



**LIBERTY ARTS COMMISSION  
MEETING AGENDA  
Thursday, February 12, 2026**

**5:30 pm at Garrison School Cultural Center & Museum –  
502 N Water Street**

**Use the Water Street entrance and parking lot**

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

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|-------------|--|-------------------------|
| <b>I.</b>   | <b>Approval of Meeting Summary</b>   | <b>January 9, 2025</b>  |
| <b>II.</b>  | <b>Current Business</b>  |                         |
|             | <b>Consideration of 2026 Art Grant Applications</b>  | <b>Molly Hon</b>        |
|             | <b>Annual Grants: Budget Remaining \$5,000</b>   |                         |
|             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Tabled from January: Northland Summer Singers Annual Grant Application, additional budget information. Request \$5,000</b></li><li>▪ <b>Echoes in the Walls Annual Grant Application. Request \$5,000</b></li></ul> |                         |
|             | <b>Mini Grants: Budget Remaining \$6,000</b>   |                         |
|             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>HDLI Two Utility Box Art Wraps Request: \$2,000</b></li><li>▪ <b>Mama &amp; Me Music Classes Request: \$1,000</b></li><li>▪ <b>Liberty Community Chorus Request: \$1,000</b></li></ul>                              |                         |
|             | <b>Film Fest 2026 – Recap</b>  | <b>Karly Schieder</b>   |
|             | <b>Recognition Committee Update</b>  | <b>Brian Kelley</b>     |
|             | <b>Volunteers to plan for unveiling of Commissioned Sculpture</b>  | <b>All</b>              |
|             | <b>Consider Garrison School Cultural Center and Museum as a partner gallery</b>  | <b>Christian Vedder</b> |
|             | <b>Rotating Sculptures - Call for Artists Opened Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> on Café. Deadline for applications is April 15</b>   |                         |
| <b>III.</b> | <b>Art Partner Reports:</b>  |                         |
|             | <b>Liberty Arts Foundation- Commissioner Duncan</b>  |                         |
|             | <b>Library- Chair McDonald</b>   |                         |
|             | <b>William Jewell- Commissioner Wyman</b>  |                         |
|             | <b>Liberty Public Schools- Commissioner Brown</b>  |                         |
|             | <b>Miscellaneous Matters from the Commission</b>   | <b>Roundtable</b>       |
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**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 Cecilia 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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Jeanine,

I've attached a revised Expense vs. Revenue budget for your Arts Commission to review for the upcoming Northland Summer Singers in June/July/August 2026. That should answer your first and second questions...

On the third question...

45 singers registered to participate in 2025 at \$85 per person = \$3,825

approximately 100 in the audience x \$25 per general admission, \$20 students/seniors, \$10 children under 17 yrs. old = \$2,375 (approximated amount)

25 tickets donated to those who could not afford to pay and to press passes

The inaugural performance of the Northland Summer Singers 2025

Regarding the last comment/question about parking during the new police headquarters building, we will most likely ask the singers to park as far away as physically possible for them to allow the church parking lot for the audience. The County lot on Mill street would be a good option for the musicians, per your recommendation. We do not plan to use a shuttle bus, but actually do have a passenger van owned by the Choral Foundation that could be used in a pinch, if needed, to shuttle folks to the parking lot. It can fit in 7-8 passengers. Thank you for making us aware of the construction project!

Let me know if you need any additional information. We look forward to building our Northland Summer Singers program in our 2nd year in Liberty, MO!

Best,

Laura Baker

William Baker Choral Foundation  
December 30, 2025 – Updated January 13, 2026

## **NORTHLAND SUMMER SINGERS BUDGET**

Project: Schubert Mass in G

### **EXPENSES:**

#### STAFF

Danny Baker, Artistic Director/Founder	\$1500
Leslie Bunch, Rehearsal accompanist	\$1000
Dr. Jamea J. Sale, IHS&VR workshop	\$750
Admin staff	\$1250
Larry Figg, Orchestra Contractor	\$500

#### CONTRACTORS

Orchestra (including seven players)	\$2500
Organist	\$500
Four Professional soloists	\$1000

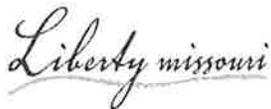
#### MARKETING

Costs for printing flyers, postcards, stamps, and ads placed in Liberty Courier-Tribune	\$1500
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TOTAL	\$10,500
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### **REVENUES (estimated):**

Tickets	\$2,000
Tuition for singers	\$3,500
TOTAL	\$5,500



Jeanine Thill <jthill@libertymo.gov>

## Online Form Submittal: 2026 Annual Art Grant

1 message

noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>

Mon, Dec 29, 2025 at 6:01 PM

Reply-To: noreply@civicplus.com

To: jthill@libertymo.gov, crodgers@libertymo.gov

### 2026 Annual Art Grant

#### 2026 Annual Art Grant - Application

**Submission and Review:** This application is for the 2026 calendar year. Applications will be reviewed as they come in, but funds will not be paid out until January 2026.

Organization Name (If applicable)	William Baker Choral Foundation
Address	5450 Buena Vista St, Suite 100
Contact Name	Laura Baker
Title	Director of Development
Email	lbaker@festivalsingers.org
Phone	8169148791
Project Name	Northland Summer Singers
Has this project been held before?	Yes
If yes, please list the years and locations	August 10th, 2025 - Second Baptist Church, 300 E. Kansas Street
List any additional co-sponsors of the project:	n/a
List any other organizations, government entities and/or grants that have offered financial support of the project:	n/a
Do you intend to request support from businesses in the form of sponsorships, donations, materials or other	Yes

means that will assist you in executing the project?

Is this a ticketed event?

Yes

If yes, please list price of ticket, admission, entry fee:

\$25 general admission, \$20 Seniors/Students, \$5 children under 17

Total Liberty Arts Commission grant funds requested (not to exceed \$5,000):

\$5000

(Section Break)

## Related Documents

Budget

WBCF NSS 2026 Budget - Schubert Mass in G.pdf

Work Sample 1

NSS Inaugural Concert Program Final.pdf

Work Sample 2

Northland Summer Singers Inaugural concert 8.10.25.jpg

Work Sample 3

NSS YouTube links 2025.pdf

Work Sample 4

KC Arts Beat + Liberty Courier Tribune articles.pdf

Non-profit 501(c)3 Documents (If Applicable)

WBCF 501(c)(3) Documents.pdf

(Section Break)

## Narrative Questions

Please describe the proposed project, including activities, location and the number of people to be served.

The proposed project is the 2nd annual season for a new community choir located in Liberty, the Northland Summer Singers, performing an 'all Schubert' concert, featuring the Schubert Mass in G. Weekly evening choir rehearsals with piano are to begin on Monday, June 8th at Second Baptist Church. The rehearsal + concert home is located @ 300 East Kansas Street, with convenient access to 152 Highway and Interstate 35. Free on-site parking is plentiful and accessible to the Church and the sanctuary is accessible by elevator. There will be a dress rehearsal with orchestra (5 strings, oboe, trumpet + organ/harpsichord) and professional soloists on Saturday, August 8. The concert performance with all the musicians is set for Sunday afternoon, August 9. The Northland Summer Singers will perform an 'all Schubert' concert with selections written by Franz Schubert, including Mass in G. Weekly rehearsals include vocal warm-ups with staff from the Choral Foundation's Institute for Healthy Singing & Voice Research (IHS&VR). And, during the summer one Healthy Singing workshop will be taught to the chorus by the director of IHS&VR, Dr. Jamea Sale. In addition, a weekly email will be sent to all registered members by the director, Danny Baker, informing them of what

they can prepare for the next week in self-study of the music. He may also share logistics of rehearsals, including break outs for sectional study.

After the inaugural year success, Danny Baker is confident that he will have at least 60 enrolled singers for the performance. There will be 13 additional musicians contracted for orchestra and soloists. With the excitement and buzz around the project, we expect to have a large house for the concert. 2nd Baptist Church seats a large crowd, but we will plan for an audience of at least 350. Including musicians and audience, we expect the Northland Summer Singers project to serve approximately 425 participants. This total does not include all the people that engage with social media through weekly posts, YouTube videos of the concert, and any readers of articles about the ensemble or director in local printed/online news outlets.

Briefly describe the value of the project as a way to attract outside visitors to the City of Liberty. Include descriptions of the intended audience and estimated numbers. Why will this project be particularly attractive to tourists?

Our moto at the Choral Foundation is that 'Arts are essential' and make communities wonderful places to live and to raise a family! With the addition of a summer choral / orchestral ensemble to the community of Liberty, a unique opportunity is offered for artistic outlet during the summer months, when most performing ensembles are on break. In addition, there are not many live performances in summer months, so the Northland Summer Singers will serve the audience participants that appreciate classical music in the Northland areas, as well. Another valuable attraction for singers is the opportunity to perform with members of the Kansas City Symphony, who is now considered one of the best orchestras in the country! People residing in the Northland may not make a trip into downtown KC for a symphony concert, but would very likely come to hear them in Liberty. Professional soloists are also a big draw for singers and also attract audience members. Amateur singers working with professional musicians gives them an opportunity like no other.

