

Minutes
Public Art Committee
June 11, 2026
11:00AM-1:00 PM
Metro Southeast Facility
1417 Murfreesboro Pike
Antioch Room



METRO ARTS MISSION:
Drive an Equitable and Vibrant Community through the Arts

Committee Members: Campbell West (Chair), Evan Brown (Commissioner), Jilah Kalil (Commissioner), Shaun Giles, Stacey Irvin, Ashley Bachelder (Interim Executive Director, *ex-officio*)

Absent: Sara Lee Burd and Cara Robinson

- A. Welcome and Call to Order**
- B. Public Comments**

No Public Comments in person or submitted.

C. Approval of Minutes: March 19, 2026

1. ***A motion was made to approve meeting minutes from March 19, 2026 by Commissioner Kalil and seconded by Commissioner Brown.***

D. Action Items

1. Recommendation to Remove and Temporarily Store Soundboard Sliders Bike Rack

Anne-Leslie Owens presented this item as an informational update rather than an action item, noting that the Executive Committee had already reviewed and approved the recommendation the previous day.

- Background: In March, the Committee discussed a process, later approved by the Commission, for relocating public art bike racks located in the public right-of-way when adjacent private property changes hands and the new property owner or developer agrees to donate to the Percent for Public Art Fund to cover removal and reinstallation costs.
- Current situation: The property adjacent to the Soundboard Sliders bike rack (12 South, at the former Draper location) has been sold, the existing building demolished, and construction fencing installed. Soundboard Sliders was installed in 2012, designed by artist Duncan McDaniel, with Metro Arts handling fabrication and installation (original cost approximately \$6,500).
- Due to the overlay of urban design, the new building will extend to the sidewalk, eliminating the strip of right-of-way where the bike rack currently sits. Combined with safety concerns from active construction, staff recommended and the Executive Committee approved removal and temporary storage of the bike rack.
- The rack will be removed and stored by Jarvis Signs (the original fabricator/installer and an approved Metro vendor), at an estimated not-to-exceed cost of \$10,000, covering removal and up to four months of storage; actual costs are expected to be lower. This cost is expected to be borne by the property owner's representative/developer, with Metro Finance and Metro Legal to be consulted on the mechanics of accepting the donation into the Percent for Art Fund.
- A proposed new location for the bike rack is expected to be brought to the Committee in July for approval.

- In response to a question raised at the Executive Committee by Commissioner Hardin regarding cleaning stickers off the artwork, staff noted they consulted artist Duncan McDaniel, who indicated he did not want the stickers (which he described as a form of "urban engagement") removed, but staff may give the piece a light cleaning and "fresh start" once it is resited.
- Committee discussion confirmed that the \$10,000 estimate covers both removal and storage, that storage will occur at Jarvis Signs' facility (a metro-insured vendor with prior experience installing Metro Arts bike racks), and that the property owner's representative is expected to cover the cost through a donation to the Percent for Art Fund.

E. Discussion Items

1. Public Art Guidelines Revisions

Anne-Leslie walked the Committee through a working draft of proposed revisions to the Public Art Guidelines (body text only; cover pages and exhibits were omitted from the packet), organized around eight numbered items corresponding to topics the Committee has discussed in past meetings. Staff indicated the goal is to route the revised guidelines to Metro Legal for review following this discussion, with a recommendation for final updates to come before the Committee and Commission in July.

- Artist teams: Added more specific language addressing how artist teams (as opposed to individual artists) may apply, informed in part by questions that arose during the NYCE artist selection process and by review of comparable procurement language (e.g., the MNPS mural application). A committee member asked whether the existing defined term "Professional Artist" is properly capitalized/cross-referenced within the new "artist team" definition; staff agreed to confirm this is handled consistently, noting Metro Legal will also review.
- Artificial intelligence (AI): New guideline language specifying that AI-generated images and sculptures (i.e., work generated by interpreting prompts) are not considered eligible artwork, with an accompanying definition of AI-generated work. The Committee discussed the practical challenges of detecting AI-generated submissions as technology evolves, noting that detection methods exist but will need to keep pace with advances in AI; the Committee agreed the guidelines may need to be revisited as this landscape changes.
- Artist eligibility / project managers: Clarified that design professionals or project managers are not considered "Professional Artists" unless they independently meet the guidelines' professional-artist criteria.
- Committee composition: Proposed resizing the Public Art Committee's membership structure to reflect its current composition of seven members (three Commissioners and four community members), addressing ongoing challenges in meeting quorum.
- Rules of procedure: Proposed adding a reference aligning PAC's meeting procedures with the Arts Commission's bylaws provision requiring standing committees to follow the same rules of procedure as the full Commission (subject to Metro Legal's assessment of whether this reference is necessary).
- Use of the Percent for Art Fund: Revised and consolidated language clarifying what artist budgets may and may not include (e.g., frames, mats, mounting, contingency), without attempting to itemize every possible cost, since artist responsibilities vary by project and are further defined in individual contracts. The revisions reaffirm the long-standing practice of setting aside 15–20% of project budgets for project management costs and an equal amount for site preparation costs. In discussion, staff clarified that "project management costs" in this context refers to Metro Arts' internal administrative costs (e.g., selection panel process), not costs borne directly by the artist, though some artist-side project management costs may separately be built into an artist's budget under contract.

