



MERIDIAN ARTS COMMISSION MEETING

City Council Chambers, 33 East Broadway Avenue Meridian, Idaho

Thursday, May 14, 2026 at 3:30 PM

MINUTES

ROLL-CALL ATTENDANCE

☒ Lizzie Taylor	☒ Patrick O'Leary
☒ Bridget King, Chair	☒ Bobby Gaytan
☒ Shaun Muscolo, Vice Chair	Seoyoon Song
☒ Eryn Turner	☒ Jay Smith
Crystal Paulson	

*Also present Arts and Culture Coordinator Cassandra Schiffler, Arts Assistant Brecken Bird, and City Deputy Attorney Emily Kane.

Chair B. King called the meeting to order at 3:30pm

ADOPTION OF AGENDA [ACTION ITEM]

J. Smith made a motion to adopt the agenda, and L. Taylor seconded.

All ayes; motion passed

APPROVAL OF MINUTES [ACTION ITEM]

1. **Approval:** Draft Minutes From the April 9, 2026 Meridian Arts Commission Meeting

C. Schiffler pointed out that there was one error in the minutes where it said E. Taylor instead of E. Turner. She asked that there be a motion for approval with that correction.

L. Taylor made a motion to approve the draft minutes from the 4-9-2026 meeting with the correction. J. Smith seconded.

All ayes; motion passed

OLD BUSINESS [ACTION ITEMS]

2. **Approval:** Statement for AI Use in Artwork for MAC Programs [ACTION ITEM]

E. Turner made a motion to approve the Statement for AI Use in Artwork for MAC Programs.

S. Muscolo seconded.

All ayes; motion passed

3. **Open Calls:** Initial Point Gallery Call to Artists for 2026 is Open, Application Deadline: May 15, 2026; Tammy de Weerd Awards in the Arts is Open, Nomination Deadline: June 23, 2026 ~ *Brecken Bird, Arts Assistant*

Bridget reminded commissioners of the open call for Initial Point Gallery applications and the Call for nominations for the Tammy de Weerd Awards.

S. Muscolo asked how many submissions we currently have for the gallery?

B. Bird answered that there are currently 21 applications. A good amount but that they would love more.

NEW BUSINESS [ACTION ITEMS]

4. **Review and Make Recommendations:** Meridian Artwork Awards from WASD Show for Proposed 2026 Traffic Box Series [ACTION ITEM] ~ *Cassandra Schiffler, Arts & Culture Coordinator*

C. Schiffler presented the recommendations for the WASD 2026 Traffic Box Program (see attached presentation document).

P. O'Leary made a motion to recommend the proposed 2026 Traffic Box Series. J. Smith seconded.

All ayes; motion passed

REPORTS [ACTION ITEM]

5. **Initial Point Gallery** ~ *Lizzie Taylor, Commissioner*

Current Exhibit: "Framed" West Ada School District Annual Art Show, on view April 28 - May 18; Reception: Tuesday, May 5, 4:30 - 7:00; Host: Jay Smith

Upcoming Exhibit: "The Pursuit of Happiness: America 250" featuring artwork by members of the Boise Open Studios Collective Organization (BOSCO) and the "Moments That Made Us" exhibition panels on Portable Walls, on view May 20 - July 31; Reception: Tuesday, June 2, 4:30 - 7:00; Host: Patrick O'Leary; Art Talk Event (Details Forthcoming): Tuesday July 7, at 6:00 - 7:30; Host: ?

L. Taylor gave an update on Initial Point Gallery exhibits and events. J. Smith was the host for the WASD show. The reception had a great turnout with 70 people in attendance.

L. Taylor encouraged everyone to attend the reception for the next exhibit "The Pursuit of Happiness" featuring work by artists from BOSCO (Boise Open Studio Collective Organization.)

B. Bird gave some more information on a second event in the gallery on July 7 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm. We will have a guest lecture from BSU Art History Professor Craig Peariso on the intersection of art and American History. She encouraged the commission to attend.