We believe this project would be very attractive to outside visitors to the city of Liberty if they have family/friends performing in the chorus. In addition, the draw to see talented members of the KC Symphony performing will be strong. The intended audience will include family/friends of the performers, members of Second Baptist Church, members of other William Baker Choral Foundation ensembles, William Jewel students, friends of the director, Danny Baker to support his new project group, and classic music enthusiasts from the Northland areas. If our inaugural year in 2025 is any indication, we intend to build on a very respectable audience comprised of residents across the KC Metro for the 2nd annual Northland Summer Singers concert!

Provide a brief timeline for the project (planning, implementation and evaluation).

October 2025 – planning meeting with Dr. Baker, Danny Baker and Laura Baker, finalize dates for Northland Summer Singers rehearsals and performance and create a budget for the project  
November 2025 – Music staff adds rehearsal and performance

dates to calendar at Second Baptist Church

January/February 2026 – Send post card invitations to join Northland Summer Singers from the Choral Foundation to church leaders in Liberty and surrounding Northland communities (including St. Joseph), plus music educators at MO Western College, Park University, William Jewel and others.

February 2026 – start to promote on Facebook and Instagram pages for Northland Summer Singers announcing concert repertoire, dates, and recruitment

March 1, 2026 – Early Bird registrations begin for all the Summer Singers ensembles, including Northland Summer Singers

June 2026 – Weekly posts on social media to help build interest and registration in the choir

June 8, 2026 – First rehearsal begins from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at Second Baptist Church in the Sanctuary

June 22, 2026 – Jamea Sale, PhD, the Director of the Institute for Healthy Singing and Voice Research, makes a presentation and choral training to the chorus

August 3, 2026 – WBCF admin staff to create concert program and send to printer

August 8, 2026 – Dress rehearsal from 9:00 to 12:00 at Second Baptist Church, all singers and orchestra, and soloists are placed

August 9, 2026 – The 2nd annual Northland Summer Singers + special musical guests perform – Schubert Mass in G

August 10, 2026 – Evaluate the successes (artistic, reach to the community, audience participants) of the Northland Summer Singers with Choral Foundation staff, and make a final social media post to thank everyone involved with the new ensemble.

Describe the credentials and experience of the project leadership. Who are the artists and others to be involved in the project; including how and why they were chosen (If you have not yet selected the artists, describe the kinds of artists you intend to involve and how you will select them).

Danny Baker, Music Director/Founder Northland Summer Singers

Daniel A. Baker joined the Choral Foundation family as a member of the William Baker Festival Singers in 2022. Danny has many talents in addition to his singing talents. He is an accomplished piano/organist accompanist, music director, and is well-known over the Kansas City area for his professionalism & passion for music. Danny is excited to expand the Choral Foundation portfolio of ensembles into a growing area of the Northland of Kansas City with the ensemble, Northland Summer Singers, reaching out to the communities of Liberty, Parkville, KCMO, St. Joseph, and beyond.

Danny is formerly the Director of Liturgy and Music with the historic St. James Catholic Church (est. in 1837) in Liberty, MO. And, in addition to being a staff member for 17 years, he served on a design team to help create the beautiful modern St. James Church that was built in 2019 to serve a growing Catholic community in Liberty. In March of 2025, Danny was appointed the Associate Director of Traditional Music and

Organist at Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, KS. COR is the largest Methodist congregation in the United States. Currently serving as Tenor Section Leader, Resident Organist, and Rehearsal Accompanist for the William Baker Festival Singers, Danny is also an instructor of Keyboard Arts / Collaborative Pianist at William Jewell College located in Liberty, Missouri. In recent years, Danny has served as staff accompanist for Liberty Community Chorus + Northwest Missouri State University as well as offering private instruction in voice and piano.

Leslie Bunch, rehearsal/performance accompanist Northland Summer Singers

Leslie is a well-respected collaborative pianist with over three decades of experience in vocal music. Retired from a 29-year career teaching vocal music, Leslie continues to share her passion for music as an adjunct collaborative pianist at William Jewell College.

In addition to her work at William Jewell, Leslie is an in-demand accompanist with Liberty Public Schools and frequently collaborates at regional festivals and contests throughout the Kansas City area. Her versatility as a pianist extends to her part-time role at Second Baptist Church in Liberty, Missouri, where she often contributes to worship services and special events.

Leslie's education began at Northwest Missouri State University, where she studied piano and developed a strong foundation in collaborative performance. During her time at NWMSU, Leslie was the primary accompanist for numerous choirs and musical theater productions, gaining invaluable experience in ensemble settings. Leslie also had the honor of accompanying the Missouri All-State Choir for three years. With a deep commitment to fostering musical growth in others, Leslie's career as a collaborative pianist has spanned diverse genres, including opera, choral music, musical theater, and sacred music.

Dr. Jamea J. Sale, Executive Associate Director of the William Baker Choral Foundation + Director of the Institute for Healthy Singing & Voice Research

Dr. Sale has a rich academic background, earning her Bachelor of Music Education in K-12 Vocal and Instrumental Music from Kansas State University in 1987. In 2012 she completed her Master of Music Education in Vocal/Choral Pedagogy at the University of Kansas in Lawrence and her Music Education PhD Vocal/Choral Pedagogy and Research Design from the same institution in 2022. To continue her passion of the connection between the voice science and the art of singing, Jamea and her staff train all of the 13 ensembles of the Choral Foundation (located in 4 states) in healthy singing practices. Most recently, Dr. Sale forged a collaboration between the Institute for Healthy Singing and Voice Research and the voice specialists at Ascentist Healthcare to focus on preventative voice care and assist those in vocal recovery. Together, they

serve people suffering from hoarseness, tension, limited range, and other health issues affecting the singing voice and advocate for lifespan-healthy vocal practices.

Dr. Sale has been an integral part of the music community in the Kansas City Metropolitan Area. She has been a member and soloist with the William Baker Festival Singers and the Summer Singers of Kansas City since 2002. Recently, Jamea received the 2024 Arts Advocate Award from The Arts Council of Johnson County, a recognition given to an individual who has dedicated significant time, effort, and leadership, leading to a positive impact on the creative economy and the arts in Johnson County, Kansas.

Other artists to be involved in the project

At this point the soloists and orchestra musicians have not been selected for the project. For the 7 players, the William Baker Choral Foundation uses an orchestra contractor, Alex Shum, to hire the instrumentalists. Alex is a principal violin player with the Kansas City Symphony Orchestra and has been the Choral Foundation's contractor for project orchestras for over 25 years. Each player will be personally selected by Alex from the Kansas City Symphony roster or substitute roster for the symphony, so we know they have the professionalism and skills to play beautifully with only one working rehearsal with the Northland Summer Singers.

The soloists will be chosen by the music director, Danny Baker, with recommendations by the Director of the Choral Foundation, William Baker. Most soloist recommendations will be members of the Choral Foundation's professional ensemble, The William Baker Festival Singers.

How will you know if this project has been successful? State the goals you will have achieved by its conclusion.

We will measure the success of the Northland Summer Singers project in a number of ways.

1. Quality of musicians

When a quality product is presented to a community, a high level of musician is attracted to participate. The reputation of the William Baker Choral Foundation (WBCF) is known in the communities that we serve which leads musicians to inquire about joining ensembles. Members that have participated in other WBCF Summer ensembles will also recruit new musicians to participate based on their experiences.

2. Improvement of Music Skills

By improving music skills, a higher level of professionalism is introduced, bringing a level of excellence to the ensemble that improves the overall look/sound. This is an excellent indicator of success. Increased skills offer an experience of more complex and diverse repertoire keeping members engaged, increasing professional skills, and a mutual respect for fellow musicians in the ensemble.

3. Audience Participation + Revenue

The number of audience participants is always a good indicator that we have achieved a successful concert offering to the community. The expressions seen on audience participants can

range from an outburst of joy/clapping to dissolving in tears. We provide a safe outlet for the audience participants to express their emotions and be involved in a life-changing arts experience. Ticket sales at concerts can provide a source of revenue for the organization, which we track and monitor through credit card and cash sales.

4. Critical Review and Buzz

Media coverage in local newspapers, arts magazines, and online calendars increases interest and buzz. The successes of social media posts and printed coverage increase morale and bring participants to a higher performance level. The Choral Foundation has a large social media presence on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube, engaging thousands of followers who use these platforms to learn about upcoming concerts and major announcements.

5. Community Impact

We see an impact on our community with texts, posts, cards, and emails from people expressing thanks to the members and staff. By building new relationships, we create stronger bonds between people in the music community. A successful concert bodes well for recruitment for the Northland Summer Singers in 2026. Next time, the singers bring their friends and family creating an impactful and bonding experience in the Liberty Community.

Goals that we plan to achieve after the conclusion of the Inaugural year of the Northland Summer Singers...

