MINUTES
Metro Arts Commission Board Meeting
Wednesday, September 16, 2026
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Metro Southeast Building
1417 Murfreesboro Pike, Nashville, TN 37217

Commissioners: Campbell West (Chair), Tré Hardin (Vice Chair), Evan Brown, Camille Greer, Timothy Jester, Jilah Kalil, Shawn Knight, Henry Walker and Ashley Bachelder (Executive Director, ex-officio)
Commissioners absent: Heather Lefkowitz (Secretary), Brittany Cole, Mayra Yu

A. Call to Order, Welcome, and Land Acknowledgement

The meeting was called to order by Chair West at 1:11 pm and roll call was called by Vivian Foxx. Chair West welcomed Henry Walker as a new Commissioner.

B. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

C. Featured Artist

Crystal Rose, a Nashville-based singer-songwriter and founder of *Touched by Sun*, an arts and wellness festival celebrating Black and brown women artists, was introduced by Chuck Beard. *Touched by Sun* received an FY26 Thrive grant. Ms. Rose presented on the festival's history and programming, including live music, sunset yoga, guided meditation, color psychology workshop, among other activities. She performed an original song and answered questions from Commissioners about her new works and initiatives.

D. Approval of Minutes: August 19, 2026

A correction was noted for the spelling of the name of one of the public commenters.

A motion was made to approve minutes with corrections by Commissioner Jester and seconded by Commissioner Kalil.

E. Monthly Financial Report

Director Bachelder presented the monthly financial report. The report shows budgeted line items against actual spending to date and outstanding invoices. She stated that Metro Arts continued to be in good financial standing.

F. Annual Legal Training and Review

Macy Amos and Kelli Woodward of the Metro Department of Law led the annual legal training. Commissioners were provided with a Legal Training Manual. Amos led discussion by reviewing each

section, including Metro Board and Commission roles and responsibilities, meeting procedure as governed by Robert's Rules of Order and commissions' bylaws, and details of the Open Meetings law. She additionally reviewed the purpose of executive sessions, the public records act, litigation holds, ethics and the code of conduct, and procedures for accepting contracts, grants, and donations. Commissioners were invited to contact the Department Law of anytime legal questions arise.

G. Action & Discussion Items

1. Nominating Committee Update

i. Approval of 2026-2027 Arts Commission Officers (Action)

Commissioner Jester, Chair of the Nominating Committee, reported that the committee met in August and recommends Commissioner Hardin as Chair, Commissioner Brown as Vice Chair, and Commissioner Jester as Secretary for the upcoming 2026–2027 officer term. Commissioner Jester opened the floor for additional nominations; none were made. A recommendation was made for future processes to have an official method for submitting nominations.

A motion was made to approve the slate: Tré Hardin as Chair; Evan Brown as Vice Chair, and Timothy Jester as Secretary by Commissioner Jester and seconded by Commissioner Walker. Motion approved.

Commissioner Hardin shared that, as Chair, a priority would be to ensure all voices are heard and that all members have time and space to speak. New officers' terms begin November 1, 2026.

2. Public Art Committee Update

Chair West provided the Public Art Committee update. The Committee met the prior week and discussed project updates. The Mariposa Park RFQ is expected to be launched soon. The Arthur Avenue *Be As Water* project continues to get closer to completion, with lighting programming and testing happening this week. Next steps including electrical inspections, sidewalk repairs, and final site work. A dedication date will be set once final approvals are secured. A brief update about the *Soundboard Sliders* art bike rack was shared, including that the piece has been cleaned and repainted while in storage. Staff are working with Parks and other departments to identify a new permanent site, which will come to the PAC and Commission for approval once finalized. A suggestion was made to include signage that explicitly identified that the bike racks are functional bike racks.

3. Grants & Funding Committee Update

i. Approval of FY27 Community Arts Leaders of Nashville Guidelines (Action)

Commissioner Knight provided a report on the Grants Committee's most recent meeting, in which members welcomed new committee members Greer and Walker, reviewed and took action on the Community Arts Leaders Guidelines, and had a debrief discussion of the FY26 grant cycle. Of the grant debrief, he noted that the committee reviewed panelist feedback and emphasized that panelists provided substantive responses, highlighting a positive experience and actionable recommendations for future cycle improvements. He reviewed upcoming engagement events, including Report Backs and a Grant Writing Support workshop. Images were shown that illustrate the distribution of Thrive and Operating grants across council districts.

Josiah Golson presented an overview of the Community Arts Leaders of Nashville program, which provides paid internships to undergraduate students to work at Nashville-based arts organizations, while also being paired with a local mentor. Selected arts organizations ("host sites") will receive a $6,700 grant, $3,750 of which will be paid to the intern, $2,500 to the host site, and $450 to the mentor. He presented information about outcomes from the previous cycle. With Commission approval, the guidelines will go to the Council for final approval, and applications for host sites, interns, and mentors will open on October 7, 2026. Selected host sites will be brought to the commission for approval, anticipated in December. The internship period is from February through April 2027. Golson answered questions from Commissioners about the total budget and origins of the program.

A motion was made to approve the FY27 Community Arts Leaders of Nashville (CALN) Guidelines by Commissioner Knight and seconded by Commissioner Jester. Motion passed.

4. Executive Committee Update

Chair West shared an update from the Executive Committee's September meeting. The Committee reviewed Metro Arts FY27 priorities overview report, which all Commissioners were provided a copy of. The Committee discussed options for formalizing committee reports during monthly Commission meetings and organizing additional Commission retreats. These and other topics will be for incoming officers to consider and adopt.

5. Advocacy and Engagement Committee Update

Director Bachelder provided an update from the Advocacy Committee's meeting. The committee narrowed its focus to three areas: FY28 budget advocacy, arts data initiative, and civic education. The committee will use these three areas to prioritize the development or support of planning initiatives or activities. Director Bachelder shared upcoming events and invited Commissioner participation, including Food for Thought on Friday, September 18, the Tennessee MakerFest on Saturday, September 19, Celebrate Nashville on October 3, and the North Nashville Culture Crawl on October 24.

H. Chair's Report

Chair West thanked the Commissioners and Metro Arts staff for their work, no additional report provided beyond details shared in committee reports.

I. Director's Report

Director Bachelder reported that the Nashville Entertainment Commission has hired its first Director, Sarah Childress, to lead the Office of Entertainment, which is situated within the Mayor's Office. Bachelder has met with Childress, and serves as an ex-officio member of the Entertainment Commission. Bachelder shared that Commission members have an informational resource in the board packet with information about nonprofit "friends" groups that serve as fundraising bodies for Metro initiatives. Bachelder emphasized that the Commission will need to have its December meeting this year for CALN host site approvals, and invited Commissioners to share feedback about information they would like between meetings or to set up one-on-one meetings.

J. New Business

Commissioner Walker requested that the Commission consider an honorary resolution in honor of Martha Ingram at the next meeting.

K. Adjourn Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 2:33pm.

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:

_____ _____

Name Signature

Date of approval: _____