

Metro Arts
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 12, 2026
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Metro Southeast Building,
1417 Murfreesboro Pike
Nashville, TN 37217



Commissioners Present: Campbell West (Chair), Tre Hardin, Heather Lefkowitz, Shawn Knight, Ashley Bachelder (Interim Executive Director, ex-officio)

Metro Arts Staff: Vivian Foxx, Capri Harston

Metro Legal: Macy Amos

A. Call to Order and Welcome

Chair West called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. A roll call was conducted and quorum was confirmed.

B. Public Comment

Five in-person public comments were offered:

- Darius Barati spoke about the executive director position
- Chuck Beard spoke about the executive director position
- Jackie Hansom spoke about the executive director position
- Commissioner Tim Jester spoke about the executive director position
- Commissioner Henry Walker spoke about the recent passing of Martha Ingram

C. Approval of Minutes: July 15, 2026

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2026 meeting by Commissioner Knight and seconded by Commissioner Hardin. Motion passed.

D. Financial Report

Capri Harston presented the monthly financial report, noting that FY27 is expected to be a lean year. Commissioners asked clarifying questions about specific budget lines.

E. Action & Discussion Items

a. Executive Director Next Steps – Action

Chair West stated the purpose of the discussion is for the Committee to consider options regarding the Executive Director position and to identify a path forward. Interim Director Bachelder addressed the Committee, providing context on why an Executive Director search had not previously been initiated and outlined her priorities for the coming year.

Committee members engaged in extensive discussion. Deliberation included discussion over whether the Commission should conduct a director search and on what timeline, factors that should be considered regarding continuity of services concerning the Commission's funding responsibilities, and Commission

alignment. Commissioner Knight stated that the motion made at the Committee's prior meeting, which had been intended to extend Interim Director Bachelder in the position by delaying a search, had in his view been the wrong approach, and that the more direct path was to instead appoint her to the position permanently.

A motion was made to hire Ashley Bachelder as permanent Executive Director of Metro Arts by Commissioner Knight and seconded by Commissioner Lefkowitz. Motion passed.

Following further discussion, in which Interim Executive Director Bachelder confirmed her interest, the motion passed on voice vote. The recommendation will be brought to the full commission for consideration.

F. New Business

Members discussed scheduling conflicts with future meeting times. The September committee meeting will be rescheduled to September 15, 2026, due to a committee member's conflict. The regular monthly meetings will be moved from 2pm to 1pm to accommodate committee members' schedules.

It was noted that the Nominating Committee will meet in August to develop a slate of nominations to be voted on in September. The incoming chair and officers take office in November.

G. Adjourn Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.