- 1) Recruit new voices in the Northland area to participate in a life-changing masterworks through the Choral Foundation
- 2) Increase education of Healthy Singing to the Liberty community and improve on music skills in participants
- 3) Build a new audience of supporters for the Choral Foundation in a growing suburb of Kansas City
- 4) create a summer singing community chorus fostering the art of excellent choral singing
- 5) encourage through social media and press releases + critical reviews to bring tourism into the Liberty community

As you work toward the project date, what benchmarks will you use to assure progress toward your goals? Afterward, what tools will you use to evaluate whether or not the goals were achieved?

There are several benchmarks that will illustrate progress toward our goals of a successful recruitment choir & enthusiastic audience for the 2nd Annual Northland Summer Singers concert in Liberty. In January of 2026, announcements will go out on all the Choral Foundation Kansas City area Facebook pages for summer ensembles to announce repertoire for each ensemble. We can observe interest by activities from comments by friends/supporters. Additional email announcements will be sent to Kansas City musicians that participate in other WBCF ensembles, including the William Baker Festival Singers, Summer Singers of KC, Summer Singers of Lee's Summit, Summer Singers Academy, Kansas City Bronze, and Voces Festivas. As we continue to develop this new ensemble, we will send

press releases to a number of outlets to help us get the word out. WBCF has established connections with the Liberty Courier Tribune, the Independent Magazine, KC Studio, and KC Arts Beat, who all have reporters that support the vibrant arts community in the KC Metro area & the growing arts community in Liberty. Printed articles by established newspapers and online pages to promote the project have a profound impact for recruitment of singers and audience at the concert, which we observed in 2025 for the Vivaldi concert (see attached articles from KC Arts Beat & the Liberty Courier Tribune published in 2025).

Registrations begin in early spring and continue through the 2nd rehearsal date. We can quickly evaluate the success of the Northland Summer Singers by counting the number of people who register to participate. In its 2nd year, Danny Baker has a goal of attracting at least 60 singers, but the staff at WBCF thinks it could get much higher due to Danny & Leslie's connections with 2nd Baptist Church, Liberty United Methodist Church, William Jewell College staff, and a connection with the Liberty Community chorus music director, Bryan Taylor, who are all supportive of the Northland Summer Singers project success.

We plan to make announcements at the Liberty Community Choir rehearsals and add inserts inside their final concert program before summer break. Depending on comments by interested singers and the number of flyers distributed, we can estimate a successful recruitment for the ensemble, based on other WBCF ensembles located in KS and MO.

At the inaugural concert in August, we determined the success of the new music experience in Liberty by the excellent number of singers enrolled in the choir and a respectable audience who purchased tickets. A large number of participants illustrated the impact from WBCF and a need for this type of summer community choir ensemble in the community of Liberty.

Briefly describe how the project will be publicized and promoted to reach potential tourists, as well as the general public. All marketing materials must include the LAC logo and language stating the project was made possible in part by the LAC.

To publicize the project, we intend to submit our event to the online calendar [www.visitlibertymo.com](http://www.visitlibertymo.com)

The Choral Foundation will place an advertisement in the Liberty Courier-Tribune to promote the event

Northland Summer singers' members will be invited to put up Concert Posters in downtown Liberty to attract visitors from retail and restaurants.

Use hashtags on social media marketing #ThatsMyMO

#LibertyMO #GiveMeLiberty

The Choral Foundation has an email list of supporters in the Northland and will use that to promote and market the concert in Liberty

We will also print a promotional postcard to attract participants in the choir, sending them to education and church choir programs in Liberty, Parkville, St. Joseph

All printed promotional materials such as concert posters, and

concert programs would all add the LAC logo and say 'This Concert is Sponsored in part by the Liberty Arts Commission'.

Describe the extent of community support for this project, including collaboration/partnerships, financial and in-kind contributions, volunteers, etc.

Community support for the Northland Summer Singers will come in many forms as a result of the various connections that the music director Danny Baker has already formed as a successful leader in the Liberty Arts community.

Firstly, the 2nd Baptist Church is very supportive of music endeavors in Liberty and will support the Summer Singers by providing a rehearsal and performance venue as an in-kind contribution to the Choral Foundation. Furthermore, they will promote for singer recruitment and for the performance in announcements to the congregation, that reaches well over 2,000 members.

We plan to approach several local businesses in Liberty to donate toward the project, but we are unaware at this time of the donation amounts.

Since Liberty is such a close-knit community, the churches are especially supportive of each other and the many music offerings in Liberty. We expect to attract singers from the following congregations, St. James Catholic Church, Second Baptist, Hosana Lutheran Church, and Liberty UMC with Danny's colleagues at each location.

Danny & Leslie each serve as a staff accompanist at William Jewel College, so as staff members they can promote the Northland Summer Singers with the students. The Choral Foundation offers a special student rate for tuition, which should be especially appealing to the Jewel choral students. Bryan Taylor, the music director of Liberty Community Chorus, draws a large chorus throughout the year, but takes a break during the summer months. We feel that given the option, the Northland Summer Singers will draw participants from LCC, as well. Bryan is pleased to support our efforts to add a quality choral/orchestral option in the summer months in Liberty.

Regarding community support, Danny Baker has an established relationship with Kellie Houx, the Community Editor at the Courier-Tribune newspaper that serves the communities of Liberty, Excelsior Springs, and Kearny. In the past, Kellie has been very supportive of the Arts in these communities and we expect her to be supportive of the new ensemble, Northland Summer Singers, located in Liberty (see attached article from this past summer).

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

William Baker Choral Foundation  
December 30, 2025

## **NORTHLAND SUMMER SINGERS BUDGET**

Project: Schubert Mass in G

### **STAFF**

Danny Baker, Artistic Director/Founder	\$1500
Leslie Bunch, Rehearsal accompanist	\$1000
Dr. Jamea J. Sale, IHS&VR workshop	\$750
Admin staff	\$1000
Larry Figg, Orchestra Contractor	\$500

### **CONTRACTORS**

Orchestra (including seven players)	\$2500
Organist	\$500
Four Professional soloists	\$1000

### **MARKETING**

Costs for printing flyers, postcards, stamps, and ads placed in Liberty Courier-Tribune	\$1500
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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10,250</b>
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William Baker Choral Foundation  
December 30, 2025

## **NORTHLAND SUMMER SINGERS YouTube Video links**

[https://youtu.be/xajNWYpR0fQ?si=ITkHUQj\\_iOUjMBZr](https://youtu.be/xajNWYpR0fQ?si=ITkHUQj_iOUjMBZr)

DOMINE, AD ADJUVANDUM ME FESTINA - Northland Summer Singers

The Northland Summer Singers performs Giovanni Battista Martini's DOMINE, AD ADJUVANDUM ME FESTINA. The NSS is the newest ensemble of the William Baker Choral Foundation, and was recently created in summer 2025.

Daniel Baker, Music Director & Conductor and Leslie Bunch, Accompanist. This video is from the Inaugural concert: Sunday Afternoon, 10 August 2025 at 2:00 PM, Second Baptist Church, Liberty, Missouri.

<https://youtu.be/kWN3RQVW5Kc?si=StUDZVXbZzM3IXHi>

BEATUS VIR - Northland Summer Singers

The Northland Summer Singers performs Antonio Vivaldi's BEATUS VIR. The NSS is the newest ensemble of the William Baker Choral Foundation, and was recently created in summer 2025.

Daniel Baker, Music Director & Conductor and Leslie Bunch, Accompanist. This video is from the Inaugural concert: Sunday Afternoon, 10 August 2025 at 2:00 PM, Second Baptist Church, Liberty, Missouri.

[https://youtu.be/x8WcAyTbKqQ?si=t\\_kOJtnGKdsTSNaX](https://youtu.be/x8WcAyTbKqQ?si=t_kOJtnGKdsTSNaX)

GLORIA - Northland Summer Singers

The Northland Summer Singers performs Antonio Vivaldi's GLORIA. The NSS is the newest ensemble of the William Baker Choral Foundation, and was recently created in summer 2025.

Daniel Baker, Music Director & Conductor and Leslie Bunch, Accompanist. This video is from the Inaugural concert: Sunday Afternoon, 10 August 2025 at 2:00 PM, Second Baptist Church, Liberty, Missouri.

## 2026 Annual Art Grant

### 2026 Annual Art Grant - Application

**Submission and Review:** This application is for the 2026 calendar year. Applications will be reviewed as they come in, but funds will not be paid out until January 2026.

