Coeur d'Alene
Arts Commission

The purpose of the City of Coeur d'Alene Arts Commission is to encourage the development of artistic and cultural life and to join with all persons and institutions concerned with the arts to ensure that the role of the arts in our community will grow and play an evermore significant part in the welfare and educational experience of the citizens of Coeur d'Alene.

Tuesday, November 10, 2026, 4:00 p.m.

City Hall, Ron Edinger Conference Room #6

710 East Mullan Avenue

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Conflict of Interest Declaration
3. Public Comments
4. Review/Corrections/Approval of Minutes: October 27, 2026 – Action Item

Items 5 through 10 are considered action items:

5. Commission Compliance with Municipal Code: Review the current commission structure and membership against the City of Coeur d'Alene Municipal Code. Identify any areas of noncompliance, if any, and determine appropriate corrective action.
6. Commission Membership Structure: Review the current membership structure, including the 13 commissioner positions, student representation, and council liaison. Discuss whether any changes are necessary or warranted under the existing municipal code.
7. Commission Mission and Focus: Review and reaffirm the Arts Commission's mission, responsibilities, and priorities. Confirm that current programming and initiatives align with the commission's established mission and municipal responsivities.
8. Commission Size and Administrative Complexity: Evaluate whether the current commission size creates an undue administrative burden. Consider the actual personnel time required to support commission meetings, public art projects, programs, awards, and community initiatives.
9. Commission Efficiency and Workload Management: Review the commission's recent organizational changes and workload management improvements. Evaluate the effectiveness of the current five-subcommittee structure. Identify any additional opportunities to streamline operations without compromising the commission's responsibilities or mission.*
10. Reappointment Recommendation: Consider the recommendation for Denise Yost's reappointment for a three-year term.
11. Commissioner/Staff Comments-Information Item
12. Subcommittee Assignments and Chair Updates-Information Item

**The Commission has already taken steps to improve its operations.*

Coeur d'Alene
Arts Commission

ARTS COMMISSION SUBCOMMITTEES

Chairman: Mary Lee Ryba
Vice Chairman: Abby Light

GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Applicant Review, Budget Oversight, New Commissioner Orientation, Policies & Procedures

Mary Lee Ryba, Chair
Abby Light, Vice Chair
Amy Evans, Council Liaison

PUBLIC ART

ArtCurrents, Public Art Collection, Mural Projects, Bus Shelter Design

Lindsey Sichelstiel, Chair
Abby Light, Vice Chair
Kate Walker
Charlotte Doutriaux
Sally Shortridge
Denise Yost
Nora Crabtree
Alysyn Amaya
Lynn Fleming

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EVENTS

CDA Arts Awards, Oct. Arts & Humanities Month, Film Festival, Community Partnerships

Mary Lee Ryba, Chair
Charolotte Doutriaux, Vice Chair
Amy Evans, Council Liaison
Kate Walker
Sally Shortridge
Chuck Ethridge
Abby Light
Duncan Menzies
Cynthia Newkirk
Lindsey Sichelstiel
Tracey Benson
Adam Kroeger
Jackie Butera
Nora Crabtree

ARTS PROGRAMMING

Performing Arts, Visual Arts, Poet Laureate, Special Arts Initiatives

Tracey Benson, Chair
Kate Walker, Vice Co-Chair
Sally Shortridge, Vice Co-Chair
Denise Yost
Chuck Ethridge
Cynthia Newkirk
Nora Crabtree
Alysyn Amaya

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Marketing, Social Media, Public Relations, Website, Promotion of all Commission Programs, Otocast

Chuck Ethridge, Chair
Cynthia Newkirk, Vice Chair
Duncan Menzies
Charlotte Doutriaux

ARTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
October 27, 2026
City Hall, Ron Edinger Room

Commissioners in Attendance:

Mary Lee Ryba, Commission Chair
Charlotte Doutriaux (joined by phone for part of meeting)
Chuck Ethridge
Kate Walker
Lindsey Sichelstiel
Sally Shortridge
Tracey Benson
Cynthia Newkirk
Duncan Menzies
Denise Yost
Adam Kroeger
Nora Crabtree

Amy Evans, City Council Liaison (arrived @ 4:25 pm)
Adam Rouse, Parks & Recreation Director
Melissa Brandt, Parks & Recreation Administrative Assistant

GUESTS: Mike Gridley

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ryba at 4:00 pm.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mike Gridley, former City Attorney, attended the meeting and thanked the Commission for its contributions to the arts community. He commended the Commission's work and noted its positive impact on the City.

