



**LIBERTY ARTS COMMISSION
MEETING AGENDA
Thursday, March 12, 2026
City Hall 3rd Floor Conference Room
5:30 pm**

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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|-------------|--|--------------------------|
| I. | Approval of Meeting Summary | February 12, 2026 |
| II. | Current Business | |
| | Consideration of 2026 Art Grant Applications- | Molly Hon |
| | Mini Grants: Budget Remaining \$2,000 | |
| | ▪ Rob Weagley Symphony in the Park request: \$1,000 | |
| | Make Music Day Update | Staff |
| | Commissioned Sculpture Update | Greg Duncan |
| | Recognitions | Brian Kelley |
| | Champion Annual Award feedback - Staff | |
| | Upcoming Events – LAC involvement | Discussion |
| | Art on the Side - Saturday June 6 | |
| | Art Market - Farmers Market Pumpkin Fest Oct. 10th | |
| | Fall Festival Parade – Oct 24 | |
| III. | Art Partner Reports: | |
| | Liberty Arts Foundation- Commissioner Duncan | |
| | Library- Chair McDonald | |
| | William Jewell- Commissioner Wyman | |
| | Liberty Public Schools- Commissioner Brown | |
| | Garrison & Corbin – Commissioner Vedder | |
| | Miscellaneous Matters from the Commission | Roundtable |
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**LIBERTY ARTS
COMMISSION**

LIBERTY ARTS COMMISSION

MEETING SUMMARY

February 12, 2026

5:30 p.m.

Garrison School Cultural Center Museum

502 N Water Street

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

Staff Present: Jeanine Thill, Community Development Manager

Following a tour of the facility, the meeting was called to order at 5:45pm by Chairwoman McDonald.

Approval of Meeting Summary

Commissioner Kelley made a motion to approve the January 8, 2026 meeting summary as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pozel. The motion passed 10-0-0.

Current Business:

Consideration of 2026 Art Grant Applications:

- Commissioner Hon reported that the grant subcommittee met and discussed the applications.

Annual Grants:

Tabled from January: **Northland Summer Singers Annual Grant Application**, additional budget information that was requested from the Commission was provided and is in the meeting packets.

- Commissioner Hon reported they gave some additional information. We may want to consider they are charging for the event, but not an amount that is out of reach for most. Also, the subcommittee suggested that we may want to consider if grants should fund programs that are new or ongoing.

Echoes in the Walls Annual Grant Application is requesting \$5,000 for a two-day event at Belvoir Winery October 30 & 31 2026.

- Commissioner Hon commented that this is a very interesting group that creates an immersive experience. She can attest to the quality of work. The anticipated audience is 500-700 this may be the first time in Liberty. The committee felt this is a great event, however it doesn't have a big educational element.
- Chair McDonald commented that the grant does not require an educational component.
- Commissioner Kelley asked if we can split the \$5,000 between the two annual grant applicants, as both events are appealing.
- Ms. Thill said there isn't a rule against splitting the funds.
- Commissioner Hon commented that if in the future if there are five or six applicants, would we want to split the grant.
- Commissioner Kelley asked if it has a Halloween theme.
- Commissioner Hon said it has a "if walls could talk" theme.
- Commissioner Brown commented that he didn't know they had a capacity for that many people at Belvoir Winery.
- Chair McDonald said it has a big room that might accommodate.
- Vice Chair Knackstedt commented that it was a different take than other events, adding that in the written element they mention the marketing strategy.
- Commissioner Duncan asked if the applicant is local.
- Commissioner Hon said they are from the KC area.
- Commissioner Duncan asked if it has been held before, just not in Liberty.
- Commissioner Hon said they have done this in other places and have had good turnout, it will be the first in Liberty. Commissioner Duncan likes it because it is new, it has multiple appeals; art, music, etc. and we get two performances over two days which might result in people staying in our hotels. The audience of 500-700 is highly compelling, adding this is personally his choice.
- Commissioner Hon said the committee was leaning toward recommending approval of this application.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hon to fund \$5000 to Resound ensemble for the two-day event as proposed in the application. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pozel. The motion passed 10-0-0.

Mini Grants: Budget Remaining \$6,000:

HDLI Two Utility Box Art Wraps Request: \$2,000.

- Jennifer Schuele was introduced to the Commission, she is the Chair of HDLI, oversees the utility box projects and wrote the grant application.
- Commissioner Hon said the grant subcommittee recommendation is to approve the grant for the requested amount.
- Commissioner Brown asked if our logo was on the utility boxes that were done in the past.

