



# City of Joliet

## Arts Commission

### Meeting Agenda

Commission Members  
Deborah Filotto  
Donna Franks-Tapley  
Eric Gorder  
Tom Grotovsky  
Vince Logan  
Ron Romero  
John Simpson, Jr.  
Peg Stoiber  
Deborah Summers

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**Wednesday, March 19, 2025**

**5:00 PM**

**City Hall, Council Chambers**

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Citizens who are unable to attend the meeting can email comments in advance of the meeting to [publiccomment@joliet.gov](mailto:publiccomment@joliet.gov).

#### 1. ROLL CALL

#### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Arts Commission Meeting Minutes - November 20, 2024

[TMP-8145](#)

Attachments: [AC Minutes Nov 20 2024](#)

#### 3. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS

This section is for anyone wanting to speak regarding agenda items and are allowed a maximum of 4 minutes. It is not a question and answer period and staff, and the Commission members do not generally respond to public comments. The City Clerk has a copy of the public speaking procedures; please note, speakers who engage in conduct injurious to the harmony of the meeting shall be called to order by the Presiding Officer and may forfeit the opportunity to speak.

#### 4. NEW BUSINESS

Update on the 2026 Illinois Arts Council General Operating Support Grant application.

#### 5. OLD BUSINESS

Discussion of potential items of expenditure for 2025.

2025 Arts Commission Budget Projections

[TMP-8292](#)

**Attachments:** [Arts 2025 Budget Projections and 2026 Requests.pdf](#)

Discussion on potential projects for 2025.

**6. NEW OR OLD BUSINESS, NOT FOR FINAL ACTION OR RECOMMENDATION**

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

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**8. ADJOURNMENT**

This meeting will be held in an accessible location. If you need a reasonable accommodation, please contact The City Clerk Office, 150 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432 at (815) 724-3780.



# City of Joliet

150 West Jefferson Street  
Joliet, IL 60432

## Memo

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**File #:** TMP-8145

**Agenda Date:** 3/19/2025

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# City of Joliet

150 West Jefferson Street  
Joliet, IL 60432



## Meeting Minutes - Pending Approval

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

5:00 PM

City Hall, Council Chambers

### Arts Commission

*Commission Members*

*Donna Franks-Tapley*

*Eric Gorder*

*Tom Grotovsky*

*Vince Logan*

*Ron Romero*

*John Simpson, Jr.*

*Peg Stoiber*

*Deborah Summers*

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Citizens who are unable to attend the meeting can email comments in advance of the meeting to [publiccomment@joliet.gov](mailto:publiccomment@joliet.gov).

## 1. ROLL CALL

**Present** Eric Gorder, John Simpson Jr, Peg (Marguerite) Stoiber, Ron Romero, Donna Franks-Tapley, Tom Grotovsky and Deborah Summers

**Absent** Vince Logan

## 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Attachments: [Arts Commission Meeting Minutes - October 2, 2024](#)

A motion was made by John Simpson, Jr, seconded by Tom Grotovsky, to approve COUNCIL MEMO #TMP-7821: Meeting Minutes - October 2, 2024. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Gorder, Simpson Jr, Stoiber, Romero, Franks-Tapley, Grotovsky and Summers

**Absent:** Logan

## 3. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS

None.

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## 4. OLD BUSINESS

### A. Update on the Formulation of a Public Art Policy for the City of Joliet

Chairman Romero provided a history of the Public Art Policy document and an overview of its contents to date. Romero expressed his support for moving the document forward for Council consideration and approval. Staff Liaison Heitner mentioned that the Policy was tabled when the City thought it might pursue a Public Arts Master Plan, which would have contained much of the same information. Since the Public Art Master Plan has not materialized, Heitner stated the Commission should continue its work on drafting the Public Art Policy document. Romero and Heitner also acknowledged that the Public Art Policy could be a component of the Public Art Master Plan. Romero stated that the Public Art Policy should be passed by ordinance by the City Council.

Chairman Romero asked that Councilwoman Suzanna Ibarra come up to share her thoughts on the document and its review by City Council. Councilwoman Ibarra stated that it should be reviewed by Corporation Council and the City Manager's Office between Thanksgiving and Christmas. She further stated that the document should probably be presented as is to Corporation Counsel for review. Heitner stated that his comments should probably stay in the working draft and that he could work with staff on any edits that are needed. Councilwoman Ibarra stated that the Commission should not send the Policy to City Council until it is written exactly the way the Commission wants it written.

Heitner stated the document would be circulated among staff for review with a revised document sent to the Arts Commission in January for review.

Attachments:     [Public Arts Policy draft 1 RH.edits](#)

## **B. Update on the 2025 Illinois Arts Council General Operating Support Grant**

Staff Liaison Heitner provided an update that the City was awarded a \$20,450 General Operating Support Grant from the Illinois Arts Council for 2025. Heitner stated that he expects those funds will be in receipt by January of 2025 and that staff is currently working with the Illinois Arts Council to review and return the grant agreement.

