



MERIDIAN ARTS COMMISSION MEETING

City Council Chambers, 33 East Broadway Avenue Meridian, Idaho

Thursday, March 12, 2026 at 3:30 PM

MINUTES

ROLL-CALL ATTENDANCE

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lizzie Taylor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patrick O'Leary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bridget King, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bobby Gaytan
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shaun Muscolo, Vice Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seoyoon Song
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eryn Turner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jay Smith
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Crystal Paulson	

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

WELCOME NEW ARTS COMMISSIONER ERYN TURNER!

ADOPTION OF AGENDA [ACTION ITEM]

S. Muscolo motioned to adopt the agenda, and L. Taylor seconded.

All ayes: motion passed

APPROVAL OF MINUTES [ACTION ITEM]

- Approval:** Draft Minutes From the February 12, 2026 Meridian Arts Commission Meeting

P. O'Leary motioned to approve the minutes from 2/12/2026, and B. Gaytan seconded.

All ayes: motion passed

NEW BUSINESS [ACTION ITEMS]

- Volunteer:** Upcoming West Ada School District (WASD) Annual Show Judging on Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at 9:00AM (3 - 4 MAC Judges Needed)

Chair B. King stated that volunteers were needed to judge the West Ada School District annual art show and that S. Song, as the youth commissioner, would get priority if she would like to be one of the judges.

S. Song said she would be interested in being a judge. B. King stated that she was a judge last year and would love to do it again unless someone else wanted a chance. J. Smith and L.

Taylor also said that they would judge the show again unless someone else wanted a chance. E. Turner, the new commissioner, said she would love a chance to judge the show.

E. Turner, J. Smith, L. Taylor, and S. Song will judge the WASD art show on April 8.

3. **Call to Artists:** Initial Point Gallery Call to Artists for 2026 is Open, Application Deadline: May 15, 2026 ~ *Brecken Bird, Arts Assistant*

B. Bird gave a presentation to commissioners about the upcoming 2027 Call To Artists for Initial Point Gallery.

She stated that the media release for the Call would go out within the next week and the application deadline would be May 15, 2026. She also asked that when the time comes, staff would love the commissioners help in getting the word out about the Call.

B. Bird also stated that in the past we have accepted applications for the gallery on a “rolling” basis, but that staff wants to move towards having about a two-month window for accepting applications preceding the application deadline. In the past the rolling deadline was helpful because the gallery didn’t receive many applications. However, in recent years we have had a huge increase in applications and we no longer feel that it is necessary to accept applications on a rolling basis.

Discussion:

S. Muscolo asked when the start date for the Call to Artists is.

C. Schiffler answered that the Call is open now.

L. Taylor asked what our policy is on “digital artwork”

C. Schiffler stated that L. Taylor posed a good question and that we also still need to address our policy on “AI art”. It’s not something that will be in place for this Call to Artists, but it is something that should be addressed as an agenda item in the future.

S. Muscolo asked if any of the other guidelines or size restrictions have been updated for the Call.

C. Schiffler stated that it is largely the same except for now we require that 90% of artwork shown in the gallery has never been shown in the gallery before.

J. Smith asked if commissioners were allowed to submit work to the gallery.

C. Schiffler said yes.

J. Smith then asked if there were any themes planned for art shows in 2027.

C. Schiffler said there are no planned themes. Artists submit individually and we group them with other artists or they can submit as a group with their own theme. We have seen artists who submit in groups score a bit higher. One note: to avoid any conflict of interest, commissioners who submit work to the gallery should not vote on themselves or on a group that they are involved in.

4. **Discuss and Approve:** Purchase Award(s) for Artworks Displayed in the America 250 BOSCO Exhibit [ACTION ITEM]

C. Schiffler reviewed a memo about a proposed purchase award for the BOSCO/America 250 exhibition at Initial Point Gallery on display May 20 – July 31, 2026.

Awards will not exceed \$5,000, for the purchase of 1-3 artworks for the City's permanent collection. The goal is to incentivize high-quality submissions from the group and add to the City's collection. We want to hold a special MAC Meeting following the installation on May 19, 2026 for the purpose of selecting works for the purchase award(s).

MAC will select artworks using the following criteria:

- be created within the past 2 years
- be priced individually under \$3,000
- represent the spirit of America 250 as an exemplary artwork that reflects and honors the nation's history, its ideals, and the contributions of all Americans
- must be nonpartisan
- Note: the selected artist(s) will also be required to enter into a formal purchase agreement with the City of Meridian.