- Ms. Schuele said the LAC logo/sticker is on the boxes and a QR code, taking people to the website with the artist statement. She added that there is a chance they might not get permission from Evergy to wrap on of the proposed utility boxes, which is located just outside the Children’s Justice Center near Mill and Lightburne. If they win the grant, HDLI is willing to put artwork on boxes outside the CID. She explained that a CID is a Community Improvement District – part of the funds goes to HDLI and for improvements in the downtown area, where the tax is collected. They do have an alternate box in mind, that is slightly smaller but the artwork can be adjusted to fit on the other box, near the fire station on North Lightburne, which is City owned.
- Commissioner Duncan asked if all of the boxes in the CID are wrapped with artwork.
- Ms. Shuele said yes. She said she has approached the school foundation about possibly champion for artwork wraps on the boxes outside of the schools.
- Commissioner Wyman asked if they have considered wrapping dumpsters and other things.
- Ms. Shuele said that some people have suggested that, she said it would be the last version. There are challenges as some of the dumpsters are taken away and replaced.

A motion was made by Kelley to approve the \$2000 grant for HDLI for the utility wraps project. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wyman. The motion passed 10-0-0.

- The wraps should be installed in April. She encouraged people to vote on designs before the February 23rd deadline. She will keep us in the loop when they are installed.
- Commissioner Vedder said he will plan to cover it and publicize.

Mama & Me- Sponsoring the Stepping Stones KC Music Class requesting \$1,000:

- Commissioner Hon said they had offered the music classes monthly in the past. They would like to host classes bi-weekly, because they have been so well attended. The business will cover the remaining balance. We have awarded them in the past, but we have done that for HDLI and others in the past.
- Commissioner Hon commented early music exposure is important to children. Their committee is recommending approval.
- Commissioner Duncan asked how much we gave them last year.
- Staff confirmed LAC gave them \$750 to host free weekly classes last year.
- Commissioner Duncan asked it would be the same program, and if it is double the people or is it the same people.
- Commissioner Hon said the program is similar each time.
- Commissioner Duncan said he loves that it is free.
- Chair McDonald said she likes that it is for young people, group that doesn’t always benefit from projects LAC has funded.
- Commissioner Vedder said he liked how it brings in people from surrounding area.

Vice Chair Knackstedt made a motion to accept the committees’ recommendation to award at \$1000 grant to Mama & Me to host free the bi-weekly music classes. Commissioner Duncan

clarified that a motion to approve is not needed because it is a recommendation from the grant committee.

- It was suggested that LAC consider adding a line item for Utility Wraps for next year.
- Commissioner Duncan said the point is to broaden the project. That's why he asked if HDLI could expand outside of the district. We need to clarify how that funding might work. Maybe in the future we help make that happen in partnership with others.
- Commissioner Brown said there are so many schools, perhaps we could do two or three a year and work with those students and give them parameters such as our logos need part of the design.
- Chair McDonald said it is tried and true and it may be worthy of a budget line item. It would be a fun way to expand the program. We should have conversation with Ms. Schuele to see if would like to consider expanding and how that might look like.

Liberty Community Chorus Request: \$1,000:

- Commissioner Hon said they do not qualify, because the final performance is in Independence, not in Liberty as the grant requires.
- Commissioner Hon reminded the group that they didn't approve the Flaminco Dancers in the past based on the fact that they didn't have their final performance in Liberty.

Film Fest 2026 – Recap:

- Commissioner Schieder said the Film Festival went well. The weather was very cold but we had a great attendance despite the weather. We did have to cancel the After Party due to the weather. We are reserved for next year for our third year. Our next focus is the Labor Day Reel Liberty event for America 250.

Recognition Committee – Update

- Commissioner Kelley reported that he has been working on an award to recognize individuals or groups that support the arts. Given that one of the permanent sculptures is titled "Champion" he is proposing a "Champion of the Arts" award. The idea is to recognize people that put time and money in promoting the arts.
- Commissioner Brown said the image of Champion could be used as a line figure on a plaque or award, he has talked to Personal Touch Engraving to get cost estimates. The expense for an award will be out of the branding budget. We might want to give the award to the recipient at the Plein Air reception or some event that we can make it a more formal recognition.
- Commissioner Duncan suggested it could be an annual award that possibly be given at a City Council meeting with a resolution from the Council, that approach could be thought of as a City award.
- Commissioner Duncan said it would be helpful to define criteria. Potential recipients could be the Steinkamps' or Juarenne Hester, she was key in establishing Corbin Theatre and LAC. If they come in singulars it is a higher honor.

