

## Minutes

### Metro Arts Public Art Committee

August 22, 2025

### Metro Southeast

1417 Murfreesboro Pike

Nashville, TN 37217

Antioch Conference Room



**Committee Members Present:** Campbell West (Chair, Commissioner), Jilah Kalil (Commissioner), Sara Lee Burd, Shaun Giles, Cara Robinson, and Ashley Bachelder (Interim Executive Director, ex officio)

**Absent:** Evan Brown & Carlton Wilkinson

**Metro Arts Staff:** Anne-Leslie Owens, Atilio Murga, Masonya Osei, Darius Barati, and Vivian Foux

## A. Opening Business

- **Roll Call & Quorum:** Attendance and quorum confirmed.

## B. Public Comment

- No public comment submitted prior to the meeting. No in-person public comment.

## C. Approval of Minutes: July 17, 2025

- *A motion was made to approve July 17, 2025, minutes with edits to include the list of present members by Commissioner Kalil and seconded by Sara Lee Burd. Motion passed unanimously.*

## D. Project Discussion and Updates

### 1. Arthur Avenue Public Art Project

- Painting of I-beams and side walls completed.
- Electrical work includes digging, conduit, control boxes, and meter.
- Artist's installation and sidewalk repairs will take place after electrical.
- Despite potential delays, installation is on track for completion by end of year.
- Coordination with stakeholders is ongoing due to construction complexity.

### 2. Bordeaux Gateway Public Art Project

- Funded by FY2022 Mayor's Participatory Budget for North Nashville/Bordeaux.
- Commission added to artist budget, so that current artist budget is \$300,000.
- Site is the large triangular drainage area at Clarksville Hwy/Rosa Parks intersection.
- Tentative Timeline:
  - Public engagement with artists – September 13, 2025
  - Technical review – October 2025

- Community feedback – December 2025
- Existing gateway sign installed in 2007–2008 will be removed.
- Public Engagement & Site Work Coordination
  - September 13 engagement will invite community to share history/visions with semi-finalist artists.
  - Concerns raised over location; efforts underway to find a more inviting venue.
  - Site work managed by Metro Arts with coordination from TDOT and Metro Legal.

### **3. Nashville Youth Campus for Empowerment Public Art Project (Lobby)**

- \$400,000 artist budget for this first public art project at NYCE
- Space designated for artwork is in the main lobby and measures 73.5' long, 8' to 12' high, and extends up to 2' out from the wall.
- The selection panel included artists, community members, and Metro site sponsors as outlined in Public Art Guidelines.
- Juvenile Court Judge Callaway and Juvenile Court Clerk Lonnell Matthews presented to the selection panel their vision of the new facility and an overview of the services provided.
- Semi-finalist artists to be presented to the Commission on August 28:
  - Adam Wenthe
  - Area C Projects
  - Ben Butler
  - Team Hayes + Whitby + Wilson
  - William Denton Massey
- Next steps: After Commission approval on August 28, selection panel meets for final round. Their finalist artist is presented to PAC and Commission in September for final approval.

### **4. Other project updates**

- No other project updates given.

## **E. New Business/Old Business**

### **1. Public Art Guidelines Review**

- Guidelines are subject to periodic review and revision by the Public Art Committee and subsequent approval by the Arts Commission.
- **Artist Teams in Section III Definitions**
  - Need to refine definition of “artist team” to avoid overlap/conflicts of interest.
  - Consensus: a professional artist should lead, with others as subcontractors or collaborators.
  - Emphasis on supporting local artists while ensuring fairness.
  - Risk of legal/procurement issues if guidelines lack clarity.
  - Current system seen as redundant; proposal for clearer collaborative team structure.
  - Lead artists must manage administration, paperwork, and payments.

- Debate over whether fabricators/businesses may act as lead artists—consensus leaned against.
- Metro procurement/legal coordination required to prevent conflicts of interest and follow best procurement practices.
- **Application of Public Art Funds Section X C.**
  - Overview of funding sources: Percent funds, 4% funds, and operating funds.
  - Discussion on defining site work costs and project management costs based on current project model.
  - Recognition that site management costs will be higher when public art is not part of a larger Metro construction project.

## **2. Donated Artwork Guidelines Review**

- Process for reviewing/accepting donated works outlined.
- There is a need for clearer mission statement and collections policy.
- Past donation examples: Musica, The Gathering, and wall-hung Bridgestone collection at Nashville General Hospital.
- Will discuss this further in a future meeting.

## **3. Temporary Art on Metro Property Guidelines Review**

- Will discuss this further in a future meeting.

## **4. Metro Arts Hiring Update**

- Executive Director search extended to Feb/March 2026.

## **5. Opportunities for education and advocacy around public art collection**

- Importance of artist/community storytelling noted to strengthen advocacy.
- Proposal for exit interviews with artists to capture experiences.
- Suggestion for Metro Arts oral history project with archived interviews.
- Idea of an online database to store oral histories raised.
- Storytelling is seen as crucial for funding and public engagement.

## **F. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.