

Meeting Minutes
Metro Arts Commission
Executive Committee

February 11, 2026 | 2:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Metro Southeast Building
1417 Murfreesboro Pike
Nashville, TN 37217



Committee Members Present: Campbell West (Chair), Tre Hardin, Shawn Knight and Ashley Bachelder, Interim Executive Director(*ex-officio*)

Metro Arts Staff Present: Capri Harston & Darius Barati

Metro Legal: Kelli Woodward

A. Call to Order, Roll Call & Welcome

Chair Campbell West called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m., welcomed attendees, confirmed quorum, and read the legal notice of appeals.

B. Public Comment

No public comments were submitted in advance of the meeting, and no in-person public comments were made.

C. Approval of Minutes: January 14, 2026

A motion was made to approve minutes from January 14, 2026, Executive Committee meeting by Commissioner Knight and seconded by Commissioner Hardin.

D. Finance Update

Finance Administrator Capri Hartson provided an update on progress made through the initial True-Up process. She noted that the budget is balanced out for the year ahead. She has broken the budget into the new divisions based on the new organization chart (public art, finance/administration, grants/strategic initiatives, and public information and engagement). Each team will be provided with their budget in advance of the FY27 so they can plan accordingly. One change she noted is that because we anticipate being fully staffed in the new fiscal year, there will not be salary savings that can supplement the operating budget, which may make the budget feel more constricted than in years past.

E. Discussion Items

1. FY27 Budget Updates

Chair West called for the additional discussion of budget first in the order of discussion items. Director Bachelder provided an overview of the Commission's FY27 budget request and process. This year's requests include modifications for increases in grant review panels, grant funding, restorative arts programming, professional development funds, language access funds, and general administrative support. The operations request totals \$198,000 and the requested grant increase is \$815,000. Staff have a scheduled department budget meeting in early March, and the Mayor's budget will be released by May 1st.

2. Updates to Arts Commission Public Comment Policy (Action)

Director Bachelder presented staff recommended updates to the Commission's Public Comment Policy, including:

- Changing the requirement to submit written comments 2 days in advance of a meeting to 2 hours in advance;
- Changing the requirement of Davidson County residence to Tennessee residence;
- Changing the requirement for public comments to be on a specific agenda item to allowing comments that are germane to the general work of the Commission, with a priority preference for comments about agenda items in the event of limited time slots;
- Removal of language prohibiting certain types of public comments.

Through discussion, the recommendation to add accepting mailed submission clearly marked for public comment was requested.

A motion was made to approve the updated Arts Commission Public Comment Policy by Commissioner Hardin and seconded by Commissioner Knight.

3. Organization Planning and Alignment – Next Steps

Director Bachelder provided an overview of preliminary recommendations from the Cooper Performance Group engagement. She provided a summary of recommendations with her assessment of prioritization and next steps. Among those marked as high priority level included continued work to established short- and long-term goals, continuing hiring process and onboarding and training processes, ongoing development of SOPs. She stated that the department does not plan to continue the engagement with the consultant, so next steps will be led internally. The Committee discussed that organizational alignment should remain a standing agenda item and that a summary of deliverables and next steps should be presented to the full Commission.

G. New Business

No new business was presented.

H. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:12 p.m.