup>th</sup>. Shane was the co-chair of Make Music Day and was on the LAC for many years and also was on the LAF Board. The family is working on a memorial for this spring.
- Commissioner Schieder said maybe we can name a stage at Make Music Day in his honor.

### **Library**

- Chair McDonald reported that Andie Conn is the head of the Withers Gallery. They do have some openings in their calendar. They are featuring an employee at their gallery space. They will do a collection of staff in the future. Send artist her way if they are interested in having a show.

### **William Jewell**

- Commissioner Wyman reported that Commissioner Wrenn Pozel's agency is doing a show at the Stocksdale gallery.
- Commissioner Wrenn Pozel said that the organization, Limitless Imagination, serves developmental and intellectual challenges. Their exhibition will be Jan 12- March 21<sup>st</sup> 9 artists 35 pieces, most have exhibited their art before. There will be an opening Reception Friday Jan 30 from 5:30- 8 pm. She will send out information to the Commission. Upcoming Show Schedule: Feb 4 Faculty Recital 10:45 am Pillsbury Music Ctr., Feb 11 & 18 Department Recital at Gano Chapel, Feb 21 Auditions 9 am Pillsbury Music Ctr., Feb. 22 Concert with Missouri Choral Artists 3:30 pm Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church, KCMO, Feb. 25 Department Recital 10:45 am Gano Chapel, March 1 Windfest Honor Band Concert 3 pm Gano Chapel.

### **Miscellaneous Matters from the Commission- Roundtable**

- Commissioner Brown showed the Commission the various branding items that we ordered for our 2026 marketing efforts at community events. Items include; chalk, colored pencils, pens, bags, etc. all with the LAC Branding.
- Commissioner Vedder said that the Missouri Film office galleries were updated on the website. On the KC Film office MO Film.com you will see Liberty on there.
- Commissioner Kelley reminded the group that we had talked about moving C'est la Vie this year, from the library to another location in Liberty. We might need to consider moving it in the Spring. Maybe we can add that to the February agenda. Also, he added that he has seen people do selfies at the mural.

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Brown and seconded by Kelley Wrenn Pozel motion passed 9-0-0.

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