

## **DRAFT FOR APPROVAL**

### **BLOOMINGTON ARTS COMMISSION FULL COMMISSION MEETING**

February 11, 2026, 5:15 to 6:03 pm

Hybrid Meeting:

In person: Jane Kupersmith, Nick Blandford, Gerard, Nada, Robert, Christina, Paul, Gretchen,

#### **A G E N D A**

1. Call to Order/Welcome
2. BAC Minutes/Financials
  - a. Minutes from the January 2026 meeting were distributed and approved.
  - b. Jane Kupersmith introduced Nick Blandford, who gave the financial report.
  - c. Our budget this year is the same as last month: we have \$130,000 for grants and \$50,000 from the Urban Enterprise Association. We also have \$5000 for workshops for early-career artists. There is also \$16,500 for Public Art Projects.
3. City Updates
  - a. Holly Warren and Chaz Mottiger are no longer with the city. Jane cannot comment on personnel matters.
4. Update: Public Art
  - a. The final 5 applicants for the Convention Center project have been selected.
  - b. The final proposals will be submitted on April 10. During April, there will be interviews and public community comment events.
  - c. CIB will be responsible for communication with the artists.
  - d. Some artist meetings have taken place, and the artists are encouraged to come to Bloomington for meetings, but it is not required.
  - e. A press release has been developed but has not been released.
  - f. The project is being run through the Capital Improvement Board, and the board will have the final say.
5. There was a vote to rearrange the agenda to have Public Comment take place as agenda item 6.
6. Public comment:
  - a. There were comments from several people who had worked with Holly and Chaz on different art projects, and they expressed disappointment that they are no longer working at the City. The comments stated that they were great to work with, organized and professional, and were advocates for the queer community.
7. Commissioner comments
  - a. The commissioners stated that they would like to get more information to keep rumors at bay, and that all the commissioners liked working with Holly and Chaz. They also stated that many of the changes that Holly has made in the way that arts are run for the city have been for the better.
  - b. Jane Kupersmith said they would try to keep everything on track. There will be no change in the arts programming. Nothing has been defunded, and there is no change in grants or other programs.
8. Update: Grants - Gerard and Paul
  - a. Gerard presented a rough outline of the new grant changes. He proposed that the new cycle would start a week or two later than currently. The key change will be extending the time between the announcement of the grant guidelines and the disbursement of funding.

- b. The Arts Project Grants cycle would start at the end of May, and the Operations Grant window would be in mid-August. The goal is to make it so all funds will be disbursed by the end of the year.
  - c. Paul explained that he worked on changing the language and criteria to something more refined and consistent.
  - d. They outlined the eligibility criteria more clearly
  - e. There will be no retroactive reimbursements, defining the period when project costs are ongoing.
  - f. There will be no more support for students pursuing their degree, but we can support students who are presenting public projects.
  - g. Other changes include sharpening the language, so applicants get a sense of what makes a good, strong project, and making guidelines match the rubric.
9. From your Chair -Nada
    - a. There was a vote on the strategic goals for the BAC, and it was approved. It will replace the old strategic goals on the website.
    - b. Nada is not available on April 9. Gerard may lead the meeting.
  10. Upcoming events and important dates
  11. Call to adjourn

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