

## Minutes

### Metro Arts Commission Board Meeting

Thursday, July 24, 2025

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Fort Negley Park and Visitors Center,  
Conference Room, 1100 Fort Negley Blvd.,  
Nashville, TN 37203



**Commissioners Present:** Campbell West (Chair), Tré Hardin (Vice Chair), Heather Lefkowitz (Secretary), Brittany Cole, Timothy Jester, Jilah Kalil, Dawana Wade, Mayra Yu, and Ashley Bachelder (Interim Executive Director, *ex-officio*)

**Commissioners Absent:** Evan Brown, Shawn Knight

**Staff Present:** Anne-Leslie Owens, Atilio Murga, Capri Harston & Vivian Foxx

#### **A. Call to Order, Welcome, and Land Acknowledgement**

Chair Campbell West called the meeting to order at 1:09 PM. The Commission's mission, land acknowledgment and legal notice were read aloud.

Vivian Foxx confirmed that a quorum was present.

#### **B. Public Comment**

There were no public comments submitted ahead of time or during the meeting.

#### **C. Artist Spotlight**

The Commission welcomed artist Jay Pierson, who presented his Thrive Grant project, Nashville Music Boost. Commissioners expressed appreciation for his work and the impact on local musicians.

#### **D. Approval of Minutes – June 26, 2025**

***A motion was made to approve June 26 minutes, by Commissioner Lefkowitz and seconded by Commissioner Yu.***

***Approved unanimously.***

#### **E. Action Items & Discussion**

## **1. Public Art Committee**

Anne-Leslie Owens provided an update. Chair West highlighted the recent dedication of the Looby Community Center mural, calling it a successful and meaningful event.

***A motion was made to approve of the Art Lending Library Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Nashville Public Library by Commissioner Lefkowitz and Seconded by Commissioner Jester.***

***Approved unanimously.***

## **2. FY26 Community Arts Leaders of Nashville (CALN) Guidelines**

Josiah Golson introduced the guidelines and criteria for a 14-week internship program that provides paid work experience for students. Through the Community Arts Leaders of Nashville program, students are paired with a local arts organization in addition to being matched with a mentor. Internships will begin in Spring 2026.

***A motion was made to approve the Guidelines and Scoring Rubric pending final legal approval for FY26 Community Arts Leaders of Nashville by Commissioner Jester and seconded by Commissioner Lefkowitz.***

***Approved unanimously.***

## **3. Grants & Funding Committee**

Commissioner Lefkowitz and Interim Director Bachelder reported on FY26 grant activities. Applications are now open, with an ongoing drop in sessions two times a week and daily virtual support options available.

They also noted that the call for grant panelists will run from July 28 – August 13, 2025, and outreach efforts will include social media, newsletters, and community events.

## **4. Audit and Finance Committee**

Interim Director Bachelder updated the Commission on the ongoing audit implementation plan. She also presented a proposal to dissolve the Audit & Finance Committee, suggesting that future updates be reported directly to the Executive Committee instead.

## **5. Executive Committee**

Chair West completed Ashley Bachelder's performance evaluation. She spoke with all the managers and shared a summary of their input, noting strong staff morale, clear communication, and organizational progress under Interim Director Bachelder's leadership. Chair West thanked Director Bachelder for her work.

The discussion also turned to leadership succession planning, with agreement to form an Ad Hoc Search and Vision Committee to help guide the next steps in the Executive Director search.

## **6. Community Engagement Update**

Darius Barati shared about upcoming engagement activities: Coffee Talks, tabling at the Farmers Market, and the Forging Ahead Series. Commissioners expressed support for staff's efforts to stay connected with the community.

## **F. Ethics and Legal Training**

Tessa Ortiz-Marsh from Metro Legal provided an annual training legal training, including a review of the ethics code, conflicts of interest, voting responsibilities, and the open meetings law.

## **G. Chair's Report – Campbell West**

Chair West updated the Commission on several items:

- The Executive Committee is continuing its review and revision of the Commission's bylaws.
- Chair West reappointed two members to the Public Art Committee:
  - Sara Lee Burd (term ending in 2027)
  - Shaun Giles (term ending in 2027)
- Chair West dissolved the ad hoc Audit and Finance Committee. To improve committee structures and efficiency, the Executive Committee will have a standing agenda item for monthly financial updates and status reports on the Audit Implementation Plan.
- Chair West appointed Commissioner Tim Jester as Chair of the 2026 Nominating Committee, with Commissioner Tré Hardin as a member.
- Commissioner Brittany Cole was appointed as Chair of the Advocacy and Community Engagement Committee, as well as Commissioners Mayra Yu and Shawn Knight.
- Chair West established an ad hoc Search and Vision Committee to support the process for preparing for the Executive Director search. The Committee will be Chaired by Campbell West, and additional members will include Tre Hardin,

Heather Lefkowitz, Dawana Wade, and Evan Brown. Chair West and interim Director Bachelder are working closely with Metro Human Resources and will share additional updates at future meetings.

#### **H. Director's Report – Ashley Bachelder**

Interim Executive Director Bachelder announced that Commissioner Janet Kurtz submitted her resignation due to ongoing scheduling conflicts.

#### **I. New / Old Business**

No additional items were brought forward.

#### **J. Adjournment**

Chair West adjourned the meeting at 3:00 PM.