



City of North St. Paul
Arts & Culture Commission
Regular Meeting Agenda

April 2, 2025
6:30 PM

The Arts & Culture Commission Meeting will be conducted on **April 2, 2025** at 6:30 p.m. The meeting location is the Council Chambers at City Hall, located at 2400 Margaret St., North St. Paul.

You can watch the meeting on our YouTube channel here: <https://tinyurl.com/NSPYoutube>

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

Tom Sonnek, Chair
Carey Nadeau, Vice-Chair
Amanda Black, Commissioner
Sharon Clark-Williams, Commissioner
Raquel Soto, Commissioner
Laura Strang, Commissioner
Aliza Verma, Commissioner
Yued Orozco-Garcia, Student Commissioner
Troy Woods, Council Liaison

STAFF

Jordyn Lehman

III. Adopt Agenda

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of March 5, 2025 Meeting Minutes

V. Meeting Open to the Public

This Open Forum is an opportunity for persons to address the Arts & Culture Commission on items not on the agenda. A completed public comment form should be presented to the staff liaison prior to the meeting. Comments will be limited to 3 minutes per person. While the Commission may ask clarifying questions of the speaker, no formal action by the Commission or discussion will be held on these items.

VI. Public Hearings

VII. Commission Business, Action Items & Recommendations

- A. Community Craft Project Ideas Discussion
- B. Sub-Committee Updates

VIII. Old Business

IX. Reports from Staff

- A. Snowy Card Envelopes
- B. 2025 Budget & Events Calendar

X. Reports from Commissioners

XI. Reports from Council Liaison

XII. Adjournment

The next regularly scheduled Arts & Culture Commission meeting is



To	Date
Arts and Culture Commissioners	April 2, 2025
Agenda Placement # IV.A	
Approval of Minutes	
Subject	
Approval of March 5, 2025 Meeting Minutes	
Background/Facts	
Recommended Action	
Attachments	

1. ACC Minutes 3.5.2025

Respectfully submitted,
Jordyn Lehman, Community Development Administrative Assistant



**Arts & Culture Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 5, 2025
6:30 PM**

North St. Paul City Hall – Council Chambers
2400 Margaret Street

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Carey Nadeau called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

COMMISSION

Tom Sonnek, Chair – Excused Absent
Carey Nadeau, Vice-Chair - Present
Amanda Black, Commissioner - Present
Sharon Clark-Williams, Commissioner – Excused Absent
Laura Strang, Commissioner - Present
Raquel Soto, Student Commissioner - Present
Aliza Verma, Commissioner - Present
Yued, Orozco-Garcia Student Commissioner - Present

STAFF/LIAISONS

Troy Woods, City Council Liaison - Present
Jordyn Lehman, Staff Liaison - Present

III. ADOPT AGENDA

Vice-Chair Nadeau called for a motion to adopt the March 5, 2025 meeting agenda.
M/Verma, S/Black
Motion carried 5-0.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of February 5, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Vice-Chair Nadeau asked for a motion to approve the February 5, 2025 meeting minutes

M/Soto, S/Black
Motion carried 5-0.

V. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Nora of North St. Paul expressed that everyone should check the weather three times before making plans.

VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were no public hearings.

VII. COMMISSION BUSINESS, ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Autumn Arts Goal-Setting Discussion

Commissioner Black outlined the intent of the discussion which is to define the purpose, theme, and intent of the Autumn Arts Festival (AAF) so that the Commission and staff have better direction planning the event. Commissioner Black noted that there are two competing ideas as to what kind of event the AAF is. One being a community fair event and the other being an event with a tight focus on the arts. Commissioner Strang expressed that if the Autumn Arts Festival becomes more of a fair she questioned the necessity of the Commission's involvement. Vice-Chair Nadeau expressed that if AAF to appealed to a wider audience then those who may not have been interested in a strictly art related event may come otherwise and find themselves enjoying the art aspects of the event. Commissioner Black expressed a concern that the if there are too many activities unrelated to arts then less people will visit the artists who pay and rely on sales at the event. Vice-Chair Nadeau noted that the Commission sees two sides of the event. On one hand the Commission does not want to dilute the importance of arts for the AAF and they want to support their vendors. On the other hand the Commission would also like to bring in families and make a comfortable experience for all. The Commission came to the overall consensus that they would like the AAF to have a primary focus on art and for the majority of the activities in the event to relate to art in some way.

Staff Liaison Jordyn Lehman presented a potential vendor for the AAF. This artist does a "portrait booth" and does quick sketches of individuals to capture their portrait.

B. Placeholder Event Discussion

Commissioner Verma joined the sub-committee for the Placeholder Event and asked if the idea of an Asian Night originated from the Commission or the community. Vice-Chair Nadeau answered that the Commission created the idea but noted that it might be a good idea to do a survey in the City Newsletter to see what the community might prefer to see in this event.

