

**June 3, 2026
6:30 PM**

The Arts & Culture Commission Meeting will be conducted on **June 3, 2026** 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
Ashley Perfect, 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 May 6, 2026 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. MN Photography Utility Box Wrap Application Review
B. Sub-Committee Updates

C. Final 2027 ACC Budget Recommendations to City Council

VIII. Old Business

IX. Reports from Staff

A. 2026 Budget & Events Calendar

X. Reports from Commissioners

XI. Reports from Council Liaison

XII. Adjournment

Members may be participating by Interactive Technology

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88967459980?pwd=Z4rVJ1WxhakMRsEbayqAZ4putCfLay.1>

The next regularly scheduled Arts & Culture Commission meeting is July 1, 2026 at 6:30 PM



To	Date
Arts and Culture Commissioners	June 3, 2026

Agenda Placement # IV.A

Approval of Minutes

Subject

Approval of May 6, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Background/Facts

Recommended Action

Attachments

1. ACC Minutes 05-06-2026

Respectfully submitted,
Jordyn Lehman, Community Development Administrative Assistant



**Arts & Culture Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2026
6:30 PM**

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

COMMISSION

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

STAFF/LIAISONS

Jordyn Lehman, Staff Liaison – Present

III. ADOPT AGENDA

Vice-Chair Nadeau called for a motion to adopt the May 6, 2026 meeting agenda.

M/Perfect, S/Verma
Motion carried 5-0.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of March 4, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Vice-Chair Nadeau asked for a motion to approve the March 4, 2026 meeting minutes.

M/Verma, S/Clark-Williams

Motion carried 5-0.

B. Approval of April 1, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Vice-Chair Nadeau asked for a motion to approve the April 1, 2026 meeting minutes.

M/Clark-Williams, S/Strang

Motion carried 5-0

V. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Eugenia Meltzer of the Metro Symphony Orchestra spoke to the Commission about the orchestra. She introduced herself to the Commission and welcomed any guidance on advertising.

VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were no public hearings.

VII. COMMISSION BUSINESS, ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Sub-Committee Updates

1- Autumn Arts

Commissioner Perfect reviewed event details with the Commission. She also proposed facilitating a sidewalk chalk art activity during the Autumn Arts Festival.

2- Murals

Vice-Chair Nadeau noted that Chair Sonnek has spoken with the VFW in North St. Paul who have expressed interest in installing a mural.

Commissioner Clark-Williams shared updates regarding the 45th Parallel Monument project. Clark-Williams recommended an obelisk for the shape of the marker and that installation be in the Southwood Nature Preserve. Clark-Williams asked for clarification on if the Parks & Recreation Commission needed to review the project idea. Staff were unsure if it would be required and would follow up with the Commission later.

3- Utility Boxes

Commissioner Clark-Williams noted that MN Photography Utility Box is currently in progress and is waiting for artist applications to come in. Staff liaison Lehman reported that five applications have been received for the project.

Vice-Chair Nadeau made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$3,500 for the MN Photography Utility Box Project.

M/Nadeau, S/Strang
Motion carried 5-0

Staff liaison Lehman shared with the Commission best practice for selecting an artist after a call for artist has been published. Lehman explained the Commission will need to review finalists that sub-committees have recommended to the Commission as the best options for the project.

Commissioners raised concerns regarding this process and critiquing applications in a public setting. Staff Liaison Lehman noted the concerns to be discussed with the Community Development Director on how to further proceed.

4- Art Night/Art Cart

Vice-Chair Nadeau shared that the Candle Making Art Night is tomorrow night the 7th and Cookie decorating was rescheduled to May 21st.

5- Spoken-Word Poetry Event

Lehman shared staff's concern hosting the poetry slam event at the Autumn Arts Festival. Primary concern is that other performances at the event, downtown location, and other activities would overshadow the spoken-word performance.

Commissioners expressed that their vision for the poetry slam event was to have it connected to another event to help it grow. Commissioners suggested potential options that could integrate the activity into the Autumn Arts Festival. Staff liaison Lehman noted that she will follow up with the Communications and Community Outreach Coordinator regarding the Commission's feedback and what options are available to include the event at the Autumn Arts Festival.