B. Bird, on the topic of the purchase award for BOSCO's "The Pursuit of Happiness" show, stated that initially it was a conditional requirement for the purchase award that the artwork be created within the last two years. The reason for this was to encourage BOSCO artists to create

new work for the show. She said that around 1/3 of the work submitted was created within the last two years and upon reviewing all of the work submitted there were a few pieces that were a bit older that might be worthwhile additions to the City's collection. B. Bird asked the commission if they might consider opening up the purchase award to all artwork in the exhibition.

S. Muscolo stated that she would rather have the strongest pieces than the newest pieces.

J. Smith asked why we wanted to limit the age of the work initially?

C. Schiffler answered that we wanted to encourage new work for the show.

J. Smith do we currently allow art to be rehung if it has already been shown in the gallery?

C. Schiffler we changed the requirement recently. I believe we now require 90% of artwork shown in the gallery to be new work that they have never shown in the gallery before.

J. Smith said that he didn't see any reason to limit it to new art.

L. Taylor said she agrees with J. Smith. I think we need to be a bit loose, a bit fluid, and a bit kind.

E. Turner asked if we would need to amend the memorandum that was sent out to artists and let them know of the change ahead of time.

B. Bird answered that they hadn't thought yet of how to proceed, but that since it was included in the initial eligibility rules it should be addressed with the organization. She thinks that it would be good to send out an email to the Events Chair of BOSCO so she could disseminate the information to the participating artists.

C. Schiffler said that she thinks it would be okay to give the artists a heads up about the change.

E. Turner suggested that we let them know that since it was only a third of submissions, we decided to open it up and remove that time constraint. We could still give priority to the newer work and look at those first and see if it meets criteria before looking at the others.

P. O'Leary would it help to open it up to work created within the last 2-5 years instead of the last two?

B. King asked a clarifying question about whether we were talking about just changing the two-year rule for the purchase award for this show or changing a requirement for all gallery shows?

C. Schiffler answered that we are just talking about this specific show and the associated purchase award.

C. Schiffler answered commissioner O'Leary by saying that she didn't think extending the requirement just a few years would include that many more pieces of artwork.

B. Bird agreed and said that she thinks they should choose either to keep the original requirement or open it up to all the pieces.

P. O'Leary said he was thinking that expanding the years a little for the show would encourage artists in future shows.

There was some discussion about working on a statement for the future to prevent work being shown in the gallery that has already been shown by an artist at Initial Point Gallery.

B. Bird said that was a topic that we should put on a future agenda and discuss, but that for now the discussion should focus on whether to allow work created before the last two years to be eligible for the purchase award for the upcoming BOSCO exhibit.

B. King said that she liked E. Turner's suggestion about giving priority to newer work but that they should open it up to all the artwork in the show.

P. O'Leary asked for a reminder on how many artworks they planned to collect from the show.

B. Bird answered 1 to 3 works, up to \$5,000. But that the commission was not required to purchase any work if the commission didn't find anything that met the standards of the City or of the purchase award requirements.

C. Schiffler said that B. Bird and herself planned to create a simple scoring sheet with two categories (one for execution and one for theming), and that they could give an extra point or two to newer work to prioritize it.

E. Turner said that she liked that idea, and she felt like it honored the original memorandum while being flexible and giving the commissioners more choices for the purchase award.

B. Bird said that she would work on creating the scoresheet and rubric and that she would be sure to include the extra point for work created within the last two years.

S. Muscolo asked if there was a host for the art talk on July 7?

B. Bird said that there was not a host for the event yet.

S. Muscolo volunteered to host the event that evening.

6. Public Art Project Updates ~ Cassandra Schiffler, Arts & Culture Coordinator

Community Center Public Art: Artists to Submit Final Designs, Selection Task Force to Meet in May to Review and Approve Proposals; Next Step: MAC Recommendation

Public Art Master Plan: In Progress; Drafting Sections on: Artist Contracting, Funding and Staffing, GIS mapping for Opportunities

C. Schiffler gave an update on public art projects and said she has final proposals from the artists. Task force will be meeting next week to review and recommend proposals. We will present the final proposals to the commission at the July meeting.

