

Minutes

Metro Arts Commission

Executive Committee

March 18, 2026 | 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Metro Southeast Building

1417 Murfreesboro Pike

Antioch Conference Room

Nashville, TN 37217



Committee Members Present

Campbell West (Chair), Tré Harden, Heather Lefkowitz, Shawn Knight, Ashley Bachelder (Interim Executive Director, *ex-officio*)

Staff Present

Capri Harston, Vivian Foxx, Darius Barati

A. Call to Order, Roll Call & Welcome

Vivian Foxx conducted roll call and confirmed a quorum. Chair West called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

B. Public Comment

No public comments were received in person or submitted online prior to the meeting.

C. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve February 11, 2026 meeting minutes by Commissioner Knight and seconded by Commissioner Hardin. Unanimous approval.

D. Finance Update

Capri Harston presented the FY26 financial update. She stated that the Commission will end with a budget surplus due to salary savings from vacant positions and strict operational spending oversight. The committee discussed some needs for operational spending through the end of the fiscal year, emphasizing staff professional development including the upcoming Americans for the Arts conference, community engagement, and other resources or supplies that staff need.

E. Discussion Items

1) FY27 Budget Updates

Director Bachelder stated that the department budget meeting took place earlier in the month. She confirmed budget modifications were submitted for training and operating needs.

2) Organization Planning and Alignment Update

The committee discussed the organizational alignment engagement completed by the Cooper Performance Group. Commissioners raised questions and concerns about the limitations and depth of the process and findings. Commissioners agreed on the need to revisit organizational priorities, values and next steps. Commissioners discussed sharing feedback about how to proceed directly with Director Bachelder through a survey or individual conversations before the next meeting.

Director Bachelder additionally provided updates about challenges with the Public Art Manager recruitment and discussions about refining the role. She updated the committee that a downtown office location is still under consideration, but they have not identified a solution for staff parking yet.

F. Chair's Report

No additional update. Chair West emphasized and summarized discussion throughout the meeting.

G. New Business

No new business items were introduced.

H. Adjourn

Commissioner Knight made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:16pm.