6- Public Art Project

Staff liaison Lehman shared image proofs of the four-coin designs for the Coin Press. Commissioners approved of the designs and directed staff to proceed with ordering the press.

B. Discussion:2027 ACC Budget Proposal to City Council

Commission discussed considerations for the 2027 Arts & Culture Commission budget proposal. Topics discussed included potential new Art Cart redesign, budgeting for Art Cart programming, Children's Art Gallery Event, signage for current art installation in the City, and murals.

VIII. REPORTS FROM STAFF

Staff liaison Lehman noted that the Art Cart budget line was over budgeted by \$95.31 and requested direction on where to pull the excess money from. Commission agreed to draw from the branding and communications line item.

M/Nadeau, S/Verma

Motion carried 5-0

Both the 2026 Event Calendar and 2026 Budget Tracker Sheet were listed on the staff reports.

IX. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Vice-Chair Nadeau had no updates related to City business.

Commissioner Clark-Williams had no updates related to City business.

Commissioner Perfect had no updates related to City business.

Commissioner Strang had no updates related to City business.

Commissioner Verma had no updates related to City business.

X. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISON

Council Liaison Troy Woods gave an update on the 5/5 City Council meeting and

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Chair Nadeau adjourned the meeting at 7:50 PM.



The next regularly scheduled Arts and Culture Commission Meeting is Wednesday, June 3, 2026 at 6:30 PM

Attested:

Approved:

Jordyn Lehman
Staff Liaison

Tom Sonnek
Arts & Culture Commission Chair



To	Date
Arts and Culture Commissioners	June 3, 2026

Agenda Placement # VII.A

Commission Business, Action Items & Recommendations

Subject

MN Photography Utility Box Wrap Application Review

Background/Facts

A call for artists was sent out for the MN Photography Utility Box Wrap Project to be installed at Silver Lake Park. The Utility Box Sub-Committee has recommended two applications, AA-26-1 and AA-26-7, as the best candidates for the project to be reviewed by the Arts & Culture Commission.

Recommended Action

Motion to recommend approval of applicant determined best suited for the project by the Arts & Culture Commission.

Attachments

- 1. AA-26-1 Application Binder
- 2. AA-26-7 Application Binder

Respectfully submitted,
Jordyn Lehman, Community Development Administrative Assistant



Record No: AA-26-1

Artist Application

Status: Active

Submitted On: 4/14/2026

Artist Information

Apply to become an artist for a North St. Paul Arts and Culture Commission project. Please complete the following application to be considered for our project.

Name*

[Redacted]

Address

[Redacted]

City*

Eagan

State

MN

Zip Code

55123

Email Address*

[Redacted]

Phone Number

[Redacted]

I'm at least 18 years old.*

Yes

Provide a link to your website or portfolio.*

[Redacted]

Tell us about yourself, Provide a brief bio.*

[REDACTED] is a painter, writer, and muralist. She's illustrated several published books and clients include: Fox National News, Minneapolis's Children's Theater, Extreme Makeover: Home Edition, the Islamic Center of MN, the City of Burnsville, Eagan, Crystal and various others. Her work has appeared on buildings, pianos, walls, doors, windows, mailboxes, electrical boxes, and concrete barriers. She is co-director of Art to Change the World, an arts organization focused on social justice and valuing the artist as a paid member of society.

Project Information

What project are you applying for?*

Utility Box-Silver Lake Park

Describe your design concept in 200 words or less.*

I want to have each side of the electrical box be some of my favorite photos of autumn in Minnesota. I want to use photographs that highlight intense colors with a great contrast, so when you look at the box, color shapes pop, and you can tell what some of them are from afar and some from up close. I also wanted to add a squirrel photo that's hidden and fun to find. The orange butterflies and the pink flowers will go well with the rest of the photos of bright colored leaves above the lake. The turquoise berries stand out as a variety of the colors in nature, yet keeping the lush green in the background of our wonderful outside world when not in winter.

