

Meeting Minutes
Metro Arts Commission
Executive Committee
September 15, 2026
1417 Murfreesboro Pike
Antioch Conference Room
Nashville, TN 37217



Committee members present: Campbell West (Chair), Tre Hardin, Heather Lefkowitz, Shawn Knight, and Ashley Bachelder (Executive Director, ex officio)

Metro Arts staff present: Vivian Foxx

A. Welcome and Call to Order

Chair West called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m. Roll call was conducted and quorum confirmed.

B. Public Comments

No public comments were submitted in advance or in-person.

C. Approval of Minutes — August 12, 2026

A motion was made to approve August 12, 2026 minutes by Commissioner Hardin and seconded by Commissioner Knight. The motion passed.

D. Monthly Financial Report

Ashley Bachelder presented the monthly financial report, highlighting the year-to-date budget compared to actual spending by category. The Committee is operating in good financial standing. There are several outstanding invoices, largely reflective of pending payments to Empowerment Collection artists (funded by Percent funds).

E. Discussion/Action Items

1. Metro Arts FY27 Priorities Review

Director Bachelder presented a FY27 priorities document that lists the staff's planned activities through the end of the fiscal year organized by activity, rationale, anticipated timeline, staff role, and commission role. Commissioners discussed specific details of some of the named priorities, including details of Metro Arts' planned office move. A request was made to add a status column to discern changes from month to month. Discussion including brainstorming of broader goals or ideas, including Metro Arts' 50th anniversary, evaluation of the grant program, a public art collection appraisal, and exploring models for supplemental fundraising similar to the Nashville Public Library Foundation or Metro Parks Friend groups. Committee members noted that the priorities document includes only staff-led commitments and plans, and underscores that the development of a broader strategic plan is needed.

Committee members additionally discussed ways to standardize committee reporting to the full Commission, including a proposal for a brief, standardized one-page report format prepared by each

committee chair for inclusion in the board packet, with more detailed quarterly reports for each committee as a possible supplement. Identifying opportunities for points of connection across committees (e.g., Grants and Advocacy) would be valuable, including consideration of joint committee meetings where appropriate.

2. Arts Commission FY27 Priorities and Goal Setting

The Committee discussed additional commission-led priorities and initiatives, including revisiting materials and items from the previous year's Commission retreat and holding another Commission retreat focused on team building and strategic visioning. Discussion included whether the Commission may include an external facilitator, which will be budget dependent. In preparation for a retreat and the transition of Commission officers, committee members discussed compiling all relevant planning documents from the last several years. It was noted that Commissioners previously had an approved shared Drive (separate from staff files). This is not in use anymore, and the Commission should continue to discuss requests or preferences for how they wish to receive information.

F. New Business

Next month will be the last meeting with the current Commission officers. The Committee will discuss this leadership transition in more detail then.

G. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:12 p.m.