

**ARTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
June 23, 2026
City Hall, Conference Room #6**

Attendees: Chairman Mary Lee Ryba, Commissioner Charlotte Doutriaux, Commissioner Chuck Ethridge, Commissioner Lindsey Sichelstiel, Commissioner Cynthia Newkirk, Commissioner Nora Crabtree, Commissioner Alysyn Amaya, Commissioner Duncan Menzies, Commissioner Adam Kroeger, Councilmember Amy Evans, Interim Parks & Recreation Director Adam Rouse, and Parks & Recreation Administrative Assistant Melissa Brandt.

GUESTS: Mayor Dan Gookin, Jacob Garringer

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ryba at 4:01 pm.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION: None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Jake Garringer: We have had preliminary conversations with the City of Coeur d'Alene and the Idaho Transportation Department in providing a mural at the Highway 95 underpass at Northwest Blvd. A more formal presentation will be brought to a future meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Sichelstiel seconded by Commissioner Ethridge to approve the May 26, 2026, meeting minutes. **Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT: Chair Ryba provided a brief overview of the May 2026 financial report. She noted that Fund 076 (Public Art Fund – ignite) continue to earn interest income and there are no expenditures. Fund 074 (Public Art Fund – 1%) earned interest income and no expenditures. Fund 077 (Maintenance) earned interest income and noted \$28.32 expenditure for the electricity for the feather artwork at NW Boulevard.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Doutriaux seconded by Commissioner Menzies to approve the May 2026 Financial Reports. **Motion carried.**

COMMISSIONER/ STAFF COMMENTS: Chair Ryba welcomed Adam Kroeger to the Commission.

Commissioner Amaya: Participated in the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Program, girls all over Idaho travel to Boise to learn about government parliamentary procedure. She submitted a bill using the Arts Commission as her inspiration; the bill regarded art funding in public school education and successfully passed both the Senate and the House. She read her bill to the Commission and cited the importance of art in the classroom and its impact on academic performance, dropout rates, and the Idaho economy.

Chair Ryba: Reminded the commission about the America 250 event coming up on July 3, 1:30 pm at the Kootenai County Courthouse. We are collaborating with the Historic Preservation Commission, as well as the City of Coeur d'Alene. A time capsule from 1926 will be opened and

a new one installed with an opportunity for the Commission to include a small item. Coloring, ice cream, and all kinds of activities for kids will also be a part of the event. As part of your packet, we also have metrics of the Ali and Callie podcast, in acknowledgement of Commissioner Yost asking at the May meeting.

ART ON THE GREEN GIFT OF ART: Chair Ryba: A gift of \$1,000 from Art on the Green for the Arts Commission to choose artwork that would become a part of the City of Coeur d'Alene's public art collection. Asking the Commission to accept the gift. Sally and Steven Shortridge will help with the selection.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Sichelstiel seconded by Commissioner Newkirk to recommend to Council to receive the Gift of Art in the amount of \$1,000 from Art on the Green to the City of Coeur d'Alene. **Motion carried.**

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES:

Coeur d'Alene Arts Awards: Chair Ryba reminded the Commission that the event is Wednesday, October 21, 2026, at Hagadone Event Center. After May's meeting nomination information was sent out with a due date of August 28. There was a great article in the paper by new writer, Jack DeWitt at the Coeur d'Alene Press. The nomination form may be downloaded off the city website. Changing the program this year to include a live auction with Tom Sherry as the auctioneer, also, a public announcement of the Endowment for Arts and Humanities will be made.

ArtCurrents: Commissioner Sichelstiel shared that the program has been scaled down to not select annual pieces every year. The subcommittee will hopefully meet in August to decide their path going into September and October regarding the prints that are rolling over from one year to two years. She mentioned updating the digital copy of the Arts Currents brochure. Commissioner Yost has been added to this committee; Commissioner Light is stepping down.

Visual Arts/CDA Arts & Cultural Alliance: Chair Ryba gave report as Commissioner Light could not make it. She thanked Commissioner Menzies for his presentation to City Council. There was concern regarding the term 'in good standing' and what that means. Art Spotlight Visual Arts was launched per our press release announcing guidelines are available on the city's website and submissions are due by July 10.

