

ERIN MENDENHALL
Mayor



DEPARTMENT of COMMUNITY
and NEIGHBORHOODS
TAMMY HUNSAKER
Director

Salt Lake Art Design Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 1st, 2025

5:00 – 6:10 pm

PRESENT:

Colour Maisch
Michelle Buhler

Nate King
Tiffini Porter

Wisam Khudhair
Michael Mejia

STAFF MEMBERS

Felicia Baca, Executive Director, Arts Council
Laurel Cannon-Alder, Deputy Director, Arts Council
Renato Olmedo-González, Public Art Program Manager, Arts Council
Amy Childress, Public Art Program Coordinator, Arts Council

EXCUSED:

N/A

GUESTS:

N/A

Mission: To amplify art in Salt Lake City to enrich, enhance, and build a dynamic city where art and artists thrive.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order and Welcome

Ms. Colour Maisch welcomed everyone to the meeting and read the mission of the Art Design Board.

II. Approval of September 3rd, 2025 meeting minutes

Ms. Maisch made a motion to approve the minutes, and Mr. Michael Mejia seconded. All board members in attendance voted in favor.

III. Art Design Board vacancy

Mr. Renato Olmedo-González provided an update on the Art Design Board vacancy and recruitment process. He noted an unusually high level of interest this round, with more than 30 applications received for a single open seat. The current vacancy is designated for either District 2 or District 7. Because former board member Nate King relocated from District 7 to District 4, District 4 currently has two representatives and is therefore ineligible for new appointments at this time.

From the applicant pool, 12 individuals applied from Districts 2 and 7, with 11 considered. Staff conducted a holistic review based on skills, background, expertise, and community needs. Six candidates were shortlisted for interviews, and five ultimately participated: Miguel Trujillo (District 2), Gustavo da Silva (District 2), Steven Chodoriwsky (District 2), Amanda Stewart (District 7), and Sarah Wolfe (District 2). Mr. Olmedo-González explained that the interview panelists included Arts Council staff and Art Design Board members Nate King, Color Maisch and Wissam Khudhair. The board proceeded to discuss the candidates.

The discussion underscored the Board's commitment to selecting a member who would meaningfully contribute to public art decision-making, community representation, and long-term leadership development. Board members began by discussing Miguel Trujillo, noting his thoughtful responses, deep community involvement, and experience with youth-focused initiatives and grant review processes. While his direct arts experience is limited, interviewers emphasized that his collaborative approach, eloquent communication, and strong civic commitment would bring value to the Board. After clarification, no concerns remained regarding his ability to meet the time commitments of the role.

The Board then acknowledged the strengths of Gustavo da Silva, whose planning background, international studies training, and work in grant-funded research demonstrated strong analytical and community-focused perspectives. He was described as serious, intentional, and well-prepared, offering thoughtful questions regarding board operations and West Side priorities. His limited arts background was recognized but not seen as a barrier to service. Discussion continued with Steven Chodoriwsky, a practicing artist and University of Utah design faculty member. Mr. Chodoriwsky offered the most extensive arts-focused résumé, with significant experience in architecture. Interviewers recognized his expertise and meaningful community connections, though some noted moments of communication difficulty during the interview, potentially due to nerves. Ms. Tiffini Porter, who knows Mr. Chodoriwsky affirmed his collaborative approach and positive professional reputation.

Amanda Stewart received especially enthusiastic feedback. As a business owner in the 9th & 9th neighborhood, she has direct experience working with artists, has prior nonprofit board service through Craft Lake City, and strong relationships within the creative community. Board members highlighted her collaborative spirit, community engagement, and aesthetic perspective as assets that would strengthen the Board's work. Finally, board members noted Sarah Wolfe's continued commitment as a community advocate through her role with the Glendale Community Council. Her concise communication style and sustained community involvement were acknowledged as strengths, particularly in representing West Side neighborhoods.

A straw poll resulted in three votes for Amanda Stewart and three for Miguel Trujillo. Board members emphasized Amanda Stewart's strong artist connections and capacity to expand outreach and encourage broader participation in public art opportunities. While Miguel Trujillo's community service and dedication were highly respected, some members noted that his networks may not align as directly with the Board's arts-focused outreach needs. A brief discussion was held regarding a potential mayoral tiebreaker, but members agreed this would unnecessarily extend the process and affirmed the Board's responsibility in making the decision.

Recognizing the strengths of both leading candidates and the difficulty of the choice, the Board also discussed long-term leadership development and succession planning. With this perspective, momentum further shifted toward Amanda. Ms. Maisch made a motion to recommend Amanda Stewart of District 7 for appointment to the Art Design Board. Ms. Mejia seconded, and all members in attendance voted in favor.

IV. Public Comment

No public comment was received.

V. Other Business / Adjourn

- 9-Line Trail/West Side RFQ
 - The Board reviewed the 9-Line Trail/West Side Request for Qualifications. Final approval from City Council/CRA Board is expected on October 14. If approved, the Call for Artists will be published on October 16.
- Pre-Qualified Artist Pool
 - Applications for the 2026–2028 Pre-Qualified Artist Pool are open. Staff noted that applications typically increase closer to the deadline and encouraged board members to share the opportunity with artists in their networks. The call closes on Friday, October 31.
- CRA Ballpark Murals
 - The Public Art Program is stewarding a CRA-funded project featuring 10 murals on private properties in the Ballpark neighborhood. All artists were selected from the Pre-Qualified Artist Pool. A bike-tour celebration is planned for October 16 at 5:30 PM, beginning at the Urban Indian Resource Center and concluding at Big Willie's.
- Upcoming Calls for Artists
 - Multiple calls are scheduled for release beginning in November due to project timelines aligning. Upcoming opportunities include: Fairmont Park & McClelland Shared Trail, and a new mural for *Out of the Blue*.
- *Seven Canyons Refuge* / Wake the Great Salt Lake Installation
 - Artist Stefan Lesueur will present a temporary sound-based installation titled *Water Shed Stories* and funded by Wake the Great Salt Lake, at *Seven Canyons Refuge* in Liberty Park from October 13–19. Programming includes daily open hours (4–7 PM, extended hours on Saturday) with artist talks around 5:30 PM. This coincides with the reopening of the site following construction.
- Signature Commission: Wake the Great Salt Lake
 - The program announced Icelandic-Danish artist, Olafur Eliasson as the selected artist for the Signature Commission. His artwork, *A Symphony of disappearing sounds for the Great Salt Lake*, is scheduled for late March. Bloomberg partners and the artist team will visit in October for planning meetings.
- Arts Council Project Support Grants
 - Applications are open for project support grants, with murals eligible. Deadline to apply is November 2nd.

Ms. Felicia Baca provided an update on follow-up efforts with City Council regarding recent feedback on the Arts Council's presentation. Small group meetings with Council members will take place over the next two weeks to clarify the organization's structure, programs, and functions. These meetings will include updates on mural initiatives, reflecting increased council interest in mural projects citywide, including progress on the Ballpark murals, the upcoming North Temple mural project, completed collaborations with The Blocks, Love Your Block mural

efforts, and findings from a recent review of mural programs in peer cities. Staff will notify the board when the next full Council presentation is scheduled and expressed confidence going into the meetings.

Mr. Michael Mejia shared that he has recently joined the planning committee for the Filméxico Festival, hosted by the Salt Lake Film Society. This year's festival will take place November 13–20 and will feature films highlighting Indigenous communities and cultural stories from southern Mexico.

Mrs. Maisch made a motion to close the meeting. Mr. Khudhair seconded. All members in attendance voted in favor.