Organization Name (If applicable)	Re:Sound Ensembles
Address	1909 Charter St
Contact Name	Stephanie Mooneyhan
Title	Executive Director
Email	<a href="mailto:stephanie@resoundensembles.org">stephanie@resoundensembles.org</a>
Phone	913-488-7197
Project Name	Echoes in the Walls
Has this project been held before?	No
If yes, please list the years and locations	<i>Field not completed.</i>
List any additional co-sponsors of the project:	<i>Field not completed.</i>
List any other organizations, government entities and/or grants that have offered financial support of the project:	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Do you intend to request support from businesses in the form of sponsorships, donations, materials or other means that will assist you in executing the project?	No

Is this a ticketed event? Yes

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If yes, please list price of ticket, admission, entry fee: \$20, \$30, \$40 (varying ticket prices based on seating)

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Total Liberty Arts Commission grant funds requested (not to exceed \$5,000): \$5,000

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(Section Break)

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Related Documents

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Budget [Echoes Proposed Budget.pdf](#)

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Work Sample 1 [Sound Recordings.pages](#)

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Work Sample 2 *Field not completed.*

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Work Sample 3 *Field not completed.*

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Work Sample 4 *Field not completed.*

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Non-profit 501(c)3 Documents (If Applicable) [RESOUND EIN LETTER.pdf](#)

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(Section Break)

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Narrative Questions

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Please describe the proposed project, including activities, location and the number of people to be served. Echoes in the Walls is an immersive choral concert project presented by Re:Sound, a professional 20-member chamber ensemble. The project takes place on October 30-31, 2026 at Bel Voir Winery and Inn in Liberty, Missouri, using the historic architecture and acoustics of the venue as an integral artistic element rather than a neutral backdrop.

Echoes in the Walls explores the relationship between memory, place, and sound, using choral music and spoken narration to reflect how historic spaces carry human stories over time. The program was designed specifically for Bel Voir Winery and Inn, allowing the character, layout, and atmosphere of the site to shape both the narrative and the

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audience experience.

The performance is presented as a site-responsive experience rather than a traditional stage concert. Sound, movement, and proximity are intentionally shaped by the space, creating an immersive environment in which audiences experience the music in direct relationship to the venue.

Project activities include artistic planning, installation development, intensive on-site rehearsals, and two public performances. Professional singers and actors travel from across the United States and arrive on Thursday for ensemble rehearsals and collaborative preparation. Public performances take place on Friday evening and Saturday afternoon. An accompanying installation allows visitors to engage with elements of the project outside the formal concert performances.

The project serves approximately 520 to 720 individuals, including 20 professional artists and an estimated 500 to 700 community members and visitors through two public performances and the installation experience.

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**Briefly describe the value of the project as a way to attract outside visitors to the City of Liberty.**

**Include descriptions of the intended audience and estimated numbers. Why will this project be particularly attractive to tourists?**

Echoes in the Walls advances cultural tourism in the City of Liberty by offering a destination-based arts experience that cannot be replicated in a traditional concert hall. The project combines a nationally assembled professional ensemble with a limited-run, site-specific presentation at Bel Voir Winery and Inn, positioning the event as a reason to travel rather than an incidental activity.

The intended audience includes regional and out-of-state visitors interested in choral music, immersive arts experiences, and historic venues, as well as friends, family, and supporters of participating artists who travel to Liberty specifically for the project. Attendance is projected at 500 to 700 community members and visitors across the two performances and installation experience, in addition to 20 visiting artists.

By pairing high-quality cultural programming with a recognized local destination, the project encourages overnight stays, dining, winery visitation, and extended engagement with the city. This supports Liberty's identity as a community that

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invests in distinctive cultural experiences and arts-based visitor engagement.

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Provide a brief timeline for the project (planning, implementation and evaluation).

Planning, 9 to 12 months prior to performances.  
Development of the artistic concept, selection of repertoire, securing Bel Voir Winery and Inn, contracting artists, and establishing production and installation plans.

Pre-implementation, 3 to 6 months prior.  
Finalizing travel and lodging arrangements, marketing and ticketing strategies, technical coordination, installation design, and detailed rehearsal schedules.

Implementation, project week.  
Artists arrive Thursday for rehearsals, installation setup, and ensemble preparation. Public performances occur Friday evening and Saturday afternoon. The installation is available during the performance period.

Evaluation, within two weeks following the final performance.  
Compilation of attendance data, audience feedback, artist evaluations, and an internal review of artistic and organizational outcomes to inform future programming.

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Describe the credentials and experience of the project leadership. Who are the artists and others to be involved in the project; including how and why they were chosen (If you have not yet selected the artists, describe the kinds of artists you intend to involve and how you will select them).

Echoes in the Walls is led by the Artistic Director and Executive Director of Re:Sound, a professional chamber ensemble focused on immersive and site-responsive performance.

Artistic Director Joshua Oppenheim is Director of Choral Studies at Kansas State University, Interim Conductor of the Kansas City Symphony Chorus, and President of the American Choral Directors Association. His national and international experience in choral performance, education, and leadership informs the artistic vision, ensemble standards, and narrative design of the project.

The Executive Director oversees project management, artist coordination, budgeting, and logistics, ensuring alignment between artistic goals and operational execution.

Participating artists include professional singers and actors selected through a competitive audition process. Many are performers, conductors, and educators based across the

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United States. Artists are chosen for musical excellence, collaborative ability, and experience with narrative or immersive performance formats, ensuring a cohesive ensemble and high-quality audience experience.

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How will you know if this project has been successful? State the goals you will have achieved by its conclusion.

Success will be measured through audience reach, artistic quality, and effective project execution. By the conclusion of the project, goals include presenting two fully realized public performances and an installation experience at Bel Voir Winery and Inn, serving approximately 500 to 700 audience members and visitors.

Additional goals include providing paid professional performance opportunities for 20 artists, delivering a cohesive site-responsive concert experience that integrates music, narration, and place, and demonstrating strong coordination among artists, venue partners, and volunteers.

Audience response will be evaluated through attendance data, surveys, and direct feedback, with particular attention to overall satisfaction and interest in attending future cultural events in Liberty.

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As you work toward the project date, what benchmarks will you use to assure progress toward your goals? Afterward, what tools will you use to evaluate whether or not the goals were achieved?

Benchmarks include finalizing the artistic concept, repertoire, and venue agreement 9 to 12 months in advance; selecting and contracting artists by six months prior; and completing rehearsal schedules, installation planning, and production coordination one month before the project week. Marketing and ticketing milestones are used to track audience engagement leading into the performances.

Evaluation tools include attendance and ticketing data, audience surveys, artist feedback, and leadership review of rehearsals, performances, and installation outcomes. These measures provide clear evidence of audience reach, artistic effectiveness, and operational success.

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Briefly describe how the project will be publicized and promoted to reach potential tourists, as well as the general public. All marketing materials must include the LAC logo and

Echoes in the Walls will be promoted through a coordinated mix of digital marketing, local outreach, and venue-based promotion. Efforts include targeted social media campaigns, email marketing, event listings, press outreach, and collaboration with Bel Voir Winery and Inn to reach existing visitors and patrons. Printed materials will be distributed through local cultural, hospitality, and tourism locations.

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language stating the project was made possible in part by the LAC.

All marketing materials will prominently include the Liberty Arts Commission logo and required acknowledgment language stating that the project was made possible in part by the Liberty Arts Commission.

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Describe the extent of community support for this project, including collaboration/partnerships, financial and in-kind contributions, volunteers, etc.

Echoes in the Walls demonstrates strong community support through partnerships, in-kind contributions, and volunteer involvement. Bel Voir Winery and Inn serves as both venue partner and community host, providing the setting and logistical coordination necessary for a site-specific presentation tied directly to a Liberty landmark.

Community volunteers assist with audience services, installation monitoring, and event operations. Financial support includes ticket revenue and individual contributions, while in-kind support such as venue coordination, lodging arrangements, and technical assistance reduces overall project costs.

These partnerships reflect local investment in cultural programming and reinforce Liberty's role as a city that actively supports arts-based community engagement and cultural tourism.

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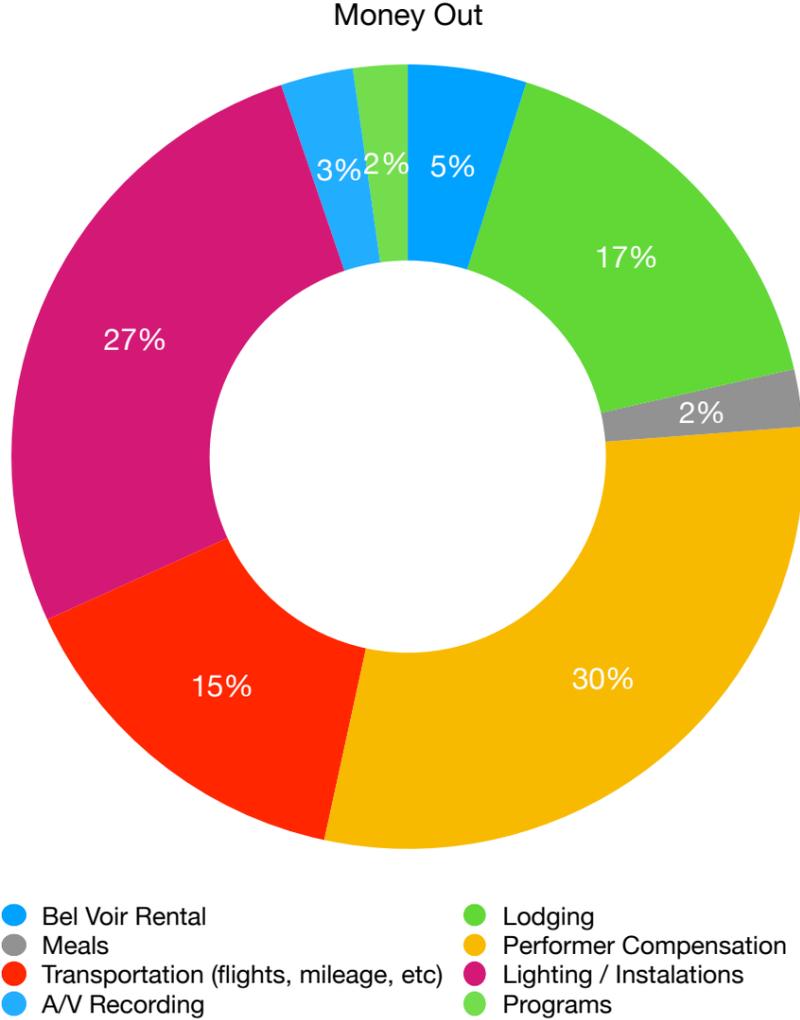
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# Echoes Proposed Budget

