

Minutes

Metro Arts Public Art Committee

July 17, 2025

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Metro Southeast

1417 Murfreesboro Road

Nashville, TN 37217

Green Hills Conference Room



A. Welcome, Introductions, & Acknowledgements

- The meeting was called to order at 11:11 am.
- The committee welcomed Darius Barati, newly hired Public Information Manager. Darius brings experience in communications, marketing, and arts programming.
- The committee expressed appreciation for the success of the Looby Community Center mural dedication.
- Gratitude was extended to Metro Arts staff, Creative Girls Rock, Metro Parks, and all other partners and contributors.

B. Public Comment

- No public comments were received in person or online.

C. Approval of Minutes

- ***A motion was made by Commissioner Brown and seconded by Commissioner Kalil to approve the June 18, 2025, meeting minutes with no changes. Motion passed unanimously.***

D. Action Item

1. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Nashville Public Library

- The committee discussed the Art Lending Library Program, a partnership with the Nashville Public Library (NPL), which has expanded to seven branches.
- The program currently includes 113 local artworks available for public checkout.
- MOU outlines responsibilities:
 - Metro Arts: Artwork procurement, framing, and maintenance.
 - NPL: Program administration and oversight.
- Patrons may check out one artwork per library card for three months.
- The program supports local artists and increases public access to art.
- ***A motion to approve the Lending Library MOU was made by Commissioner Kalil and seconded by Commissioner Brown. Motion passed unanimously.***

E. Project Updates

1. National Youth Campus for Empowerment (Lobby Project):

- Received a record 126 artist submissions, including 67 from Nashville artists on the final day.
- Panel selection is underway; final artist selection is expected by September.

2. Looby Community Center Mural Dedication:

- The mural honors community history and leaders.
- A QR code was added to provide additional educational context.
- Strong community attendance and media coverage were noted.

3. Arthur Avenue Public Art Project:

- License agreement finalized with TDOT.
- Installation (painting, electrical work) will begin soon.
- Communication plans are being developed with NDOT.

F. New Business/ Old Business

1. Public Art Guidelines Review

- The committee reviewed the current Public Art Guidelines (last published update in 2015, with Commission-approved changes noted in 2020 and 2024).
- Key discussion topics:
 - Conflict of interest
 - Funding sources (percent-for-art, 4%, operating)
 - Public access requirements
 - Selection panel processes
 - Artwork maintenance and deaccessioning
- No vote was required; committee members were encouraged to review and submit any questions before the next meeting.

2. Hiring Update

- Darius Barati has been officially hired as Public Information Manager.
- The Public Art Manager job description is being finalized.
- A timeline for recruitment will be shared at the next meeting.

G. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.