What materials will you use?*

submitting digital photographs

I understand that if selected, I will be required to sign an artist agreement*



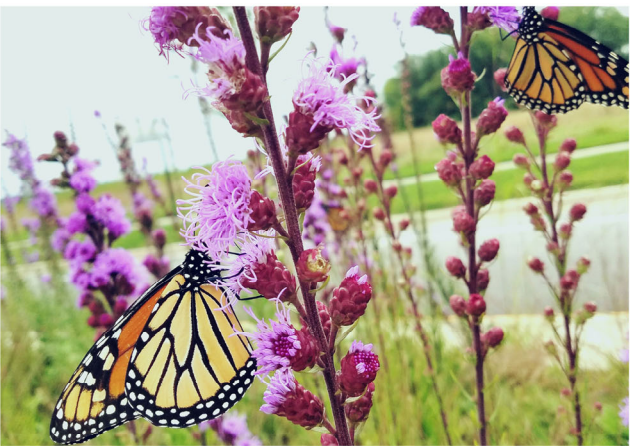
[REDACTED]

Apr 14, 2026

Date of Signature

04/14/2026

You will be prompted to upload your designs in the next step.



75"

60.75"

69.75"

55"

69.75"

75"



Record No: AA-26-7

Artist Application

Status: Active

Submitted On: 5/6/2026

Artist Information

Apply to become an artist for a North St. Paul Arts and Culture Commission project. Please complete the following application to be considered for our project.

Name*

[Redacted]

Address

[Redacted]

City*

North St Paul

State

MN

Zip Code

55109

Email Address*

[Redacted]

Phone Number

[Redacted]

I'm at least 18 years old.*

Yes

Provide a link to your website or portfolio.*

[Redacted]

Tell us about yourself, Provide a brief bio.*

I'm a retired art teacher and resident of North St Paul. I like taking photos while I'm out enjoying our natural environment through the seasons. My photos are then an inspiration for my art adventures.

Project Information

What project are you applying for?*

Utility Box-Silver Lake Park

Describe your design concept in 200 words or less.*

the photos I'm submitting are taken in Minnesota natural settings through the seasons. I think what ever ones are chosen will fit in beautifully with the Silver Lake environment

What materials will you use?*

photos

I understand that if selected, I will be required to sign an artist agreement*



[Redacted signature]

May 6, 2026

Date of Signature

05/06/2026

You will be prompted to upload your designs in the next step.





To	Date
Arts and Culture Commissioners	June 3, 2026
Agenda Placement # VII.B	
Commission Business, Action Items & Recommendations	
Subject	
Sub-Committee Updates	
Background/Facts	
Recommended Action	
Attachments	
None	

Respectfully submitted,
Jordyn Lehman, Community Development Administrative Assistant



To	Date
Arts and Culture Commissioners	June 3, 2026

Agenda Placement # VII.C

Commission Business, Action Items & Recommendations

Subject

Final 2027 ACC Budget Recommendations to City Council

Background/Facts

Commission budget recommendations are due to the City's Finance Director in June 2026. Please see the attached 2026 ACC budget recommendation for context.

Recommended Action

Determine final budget recommendations for the Arts & Culture Commission to be submitted to the City Council.

Attachments

1. ACC Budget Proposal for 2026

Respectfully submitted,
Jordyn Lehman, Community Development Administrative Assistant

Item	Description	Funding Request	New or Ongoing	Justification
1	Utility Box Wraps - Phase 4	7000	Ongoing	Highly popular and relatively low-cost way to add visual interest to public spaces. Looking to expand community engagement and possibly pay artists to paint directly on boxes. Other images may be more costly for copyright.
2	Art Cart Supplies	500	Ongoing	The Art Cart brings art directly to the people, especially children. We would like to increase funding to improve the quality of the programming, including better supplies and possibly payments to artists to lead sessions with children.
3	Mural Project	12500	Ongoing	For multiple potential murals, including support for murals on private businesses.
4	Public Art	5000	Ongoing	Art projects that would be visible and/or accessible to all residents, including art installations in public spaces, and arts & culture-related activities.
5	Branding & Communications	1000	Ongoing	To increase visibility via photography, event signage, swag, calendar of events, etc.
Total Budget Request		26000		