Money In	
Re:Sound Organizational Investment	\$20,785
Liberty Arts Commission Grant	\$5,000
In-Kind Donations	\$500
Projected Earned Income	\$7,500
<b>Total income</b>	<b>\$33,785</b>

Money Out	
Bel Voir Rental	\$1,635
Lodging	\$5,600
Meals	\$800
Performer Compensation	\$10,000
Transportation (flights, mileage, etc)	\$5,000
Lighting / Instalations	\$9,000
A/V Recording	\$1,000
Programs	\$750
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$33,785</b>

Money Left Over	
Income minus expenses	\$0



This project represents significant artistic and financial commitment from Re:Sound's leadership, with founding donors contributing \$20,785 to ensure professional artist compensation and high production values. The Liberty Arts Commission grant is the final piece needed to bring this caliber of experience to Liberty audiences at accessible ticket prices while maintaining the site-specific elements that make Bel Voir Winery an integral part of the performance

## 2026 Mini Grant Program

### 2026 Mini Art Grant - Application

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**Submission and Review:** Applications must be submitted a minimum of 60 days before the proposed project or event takes place. Accepted year-round, applications received before the first Thursday of each month will be reviewed during the following week's LAC meeting. Award decisions will be announced within two weeks of each review session.

**This application is for the 2026 calendar year. Applications will be reviewed as they come in, but funds will not be paid out until January 2026.**

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Applicant's Name	Jennifer Schuele
Organization's Name (If Applicable)	Historic Downtown Liberty Inc (HDLI)
Email Address	<a href="mailto:jschuele@libertymo.gov">jschuele@libertymo.gov</a>
Phone Number	816-439-4503
Address	101 E. Kansas St.
Project Name	Utility Box Art Wrap Installations (applying for two mini-art grants to cover both installations)
Total Grant Funds Requested	\$2,000 (this is for 2 installations, \$1,000 requested per install)
Total Project Budget	\$2500
Expected Project Start Date	March 2026
Expected Project Completion Date	April 2026
Describe the proposed project and how this project will drive tourism in Liberty.	This project is to help add to the downtown flair by giving the utility boxes an attractive facade wrapped with art from local students representative from each high school. We anticipate that beautifying the utility boxes will contribute to the vitality and attractiveness of the streetscape. This gives students a public place to showcase their talent and pride in the hometown. We

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expect it will attract tourists utilizing them for selfie stations, especially for the artist and their family, friends and classmates.

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Explain why you need the money and specifically how it will be spent.

The grant funds will help pay for the vinyl itself and the installation. A competition was conducted amongst the Graphics Design students at both High Schools. The HDLI Design Team has narrowed the design choices to the final 4 we are presenting here. The top 4 choices for each location will be sent out as a community wide poll and the final winners will be decided by a community vote through an online form to be shared through social media and newsletters. A monetary gift for the winning artist will be provided by HDLI to each host school.

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Explain how you anticipate that the project will be funded in the future, if applicable.

These installations have been well received by the community, we have been grateful for the LAC mini-grants to facilitate this program for the last 3 years and we hope this is the beginning of what will become a legacy of Liberty students showcasing their talents for years to come. Our aim is to continue to conduct the same process in the coming years with potentially branching out of the historic district and pursuing alternate fund sources (now that we have exhausted the boxes within the HDLI CID district) to cover the remaining portion. In the next phase, we are pursuing the possibility of the Liberty School Foundation to focus on the utility boxes near each of the schools to be wrapped with future school pride themed art from students that attended each of the schools.

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Provide a description of the event location.

The first installation will be applied to the utility box located near the spray park at Ruth Moore Park located at 4001 Grover St. (see attached picture and art rendering).

The second installation will be applied to the utility box located on the entrance/exit of the Juvenile Justice Center\* near the corner of Lightburne and Mill St. (see attached picture and art rendering). \*There is a possibility that we may have to come up with an alternate location for this art if we are unable to get the final written approval from Evergy in time.

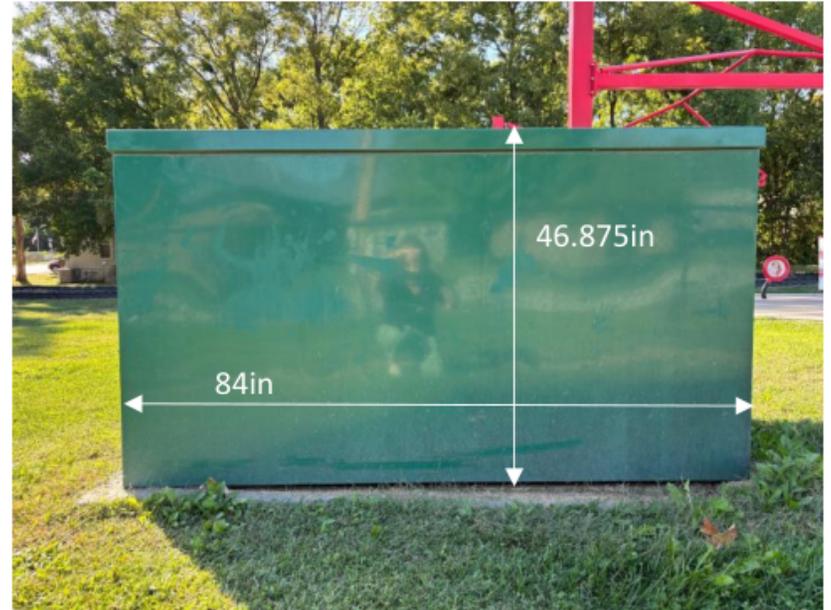
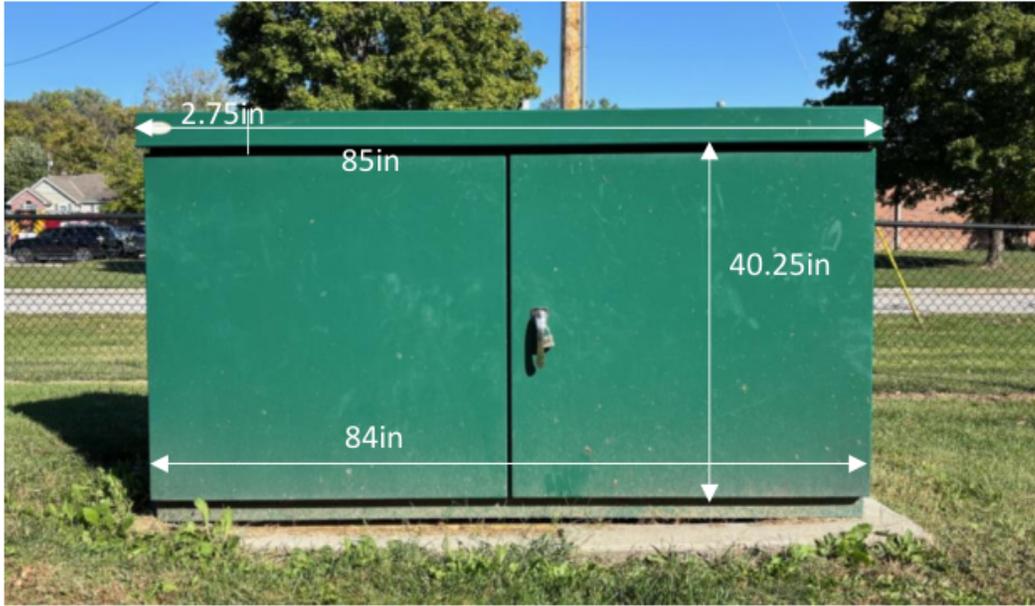
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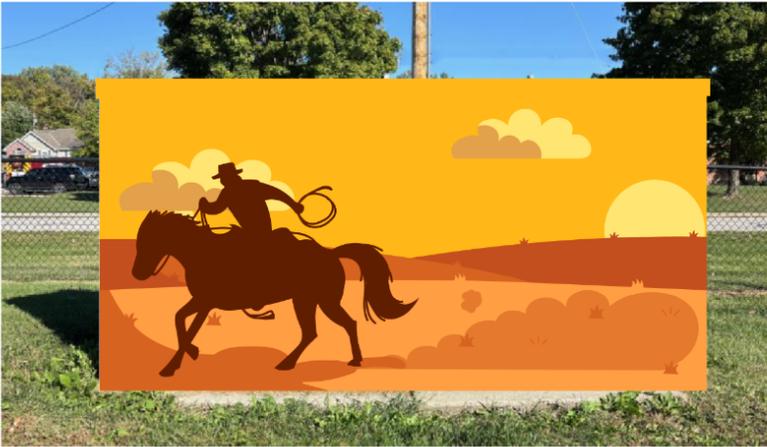
Map showing the event / project location.

