



The Liberty Theatre & Cultural Arts Center
Advisory Board Minutes
May 14, 2026

*Columbus Civic Center, Hospitality Suites
400 4th St, Columbus, GA 31901*

Board Members Present: Monika Brown, Arreasha “Z” Lawrence, Ku’Wonna Ingram, Arsburn “Oz” Roberts, Cletus Richardson, Fernando Verdree

Board Members Absent: Evelyn “Mimi” Woodson, Dr. Shikha Shah

Present: Civic Center Staff: Jennifer Babin, Caryn Hammond, Janine Abano

Visitor: Scott Holmes

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 pm by Vice Chair Oz Roberts.

2. Approval of Minutes

January 8 and March 12 minutes were available for review but could not be officially approved due to attendance/quorum issues.

3. Project Updates

- a.** Repairs/Remediation: City has approved roof repair, asbestos remediation and HVAC work. Hazardous materials and mold remediation reportedly completed.
- b.** Site Visit: Scott Holmes and team recently toured the theatre interior first safe access after remediation to assess conditions.
- c.** Funding: additional funds are required for the architect/firm to prepare further renderings and design documents.

4. Streetscape / District Work presented by Scott Holmes

- a.** Scope: Streetscape design for the road in front of the Liberty Theater 8th Street and nearby portions – new sidewalks, paving, landscaping, street parking reconfiguration and moving power lines underground.

- b. Performance Lawn / Plaza: design will coordinate with the performance lawn across the street; plans to include a long-raised speed table / plaza are in front of the theater to connect with the lawn and allow street closures for events.
- c. Related features: splash pad and small restroom building planned by the City across the lawn; discussion with City to enlarge restrooms to serve as a stage backdrop.
- d. Construction sequencing: some adjacent streets e.g., 7th behind are part of the master plan; construction staging/traffic will affect sequencing so certain finishes may be deferred until later phases.
- e. Utilities: alleyways and underground utilities planned to serve new homes/housing at the site edges.

5. Historic Features / Memorials

- a. Existing donor bricks/markers: there are bricks and vertical obelisks granite markers with names and history; some inscriptions are fading.
- b. Preservation intent: team intends to preserve named bricks or at least preserve the names and history in new memorial elements; options include reusing bricks, reproducing names on new elements or creating a dedicated donor plaza.
- c. Committee needed: recommended formation of a focused committee to determine what histories/names/messages go on obelisks and memorial elements and to coordinate outreach to stakeholders who hold historical knowledge.
- d. Fabrication timeline: fabrication and content decisions take time; may not be complete by streetscape construction. Some markers require proofing and fabrication of lead time.

6. Programming / Interpretive Opportunities

- a. Ideas discussed: interactive museum/interactive displays inside the theater audio/video/QR codes. Etched imagery on memorial stones, curated stories performers, ownership, community memories, possible partnerships with local schools CSU, SCAD, Auburn or local brands reference to RC Coca/Columbus ties.
- b. Accessibility & seating: discussion on seating counts, historic vs. modern seating tradeoffs between original character and modern comfort/capacity. Consideration of balcony access, stairs, and ADA access elevator likely expensive; alternate accessible seating solutions discussed.

7. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 5:17 pm by Vice Chair Oz Roberts. The next meeting scheduled is on July 9, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

Janine Abano

Janine Abano, Board Secretary