## **C. Update on the Poet Laureate Program and Recent Readings and Workshops**

Staff Liaison Heitner provided an overview of the Poet Laureate speaking appearances and activities to date. Heitner stated that an additional poetry workshop is scheduled for February 4th at Bicentennial Park. The Commission discussed ways to help promote the workshop event, given the low attendance that has occurred at previous events. Heitner stated that the event could be advertised on the City's social media platforms and Arts and Culture webpage and that other Commissioners are welcome to share the event on their social media platforms.

## **D. Update on the 2025 Arts Fest Project**

Staff Liaison Heitner provided some background on the idea for having a street art festival. Commissioner Simpson stated that it might be best table the idea, given the amount of construction that is around the city right now. Commissioner Grotovsky stated that a smaller scale event outside of downtown could be beneficial to the city. Commissioner Franks-Tapley asked about whether the mall area, or space around the high schools could be used for such an event. Heitner stated that the Commission would need to better scope out the details of the event before the City engages with a private property owner. Commissioner Franks-Tapley asked about the old courthouse block and whether it could host a festival. Heitner stated he could look into whether an event at the old courthouse space is possible. Heitner stated that the Commission should try to better define what it would like to do with the Arts Fest.

## **E. Update on Mural Prioritization and Potential Project Candidates for 2025**

Commissioner Franks-Tapley provided some background on an artist who might potentially be interested in helping the city create some murals. Chairman Romero stated that the viaduct locations near the ballpark could be ripe locations for future mural work. Staff Liaison Heitner

stated that the City would probably want to issue an RFP for mural work. Chairman Romero discussed the idea of a possible Tourism Improvement District to help fund improvements downtown, including provision of artwork. Romero also stated that there are additional grant opportunities including funding via sponsorships.

The Commission discussed whether the viaduct spaces made sense for mural work, given the chance that murals could erode with water leakage. Heitner suggested that the Commission should focus on 2-3 locations where it might make sense to put up a mural, with intent to bid mural work out in the Spring.

## **5. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Recommendation to Apply for the 2025 Asphalt Art Initiative Grant Opportunity**

A motion was made by Tom Grotovsky, seconded by Peg Stoiber to deviate from the agenda to move on to item 6A, Discussion on the 2025 Asphalt Art Initiative Grant. The motion carried by a vote of 6-0 (Franks-Tapley momentarily absent).

Commissioner Stoiber made a motion to pursue the grant opportunity with Cornerstone Services. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Attachments:     [Asphalt Art Initiative Memo](#)

## **6. NEW OR OLD BUSINESS, NOT FOR FINAL ACTION OR RECOMMENDATION**

### **A. Discussion on the 2025 Asphalt Art Initiative Grant Opportunity**

Staff Liaison Heitner stated that it would likely be difficult to put together a grant application by January, since a separate non-profit organization needs to effectively manage the grant for the Arts Commission. Heitner stated that he liked the intent of the grant and provided an overview of various examples. Commissioner Gorder stated that a grant like this could potentially align well with a street art festival.

Heitner asked if the Commission has specific locations they would want to pursue through this program. Commissioner Grotovsky suggested running the grant opportunity past Cornerstone Services, which has a facility near the ballpark. Commissioner Simpson expressed concern over whether Cornerstone's Board could meet and approve the application during the window provided. The Commission suggested a project on Mayor Art Schultz Drive could be an option. Councilwoman Suzanna Ibarra also suggested the Boys and Girls Club as a potential partner agency for the application.

### **B. Discussion of Potential Items of Expenditure for 2025**

Staff Liaison Heitner stated that he would report back at the next meeting with a list of potential expenditures for the Commission to review.

## **7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

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## 8. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Peg (Marguerite) Stoiber, seconded by Tom Grotovsky, to adjourn COUNCIL MEMO #[FILE\_NR]: [FILE\_TITLE]. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Gorder, Simpson Jr, Stoiber, Romero, Franks-Tapley,  
Grotovsky and Summers

**Absent:** Logan

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# City of Joliet

150 West Jefferson Street  
Joliet, IL 60432

## Memo

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**File #:** TMP-8292

**Agenda Date:** 3/19/2025

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Account: 200-06-20-00-000-420100-ART25 (IAC GOS FY2025 Grant)	Account Balance = \$20,450		
<u>Projected Expense Item:</u>		<u>Original Proposed Expense:</u>	<u>Estimated Date of Expenditure (By):</u>
	Poet Laureate Second Payment	\$1,500	06/31/2025
	City Square Sculpture Finalist Payment	\$2,000	3/31/2025
	Leftover Budget for Murals or Arts Fest	\$16,950	8/31/2025
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$20,450</b>	

Account: 100-06-20-15-000-908-524200 (Planning Contractual Services - Art Maintenance)	Account Balance = \$15,000		
<u>Projected Expense Item:</u>		<u>Original Proposed Expense^^:</u>	<u>Estimated Date of Expenditure (By):</u>
	City Square Sculpture Finalist Payment^	\$2,000	3/31/2025
	Mikan Statue Relocation****	\$10,000	12/1/2025
	Routine Art Inspections & Minor Maintenance	\$3,000	12/1/2025
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	

^ An additional finalist payment is still due to an international finalist.  
\*\*\*\* \$4,000 of work has already been completed for concrete foundation work at the St. Mary Nativity site.