



MERIDIAN ARTS COMMISSION MEETING

City Council Chambers, 33 East Broadway Avenue Meridian, Idaho

Thursday, December 11, 2025 at 3:30 PM

MINUTES

ROLL-CALL ATTENDANCE

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

Arts and Culture Coordinator C. Schiffler and City Deputy Attorney E. Kane were also in attendance.

Vice Chair B. King called the meeting to order at 3:34pm.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA [ACTION ITEM]

S. Muscolo moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by P. O'Leary

All ayes; motion passed

APPROVAL OF MINUTES [ACTION ITEM]

- 1. Approval:** Minutes from the November 13, 2025 Meridian Arts Commission Meeting

C. Paulson moved to approve the minutes, seconded by S. Song

All ayes; motion passed

OLD BUSINESS [ACTION ITEMS]

- 2. Recap:** 2025 Ornament Drop

Guest: Jamie (representing Treasure Valley Arts and Wandercraft)

- **Summary:** Jamie reported a successful partnership with Treasure Valley Arts. They hosted two sessions (morning for homeschoolers and afternoon for all ages). A total of 70 ornaments were created for the drop.

Questions & Comments:

- **Crystal:** Asked about the turnout split. Jamie noted the morning was very busy due to the homeschooling community, with about 10 people in the afternoon session. [14:42]
- **Commissioners:** Inquired if the participants dropped their own ornaments. Jamie confirmed most did, which added to the community engagement. [16:16]
- **Staff (Cassandra):** Noted that the city also commissioned a special ornament by local artist **Julia Green**, featuring skaters from the "Christmas in Meridian" poster. [18:06]
- **Bobby:** Asked if the increased success was due to better advertising. Cassandra and Jamie attributed it to "snowballing" popularity and having more physical hosting locations. [19:02]

NEW BUSINESS [ACTION ITEMS]

3. **Discuss: Refocusing Concert Series Initiatives in 2026:** Shifting Larger Production "Concerts on Broadway" to a Smaller, More Frequent Series in Generations Plaza ~ *Cassandra Schiffler, Arts & Culture Coordinator*

Proposal: Shift from "Concerts on Broadway" (large tribute bands at City Hall) to "Meridian's Main Street Mix" at Generations Plaza (smaller, midweek, original music).

Questions Asked & Answered:

- **Q:** Why is this more cost-effective?
 - **A:** Smaller bands (solo to 4-piece) are cheaper than 8-piece bands, and there is less need for heavy sound production/setup. [24:53]
- **Q:** What is the commissioner's role at the new venue?
 - **A:** Acting as liaisons, greeting the public, and minor setup help. [25:45]
- **Q:** Could these be held at different parks?
 - **A:** Logistics are harder for multiple sites; also, funding from the Meridian Development Corp (MDC) is tied to the downtown district. [26:22]
- **Q:** Will there be food trucks?
 - **A:** No, the goal is to drive traffic to existing downtown restaurants. [29:21]
- **Q:** Where will people sit at Generations Plaza?
 - **A:** It is "bring your own chair" or blanket, similar to the previous series, plus existing patio seating at nearby businesses. [31:38]
- **Q:** What is the proposed pay for artists?
 - **A:** The aim is at least \$200 per musician per gig. [30:47]

J. Smith moved to move forward with the change from Concerts on Broadway to “Meridian’s Main Street Mix”, seconded by S. Muscolo

All ayes; motion passed

4. **Event:** Children's Winterland Festival at Meridian Homecourt, Saturday December,13 from 10:00 - 2:00 (set up 9:00 - 2:30) ~ *Crystal Paulson*

Summary: Confirmed event at Meridian Home Court on December 13. Commissioners will help kids make paper ornaments.

Details: Setup is at 9:00 AM; the event runs until 2:30 PM. [42:35]

REPORTS [ACTION ITEM]

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

Public Art Master Plan

"Safe Passages" Public Art in the Linder Road Median

Community Center Public Art

Public Art Update: Consultant is working with Staff and drafting various parts of the plan, and currently focusing on a process for selecting annual projects. It will involve a task force.

Annual Work Plan

To ensure a well-rounded and professional selection process, the work plan proposes a task force consisting of at least five members:

- **Two Arts Commissioners:** To represent the commission’s vision.
- **Two Visual Arts Professionals:** To provide technical and aesthetic expertise.
- **One Parks and Recreation Commissioner:** To ensure alignment with city park goals.
- **One Environmental Design Professional:** Such as an urban planner or landscape architect, to consult on site integration and structural feasibility.

Project Selection Process

The process for selecting which projects make it into the annual plan follows a specific workflow:

- **Information Gathering:** Staff collects a list of all proposed projects based on community suggestions and the "opportunities list" developed throughout the year.
- **Task Force Review:** The task force reviews these projects using a specific set of criteria, including:
 - **Context and Vision Alignment:** Does the art fit the city's goals?

- **Location and Site Visibility:** Is the spot suitable for public engagement?
- **Resource Availability:** Does the city have the funding and manpower to complete it?
- **Prioritization:** The task force identifies the "priority projects" that should move forward in the coming year.

Approval and Budgeting

Once the task force identifies the priority projects, the plan must go through a formal approval chain:

1. **Drafting:** Cassandra drafts the formal plan based on the task force's recommendations.
2. **Commission Approval:** Both the **Arts Commission** and the **Parks and Recreation Department** must approve the plan.
3. **City Council Presentation:** The final plan is presented to the City Council as part of the Arts Commission's annual report.
4. **Budget Integration:** Approved projects are then folded into the regular city budget process for funding.

Linder Road Median: The "Safe Passages" project is moving into the bidding phase with ACHD coordination. [46:46]

Community Center Public Art: A task force (including four commissioners and instructors) will meet in Jan, March, and May to select art for the new center. [47:07]

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

Current Exhibit: "Purple Plus" Treasure Valley Artist Alliance

*Opening Reception: Tuesday, December 2, 4:30 - 7:00pm; Host: Lizzie Taylor

*Panel Discussion: Tuesday, January 6, 5:30 - 7:00pm "Artists Panel Discussion: Archival to Alternative Art Media"; Host?

Upcoming Exhibit: "Storied Connections" Stephen Aifegha, Laurel Macdonald, Lawrence Manning, Gretchen Weitemier, and Leslie Jay Bosch

*Opening Reception: Tuesday February 3, 4:30 - 7:00; Host: Shaun Muscolo

Current Exhibit: "Purple Plus" by Treasure Valley Artists Alliance (TVAA).

Advocacy: Lizzy urged commissioners to "do their part" by inviting social groups (church, bowling leagues, etc.) to visit the gallery for lunch and art viewing. [50:06]

Upcoming Panel: A discussion on alternative to archival materials is set for the first Tuesday in January (5:30 PM). S. Muscolo volunteered to help with hosting duties (setup and greeting). [52:56]

NEXT MEETING - JANUARY 8, 2026

(Note: Regular elections will be held in January)

ADJOURNMENT [ACTION ITEM]

S. Muscolo moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by C. Paulson

All ayes; motion passed

Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:30 pm.

***Portions of this document were drafted with support from Google Gemini AI. All content was edited and reviewed by Cassandra Schiffler, Arts & Culture Coordinator**

Meridian Arts Commission 2025 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.

Participate in the partnership with the Parks and Recreation Commission and staff to add theming and identity reinforcing art in Meridian parks and pathways. Focus this year on Fuller Park.

Engage the community through Art Week in 2025 and participate in programming and marketing events.

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

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

Support Concerts on Broadway Series in 2025.

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

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

Plan to present the 2026 biennial Tammy de Weerd's Awards in the Arts