

**ARTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
September 9, 2025
City Hall, Conference Room #6**

Attendees: Chairman Mary Lee Ryba, Commissioner Kate Walker, Commissioner Cynthia Newkirk, Commissioner Charlotte Doutriaux, Commissioner Chuck Ethridge, Commissioner Duncan Menzies, Commissioner Nora Crabtree, and Troy Tymesen

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Ethridge, seconded by Commissioner Walker, to approve the August 26, 2025 meeting minutes. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT: City Administrator Troy Tymesen provided a brief overview of the August 2025 financial report. He noted that there have been no expenses recorded for Fund 076, which continues to earn interest. Similarly, Fund 074 has had no expenditure and is also accruing interest. Fund 077 earned interest in August and had one expense of \$24.97, which covered the electric bill for the lights that illuminate the feather art along Northwest Boulevard.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Newkirk, seconded by Commissioner Doutriaux to approve the August 2025 Financial Report. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

SELECTION AND APPROVAL OF THE COEUR D'ALENE ARTS AWARDS RECIPIENTS: Chair Ryba provided an overview of the Coeur d'Alene Arts Awards categories, which include Excellence in the Arts, Support of the Arts, Arts in Education, and Student Excellence in the Arts. The Commissioners carefully reviewed and discussed each nomination, evaluating their individual merits. During the discussion, it was noted that some nominations did not clearly fit within the existing categories. Chair Ryba proposed the addition of two new awards: the "Emerging Arts" award, to recognize a new organization making a meaningful contribution to the local arts community, and the "Sandi Bloem Arts Legacy" award, honoring former Mayor Sandi Bloem for her instrumental role in establishing Coeur d'Alene as a vibrant artistic and cultural center. The "Community Arts Impact" award was also suggested to highlight a person or art organization that foster connection through the arts. However, it was noted that this award category should align closely with the Arts Commission's mission. Following deliberations, the Commissioners selected the following recipients:

- Sandi Bloem Arts Legacy Award – Sandi Bloem
- Excellence in the Arts – Jenny Shotwell
- Support of the Arts – Dan and Kathryn Pinkerton
- Emerging Arts Award – Shakespeare Coeur d'Alene
- Arts in Education – Cynthia Chapman
- Student Excellence in the Arts – Jerren Bailey

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Doutriaux, seconded by Commissioner Newkirk, to approve

the selected recipients of the Coeur d'Alene Arts Awards. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES:

Coeur d'Alene Arts Awards: Chair Ryba noted that the Committee is working on the preparations for the October 22 event.

ArtCurrents: Chair Ryba shared that Commissioner Sichelstiel had invited the Commissioners to participate in a creative activity by selecting their favorite art piece, taking a photo with it, and submitting a caption to Commissioner Sichelstiel for posting to social media.

Performing & Music Arts: Commissioner Ethridge shared that Commissioner Menzies is starring in the Sweeney Todd musical with Aspire Community Theater in October. Meanwhile, Coeur d'Alene Summer Theater is currently focused on fundraising and programming efforts. Chair Ryba mentioned that Lake City Playhouse will present *The Sound of Music*. Commissioner Duncan mentioned the staged reading of Steve Martin's comedy, Picasso at the Lapin Agile, at the Art Spirit Gallery happening on September 19 and 20.

Emerge Art Scholarships: Commissioner Walker shared that the Emerge summer camp is going really well and busy. Chair Ryba added that Emerge has four events that have been added to the October calendar. She added that Emerge is providing tickets for the silent auction during the CDA Arts Awards on October 22.

Mural Projects: Chair Ryba mentioned that Tomlinson Sotheby's mural project appears to be completed, and Commissioner Light is working on a dedication or unveiling event.

Poet Laureate: Jennifer is currently writing a poem for the October 22 Arts Awards event.

Guidelines Development: discussion on hold until the January Arts Commission meeting.

CDA October Arts & Humanities Month: Chair Ryba mentioned that they are aiming to launch the website soon and are working on sponsorships. She encouraged everyone to mark October 1st for the opening ceremony at Art Spirit Gallery, where Dale Young will perform with his native American flute. Chair Ryba is also hoping to invite someone from the CDA Tribe to offer a prayer.

Commissioner Newkirk shared that she reached out to the publisher of *Northern Journeys*, a free regional publication distributed in Sandpoint and parts of Coeur d'Alene, to promote local arts initiatives. The publisher offered a full-page ad in the upcoming fall/winter issue, set to hit newsstands on October 22. They also expressed interest in featuring a calendar of performing arts events from October through April. Commissioner Menzies offered to contact local arts organizations to gather information and logos, and Commissioner Ethridge suggested that instead of a full calendar, a page showcasing Coeur d'Alene's arts organizations might be more manageable. The group agreed this was a better approach and discussed including an article and photos highlighting the Coeur d'Alene Arts Awards and its recipients. Chair Ryba suggested revisiting the idea and forming a subcommittee to handle it.

The next Arts Commission meeting will be on October 28.

ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Menzies, seconded by Commissioner Ethridge to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

The meeting ended at 5:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Jo Anne Mateski
Executive Assistant