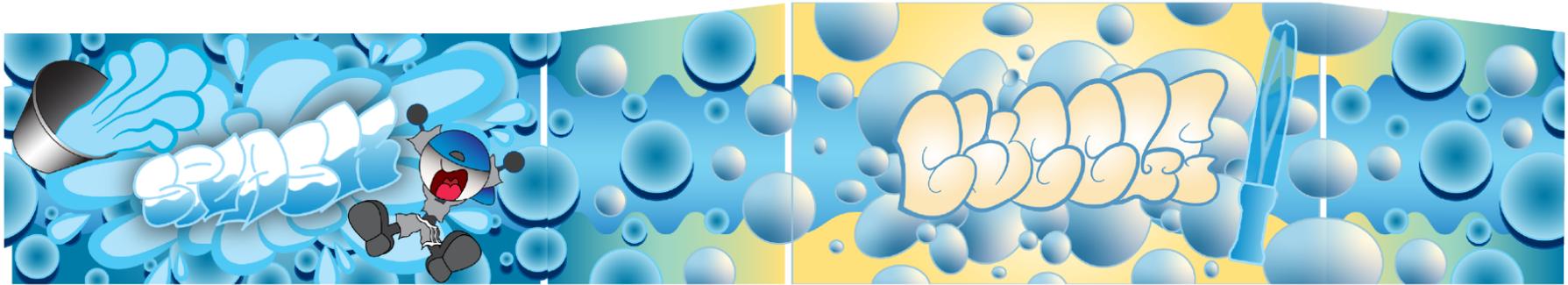
[Utility Box Submissions for 2026.docx](#)

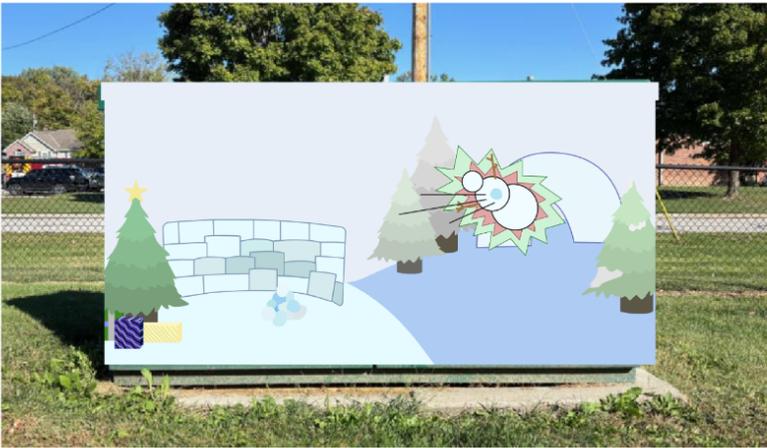
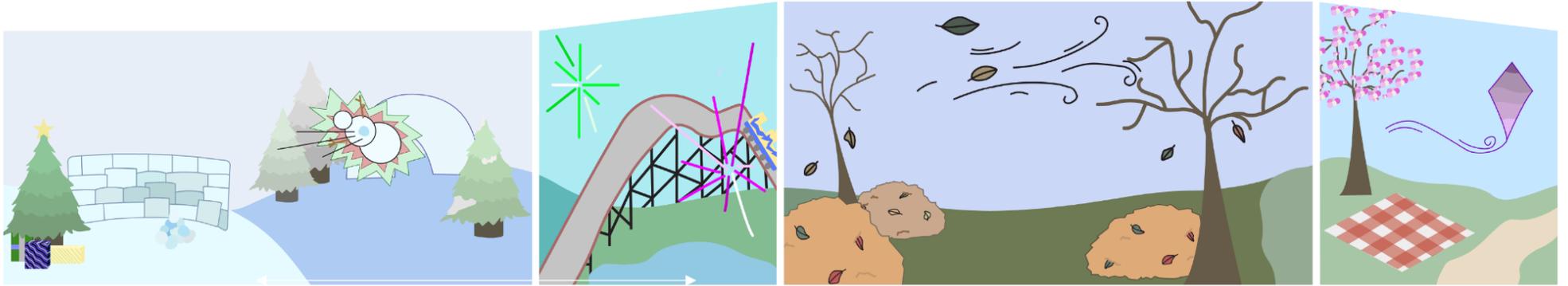
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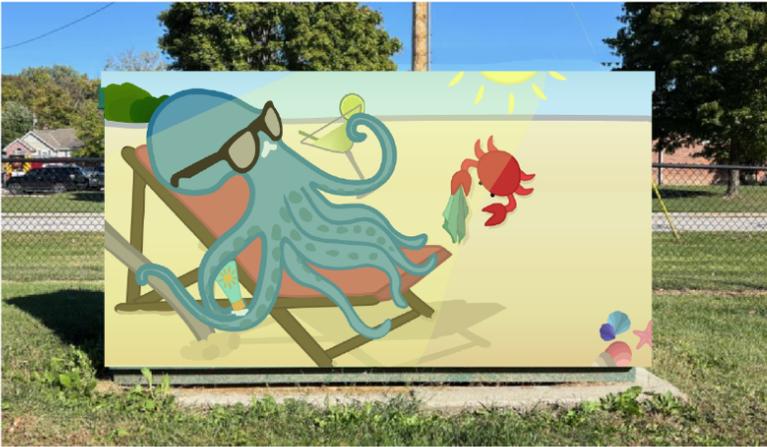
# Spray Park, Ruth Moore Park



