

**Metro Arts Commission Public Art Committee
Meeting Minutes**

Date: April 17, 2025

Time: 11:00 AM–1:00 PM

Location: Metro Southeast, Green Hills Room, 1417
Murfreesboro Pike, Nashville, TN 37217



Committee Members Present:

Vivian Foxx conducted a roll call. The following committee members and staff were present:

Campbell West (Chair, Commissioner), Evan Brown (Commissioner), Sara Lee Burd, Stacey Irvin (virtual), Dr. Cara Robinson, Carlton Wilkinson, & Ashley Bachelder (Interim Executive Director, ex-officio)

Absent Committee Members: Shaun Giles

Metro Arts Staff Present: Anne-Leslie Owens, Atilio Murga, Jesse Ross, Masonya Osei, & Vivian Foxx

A. Welcome and Call to Order

Chair Campbell West called the meeting to order at 11:06 AM. A quorum was confirmed.

B. Public Comments

No members of the public signed up to provide in-person comments. Online comments were not submitted prior to the deadline.

C. Approval of Minutes: February 28, 2025

Motion to approve the minutes from the February 28, 2025, meeting was made by Commissioner Brown and seconded by Community member Wilkinson. Motion passed unanimously.

D. Action Items

1. Nashville Youth Campus for Empowerment Public Art: Location, Budget, and Recruitment

Atilio Murga presented an update and action item on the **Nashville Youth Campus for Empowerment (NYCE) Public Art Project**, a collaborative initiative aimed at youth empowerment and civic engagement through public art. The project will be located off

Brick Church Pike at the intersection of **Trinity Lane and I-24**, within **District 2**, and is led by **Judge Sheila Calloway** in partnership with **General Services** and **Juvenile Justice Court**. The facility has broken ground and is scheduled to open in **2027**.

Project Highlights:

- The artwork will be a **wall-mounted sculpture** situated in the **lobby of the new courthouse**, utilizing a highly visible 1300+ sq ft space with natural light from large windows at both the front and rear.
- The **artist budget is recommended at \$400,000**, which accounts for inflation and ensures a high-quality result.
- The project will issue a **national open call for artists**, specifically a **Request for Qualifications (RFQ)** rather than proposals. Local artists are strongly encouraged to apply.
- The selected artwork must be **non-electrical, low-maintenance**, and resilient to **natural light exposure and humidity** concerns due to site conditions and sustainability requirements.
- **Windows** will have approximately **90-92% UV filtering**, and the building will meet updated **energy efficiency** standards aligned with Metro Nashville's green building criteria.
- The project is currently in a **pre-lighting design phase**, allowing opportunities to coordinate lighting with the selected artist's concept.

Process:

1. Release RFQ (Spring 2025)
2. Eligibility review by staff
3. Scoring and shortlisting by a **selection panel**
4. Panel recommendations returned to Metro Arts for review and approval.
5. Final concept approval by Metro Arts Board

Key Considerations:

- Material durability (e.g., no textiles or UV-sensitive media)
- ADA compliance and safety (no overhead installations)

- Clear guidance in RFQ regarding materials, maintenance expectations, and site limitations
- Metro Arts will ensure visibility and outreach to local artists and community stakeholders.

A motion was made to approve location, budget, and recruitment strategy was made by Community Member Burd and seconded by Community member Robinson.

Motion passed unanimously.

Lending Library MOU with Nashville Public Library

This item was deferred.

Arthur Avenue Public Art Projects

MOU with Nashville Department of Transportation (NDOT)

- Staff presented coordination efforts with NDOT.
- Clarified shared responsibilities between NDOT and Metro Arts.

Motion to approve MOU was made by Commissioner Giles and seconded by Commissioner Wilkinson. Motion passed unanimously.

Final Design: Arthur Avenue Public Art

- Artist Maria White presented the final design.
- Design incorporates community input and local history.
- Commissioners commended the concept and aesthetic.

Motion to approve the final design was made by Community member Robinson and seconded by Community Member Burd.

Motion passed unanimously.

Final Design: Arthur Avenue Lighting Project

- Ann Leslie provided project background, including NEA grant and Simone Boyd's community advocacy.
- Artist Alex Braden presented the final design titled "As Water," featuring a dynamic LED light canopy and a bold blue backdrop.

- Design revisions removed benches and murals due to site and maintenance constraints.
- Budget increased to \$500,000; additional support provided by NDOT and Metro Arts.
- Ongoing community engagement includes site visit and meeting with community elders.
- Design approved for TDOT infrastructure; pending engineering, NDOT, TDOT, and Metro Council approvals.
- Installation expected to begin in the coming months, lasting approx. 2 months plus 1 week.
- Commissioners expressed enthusiasm for the project's impact.

E. Project Discussion and Updates

Looby Community Center Mural

- Status: Installation in progress; mural to be completed by mid-May 2025.
- Details: 84-panel mural created using PolyTab (mural cloth) by artists Charmin and Alicia
- Title: *They Fought With Words: Leaders, Lawyers, and Educators*
- Theme: Honoring those who used strategy, eloquence, and conviction to advance justice.
- Installation Notes: Mural spans majority of the community center wall; additional color to be painted 8 feet below for beautification and to deter vandalism.
- Partnership: Participatory budgeting project.
- Media: Content capture completed; updates to be shared soon.
- Dedication: Planned post-installation.

Strobel House

- Status: Artist selection phase underway.
- Site: Confirmed; community engagement and site preparations ongoing.
- Next Steps: Final engineering drawings to be presented for approval at upcoming meeting.

Old Hickory Community Center

- Status: Ahead of schedule; fabrication near completion.
- Installation Timeline: Targeting November 2025.
- Center Opening: January 2026.
- Notes: Project will return for Commission and PAC dedication discussions once finalized.

Bordeaux Gateway

- Status: Community engagement complete; design concepts in development.
- Next Steps: Drafting excess land application for city legislative approval.
- Site: Triangle at the Bordeaux gateway (TVD property).
- Future Plans: Artist community re-engagement planned; proposal request to follow.
- Selection: Artist final selection anticipated later in 2025.
- Notes: Second participatory budgeting project from 2021 initiative. Future collaboration with developers in adjacent areas (e.g., riverfront) may be explored but is outside this project's current scope.

Additional Notes

- Discussion included questions on ADA-compliant landscape features and coordination with developers.
- Interest expressed in a long-discussed pedestrian bridge project (Metro Center to Downtown); not currently under Metro Arts scope.
- Participatory budgeting program has concluded; future public art projects will be funded through Percent for Art.

Metro Arts Hiring Update

Interim Executive Director Ashley Bachelder reported significant progress on filling key vacancies:

1. Finance Position

- A conditional offer has been made and accepted.
- The new hire may start as early as May.
- This role will significantly enhance team capacity.
- Commissioner Leslie participated in the interview process.

2. Public Information Manager

- 105 applications received.
- The selection process is just beginning.
- An update is expected at the next meeting.

3. Public Art Manager

- Recruitment for this role will follow the two positions above.

4. Executive Director Search (Chair West)

- Director Hall will attend the June Commission meeting.
- The official search for a permanent Executive Director begins in **July**.
- The goal is to conclude the hiring by **November or December**.
- Ashley Bachelder will remain in her interim role throughout the transition, ensuring overlap and continuity.

Chair West encouraged Commissioners to share candidate suggestions or posting opportunities with Lisa Mason (HR) or directly with her.

F. New Business / Old Business

No new or old business was raised by committee.

G. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 12:47 PM by Chair West.