

**ARTS COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
July 22, 2025  
City Hall, Conference Room #6**

**Attendees:** Chairman Mary Lee Ryba, Vice Chair Abby Light, Commissioner Tracey Benson, Commissioner Nora Crabtree, Commissioner Kate Walker, Commissioner Cynthia Newkirk, Commissioner Lindey Sichelstiel, Commissioner Duncan Menzies, Commissioner Amy Evans, and Troy Tymesen

Guests: Bill Greenwood, Melissa Brandt

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Ryba called the meeting to order.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION:** None.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Light, seconded by Commissioner Sichelstiel, to approve the June 24, 2025, meeting minutes. **Motion Carried.**

**APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT:** City Administrator Troy Tymesen provided a brief overview of the June 2025 financial report. He noted that Fund 076, the Urban Renewal Fund is earning interest income, with no expenditures recorded for the month. Fund 074 made a correction a month ago. Expenses of \$370 were made under professional services and a \$250 deduction from the art category. Fund 077 incurred some maintenance expenses in June; \$646 in interest and \$579.55 was spent. The year-to-date balance is \$2,600.

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Crabtree, seconded by Commissioner Benson, to approve the June 2025 Financial Report. **Motion Carried.**

**COMMISSIONER/ STAFF COMMENTS:** Commissioner Walker suggested forming a subcommittee to work on a memorial project for the fallen firefighters. Chair Ryba mentioned that Renata McLeod had suggested looking at a similar memorial from St. Louis. Other city memorials will be reviewed. All attendees agreed. Chair Ryba, Commissioner Sichelstiel, Commissioner Walker, Commissioner Newkirk and Commissioner Crabtree expressed interest in being on the committee.

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF SELECTED ART PIECES FOR THE 2025 ARTCURRENTS PROGRAM:** Commissioner Sichelstiel shared that six of the eight final pieces had been selected. The six art pieces with the highest score were selected because they were new, whimsical, fun and large. Pieces: Minced Oaths, Anatomy of Autonomy, Wilderness Peace, Seasonal Rotation, Unfurled Feathers, and Ember. Art pieces will be placed in October. Troy Tymesen asked if the committee looked at which six pieces would rotate out. The subcommittee will meet one more time to determine placement of art pieces. There are currently two open spaces and consideration for placement will be based on space and the lowest cost for moving the pieces.

Commissioner Walker shared that it was a positive experience working on the subcommittee. This recommendation will go to Council for final approval.

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Light, seconded by Commissioner Menzies, to approve the six recommended pieces. **Motion Carried.**

**RENEWAL OF GAIA ART PIECE AND 2024 ARTCURRENTS ART PIECES FOR OCTOBER 2025 TO SEPTEMBER 2026:** Chair Ryba shared that there are two pieces in year two that will remain. Gaia is being kept another year and has already been on display for four years. Dale Young has been deducting \$2,000 a year from the piece.

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Crabtree, seconded by Commissioner Light. Motion to approve another year of the Gaia Artwork to be on loan from October 2025 to September 2026. **Motion Carried.**

#### **INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONER MENZIES:**

Commissioner Menzies is a new commissioner. He grew up in Spirit Lake and spent time away from North Idaho before returning in May 2025. Commissioner Menzies is very involved in the arts in the area. His background is in performance and musical theater and conceptual arts. He runs a nonprofit called HomeShare, Commissioner Menzies is passionate about giving young people a platform through their art. He currently manages the Roosevelt Inn and is interested in helping artists and musicians find affordable, short-term options for housing.

#### **SUBCOMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS AND CHAIR UPDATES:**

Coeur d'Alene Arts Awards: Chair Ryba shared that call for guidelines and nomination forms have gone out through a press release and the Commission's mailing list. She asked the Commission to encourage people to nominate individuals for the awards and forms are available at [www.cdaid.org](http://www.cdaid.org). The call for nominations went out June 9, and nominations must be received by August 29, 2025. Work is underway on the CDA Arts Awards event.

ArtCurrents: Chair Ryba thanked Chair Sichelstiel and the Subcommittee as well as the Selection Committee for the successful selection of ArtCurrents pieces for the 2025-2026 period.

Arts Commission Applicant Review: Chair Ryba shared that there are currently two openings and encourages the commissioners to please help spread the word about these vacancies. The Commission is looking for professionals like artists, architects, engineers, marketers, or accountants.