She said they would also have a presentation of the final draft of the Public Art Master Plan for the commission to review at the next MAC meeting in July.

7. Event Updates ~ Cassandra Schiffler, Arts & Culture Coordinator

Meridian's Main Street Mix 2026 Series (Six Concerts at Generations Plaza 5:30-7:30 PM on Consecutive Wednesdays: July 8, 15, 22, 29 & August 5, 12)

Morrison Center's Neighborhood Concert Series: Bear Creek Park in Meridian:
Wednesday, August 26, 2026 5:00 - 8:00 PM + Tammy de Weerd Awards in the Arts
Presentation at 6:25

Art Spark at Kleiner Park: Saturday, August 29, 2026 from 11:00 - 7:00 PM (formerly
the Community Art Party)

C. Schiffler gave an update on events and said that she is working on executing contracts with the bands for the Meridian Main Street Mix. We will be starting to market the event soon.

C. Schiffler reminded commissioners that nominations are still open for the Tammy de Weerd Awards and that they should submit their nominations. There are currently no nominations. The award ceremony will be held during the Morrison Center's Neighborhood Concert Series in Bear Creek Park at 6:45pm.

C. Schiffler gave an update on the Art Spark event. They are close to having a poster finished for the event, designed by Andie Kelly. They have also sent out postcards to many arts organizations, encouraging them to have a booth at the event. C. Schiffler asked that if commissioners know of any arts organizations to encourage them to apply and to direct them to the website to fill out the simple event application form.

J. Smith asked if they were accepting arts and crafts vendors?

C. Schiffler answered that yes, they are allowing some arts and crafts booths.

J. Smith asked if the artists must be from Meridian to apply?

C. Schiffler said no, they will accept vendors regardless of whether they live in Meridian.

NEXT MEETING - SPECIAL MEETING MAY 26, 2026 at Initial Point Gallery

REGULAR JUNE 11, 2026 MEETING WILL BE CANCELLED

ADJOURNMENT [ACTION ITEM]

L. Taylor made a motion to adjourn the meeting. J. Smith seconded.

All ayes; motion passed

Meeting adjourned at 4:04 pm

Meridian Arts Commission 2026 All Commission Goals and Priorities

Program monthly Initial Point Gallery exhibits, host opening receptions, market the gallery to the city and the community, market yearly Call-to-Artists, and serve as a selection panel for new exhibits.

Engage the community through Art Week in 2026 and participate in programming and marketing events.

Participate in the partnership with the Parks and Recreation Commission to add theming and identity reinforcing art in Meridian parks and pathways. Focus this year on Community Center public art.

Participate in planning for new MAPS projects and future updates to the MAPS Public Art Workplan. Focus on the completion of a new Public Art Master Plan.

Support Meridian's Main Street Mix concert series in 2026.

Maintain existing Traffic Box Series program; select WASD artworks, recommend locations, and use Call to Artists to commission installation of new traffic box wraps.

Increase inclusive programming through representation of diverse populations and marketing to underserved and underrepresented populations.

Support youth performing arts programs through partnership and fiscal support of performing arts projects.

Present the 2026 biennial Tammy de Weerd's Awards in the Arts.