- Deaccessioning: Proposed new language, drawn from other public art programs' guidelines, establishing damage, loss, or destruction of an artwork (e.g., theft, storm damage) as a formal basis for deaccessioning from the public art collection, an issue the current guidelines do not address.

2. Donated Artwork Collection

This item was not reached.

F. Project Updates

Mariposa Park Public Art Project

Masonya Osei presented a project update and sought Committee feedback on Mariposa Park, a roughly 10-acre neighborhood park under development by Metro Parks in South Nashville (District 30), located between Tusculum Road and Bart Drive. The surrounding area is approximately 44% Hispanic, with Spanish and Arabic the most common languages spoken after English. The project name, Mariposa (Spanish for "butterfly"), was selected by the community.

- Due to budget constraints, several originally planned park amenities (a residential-entry archway gateway, tennis court, a boardwalk, and picnic shelters) have been scaled back or eliminated, leaving the park without a strong focal or gathering feature.
- Staff scouted three potential art locations and narrowed the options to two: (1) a sculptural shade structure on an existing ~30 ft x 30 ft (~20 cubic yard) concrete pad/pavilion area near the park's main gathering space, and (2) wall-mounted/sculptural artwork on two retaining walls flanking the residential entry (approximately 123 ft and 63 ft in length), intended in part to discourage graffiti/tagging.
- Staff shared comparable project examples and budgets for reference, including a \$140,000 sculptural piece (20 ft diameter, 13 ft peak) in Norfolk, VA; a \$370,000 sculptural/interactive piece in Bradenton, FL; a \$60,000 wall installation in Wilmington, VT; and a carbon-steel retaining-wall piece in Albuquerque, NM.
- Following discussion, the Committee expressed a preference for prioritizing the shade structure/pavilion (concrete pad) as the more immediately impactful and functional option, given the park's lack of shade and gathering space, with the retaining-wall artwork identified as a potential future phase rather than a concurrent project.
- Ms. Irvin noted the importance of addressing heat/shade for the community and, along with other members, suggested the design incorporate seating (e.g., benches) at the base of the structure.
- Committee members discussed a rough working budget in the range of \$390,000–\$400,000 for the shade structure, based on staff's research into comparable projects, inflation/CPI trends, and prior Metro Arts project costs; this figure is preliminary and subject to further scoping.
- The Committee discussed whether to issue a hyperlocal, regional (Davidson and adjacent counties), or broader call for artists, generally favoring keeping the call as local/regional as possible to support Nashville-area artists, while remaining open to adjusting scope if a local/regional call does not yield sufficient proposals.
- Staff and Committee also discussed the possibility of Metro Arts taking on fabrication directly (as was done with the bike rack program) rather than having the artist manage fabrication, which could shorten timelines but would require confirming availability of qualified local fabricators (Jarvis Signs was cited as a strong local candidate) and would shift the selection process toward a request-for-proposals (RFP) model rather than the request-for-qualifications (RFQ) model recently used.

- Ms. Irvin raised the question of whether finalist artists could be compensated for design work under a proposal-based (RFP) process; staff indicated this could be considered as part of a hybrid model but is not standard practice given cost and time considerations.
- Next steps: staff will finalize project scope, budget, and geographic eligibility for the artist call and bring a recommendation to the Commission, with a goal of Commission approval in July ahead of Metro Parks' planned July dedication event for the park.

NYCE (Nashville Youth Campus for Empowerment) Public Art Project

- Most artists under contract for the second phase of the NYCE project have returned signed contracts, which are being routed to Procurement; onboarding is proceeding on schedule.
- A community town hall/celebration event is scheduled for Tuesday, June 23, from 6:00–7:30 p.m., with light refreshments beginning at 5:30 p.m. Staff plan to invite Council members, Commissioners, the construction team, and community members, including a return visit to JJC (Juvenile Justice Center) for additional youth engagement. Staff highlighted the participating artist's unusually high level of community engagement (approximately a dozen formal and informal sessions to date).

Strobel House

- Currently staff expect to have more information by the July meeting.

Arthur Avenue

- The artist has met with Art Up Nashville and Project Return; on-site installation work is set to begin later this month, followed by concrete work and site maintenance by Rochelle/Rocky Goodwin's team, leading to project completion and a dedication event.
- Staff noted the artwork consists of numerous individually numbered panels to be assembled on site (described as resembling a large puzzle), and that additional soil/site studies are wanted before finalizing the installation design, building on more general studies conducted previously.

G. New Business

1. Public Art Coloring Book

This item was not reached

H. Adjourn

Chair West adjourned the meeting at 1:00 pm