Visual Arts: Vice Chair Light announced that the next ArtWalk is coming up on Thursday, August 8, with all the regular galleries participating. Vice Chair Light mentioned, "Don't miss a special interactive mural activity with artist Gabrielle Lewis, who will be guiding students and community members in painting on the side of the Sotheby's building. She'll also be promoting the mural location with postcards---come be part of the art!" Also, Emerge is holding their

annual INK! Print Rally on September 13<sup>th</sup> from 1-7 pm on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in front of Emerge's building. The J. Rome Gallery is Coeur d'Alene's newest art gallery on Sherman Avenue that has been open for three months and is doing well. Art on the Green is August 1 – 3.

Performing & Music Arts: Commissioner Benson shared that Aspire Community Theatre is presenting the musical **Catch Me If You Can** running August 1-10 at the Kroc; **Anastasia** is presented by the CDA Summer Theater at NIC through July 27; **Grease** is running at Lake City Playhouse July 24 – August 3. Free summer concerts include Wednesdays at McEuen Park, Sundays at City Park Bandshell and Thursdays at Riverstone presented by the Arts and Culture Alliance.

Art Spotlight: Commissioner Benson shared that the selection committee is nearly complete. Current members include Blair Williams, Max Mendes, Susan Denton, Dan Bell, Thomas Gandin and Councilmember Amy Evans. Past Commissioner Terry Runge will hopefully participate, although she may be out of town. Therefore a substitute is still needed. The selection will take place on August 25. The commitment requires reading application letters (prior to August 25) as well as a couple of hours on August 25 for the selection.

Marketing and Technology: Commissioner Sichelstiel shared that she plans to post the new Arts Current pieces and renewals as well as post mural updates. Commissioner Menzies shared an idea that he had regarding marketing the Art Collection. He envisions a social media project where Arts Commission members select their favorite art piece(s) and create a short video about the history of the piece, a little bit about the artist, and why they like the piece. The videos would be shared on social media, one at a time, over the course of a year. Chair Ryba and Commissioner Sichelstiel will meet to discuss how to implement this project, possibly forming a subcommittee. Chair Ryba encouraged Commissioners to review the list of art pieces in the City Art Collection to choose the pieces each Commissioner would like to individually highlight.

Emerge Scholarships: Commissioner Walker shared that between April and June, 16 scholarships were handed out, with 13 of those awarded in June. Summer programs are getting a lot of attention.

Mural Project: Commissioner Light is working on a Mural Art Program Overview and will soon share a draft. Gabrielle Lewis' Welcome to CDA mural is set to be completed by late August. She is doing well with sponsors and to date has secured funding from Shiki Hibachi Restaurant, Lakeside Companies, Kootenai Health, Kootenai Title, and a few others. Gabrielle continues to seek more sponsors to reach the goal for the \$30,000 budget. Sponsors can go to [Brelseillustration.com](http://Brelseillustration.com). Postcards depicting the mural are for sale at The Manna Group and at Thomlinson Sotheby. Coloring sheets rendering the mural are also available for free at Thomlinson Sotheby. Gabrielle is on Instagram and posts daily updates on the mural and usually paints the mural from 10 am to 2 pm. The ArtWalk in August will feature a special mural walk map, guiding participants to view murals throughout the city. There will also be an opportunity for community members to paint the mural during ArtWalk. Emerge is on board to help with the mural using Emerge students. Chair Ryba would like to contact the Press regarding the mural.

Budget: Complete according to Troy Tymesen, effective in October.

New Member Training: Chair Ryba and Commissioner Light will coordinate training with new Commissioner Menzies.

Poet Laureate: Sally and Chuck are currently at a theater fund raiser. Jennifer was at Emerge's Block Party. Chair Ryba shared that Jennifer will be at Art on the Green. They are hoping for a poetry pop-up at Art Walk on August 8.

Guidelines Development: Chair Ryba stated that Max Mendes is offering his help in reviewing a small portion of the guidelines. Once a year, a portion of the guidelines will be reviewed. Max will present to the group at the August meeting. His work will be a gift-in-kind.

CDA October Arts & Humanities Month: Chair Ryba shared that subcommittee member Matt Goodrich has written a program proposal for prospective month-long activities. All members of the subcommittee are reaching out to entities in the community.

**ADJOURNMENT: MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Sichelstiel, seconded by Commissioner Crabtree to adjourn the meeting. **Motion Carried.**

The meeting ended at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Sue Morgan  
Customer Service Support Specialist