2026 WEST ADA SCHOOL DISTRICT ARTWORK

Traffic Box Art Wraps

Olivia Sullivan, *Sea to Shining Sea*



Elementary Award:

Olivia Sullivan

- Title of Artwork: Sea to Shining Sea
- Grade: 5th
- School: Chaparral Elementary

Isabella Readd, *Peaceful Beauty*



Elementary Award:

Isabella Readd

- Title of Artwork: Peaceful Beauty
- Grade: 3rd
- School: Discovery Elementary

Seoyoon Oh, *Inheritance*

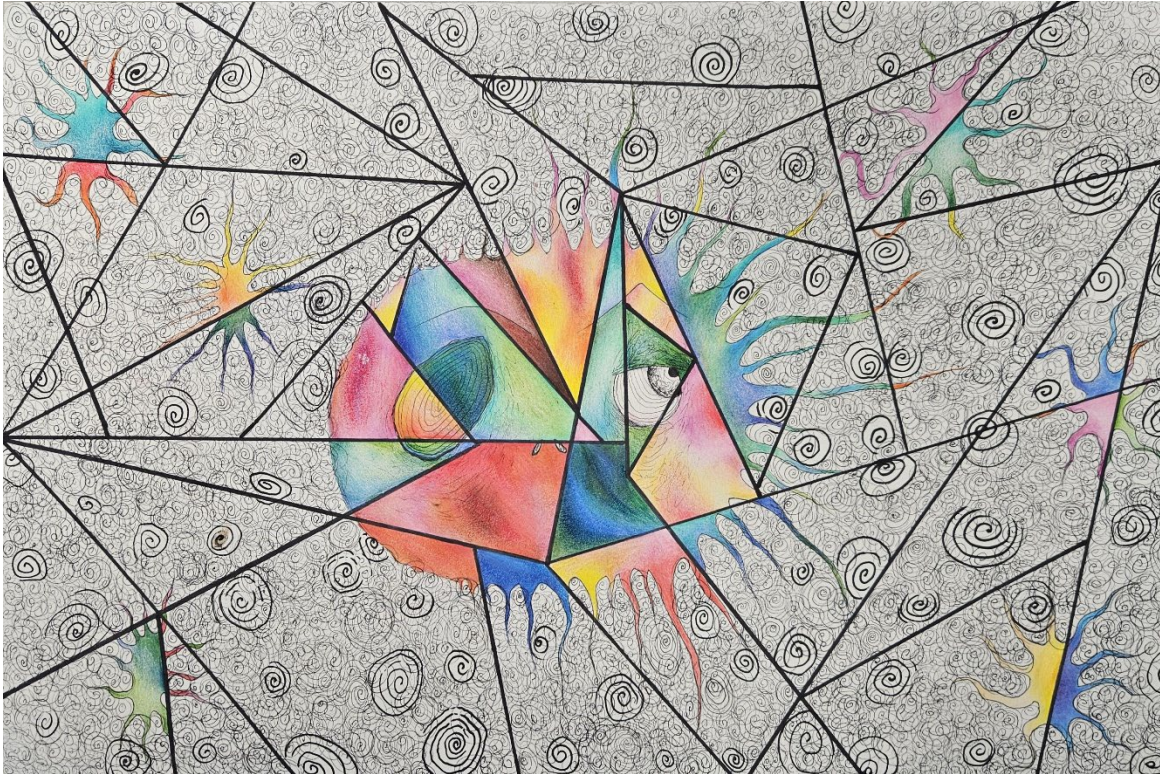


Middle School Award:

Seoyoon Oh

- Title of Artwork: Inheritance
- Grade: 8th
- School: Victory Middle School

Nizhoni Jones, *Frazzle*



High School 2-D Award:

Nizhoni Jones

- Title of Artwork: Frazzle
- Grade: 11th
- School: Eagle Academy

Jeremiah Aldrich, *Bridge Side Sunset*



High School Photo Award:

Jeremiah Aldrich

- Title of Artwork: Bridge Side Sunset
- Grade: 11th
- School: Renaissance High School

Claire Kislig, *A Beautiful Day's End*



Mayor's Award:

Claire Kislig

- Title of Artwork: *A Beautiful Day's End*
- Grade: 5th
- School: Hunter Elementary