Chair Mary Lee recognized the Commission's full membership and expressed appreciation for members' efforts, particularly in completing several major projects and events during October.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Sichelstiel seconded by Commissioner Menzies to approve the September 8, 2026, meeting minutes with the correction to list Tracey Benson as being in attendance. **Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT: Chair Ryba provided a brief overview of the September 2026 financial report. She noted that Fund 076 (Public Art Fund – ignite) continues to earn interest income and had expenditures of $2,000 for ArtCurrents renewals. Fund 074 (Public Art Fund – 1%) earned interest income and paid out $2,000 for ArtCurrents extensions. Fund 077 (Maintenance) earned interest income and noted $3,752.66 in expenditures for the electricity for the feather artwork at NW Blvd and removal of the “Horizon” fountain at the library due to being inoperable and beyond repair. A motion was made by Commissioner Crabtree and seconded by Commissioner Yost to approve the financial report. **Motion carried.**

APROVAL OF SPOTLIGHT CDA: VISUAL ARTS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:
Commissioner Walker shared that the Visual Arts Grant Committee recommended awarding $15,000 to Emerge to support art education scholarships from August 2026 through July 2027. The committee reported that Emerge had awarded 104 scholarships during the previous grant cycle.

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MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Kroeger, seconded by Commissioner Shortridge, to approve Emerge as the recipient of a $15,000 grant for Spotlight CDA: Visual Arts. This recommendation will go to the City Council meeting on November 3, 2026, for approval. **Motion carried.**

COMMISSIONER/ STAFF COMMENTS: Chair Ryba distributed information regarding the Arts Commission's ordinance, mission, responsibilities, and membership structure. The Commission discussed concerns raised by Mayor Gookin regarding commission membership, structure, workload, and compliance with municipal code. Discussion included: the Commission's membership requirements as established by city ordinance; potential reductions in commission membership; appointment and reappointment procedures; the Commission's workload, programs, and recent efforts to improve efficiency; and the mayor's interest in exploring a foundation model to support arts-related activities. Councilmember Amy Evans and staff liaison Adam Rouse provided comments regarding their roles and the process for addressing commission concerns. Former City Attorney Mike Gridley provided information regarding the ordinance amendment process and commission appointments.

Commissioners agreed to move the November meeting to November 10, due to the Thanksgiving holiday and to allow for a potential action item to be brought to the November 17, 2026, City Council meeting regarding reappointing members as their term expires. Public notice will be provided concerning the date change.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES:

Governance and Administration: Chair Ryba noted no additional report. Discussion was covered earlier in the meeting.

Public Art: Commissioner Sichelstiel reported the committee is developing the call for artists for four ArtCurrents installations along the new Atlas waterfront pathway. Proposed themes include one piece highlighting the logging history of Coeur d'Alene and the Atlas Mill site, and three pieces focused on health and wellness. The call is expected to be released within the next few weeks, with installation anticipated by May 2027. An update was provided on the Riverview Gallery at Harbor Center. Following Jake Garringer's departure from the University of Idaho, Lindsay Beecham of the Idaho Water Resources Research Institute will assist in leading the gallery project. Planning efforts include exhibit curation, gallery furnishings, signage, and educational programming focused on the intersection of science and art. A Living Lake Project exhibit is being planned to coincide with Love Your Lake Week in summer 2027. The committee continues discussions regarding potential artwork opportunities associated with future bus shelter projects. An update was provided on the proposed Northwest Boulevard mural project near Interstate 90. Preliminary project planning documents have been drafted, and coordination with University of Idaho faculty and students is anticipated as the project develops.

Community Outreach and Events: Chair Ryba reported that the October Unveiled event was attended by more than 100 guests and thanked commissioners, volunteers, performers, and community partners for their contributions to the event's success. The Commission reviewed the success of the 2026 Mayor's Arts Awards and recognized commissioners and volunteers for their work organizing the event. The program featured multiple performances and concluded on schedule while remaining under budget. Commissioners also discussed the recent North Idaho Film Festival. Attendees reported record participation and strong community engagement. Information was shared regarding an upcoming film industry networking event at North Idaho College on November 2.

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Appreciation was expressed to Lindsey Sichelstiel and videographer Mike Dziak for producing the Arts Awards promotional video.

Arts Programming: Commissioner Benson provided an update on performing arts activities, including recent local theater productions and upcoming performances at Coeur d'Alene High School and Post Falls High School. The committee reported that Spotlight CDA grant activities are currently between funding cycles and will resume in January. The visual and performing arts grant programs have been aligned administratively to improve efficiency.

Marketing and Communications: Commissioner Ethridge reported that the committee is compiling information from commissioners regarding skills, interests, and availability to better organize committee responsibilities and establish a more formal communications and marketing plan.

Other Business: The Commission received a request from a community member to explore the possibility of a mural within the East Sherman Underpass. Staff noted that additional approvals and coordination would be required before such a project could move forward.

Liaison Adam Rouse reported that he is awaiting feedback from the Streets and Engineering Department regarding ADA-related considerations associated with the Bull Elk project.

ADJOURNMENT: The next Arts Commission meeting will be November 24.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Carpenter seconded by Commissioner Sichelstiel to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried**.

The meeting ended at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Melissa Brandt
Administrative Assistant

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