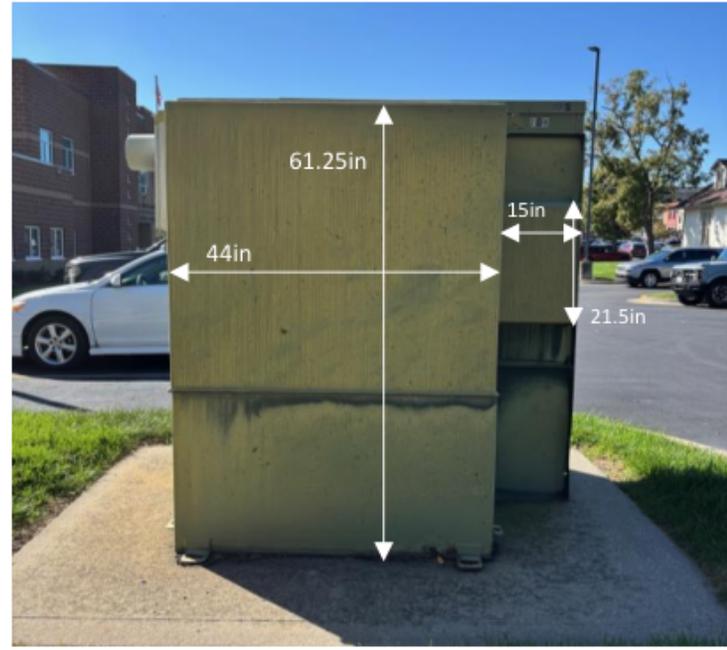






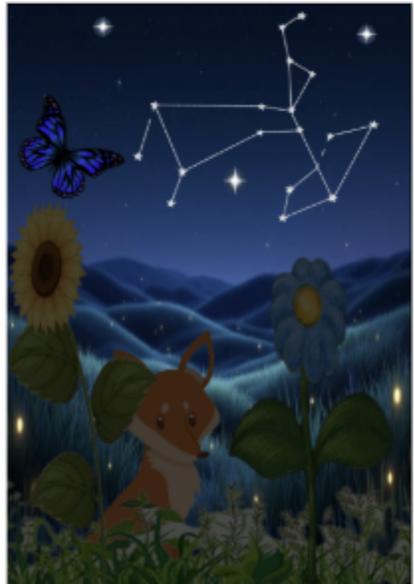


# Lightburne and Mill at entrance to facility

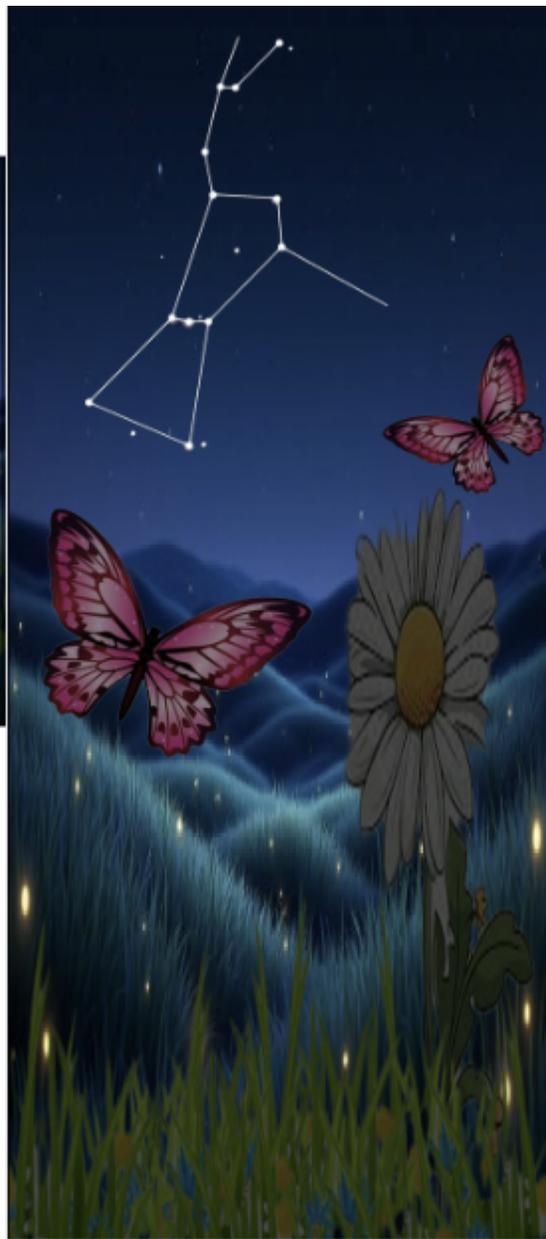




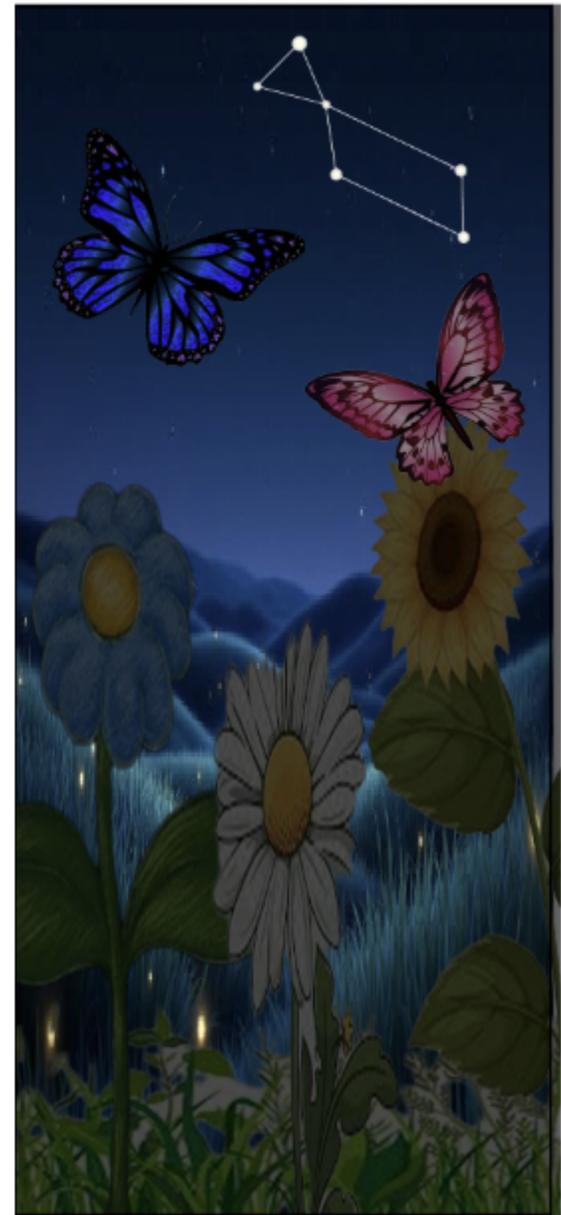
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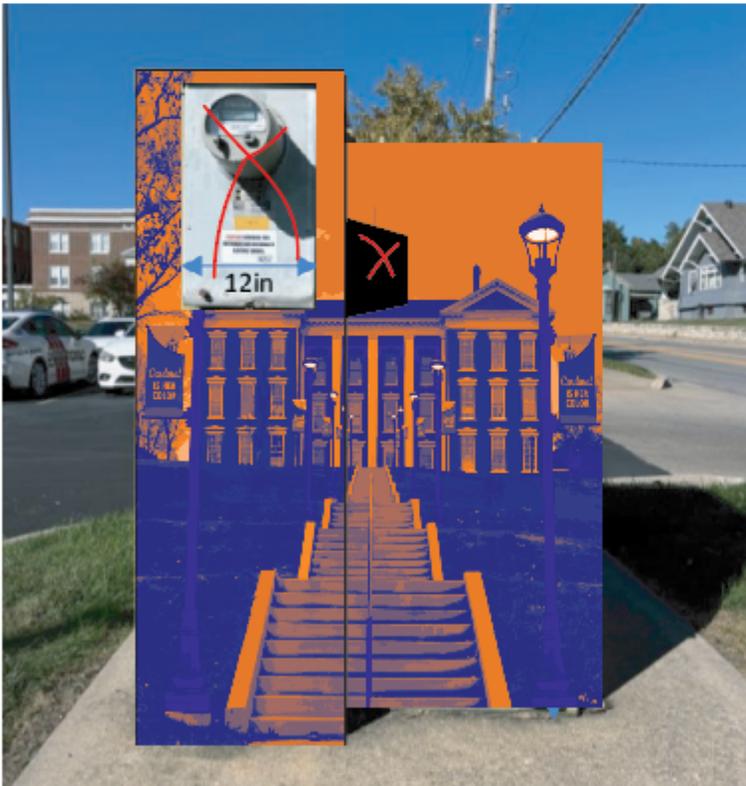
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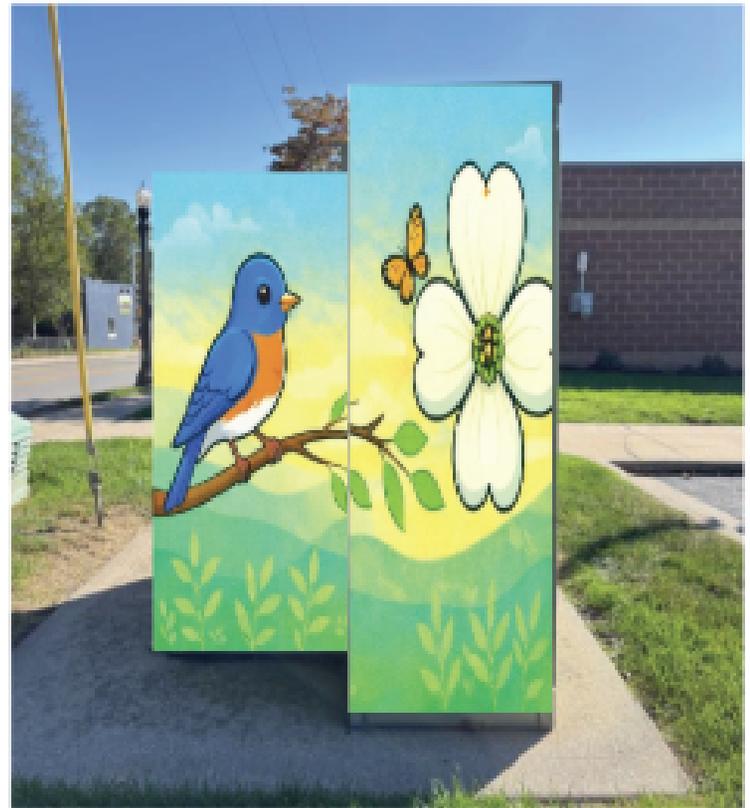
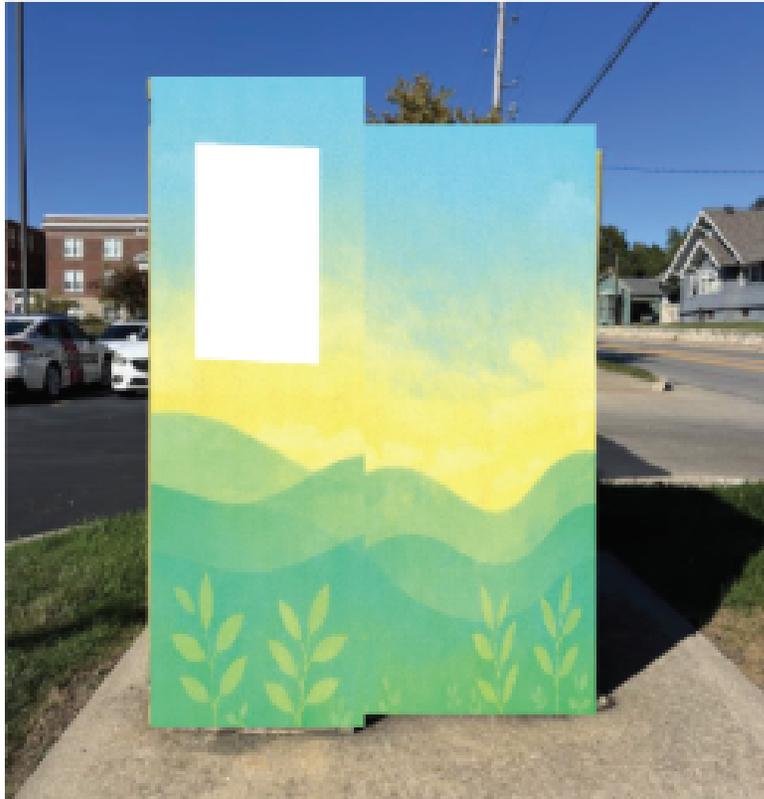
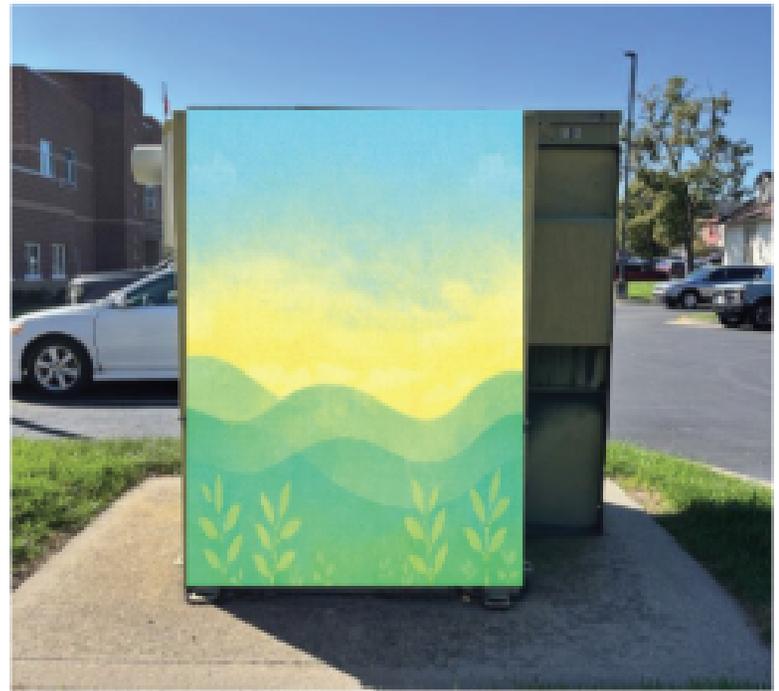
side 1