Performing & Music Arts: Chair Ryba announced the second half of funding for all three awardees was approved by the Commission and will go to council for approval. Commissioner Ethridge shared Frozen, Taken Away, and the Titanic are available at a discount for city employees, council, and members of the Arts Commission, by typing in code: Chuck50 when buying tickets. Aspire is doing "Gershwin's Crazy for You" this summer and the Playhouse is doing "Mean Girls." There is also collaboration between North Idaho College and the Coeur d'Alene Summer Theater to present a musical called the "Spitfire Grill" next spring.

Marketing & Technology: Chair Ryba thanked Commissioner Ethridge for agreeing to Chair the subcommittee; Commissioner Light is stepping down. Marketing will be especially important this year with the launch of the endowment. Commissioner Ethridge asked for email addresses of the

commission members and access to all social media profiles and who manages them. Chair Ryba indicated that Commissioner Light has that information and she will reach out to get that data.

Mural Projects: Nothing to report.

Budget: Nothing to report.

New Member Training/ Policies: Nothing to report.

Poet Laureate: Chair Ryba added Commissioner Yost to this committee and shared that Commissioner Light is stepping down. There will be a reading by our Poet Laureate of an original poem on at the America 250 July 3rd event, and we will be hosting Idaho State Writer in resident, Mitch Weiland at an event in April 2027 in Coeur d'Alene.

Guidelines Development: Nothing to report.

CDA October Arts & Humanities Month: Chair Ryba shared that Commissioner Benson is stepping off this committee. She also indicated interest in an October 1st kickoff reception possibly at the Jewett House that would include commission members and city council.

Northern Journeys Publication: Commissioner Newkirk shared this is a free publication that's been mainly distributed throughout Bonner County, featuring artists of Bonner County. April launched the spring and summer edition, their first quarterly focused edition. They are getting ready to publish the fall and winter edition, which will be distributed at the end of September. The publication includes a printed calendar that Commissioner Menzies has helped with, and there are efforts to produce an event calendar application. Production of an Arts and Humanities Month calendar will also be distributed highlighting the events throughout the month of October that would be included in the first 3,000 initial distribution. Printing costs will be nominal. And advertising the endowment launch could also be included as the timeframe would work. Chair Ryba indicated there was no budget for the Arts and Humanities Month, printing was primarily gratis, and that Chelsea Cordova should be removed from the subcommittee.

Filmmaking & Film Festival Support of NoID: Commissioner Doutriaux shared the press release will go out this week, announcing creation of the subcommittee. Save the date the festival is Sept 24-26. Applications were due by June 19, with more than 100 applications received. Selections will take place in the next couple of weeks. Screenings will occur on Thursday night, full showing on Friday and Saturday all day. There will be a kickoff event on Thursday night and a party on Saturday night with awards; the showings will be held at the Regal Cinema. Commissioner Light is stepping down from this committee.

Endowment for the Arts & Humanities: Chair Ryba said they recently met with Walter Burns, who is chair of the Historic Preservation Commission, and we discussed this proposal, and Walter expressed his full support for the initiative, and enthusiastically has endorsed the Historic Preservation Commission as a partner in this project. The subcommittee is meeting with Bill Pfinsgraff of the Idaho Community Foundation this month. We will start developing governance and Commissioner Ethridge will be working with their director of marketing to develop a

marketing plan. We're very fortunate Bill Pfinsgraff is so receptive to help in any way with his professional organization's expertise. The Endowment Fund is designed to exist in perpetuity. Contributions to the fund become part of the permanent principal and are never spent. Instead, only a portion of the annual investment earnings --- typically about 4%---is distributed each year to support arts, humanities, and historic preservation initiatives. The remaining earnings stay invested, allowing the fund to continue growing over time. To complement the Endowed Fund, a Companion Fund will be established. Unlike the permanent endowment, the Companion Fund will accept donations that *can be used immediately* to promote the Endowment Fund, support fundraising and marketing efforts. Typical sustainable payout is a \$100,000 fund pays out about \$4,000 per year and a \$1 million fund about \$40,000 a year.

Bus Shelter Design Competition: Chair Ryba shared Lynn Fleming is still working on funding. Thank you to Commissioner Yost for agreeing to Chair this new complicated endeavor.

ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Doutriaux seconded by Commissioner Ethridge to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried.**

The meeting ended at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Melissa Brandt
Administrative Assistant