

Minutes

Metro Arts Commission Board Meeting

March 25, 2026 | 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Metro Southeast Building

1417 Murfreesboro Pike, Nashville, TN



Commissioner's Present: Campbell West (Chair), Tré Hardin (Vice Chair), Heather Lefkowitz (Secretary), Evan Brown, Brittany Cole, Camille Greer, Timothy Jester, Jilah Kalil, Shawn Knight, Dawana Wade, Mayra Yu and Ashley Bachelder Interim Executive Director(*ex-officio*)

Metro Arts Staff: Vivian Foxx

Metro Legal: Macy Amos

A. Call to Order, Welcome, and Land Acknowledgement

Chair Campbell West called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 PM. Roll call was conducted. A land acknowledgement was read and the notice to appeal was read into the record.

B. Public Comment

There were no in-person or written public comments submitted for this meeting.

C. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve February 18, 2026 meeting minutes by Commissioner Knight and seconded Commissioner Brown. Motion was unanimous.

D. Featured Artist – Fredrick Weathersby

Fredrick Weathersby, a Nashville-based musician and FY25 Thrive recipient was introduced as the featured artist. He is a member of the National African American Wind Symphony, the Corona Strings Ensemble, and is the host and creator of Nashville Monday Night Jazz. Weathersby shared remarks emphasizing appreciation of Thrive funding that contributes to programming along Jefferson Street. Weathersby, accompanied by Braxto Nicholas and Carlton Boleyjack, shared a brief musical performance.

E. Action & Discussion Items

1. Public Art Committee

Commissioner and PAC Chair West stated a brief update, highlighting the recent dedication of *Wings of Time*. She asked staff to provide reports on the action items.

i. Approval of Artwork Donation – ACTION

Anne-Leslie Owens provided a report about an artwork the Public Art Committee has recommended be accepted as a donation. The donation is from artist Courtney Gatewood for a piece titled *Moth Orchids*, with the request that it be placed at any location the city believes as advantageous for women to see and draw inspiration from. The proposal is to site the artwork in the Women's Health area of Nashville General Hospital. The artwork is a 40"x40" wall hung art piece valued at \$4,000.

A motion to approve the proposed donation of Moth Orchids by Courtney Gatewood and valued at \$4,000 for loan to Nashville General Hospital by Commissioner Hardin and seconded by Commissioner Kalil. Motion was unanimous.

ii. Approval of Future Resiting of Artist-Designed Bike Racks – ACTION

Anne-Leslie Owens shared the context for a recommendation regarding future resiting of artist-designed bike racks in the right of way. The artist-designed bike rack program includes 22 total bike racks that were designed by artists and fabricated by Metro Arts. Over time, four (4) bike racks have been identified that are located in the right of way adjoining private property. These may present challenges when site conditions change due to codes and/or future rezonings that impact site compatibility with where the bike racks were originally placed.

The Public Art Committee has recommended an action that provides staff a process for resiting and relocation of the bike racks for these scenarios. Commissioners asked questions and provided comments about compatibility issues, current location and approach to relocation, and responsibility for relocation costs. Commissioners asked clarifying questions to ensure that the property owner would be responsible for all associated resiting costs.

A motion to approve resiting for public art bike racks in the right-of-way if codes or zoning has altered the site in such a way that the bike rack is no longer compatible with the site and if requested by private property owner who provides donation to Metro Arts Percent for Public Art Fund to cover Metro Arts' removal and resiting of bike rack in its entirety by Commissioner Knight and seconded by Commissioner Kalil. Motion was unanimous.

iii. Project Update: "Wings of Time" – Gordon Huether

Atilio Murga shared updates and photos from the recent installation of *Wings of Time* by artist Gordon Huether at the Old Hickory Community Center. The community center grand opening was held on March 21st and Metro Arts and the artwork was featured.

2. Grants & Funding Committee

Commissioner and Grants Chair Lefkowitz stated that the Grants Committee met and advanced a recommendation for the FY27 Grant Review Panelists. She asked staff to provide an overview of the recommendation.

i. Approval of FY27 Grant Panelist Guidelines – ACTION

Director Bachelder directed Commissioners to the Panelist Guidelines and walked through the main points on each page, including panelist roles and responsibilities, eligibility and ineligibility, stipend, application questions, and staff review process. Commissioners asked questions regarding measures that have been taken to address scoring consistency, panelist selection criteria, outreach and recruitment, and panelist training. Some suggestions were offered about specific wording of application questions, to make the panelist scoring rubric available with the application, among others. Due to lack of consensus, the panelist guidelines were withdrawn for consideration to be sent back to the Grants Committee for further discussion.

3. Executive Committee Report

Chair West provided an update from the Executive Committee, focusing on progress toward creating a standard monthly financial report available to Commissioners. Capri Harston shared additional details, noting the report will have details on the overall budget, capital improvement budget, salaries/fringe, and operating expenses. The report will be structured to align with the organization chart and associated division spending and budgets. Metro Arts is operating with a modest operating budget surplus; it was noted that operating surplus cannot be transferred to the grants budget. Office needs are being assessed for the remainder of the fiscal year budget. Monthly budget reporting will be available in April.

4. Advocacy & Community Engagement Committee Report

No March meeting was held.

F. Chair's Report

Chair West spoke about the recent Operating Grantee celebration held the previous week, noting high attendance and positive feedback from attendees.

G. Director's Report

Director Bachelder shared a brief director's report, noting that due to time she is skipping the communications update. She announced the Thriving in Community event that same evening, in partnership with the Artist Thrive Summit and highlighting three current Thrive grantees. She described professional development opportunities for the staff, including with the Center for Nonprofit Excellence and the Americans for the Arts conference. For hiring, a Grants Coordinator recruitment is underway with a closing application date of April 6, 2026.

H. New Business

None.

I. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.

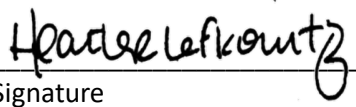
Certification of approval of the minutes:

The Secretary shall certify the minutes of full Commission meetings. The Secretary shall sign and date full Commission minutes upon affirmative approval by the Commission. If the Secretary is not present at the time of approval, the Vice Chair shall assume this duty.

Certified by:

Heather Lefkowitz

Name


Signature

Date of approval: April 15, 2026