To	Date
Arts and Culture Commissioners	June 3, 2026

Agenda Placement # IX.A
Reports from Staff

Subject
2026 Budget & Events Calendar

Background/Facts

Recommended Action

Attachments

1. 2026 Budget Tracker
2. Event Schedule Planner 2026

Respectfully submitted,
Jordyn Lehman, Community Development Administrative Assistant

Budget Report

BUDGET	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
\$7,000 UTILITY BOX WRAPS												
Heart Hands Utility Box Wrap/Design (Casey)						\$3,150.00						
MN Nature Utility Box Wrap (Silver Lake)							\$3,000.00					
MN Nature Utility Box Wrap Artist Stipend							\$500.00					
Current Total	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$3,850.00	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$350.00
\$12,500 MURALS												
Budget Reallocation - Public Art (Coin Press)			\$1,778.14									
Current Total	\$12,500.00	\$12,500.00	\$10,721.86	\$10,721.86	\$10,721.86	\$10,721.86	\$10,721.86	\$10,721.86	\$10,721.86	\$10,721.86	\$10,721.86	\$10,721.86
\$1,000 BRANDING AND COMMUNICATION												
Budget Reallocation - (Snowglobe Art Cart)					\$95.31							
Current Total	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$904.69	\$904.69	\$904.69	\$904.69	\$904.69	\$904.69	\$904.69	\$904.69
\$6,778 PUBLIC ART												
Coin Press			\$6,778.14									
Snowy Concrete Stamps												
Current Total	\$6,778.14	\$6,778.14	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
\$595 Art Cart												
Music in the Park Haise (Snowman Slime) 5/22/2026					\$150.00							
Music in the Park Casey (Snowglobe) 7/9/2026							\$300.00					
Crate of Crayons			\$129.75									
Paper Plates			\$5.58									
Tablecloths			\$9.98									
Current Total	\$595.31	\$595.31	\$450.00	\$450.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
\$4,000 ART NIGHT/Art Cart												
Mandala on Mugs 2/5/2026		\$270.00										
Paint on Canvas 3/19/2026			\$157.03									
Cookie Decorating 4/16/2026				\$750.00								
Candle Making 5/7/2026					\$600.00							
Snowman Pillow 10/15/2025									\$900.00			
Fall Themed Craft 11/19/2025											\$250.00	
Current Total	\$4,000.00	\$3,730.00	\$3,572.97	\$2,822.97	\$2,222.97	\$2,222.97	\$2,222.97	\$2,222.97	\$2,222.97	\$1,322.97	\$1,072.97	\$1,072.97

EVENT SCHEDULE PLANNER 2026

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMISSIONERS
ART NIGHT (SWETHA)	February 5th	6-8:00 PM	CASEY LAKE BUILDING	Nadeau
ART NIGHT (LISA RITCHIE)	March 19 th	6:30-8:30 PM	CASEY LAKE BUILDING	Nadeau
ART NIGHT (FRENCHIE)	April 16 th	6-8:00 PM	CASEY LAKE BUILDING	Nadeau
ART NIGHT (HEIDI)	May 7 th	6-8:00 PM	CASEY LAKE BUILDING	Perfect
MUSIC IN THE PARK # 1 (KIDS)	May 22 nd	4:30-5:30 PM	HAUSE PARK	Perfect
MUSIC IN THE PARK #2	July 9 th	5:00-6:30 PM	CASEY LAKE	Sonnek
BIG TRUCK NIGHT	July 10 th	4:30-8:00 PM	7 TH AVE	All as able
AUTUMN ARTS FESTIVAL	September 12 th	10 AM-5:00 PM	CASEY LAKE	All as able
FALL ROUND-UP PARADE	September 17 th	6-8:00 PM	7 TH AVE	All as able
ART NIGHT (JEREMY)	October 15 th	6-8:30 PM	CASEY LAKE BUILDING	Sonnek
ART NIGHT (FOHRENKAMM)	November 19 th	6:30-8:30 PM	CASEY LAKE BUILDING	Perfect
HOLLY JOLLY NIGHT	December 4th	6-9:30 PM	CASEY LAKE	All as able

JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH							APRIL							MAY							JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4						1							1			1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
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						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5						1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4						1	1	2	3	4	5	6			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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													