



## Draft Meeting Minutes: Public Art Advisory Committee

Date: October 14, 2025  
Minutes prepared by: Teresa Mitchell  
Location: Kaposia Library – Conference Room 1, 131 7th Ave N, South St. Paul

### Attendance

- Mike Todaro
- Cheryl Caponi
- Bob Erickson
- JuliAnne Jonker
- Al Tsai
- Teresa Mitchell, Dakota County Public Services & Revenue Division

### Decisions Made

- 2026 Student Art Contest theme will be Voices of Nature

### Agenda

- Approval of Agenda / Chair / Approval or Modification
- Approval of Minutes / Chair / Approval or Modification
- Per Diem Requests will be emailed / All / Member Signature
- Sub-Committee Progress Updates
  - 2026 Art Contest Subcommittee: Al Tsai
    - Student Art Contest in February Dakota Magazine
    - Theme
    - Contest Opening, Submission Deadline, and Reception Dates
  - Dakota County Framework Public Art Plan
    - Tabling event Feedback: Lakeville Art Festival & Music in the Park
- Unfinished Business
  - 2026 Work Plan
    - Presentation to the General Government & Policy Committee: December 2 @ 9:30 a.m.

- Any stories or examples from the past year that we should highlight?
  - Library RFP for artwork at Wentworth Library, West St. Paul: Heather Stephenson
- New Business
  - Library RFP for artwork at Burnhaven Library, Burnsville: Teresa Mitchell

## Next Meeting

Date: November 18, 2025

Time: 5:30 pm

Via Teams

Agenda items: 2026 Work Plan, VIA Framework Public Art Plan

## Meeting Notes

### Approval of Agenda: Chair

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

### Approval of Minutes: Chair

Cheryl Caponi moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, and it was seconded by Mike Todaro. The motion passed.

### Per Diem Requests: All

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

### Sub-Committee Progress Updates

- **2026 Art Contest Subcommittee: Al Tsai**

Al Tsai gave an update that the contest will be included in the February newsletter. The committee discussed the desired submission deadline to be after Spring Break timeframe. The recognition event will be scheduled to occur before the end of the school year. The committee discussed several themes including Voices of Nature, My Friends and Family, Future Visions Dakota County in 2025 and Who Am I.

Bob Erickson moved to select Voices of Nature as the 2026 Student Art Contest theme, and it was seconded by Mike Todaro. The motion passed.

Sarah was asked to send a draft timeline, dates and reception location to the committee.

- **Dakota County Framework Public Art Plan**

Teresa Mitchell shared the update that Lil sent regarding the efforts being worked on including: Benchmarking with Dakota County cities and metro counties and other comparable counties.

Cheryl Caponi offered her feedback from attending the roundtable event meeting with Arts Organizations. Discussion also reviewed the upcoming roundtable with local artists that includes Julianne Jonker. Cheryl Caponi requested to attend, and Teresa Mitchell will forward the meeting link.

Teresa Mitchell reported the highlights from staff perspective at the Lakeville Art Festival and the abundant engagement from attendees that willingly approached the table to discuss their perspectives.

Teresa reported that meetings with County Commissioners have been offered along with an invitation to include the appointed member of the Public Art Committee to join a commissioner if desired. There is one last engagement 'pop-up' at the School of Environmental Studies on 10/25. The committee requested that instead of closing the survey on 10/19, that the Public Art Questionnaire be extended until after the last event on 10/25 so that group has a chance to take the survey. The next committee meeting will be on 11/18 and Via will be on the agenda to share the engagement and analysis summary.

## **Unfinished Business**

- **2026 Work Plan**

The Advisory Committee reviewed the draft of the 2026 workplan. Teresa Mitchell reported that the County Board has requested that workplans be approved by them before the end of the year and would also like to invite committee members. At a minimum the Chair or their delegate would attend the 12/2 meeting at 9:30 at the Hastings Administration Center to give the Board the opportunity to interact with the committees and thank them for their work. Teresa outlined the typical process of putting the Authorization to Approve the 2026 Public Art Advisory Committee Workplan item on Board's agenda. Teresa will give a short presentation that highlights the work plan itself, the accomplishments from the past year and the Board will take the opportunity to ask questions about the plan or about events that were held and take the opportunity to thank committee members.

The committee suggested to remove the workplan item on the Unity Trail because that project falls under the all-encompassing item that identifies 'providing art consultation to departments. This removal also supports that the Wentworth Library or Burnhaven Library art consultation projects are not listed individually.

Teresa asked for feedback on the Greenway Trail item and suggested to make it more generic so it may relate to any greenway in the County. The committee had abundant discussion on how to revise the greenway item. The committee suggested several other edits to work plan items. Sarah will send out a revised draft to refine in preparation for approval at the November meeting.

The committee asked for a Unity Trail subcommittee and Parks update at an upcoming meeting.

## **New Business**

- **None**

## **Announcements**

- **November 18<sup>th</sup> meeting** - confirmed to be virtual
- **December 9th meeting** - will be a lighter agenda. Julianne supported a social event at her studio. The menu was discussed and refreshment approval from PS&R Division will be given.

## **Adjourn**

- JuliAnne Jonker moved to adjourn. It was seconded by Mike Todaro. The motion passed.