side 2







## 2026 Mini Grant Program

### 2026 Mini Art Grant - Application

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**Submission and Review:** Applications must be submitted a minimum of 60 days before the proposed project or event takes place. Accepted year-round, applications received before the first Thursday of each month will be reviewed during the following week's LAC meeting. Award decisions will be announced within two weeks of each review session.

**This application is for the 2026 calendar year. Applications will be reviewed as they come in, but funds will not be paid out until January 2026.**

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Applicant's Name	Elisabeth Bretz
Organization's Name (If Applicable)	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Email Address	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Phone Number	8165164520
Address	17 E Kansas Street
Project Name	Stepping Stones KC Music Class
Total Grant Funds Requested	\$1,000.00
Total Project Budget	\$1,200.00
Expected Project Start Date	January 2026
Expected Project Completion Date	December 2026
Describe the proposed project and how this project will drive tourism in Liberty.	<p>The proposed project is to continue and expand Stepping Stones KC monthly music classes hosted at Mama + Me Boutique in downtown Liberty. These interactive early-childhood music classes are highly sought after and consistently draw families from surrounding communities, including the Kansas City metro and neighboring towns.</p> <p>By offering these classes on a recurring monthly basis, families</p>

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are encouraged to travel into Liberty specifically for the experience. Many participants arrive early or stay after class to explore the historic downtown area, shop at nearby small businesses, dine locally, and attend additional community events. This creates repeat visitation and introduces new families to Liberty who may not otherwise visit.

The Stepping Stones KC classes support cultural enrichment, early childhood development, and community connection while serving as a destination-driven activity that brings non-local visitors into Liberty. Continued funding will allow these popular classes to remain accessible, well-promoted, and consistent—further strengthening Liberty’s reputation as a family-friendly destination with unique cultural offerings.

---

Explain why you need the money and specifically how it will be spent.

Funding is needed to ensure that Stepping Stones KC music classes can continue to be offered at no cost to families, removing financial barriers and allowing broad community participation. All grant funds will be used exclusively to support the cost of hosting these classes.

In the past, Mama + Me Boutique has been able to offer one free music class per month. With the full \$1,000 grant award, we would be able to expand the program to two free classes per month, increasing access for more families and accommodating growing demand.

Each Stepping Stones KC music class costs \$50 per session. Offering two classes per month for a full year results in a total program cost of \$1,200 annually. Grant funds would cover the majority of this expense, and Mama + Me Boutique will fully cover the remaining balance to ensure the program continues uninterrupted throughout the year.

This funding directly supports community enrichment, early childhood arts education, and increased participation in cultural programming in downtown Liberty.

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Explain how you anticipate that the project will be funded in the future, if applicable.

*Field not completed.*

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Provide a description of the event location.

The Stepping Stones KC Music classes are held in the event space located inside Mama + Me Botuque - 17 E Kansas Street Suite 100 Liberty MO 64068

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Map showing the event *Field not completed.*  
/ project location.

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Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

From: [noreply@civicplus.com](mailto:noreply@civicplus.com) <noreply@civicplus.com>  
Date: Tue, Jan 6, 2026 at 11:44 AM  
Subject: Online Form Submittal: 2026 Mini Grant Program  
To: <[jthill@libertymo.gov](mailto:jthill@libertymo.gov)>, <[crodgers@libertymo.gov](mailto:crodgers@libertymo.gov)>

## 2026 Mini Grant Program

### 2026 Mini Art Grant - Application

**Submission and Review:** Applications must be submitted a minimum of 60 days before the proposed project or event takes place. Accepted year-round, applications received before the first Thursday of each month will be reviewed during the following week's LAC meeting. Award decisions will be announced within two weeks of each review session.

**This application is for the 2026 calendar year. Applications will be reviewed as they come in, but funds will not be paid out until January 2026.**

Applicant's Name	Sarah Guthrie
Organization's Name (If Applicable)	Liberty Community Chorus
Email Address	<a href="mailto:sguthrie@libertycommunitychorus.org">sguthrie@libertycommunitychorus.org</a>
Phone Number	816-305-8156
Address	PO Box 884, Liberty, MO 64069
Project Name	Choral Festival wiht Dr. Andre Thomas
Total Grant Funds Requested	1000
Total Project Budget	\$15,000
Expected Project Start Date	March 2026
Expected Project Completion Date	June 7 2026
Describe the proposed project and how this	This gift will fund a portion of the cost of bringing Dr. Andre Thomas, a highly acclaimed composer and conductor, to Liberty

project will drive tourism in Liberty.

to conduct rehearsals and the Choral Festival concert on June 5-6, 2026. Dr. Thomas served as a professor of music at the College of Music at Florida State University where he was the Director of Choral Activities, Professor of Choral Education, and the Owen F. Sellers Professor of Music. Dr. Thomas also founded the Tallahassee Community Chorus and served as its artistic director until his retirement in 2019.

A published author, he wrote *Way Over in Beulah Lan': Understanding and Performing the Negro Spiritual*, and numerous journal articles. An active composer, he has been published by seven publishing companies. Dr. Thomas continues to conduct various choral organizations throughout the United States and internationally.

Marketing efforts including extensive use of social media will drive tourism to Liberty for this concert. In addition, our own chorus members actively invite others including family and friends from more than 20 miles away.

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Explain why you need the money and specifically how it will be spent.

The gift from the Liberty Arts Commission will be used to support the costs of the Choral Festival (estimated to be \$15,000) that will in turn increase tourism and the accessibility of the arts in the greater Kansas City and Liberty areas.

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Explain how you anticipate that the project will be funded in the future, if applicable.

The Choral Festival will be supported in the future by a combination of ticket sales, chorus member fundraising events, and grants.

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Provide a description of the event location.

The Festival will be held at the Community of Christ Temple in Independence, MO. This user-friendly facility has wheelchair-accessible entrances, parking, and restrooms; accessible seating can be requested at time of ticket purchase. Address: 1001 W Walnut St, Independence, MO 64050

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Map showing the event / project location.

[Community Of Christ Temple - Google Maps.pdf](#)

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Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)