Discussion:

Commissioners stated that they would like to have a rubric for scoring artwork in the BOSCO/America 250 show.

C. Schiffler said she will create a simple rubric with rankings for the artists skill and execution of the work and the works coherence to the theme of America 250.

B. King asked if BOSCO knows about the purchase award.

C. Schiffler said yes, BOSCO does know about the purchase award.

S. Muscolo made a motion to approve the Purchase Award Memo. L. Taylor seconded.

All ayes: motion passed

REPORTS [ACTION ITEM]

5. Initial Point Gallery ~ Lizzie Taylor, Commissioner

Current Exhibit: "Abstraction: Five Perspectives" Gia Strang, Joelle Ater, Lauren Thiem, Nicole Hitchcock, and Sara Hill; Opening Reception: Tuesday March 3, 4:30 - 7:00; Host: Shaun Muscolo

Upcoming Exhibit: "Field Studies: Interpreting the West" Lisa Flowers Ross and Clementine Zenner; Opening Reception: Tuesday April 7, 4:30 - 7:00; Host: Bridget King

L. Taylor gave an update on Initial Point Gallery and commended the staff and volunteers for the quality of the current exhibition, "Abstraction: Five Perspectives". She encouraged commissioners to continue to spread the word about Initial Point Gallery and thanked everyone for their continued support.

C. Schiffler wanted to highlight S. Muscolo particularly and thank her for her tireless work as a volunteer hanging artwork at Initial Point Gallery.

C. Schiffler also stated that all the volunteer spots for hosting Initial Point Gallery shows in 2026 have been filled, and thanked our newest commissioner, E. Turner, for signing up for the two remaining spots.

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

Community Center Public Art: Invitational Request for Proposals (RFP) Received, Selection Task Force to Meet in March to Review Proposals

Public Art Master Plan: In Progress; Drafting Sections on: Roles and Responsibilities, Selection Process, Collection Management

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 public art projects:

- Community Center Public Art: We have proposals from artists for all the community center public art projects and are waiting to get scores back from members of the task force. The task force will meet in March to review the proposals.

- Public Art Master Plan: Continued work on the public art master plan. C. Schiffler and B. Bird met with consultants today. We are working on drafting sections on Roles and Responsibilities, Selection Process, Collections Management, and B. Bird has started drafting and thinking about a Portable Works Collection Policy for the City. This is a policy concerning the 2D work that we have and addressing that in the master plan. The plan is to allocate \$5,000 of MAPS funds annually for the purchase of artwork. Purchases could happen through a Call to Artists, a formal recommendation, or through a show like the upcoming BOSCO show.

P. O'Leary asked if there was a community-based project included in the community center projects.

C. Schiffler stated that there is not. There was a project like that in the proposed projects PDF the commission reviewed a while back, but it is not one that we prioritized. All the projects we are currently doing are single artist's projects.

- Main Street Mix: C. Schiffler showed the commissioners the final design for the Main Street Mix Poster (see attached poster). All the bands have been booked, and the event is moving forward.

-Morrison Center Neighborhood Concert Series: No particular updates. We are planning on announcing the Tammy De Weerd Awards at that event. We will be working on the Call for

the Tammy Awards and that will go out next month. We will try and stagger it with the IPG Call to Artists.

- Art Spark: We are looking at applications for hands-on art activities for that event. Applications for booths at that event are online. We will focus on youth performances during the day from 11:00am to 3:00pm and transition to main stage entertainment from 3:00pm to 7:00pm. We will be moving the event to the front of the park and renting a stage. It will be easier for booth set up and be more visible. It will also make bringing in more food trucks easier.

NEXT MEETING - APRIL 9, 2026

ADJOURNMENT [ACTION ITEM]

C. Paulson motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by L. Taylor.

All ayes: motion passed

Meeting adjourned at 4:00pm

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.

Arts
Meridian Commission

**FREE
LIVE MUSIC
SUMMER 2026**

Wednesdays at
Generations Plaza
Downtown Meridian
5:30-7:30 p.m.

8 JULY

Hudson Powder Company

15 JULY

Bread & Circus

22 JULY

Various Lazy

29 JULY

Emily Tipton

5 AUGUST

Poverty Flats

12 AUGUST

TBD



MERIDIAN'S
MAIN STREET
MIX

Generations
Plaza