

## MINUTES

### Public Art Committee

June 18, 2025 – 11:00AM-1:00 PM

### Metro Southeast

1417 Murfreesboro Pike

Green Hills Room



### METRO ARTS MISSION:

**Drive an Equitable and Vibrant Community through the Arts**

**Members Present:** Campbell West (Chair), Evan Brown (Commissioner), Jilah Kalil (Commissioner), Sara Lee Burd, Stacey Irvin, Cara Robinson, Carlton Wilkinson, Ashley Bachelder (Interim Executive Director, *ex-officio, non-voting*)

**Metro Arts Staff:** Anne-Leslie Owens, Atilio Murga, Masonya Osei, Vivian Foxx

### A. Welcome and Call to Order

Chair West called the meeting to order at 11:15 AM and welcomed attendees. Vivian Foxx took a roll call. Chair West welcomed Commissioner Jilah Kalil to her first PAC meeting. She expressed gratitude to Jesse Ross for his two years of service on the public art team at Metro Arts.

### B. Public Comments

Vivian Foxx confirmed there were no public comments submitted online or in person for this meeting.

### C. Approval of Minutes – April 17, 2025

***Evan Brown made a motion to approve the April 17, 2025 meeting minutes. Carlton Wilkinson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.***

### D. Action Item

#### **1. Arthur Avenue Public Art Memorandum of Agreement with Nashville Department of Transportation**

Public Art Collections Manager Anne-Leslie Owens referred the committee to the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Metro Arts and the Nashville Department of Transportation (NDOT). The MOU clarifies the NEA grant administration and identifies roles, responsibilities, and funding commitments from both agencies. Though Metro received notice that the NEA grant was cancelled, NDOT had already initiated the final reimbursement request. It is expected that all \$75,000 will be received. Staff requested approval of the proposed Memorandum of Understanding with permission for staff and Metro Legal to make final edits, if necessary, before Commission review next week.

***Jilah Kalil made a motion to approve of the Arthur Avenue Public Art Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Nashville Department of Transportation with authority given to staff***

***and Metro Legal to make necessary final edits before going to the Arts Commission for final approval. Evan Brown seconded. The motion passed unanimously.***

## **E. Project Discussions and Update**

### **1. Nashville Youth Campus for Empowerment – Lobby Project**

Public Art Manager Atilio Murga reported on the response to the Nashville Youth Campus Call to Artists for the wall sculpture in the main lobby. It has been open for over a month and closes June 23 at 11:59 PM. Over 50 applications have been received and only one of these is from a local artist. Atilio encouraged Nashville-area artists to apply, even if they're new to public art. Team applications and collaborations are welcome. There is also a Call for Community Panelists open through July 7, to score artist applications for artist selection.

A second NYCE call will be for the “Empowerment Collection” of wall-hung artwork. It is expected to open in October 2025 and will be open to local 2D and mixed media artists. Staff will not be pursuing a previously considered direct selection project due to limited public art staff, support capacity, and the ambitious project timeline.

Commissioners praised the outreach effort and emphasized the need for Nashville artists to step forward. Concerns were raised about artist’s readiness for 3D work, access to workshops, and maintenance considerations. Safety, insurance, and technical requirements were reviewed and clarified.

### **2. Looby Community Center Mural Project**

Public Art Manager Masonya Osei shared that the mural has been installed. Important final touches included replacing old hardware and extensive wall priming before installing the 85 mural panels. The public dedication will take place mid-July (tentatively July 16), from 12:30–2:30 PM at the Looby Community Center. It was noted that trimming of trees along Rosa Parks Boulevard would make the library and community center building more visible.

### **3. Arthur Avenue Public Art Project Update**

Public Art Collections Manager Anne-Leslie Owens reported that the Arthur Avenue project has received TDOT approval and TDOT has prepared a 10-year license agreement. That agreement went to Metro Council on July 1 and was approved. It is now getting the required signatures. Once complete, painting and electrical work will begin, followed by artistic lighting installation by artist assisted by Art Up Nashville and Project Return.

## **F. New Business / Old Business**

### **1. Metro Arts Hiring Updates**

Interim Executive Director Ashley Bachelder welcomed Capri Harston, Metro Arts’ new Finance Administrator who was attending her first PAC meeting. She reported that the Public Information Manager position is in its final round with 3 candidates identified. Once that position is hired, the

next recruitment will be for the Public Art Manager. Appreciation was shared for staff managing high workloads during the interim period. An Executive Director search timeline and job description will be shared at the next Commission meeting. Metro Human Resources will lead the search with the goal to fill the position by September 2025. Plans for Metro Public Art's 25th Anniversary are currently paused but will resume once a Public Art Manager is on board.

Carlton Wilkinson shared details about the "Embracing Blackness: Diasporic Unions" exhibit at the Customs House Museum in Clarksville (on display through July 27). Includes panel discussions and musical performances. Evan Brown mentioned upcoming gallery activity at Zeitgeist and Arts Arcade in July.

#### **G. Adjournment**

With no further business, Chair West adjourned the meeting at 12:13 PM.