Commissioner Black suggested an idea for the event being a "Taste of North St. Paul" to highlight a diverse range of restaurants from North St. Paul. The city could bring these restaurants out for the evening and compensate them to create a tasting menu. Commissioner Black brought potentially renting the North High School gym for this event.

C. Sub-Committee Updates

1- Snowy Trading Cards

Commissioners discussed that they would like to hand out around 200-300 Snowy cards at the June 13th Big Truck Night in concealed envelopes.

2- Mural Project

Vice-Chair Nadeau stated that Chair Sonnek and Commissioner Clark-Williams met with the Historical Society. Nadeau noted that almost everyone is on board with the idea of a mural but there are some questions that they would like to be addressed. Nadeau also noted that due to the size of the mural budget there is a possibility that the Commission could do a second mural in the City.

3- Utility Boxes

Commissioner Strang stated that Commissioner Clark-Williams has drafted a letter for an open call for artists for the utility box at the Veterans Memorial. Strang noted that the letter will ask artists to submit interest and ideas for the project within a two week deadline. Strang stated that they would like to select



an artist no later than May 1st and would like to have the box completed by the 10th anniversary event in August. Strang also mentioned that Commissioner Clark-Williams plans on attending the next Park board meeting to get their approval on the project. Next, Commissioner Strang gave an update on the Heart Hands utility box and that they plan on making the design colorful and should be finished shortly.

4- Art Cart

Commissioner Soto noted that planning for Art Cart will commence soon.

5- Paint Night

Staff Liaison Jordyn Lehman updated the Commission on several artists who were ready to be booked for upcoming Art Nights. Classes planned include terracotta pot painting, watercolor bookmarks, chunky knit blanket making, and more. Staff Liaison Lehman also inquired if the Commission would like for the registration fee to remain \$10 and the Commission noted that they would like to see if they could dynamically price the classes.

6- Public Arts Project

Commissioner Soto and Strang stated they had met and came up with preliminary ideas for the project. One idea was to have take-home snowies that would be made of concrete or a wood cutout that could be personalized. Commissioner Strang also noted that sidewalk art, a snowy sidewalk stamp, interactive art sculpture display was also a part of the discussion.

VIII. REPORTS FROM STAFF

Staff had no updates.

IX. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Strang shared that her parents bought a house in Minnesota and that she is very excited to have family in the state.

Commissioner Soto expressed that she is taking her first architecture test on Saturday.

Commissioner Verma noted that she is planting a pollinator garden and is very excited as the seeds are starting to sprout.

Commissioner Nadeau stated that Julie Xiong is now a student at the University of Minnesota and is involved in the Hmong dance troop to continue to keep Hmong dancing and culture alive. There is a GoFund me available to help support the troop and to continue their work. Commissioner Nadeau also shared that a nephew of former Commissioner Emily Hague-Nguyen has suffered a tragic hockey accident and was stuck in Canada but now was finally able to return home.

Commissioner Black had no updates

X. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISON

Council Liaison Troy Woods noted that at the prior City Council Meeting they discussed the park plan and that there is recommendations regarding three parks in the City.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Chair Nadeau asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 PM.
M/Soto, S/Strang



Motion carried 5-0.

The next regularly scheduled Arts and Culture Commission Meeting is Wednesday, April 2, 2025 at 6:30 PM.



To	Date
Arts and Culture Commissioners	April 2, 2025
Agenda Placement # VII.A	
Commission Business, Action Items & Recommendations	
Subject	
Community Craft Project Ideas Discussion	
Background/Facts	
Discuss ideas and the direction for the community craft project for the 2025 Autumn Arts Festival.	
Recommended Action	
Attachments	
None	
Respectfully submitted, Jordyn Lehman, Community Development Administrative Assistant	



To	Date
Arts and Culture Commissioners	April 2, 2025
Agenda Placement # VII.B	
Commission Business, Action Items & Recommendations	
Subject	
Sub-Committee Updates	
Background/Facts	
Attachment for the Placeholder Event or tentatively "A Taste of North St. Paul"	
Recommended Action	
Attachments	
1. Taste of North Saint Paul Proposal	
Respectfully submitted, Jordyn Lehman, Community Development Administrative Assistant	

Taste of North Saint Paul

Roles:

Ava G

- Connect with Puzzles on rates of the room
- Invite Businesses
- Look into food licenses

Aliza V & Laura S

- Activity planning + logistics

Event Ideas:

Awards (for restaurants) - could be a little plaque or award- maybe a silver spoon or something in a floating frame:

- People's Choice
- Judge's Choice (Mayor, Police, Firefighters?)

Raffle Ideas:

- Cook Books (local-ish)
- Cooking Supplies (cookie cutters, cutting boards, etc.)
- Giftcards for the restaurants who participate

Possible Restaurants Ideas:

- Sweet Nothings
- Blue Nile
- Mac's
- East Asian Eats
- Hmong House
- A Chau Restaurant
- Love's Icecreamery
- Flyby Coffee (is a coffee shop?)
- VFW's (?)

