

MINUTES

CITY OF FORT COLLINS • BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS



Cultural Resources Board REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, July 24, 2025 – 5:30 PM

Center for Creativity, White Pine Room

CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 PM

ROLL CALL

- Board Members Present –Sheri Emerick (Chair), Cori Hixon, Conner Horak-Flood, Jessica MacMillan, Eleanor VanDeusen, Leslie Walker
- Board Members Remote –
- Board Members Absent –
- Staff Members Present – Solara Clark, Eileen May
- Guest(s) – Nancy Zola

AGENDA REVIEW

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

- Nancy Zola, an Art in Public Places Board member, attended and participated in the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- One correction was requested. Under noise ordinance, “10,000” should read “1,000”.
- Approval of July 2025 minutes. Jessica MacMillan made a motion to accept the minutes with the correction. Cori Hixon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- Review of Funding Recommendations for Program Support Grant, August Deadline
 - Solara Clark reviewed the funding results with the Board.
 - The Board discussed the applications.
 - Conner Horak-Flood made a motion to accept the funding results with the correction. Jessica MacMillan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
 - Solara Clark informed the Board that the next and final round of scoring will be in October for the Cross-Sector Impact Grant.
- Fort Fund and Arts and Culture Board Changes Presentation – Solara Clark
 - Solara Clark presented to the Board about the changes to the Fort Fund Grant Program and the Arts and Culture Board. Changes include:
 - The grant program will now be FoCo Creates Grant Program
 - Discontinue Cross-Sector Impact Grant in the future; reallocate

- its budget to Program Support and Special Event grants.
 - Introduce Artist Opportunity Grant (individual artists funding).
 - Change in deadlines.
 - Applicants will now receive feedback with funding status.
 - Flexibility in funding results.
 - No longer having Board liaisons for grantees.
 - Implementing a community grant panel.
- The Board asked questions about the changes. Solara Clark and Eileen May answered each.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Eileen May updated the Board on department operations:
 - The planned Noise Ordinance Fall presentation by Arts and Culture and Neighborhood Services has been pushed to Q1 for Council. The survey remains open until end of the month.
 - In April, the Department combined Art in Public Places, the Center for Creativity, FoCo Creates grant program, and the Cultural Community Program into one work group. The change has been successful and positive. Exploring adding education and engagement/outreach to the group.
 - There is a meeting scheduled next week with Katy Schneider and Eileen May to strengthen tourism partnership for business development and marketing, including exploring large-scale events.
 - The first summer of FoCo Pop was successful with about 3,000 attendees across approximately six or seven events.
 - The Department is planning for summer events tied to Colorado's 150th and the nation's 250th anniversary. State and federal grants available starting in January for "150-250" events. This could lead to cross-department collaborations (natural areas, arts and culture, parks, recreation) to elevate arts awareness and engage artistic partners for new works reflecting Colorado history and current national conversations.
 - Marketing was centralized approximately 6 months ago. The team is creating consistency across areas of Arts and Culture.
 - The City is continuing a 6% reduction in budget noted in July, requested to extend through the 2027, 2028 cycles (a three-year arc). Overall department budget impact is about \$265,000. Collaborative leadership as helped Arts and Culture avoid larger cuts.
 - There is a hiring freeze preventing resourcing of positions. However, approval was received to move forward on redesigning The Lincoln Center senior manager role to instead oversee all four venues and handle HR and budget as a managing director-type operations role.
 - The Department is developing a maintenance plan to reduce reactionary spending and strengthen financial resiliency.
 - A department-led series rooted in the Community Arts Work Group, in partnership with the Downtown Creative District builds on last year's October grant writing workshop. Six workshops total, one every other month for a year. First workshop was on September 11: "Creating a Marketing Plan Using AI," was a success with 67 attendees at The Lincoln Center. The next workshop on November 13 at the Center for Creativity: "Paint by Numbers: Financial Management for Artists,"

covering budget forms, reading P&L, grant budget forms, in-kind donations; delivered by Tally Services.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

- Leslie Walker attended the Fort Collins Comic Con, the International Keyboard Odyssey Festival and a performance for Off the Hook Arts.
- Cori Hixon attended the Michael Cavanaugh performance at the Gardens on Spring Creek.
- Sheri Emerick watched the International Keyboard and Odyssey Festival on live stream, attended a lecture at the Gregory Allicar Museum and the Michael Cavanaugh performance at the Gardens on Spring Creek.
- Eleanor VanDeusen attended a performance by Soda Shop Movement Company, a performance at Bas Bleu Theatre and the Michael Cavanaugh performance at the Gardens on Spring Creek.
- Conner Horak-Flood visited the Global Village Museum and a performance by the Poudre School District Summer Theatre Intensive.
- Jessica MacMillan attended the Michael Cavanaugh and The Commodores performances at the Gardens on Spring Creek, a performance by Soda Shop Movement Company, a performance by Off the Hook Arts and a quartet performance provided by the Friends of the Symphony.

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT:

- Eleanor VanDeusen made a motion to adjourn at 6:44 PM. Conner Horak-Flood seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Solara Clark
Lead Specialist

Minutes approved by the Chair and a vote of the Board/Commission on XX/XX/XXXX.