- Chair McDonald said maybe there is an annual award and we recognize people along the way. It should be in line with the other awards. The recognition committee can look at the other city awards.
- Staff will check into this and report back to the committee.
- Vice Chair Knackstedt said we might want to do a smaller award.

Commissioned Sculpture:

- A committee is needed to plan for the unveiling of “Stop and Smell the Roses” sculpture.
- Staff will ask for who from the extended Public Art Panel are interested.
- Commission members that volunteered are; Commissioners Duncan, Knackstedt, Pozel, Kelley, Schieder and McDonald.

Consider Garrison School Cultural Center and Museum as a partner gallery:

- Commissioner Vedder asked if there are questions.
- Commissioner Schieder asked if the facility will have rotating art and who is setting that up.
- Commissioner Vedder said they can rotate art in. They do have contacts with artists and access to them.
- Commissioner Wyman commented that after the tour of the center tonight that most of it is permanent, which feels like a museum. That feels a little different. He is hesitant but not opposed to it.
- Commissioner Pozel asked if they would be open to sharing their process for that.
- Commissioner Wyman said a rotating exhibit would draw more people.
- Chair McDonald asked if they want to be an art partner rather than a Gallery Partner.
- Commissioner Duncan commented that it feels like a round peg in a square hole. If you look at the galleries we have as partners, they curate, handle and change on a regular basis, with public hours. He would be surprised if this is comparable. He feels like it isn't a gallery.
- Commissioner Brown said if they emptied out the entire room, like all of the other galleries, it might work. It needs to be clear space where new exhibits can come in on a regular basis.
- Commissioner Duncan asked if the goal is to determine how the Commission and Garrison can connect? We have community partners; as listed on the agenda also the symphony, and others. Garrison fits nicely in that connection. We need to look at how.
- Commissioner Wyman said that those art partner reports are made at the monthly meetings and the events are shared with the Commission.
- Commissioner Duncan said we need to be clear that there is no money attached to this.
- Commissioner Kelley said he feels like we need to know what each partner wants.
- Chair McDonald said we should include them in other art events and facilitate those connections.
- Commissioner Duncan said if Garrison can give a list of the top ten things that make Garrison an artistic and cultural center then we can respond. We are looking for a formal request of why they feel they could be an art partner.

- Commissioner Duncan suggested an outline of the aspect of how they are a cultural center.
- Commissioner Brown questioned if we need them to explain this after the tour today, that showed how much art and culture is at the Garrison and Corbin.
- Chair McDonald said if we add Garrison to the monthly report out, if what they are looking for. Commissioner Vedder said he didn't think the Garrison board had anything specific in mind. He was trying to just bring something to the Commission that might help Garrison

Commissioner Duncan made a motion to establish a formal art partner relationship with the Garrison School Cultural Center and Museum. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vedder. The motion passed 10-0-0.

Rotating Sculptures:

- Ms. Thill reported that the call for artists opened Feb 2nd on Café the deadline for applications is April 15th.

Other Business:

Art Partner Reports:

Liberty Arts Foundation

- Commissioner Duncan reported that LAF has a new project. A brain storm of Carol Brock and Rob Weagley, their inspiration is to have a musical instrument installation in the parks. It is a collaboration between the City of Liberty Parks and Rob and Carol. They have an early rendering for the installation at Westborough Canterbury park. The Foundation's roll is to have a place accept donations for the project. They are hoping people donate in honor of art educators. "Symphony in the Park" is the theme. He encouraged people to follow them on social channels.
- Commissioner Vedder offered his creative service to help with promotions. There is a QR code and link to donate.

Library

- The gallery at the Withers Branch features artist Rebecca Owen in Feb and March. She had experience with many mediums.
- Commissioner Kelley said he dropped off a tumbler to thank her.

William Jewell

- Commissioner Wyman reported
 - Feb. 22 Concert Choir with Missouri Choral Artists 3:30 p.m. Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church, Kansas City, MO
 - Feb. 28 Windfest Honor Band Concert 4 p.m., Peters Theater (Brown Hall)
 - Stocksdale Exhibit: "Limitless Imagination" though March 13, then Liberty Public Schools Showcase through May.