Activities:

- Live Music
- For Children:
 - Butter Making Station (will need to be attended by volunteers)
 - Food Stamps (i.e. carved potatoes- pre-carved for safety)
 - Pizza Paper Plates/felt with pre-cut fixings
 - Coloring
 - “Cake decorating” either air dry clay or coloring pages
 - Chef Snowy - could have a local artist design some unique coloring pages? Note- does it have to look exactly like Snowy?
 - Button making with a 2025 Snowy Taste of North Saint Paul image? I.e. they color their own.
 - Kid’s “cookbook”/handout that they can take with some very easy recipes to do with their parents
- For Adults:
 - Growing culinary herbs indoors over winter (herb seed packets/kit to take?)
 - Share a recipe (can collect and maybe make it into a cookbook pamphlet next year?)
 - Food Trivia + with prizes
- General
 - Photo Opportunity/props
 - Food Pun wall
 - Food Bingo
 - Award “Ceremony” - end of the event

Questions for the A&C Commission:

- Funding:
 - Paying the restaurants to join us to help cover ingredients?
 - Keep the admission free for community members.
 - Raffle
 - folks can pay for a ticket or possibly we can work with the foodbank and folks can bring canned goods instead?
- Dates
 - Thurs Oct 23rd
 - Fri Oct 24th
 - Thurs Nov 6th
 - Fri Nov 7th
 - Thurs Nov 13th
 - Fri Nov 14th
- Thoughts on proposed activities.



To	Date
Arts and Culture Commissioners	April 2, 2025
Agenda Placement # IX.A	
Reports from Staff	
Subject	
Snowy Card Envelopes	
Background/Facts	
Recommended Action	
Attachments	
None	

Respectfully submitted,
Jordyn Lehman, Community Development Administrative Assistant



To	Date
Arts and Culture Commissioners	April 2, 2025
Agenda Placement # IX.B	
Reports from Staff	
Subject	
2025 Budget & Events Calendar	
Background/Facts	
Recommended Action	
Attachments	
1. Event Schedule Planner 2025 (Updated 3.18.25)	
2. 2025 Budget Tracker	

Respectfully submitted,
Jordyn Lehman, Community Development Administrative Assistant

EVENT SCHEDULE PLANNER 2025

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMISSIONERS
ACC EVENT PLACEHOLDER	TBD	TBD	TBD	
GUIDED ART NIGHT (SWETHA)	April 17th	6-8:00 PM	CASEY BUILDING	
GUIDED ART NIGHT (HEIDI)	May 15th	6-8:00 PM	CASEY BUILDING	
GUIDED ART NIGHT (SWETHA)	June 12th	6-8:00 PM	CASEY BUILDING	
BIG TRUCK NIGHT	June 13 th	4:30-8:00 PM	7 TH AVE	
MUSIC IN THE PARK #1	June 26 th	5-6:00 PM	HAUSE PARK	
MUSIC IN THE PARK #2	July 17 th	5-6:30 PM	SILVER LAKE	
MUSIC IN THE PARK #3	August 14 th	6-7:30 PM	CASEY LAKE	
AUTUMN ARTS FESTIVAL	September 13 th	11AM -6:00 PM	CASEY LAKE	
GUIDED ART NIGHT (SWETHA)	September 18 th	6-8:00 PM	CASEY BUILDING	
GUIDED ART NIGHT (JEREMY)	October 16th	6-9:00 PM	CASEY BUILDING	
GUIDED ART NIGHT (SWETHA)	November 20th	6-8:00 PM	CASEY BUILDING	

JANUARY	FEBURARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
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12 13 14 15 16 17 18	9 10 11 12 13 14 15	9 10 11 12 13 14 15	13 14 15 16 17 18 19	11 12 13 14 15 16 17	15 16 17 18 19 20 21
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26 27 28 29 30 31	23 24 25 26 27 28	23 24 25 26 27 28 29	27 28 29	25 26 27 28 29 30 31	29 30
30 31					
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
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13 14 15 16 17 18 19	10 11 12 13 14 15 16	14 15 16 17 18 19 20	12 13 14 15 16 17 18	9 10 11 12 13 14 15	14 15 16 17 18 19 20
20 21 22 23 24 25 26	17 18 19 20 21 22 23	21 22 23 24 25 26 27	19 20 21 22 23 24 25	16 17 18 19 20 21 22	21 22 23 24 25 26 27
27 28 29 30 31	24 25 26 27 28 29 30	28 29 30	26 27 28 29 30 31	23 24 25 26 27 28 29	28 29 30 31
	31			30	

Budget Report

BUDGET		JANUARY		FEBRUARY		MARCH		APRIL		MAY		JUNE		JULY		AUGUST		SEPTEMBER		OCTOBER		NOVEMBER		DECEMBER		
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