

Minutes
Arts Commission
Advocacy & Engagement Committee
July 28, 2026
5:30 P.M.-6:30 P.M.
McCabe Park Community Center
101 46th Ave N., Nashville, TN 37217



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

Committee members present: Brittany Cole (Chair), Camille Greer, Tre Hardin, Mayra Yu, Ashley Bachelder (Interim Executive Director, ex-officio)

Metro Arts staff present: Darius Barati

A. Welcome and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Cole. Staff confirmed attendance and quorum.

B. Public Comments

There were no public Comment in person or submitted online.

C. Approval of Minutes: May 12, 2026

A motion was made to approve May 12, 2026 meeting minutes by Commissioner Hardin and seconded by Commissioner Yu. Motion passed.

D. Discussion Items

Chair Cole reordered the order of discussion items to take up committee goals and scope of work discussion first on the agenda.

1. Committee goals and scope of work

Committee members engaged in robust discussion about actions that the committee and commission can take to advance the Engagement Committee's purpose statement from a strategic standpoint. The purpose statement is: *The Advocacy & Engagement Committee champions the value of arts and culture in Nashville's civic life by building authentic community relationships, strengthening Metro Arts' public voice, and advancing policy and budget priorities that ensure all Nashvillians have access to a creative life.* Five accompanying goals go along with the purpose statement: build the budget case, rebuild community trust, be a cross-sector voice, amplify impact stories, and create an advocacy pipeline.

Committee members discussed and brainstormed topics, including activities focused on advocating through council processes, strategies for developing broader partnerships within the arts community

and across sectors, considerations to actively invite members of the public to participate in Advocacy Committee meetings, and potential data collection strategies, among other topics. The Committee will continue to discuss identifying one to two initiatives it can take on. A motion was made to formally adopt the committee's purpose statement.

A motion was made to approve the committee purpose statement as follows by Commissioner Hardin and seconded by Commissioner Greer: The Advocacy and Engagement Committee champions the value of arts and culture in Nashville's civic life by building authentic community relationships, strengthening Metro Arts' public voice, and advancing public policy and budget priorities that ensure all Nashvillians have access to a creative life. The motion passed.

2. FY27 Budget Update

Director Bachelder shared a brief update about the conclusion of the FY27 budget setting process, emphasizing two budget requests that were approved to support Metro Arts' operational needs. She shared copies of the recently closed FY26 grant close out reports, noting that an impact report will be developed and released in the fall. The close out reports will include data, stories and other information that will be relevant for advocacy purposes.

3. Engagement and communication project updates

Darius Barati shared an engagement and communication tracker, highlighting recent public events and media activity from the Commission since the last committee meeting.

E. New Business

No specific new business was offered.

F. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05pm.