



**Arts & Culture Commission
Workshop Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2025
6:30 PM**

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Sonnek called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

COMMISSION

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

STAFF/LIAISONS

Jordyn Lehman, Staff Liaison - Absent

III. ADOPT AGENDA

Chair Sonnek asked the commissioners if there were any questions about the agenda. No votes were taken.

M/, S/

Motion carried -0.

V. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

There were no public comments.

VII. COMMISSION BUSINESS, ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS

A. 2026 Arts & Culture Projects Discussion

Chair Sonnek led the commissioners in a discussion around which projects are working well, and which projects present some opportunities for improvement or new direction.

Commissioner Verma suggested using a shared folder and collaborative tools, such as SharePoint, to assist in ease of working with each other and City staff.

The discussion focus moved to how the Arts & Culture Commission projects are developed and approved, and suggestions were made by all the commissioners on a better-defined process to ensure projects are more fully conceived and that there is full collaboration and approval by city staff and council,

when needed. The commissioners felt that this process would allow for ongoing development of new ideas throughout the year, while maintaining our core project areas as defined by our sub-committees and budget delineation. These areas include:

- Public Art
- Murals
- Utility Boxes
- Art Cart
- Art Night

There was general agreement by all commissioners present that this approach could help us be more successful with project creation and execution in the year ahead. Chair Sonnek stated that he would document process as discussed and share it with City staff. Chair Sonnek also suggested to Councilmember Woods that the ACC leadership would be happy to present a year-in-review to the Council, if desired.

B. Arts & Culture Commission Bylaws Review and Discussion

Chair Sonnek led a review of the bylaws with the commissioners. Commissioner Soto suggested we develop better on-boarding for new members, relevant to Section 5: Organization. Commissioner Soto stated that her experience was challenging, as she was unsure of her term, the by-laws, and general expectations. The commissioners agreed that this could be improved.

Commissioner Soto also questioned our expectations around community engagement in projects. Commissioner Nadeau explained that the Commission has conducted community surveys and held numerous events for the community, including Art-Nights, Art Cart, Autumn Arts Festival, etc., but we do not have explicit expectations to have the community involved in the development and execution of projects.

Student Commissioner Orozco-Garcia questioned the one-year maximum term for student commissioners, as he is interested in continuing his term. Commissioner Nadeau mentioned that she would bring this to the attention of city staff to see if Student Commissioner Orozco-Garcia's term could be extended.

Commissioner Clark-Williams stated that the language in the bylaws is fairly high-level, and in her experience, this allows for greater flexibility.

The commissioners were otherwise comfortable with the language in the bylaws as stated. Chair Sonnek asked the commissioners to take a closer look at the bylaws prior to December's Arts & Culture Commission meeting, and that we would have a final review at that time.

VIII. REPORTS FROM STAFF

There were no staff present. No reports.

IX. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Vice-Chair Nadeau had no updates related to City business

Commissioner Verma had no updates related to City business.



Commissioner Soto had no updates related to City business.

Commissioner Clark-Williams had no updates related to City business

Chair Sonnek noted had no updates related to City business

X. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISON

Council Liaison Troy Woods had no additional reports

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The commissioners adjourned the meeting at 8:10 PM. No votes were taken.

M/, S/

Motion carried -0.

The next regularly scheduled Arts and Culture Commission Meeting is Wednesday, December 3, 2025 at 6:30 PM.