



**CULTURAL CORE
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, March 10th, 2026**

Committee Members in Attendance: Spencer Lawson, Isaac Gonzalez, Seth Brown, Matt Castillo, Claudia Loayza, Felicia Baca

Committee Members Not in Attendance: Mohan Sudabattula, Kathryn Carlisle-Kesling

Cultural Core/Downtown Alliance Staff Present: Lucas Horns, Dee Brewer, Josh Jones, Jessica Thesing, Kai Henriksen

Guests Present: Jill Kirsling

The meeting was called to order at **9:07am**. **Spencer Lawson** initiated the roll. **Seth Brown** made a motion to approve the minutes from November 20th, 2025. **Claudia Loayza** seconded the motion, and the motion passed with no opposition.

Review of Public Comments

No public comments to review.

Current Business

Officer Re-Election

- **Claudia Loayza** moved to re-elect Spencer Lawson as Board Chair and Kathryn Carlisle-Kesling as Vice Chair
 - **Isaac Gonzalez** seconded the motion
 - The motion carried with no opposition

Salt Lake County & Salt Lake City Updates

- **Felicia Baca** shared updates with upcoming programs and events hosted by the City and County including:
 - Twilight Concert Series on sale in April
 - Living Traditions
 - Smithsonian Folk Life Festival is partnering with Living Traditions this year

- A Symphony of Disappearing Sounds of the Great Salt Lake activation runs from late March-early April
- Project Support Grants opening up in April
- Lots of public art in the city
 - Open calls for walls for North Temple murals
 - Wrapping up 4th South bridge art project
 - Finalists working on the next 9th South Whale design
 - Artist selection meeting for Fleet Block projects soon
 - Recently selected finalists for 9-line public art projects
 - New exhibitions at Finch Lane Gallery

Downtown Rising 2035

- **Dee Brewer** presented the Downtown Rising 2035 plan, including:
 - More than \$10b invested in downtown in the next decade
 - Entertainment District
 - Convention Center
 - Rio Grande District developments
 - Civic Center investments
 - Green Loop
 - Main Street renovations
 - Temple reconstruction/open house
 - 2034 Olympics
 - Alliance vision: align stakeholder efforts around common goals so we can achieve broader community benefits and prosperity
 - Consulting with thought leaders, engaging stakeholders, and then developing a plan
 - The arts are an integral part of these investments

Summer Programming Updates

- **Kai Henriksen** updated the board on Blocks programming including:
 - CoCreate
 - 21 total applicants
 - 9-member selection committee selected 3 projects including:
 - An interactive wishing well installation in Exchange Place Plaza
 - Seven fiberglass bee sculptures, each representing a different neighborhood around SLC
 - Interpretive dance associated with the sites of old theater sites in downtown that no longer exist. This will be paired with viewfinder installations that allow viewers to experience what used to exist in the space.
 - Kickoff Reception is March 24th, 6-8pm
 - Downtown Artist Features

- Campaign of 30 second - one minute reels for social media that feature all different kinds of artists who work downtown
- Fridays on Main
 - Update to what was formerly *Steppin' on Main*
 - Every Friday from June through September
 - 3 stage locations
 - Front steps of Eccles Theater
 - Location where Gallivan Center meets Main Street
 - Exchange Place Plaza
 - Currently booking performers and obtaining permits for this
- ArtGarten
 - Turning the old Utah Theater site into a beer/sculpture garden
 - Thursday & Friday evenings, June-September
 - Live performances
 - Local art installations
 - The entire location will be a beer garden
- Curtain Up
 - September 8th
 - Recurring meeting with Downtown arts leaders and programmers
 - Goal is to orient all organizations with each other's seasonal programming in order to foster more cross-organizational collaboration
- And more one off events
 - Cirque Kikasse
 - Thursday April 23, 6-8pm
 - Mobile circus truck
 - Event at Gallivan Plaza
 - Mariachi Festival
 - Eccles Theater, June 20

Draft FY27 Budget Review

- Lucas Horns went over takeaways from The Blocks' budget including:
 - Plans to increase fundraising by 11% due to increased sponsorship and grant opportunities in the near future
 - Payroll will be down 26% from what's budgeted this year
 - This year was budgeted for a third person
 - Administrative costs are also down due to less staff than budgeted for
 - For these reasons, programming budget will be increased by 43%
 - CoCreate - \$120k total, three \$40k grants
 - Fridays on Main - budget increased due to more stages and more performers

- Adjustments in budgeting elsewhere as well as raising more than expected through other sponsorships and grants has caused reserves to build up
 - Plans to spend down in order to get to a more healthy reserve amount
 - Potential to create some kind of large-scale project Downtown with these funds
 - Something that is long lasting, creates vitality, potentially some kind of placemaking aspect, etc.
 - Potential to build out the Asset Program

With no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:10am.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at 9:00am