



Meeting Minutes: Public Art Advisory Committee

Date: September 9, 2025
Minutes prepared by: Sarah Kidwell
Location: Wescott Library – Dakota Room, 1340 Wescott Road, Eagan

Attendance

- Mike Todaro
- Cheryl Caponi
- Bob Erickson
- JuliAnne Jonker
- Al Tsai
- Heather Stephenson, Dakota County Library
- Lil Leatham, Dakota County Physical Development
- Sarah Kidwell, Dakota County Public Services & Revenue Division

Decisions Made

- Cheryl Caponi will participate on the committee to review RFP submissions for the artwork at Wentworth Library.

Agenda

- Approval of Agenda / Chair / Approval or Modification
- Approval of Minutes / Chair / Approval or Modification
- Per Diem Requests will be emailed / All / Member Signature
- Unfinished Business
 - a. Dakota County Framework Public Art Plan: Lil Leatham
 - i. Draft definitions (attached)
 - ii. Update on community engagement and stakeholder meetings (calendar attached)
- Sub-Committee Reports / All
 - 2025 Music in the Park Subcommittee: Mike Todaro
 - 2025 Student Art Contest Subcommittee: Al Tsai

- **New Business**
 - Library RFP for artwork at Wentworth Library, West St. Paul: Heather Stephenson
 - Changes to the MN Open Meeting Law
 - 2026 Meeting Schedule
 - 2026 Work Plan

Next Meeting

Date: October 14, 2025

Time: 5:30 pm

Location: TBD

Agenda items: 2026 Work Plan, 2026 Art Contest

Meeting Notes

Approval of Agenda: Chair

Katy Baune moved to approve the agenda, and it was seconded by JuliAnne Jonker. The motion passed.

Approval of Minutes: Chair

JuliAnne Jonker moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, and it was seconded by Katy Baune. The motion passed.

Per Diem Requests: All

Per diem requests will be distributed to each member to sign for today's meeting.

Unfinished Business

- **Dakota County Framework Public Art Plan Update: Lil Leatham**

Lil Leatham gave an updated on the draft definitions for the Advisory Committee to review and edit, as needed, to help define our work and policy creation.

Community Engagement Phase

- Roundtable Groups: October 3
- Lakeville Arts Festival: September 19-20
- Other Community Engagement opportunities: September 27: Pet Portraits @ Wescott Library

Next Steps

Via Partnership would like to meet in November. Lil will check with Meridith and Erika to see if our November 18 meeting date would work with their schedule.

Sub-Committee Reports/Updates

- **Music in the Park Subcommittee: Mike Todaro**

There one Music in the Park event remaining this season on September 30.

- **Art Contest Subcommittee: Al Tsai**

Al Tsai gave an update on the artist reception that was held on August 18 for the 2025 Student Art Contest. Sarah will check with libraries to see if artwork could be picked up at a location that is close to the artist if they were unable to attend in August.

New Business

- **Library RFP for artwork at Wentworth Library, West St. Paul: Heather Stephenson**

Heather Stephenson shared the RFP that the Library will be issuing for Wentworth Library, West St. Paul, as part of its refresh this year with a natural setting theme. The space identified for artwork in the architectural renderings is inside the front entry vestibule above a bench. The budget is \$10,000 for a 8'x6' 2D piece of art.

The Advisory Committee's initial thoughts that a mural or background where the bench was built into the design or piece would be a fun way to create an experience. Their concerns were heads resting on the artwork, people touching the artwork, and corners of a frame that could injure a customer.

Cheryl Caponi will participate in the Library's committee to review RFP's and select artists and artwork.

- **Changes to the MN Open Meeting Law**

Sarah Kidwell presented the Open Meeting Law changes by the State Legislature for remote meeting requirements.

Meetings may be held via interactive technology if the following requirements are met:

- At least one member is physically present at the regular meeting location, and notice of the location is provided.
- All members must be able to hear and see each other, as well as any discussion and testimony presented at any location where at least one member is present.
- All members of the public at the regular meeting location must be able to hear and see all discussion, testimony, and votes.
- All votes must be conducted by roll call so each members vote can be identified and recorded.

- Meeting minutes must include the names of members attending via interactive television technology and state the reason for their remote participation.

- **2026 Meeting Schedule**

Schedule a meeting for every month except August, and the December meeting will include a lighter agenda with social time.

- **2026 Work Plan**

The Advisory Committee reviewing a draft of the 2026 Work Plan with edits to reflect next stages of projects that are moving into the next calendar year. The Advisory Committee would like to learn more about the Greenway and could benches along this route be our common thread across the county? How does this idea intersect with the Parks inventory of public art long the greenway?

Long term goal: Interactive story map of public art across Dakota County. (example: Lakeville Art Inventory on their website.)