Garrison School Cultural Center Museum / Corbin Theatre

- Will be added to the agendas as an art partner

Liberty Public Schools

- Commissioner Brown reported they are doing musical comedy ... at Liberty North. Queens between Wednesday February 11 2026 and Thursday February 12 2026. King Henry VIII is trapped in purgatory, bound to his throne by a sinister fool and the ghostly Women in White. Here in his gilded cage, he is forced to relive the sins he committed against his queens, mistresses and people of the court, over and over again, for an eternity.
- Liberty High School Performing Arts Theater The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940 between Thursday February 19, 2026 and Saturday February 21, 2026. The creative team responsible for a recent Broadway flop (in which three chorus girls were murdered by the mysterious "Stage Door Slasher") assemble for a backer's audition of their new show. Comic mayhem follows when the infamous "Slasher" makes his reappearance and strikes again—and again. As they prepare their performance, a blizzard cuts off any possible retreat, bodies start to drop in plain sight, knives spring out of nowhere, masked figures drag their victims behind swiveling bookcases, and accusing fingers point in all directions.

Misc. Matters from the Commission

- Commissioner Pozel asked about the pencil cell tower and if it can be saved, it was because of the commission that it was the likeness of a pencil.
- Staff said it is taken down, that a demolition permit was approved. It was privately owned.
- Commissioner Pozel asked if we want to promote Jesse James on the utility box artwork, a design available for people's choice voting.
- Commissioner Brown said that the teachers will be part of the selection and he will be part of that.
- Commissioner Kelley reported that there will be an Emerald Isle Makers Market March 14 at Heritage Hall there will be a makers' market at Heritage Hall.
- Commissioner Duncan said he will do an art walk on August 1st. It will feature our new commissioned sculpture "Stop and Smell the Roses". We need to promote it.

A motion was made by Commissioner Knackstedt to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pozel.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:25 p.m.



Jeanine Thill <jthill@libertymo.gov>

Online Form Submittal: 2026 Mini Grant Program

1 message

noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>
Reply-To: noreply@civicplus.com
To: jthill@libertymo.gov, crodgers@libertymo.gov

Fri, Feb 13, 2026 at 9:29 AM

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	Robert Weagley
Organization's Name (If Applicable)	with Liberty Arts Foundation
Email Address	rweagley@gmail.com
Phone Number	(573) 673-4605
Address	1764 Homestead Dr
Project Name	Symphony in the Park
Total Grant Funds Requested	\$1,000
Total Project Budget	\$80,000
Expected Project Start Date	Later in 2026
Expected Project Completion Date	End of 2026
Describe the proposed project and how this project will drive tourism in Liberty.	Carol Brock and I have planned a music park to be installed in Canterbury-Westboro Park to memorialize, honor and recognize Dedicated Fine Arts Educators who have ties to Liberty, Missouri. This park may not drive tourism. Yet, as a tourist I had a seminal experience with one in Moab, Utah which inspired our gift to this goal. I have talked much about the experience since my visit, as I expect others who visit the

park to be built in Liberty. That may not drive tourism but it certain heralds a characteristic of our community which deserves recognition. Liberty Public Schools are know for their Fine Arts programming and alumni. William Jewell College, in addition, is one of the leaders in this area in greater Kansas City. It will be accessible to all.

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

The price tag for the instruments is \$55,000. Installation of concrete and purchased benches with ancillary supplies are the remaining \$25,000 of our expected total cost of \$80,000. I, Robert Weagley, have committed \$25,000 to the project and, frankly, every little bit helps both financially, as well as psychologically. It will be a valued addition to the support of family and youth development in Liberty.

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

The instruments have an expected life span of twenty years, with proper maintenance. The mallets used to play them are replaceable from the manufacturer, as well as insurance available. The Director of Parks indicates that their lifespan is quite similar to that of playground equipment in use across the city.

Provide a description of the event location.

The park is planned to be built in Canterbury-Westboro Park east of the "baseball diamond" field where the restrooms are located on the north of the field. The will be on the outside of trail near and, likely, partially within the existing woods to help provide shade for adoring parents who are reluctant to demonstrate their musical talents in public. I am sorry that I do not have a map available that does as much justice to our dream as the attached potential layout of the proposed instruments.

Map showing the event / project location.

[888-181423A_Westboro Canterbury Park_3D_Photo - 3 \(1\).jpg](#)

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