



CITY OF OREM

ADVISORY BOARD/COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

This meeting may be held electronically to allow a board/commission member to participate.

PUBLIC BODY: Cultural Arts Advisory Commission

DATE: 06/16/2026

ROOM: Council Conference Room

TIME: 11:30 AM

ADDRESS: 56 N State St, Orem, UT 84057

Commission Members in Attendance: Shelby Killpack, Mike Ramsey, La Beene, Jeremy Hall, Scott Swain, Nathan Christiansen (Vice), Gina Cavallo

Commission Members Excused: Stephanie Goodman, Adam Robertson

City Council: Quinn Mecham

City Staff: Makenna Thompson, Melissa Mullins, Kaitlin Marsh

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Community Dances - Scott Swain

Scott presented a proposal to the Commission for the reinstatement of community dances at the senior center. The initiative aims to promote community engagement by featuring floor shows with BYU ballroom dancers and high school students. To further expand the program's reach to younger residents, Scott also recommended launching a series of youth-focused dances at Timpanogos Park.

The proposal included potential collaborations with community education programs or BYU to incorporate social dance classes into the curriculum. Performances and instruction in styles like the waltz, fox trot, and swing could be provided by BYU ballroom teams to help participants gain confidence. This could involve students receiving extra credit for attending or simply providing them a social venue to practice their skills, thereby boosting youth participation.

A suggested admission fee of \$5 per ticket was proposed. While initial funding may be required to cover expenses such as live music, the program is expected to become self-funding as it gains popularity.

The long-term strategy involves bridging generational gaps by hosting summer events in the canyon and transitioning to the senior center for the winter. Makenna noted that existing marketing materials for community dances could likely be repurposed with minimal changes. The council reached a consensus to move forward with the dance proposal, contingent upon cost analysis and budget approval.

Action Item: Makenna will consult with Pete regarding the existing marketing campaign for the community dance program.

The Commission received a request from Scott for feedback regarding a new location for the portable Freedom Gallery (10' W x 8' H x 12" D). Although the gallery was previously housed at the Senior Center, Scott proposed the Library as a potential new site. However, Holly Grierson noted that the Library's schedule is fully committed for the remainder of the year with existing art shows and displays, making it unable to accommodate the gallery at this time.

With the goal of having the Gallery back on public display prior to July 4th, Scott asked the group to suggest other suitable locations within the City. Because the next Arts Council meeting is not scheduled until July 21st, a prompt solution is needed. The group suggested the Rec Center as a possibility, as it had previously hosted the Gallery and might be open to housing it again before the upcoming holiday.

Action Item: Makenna is tasked with contacting the Rec Center to determine if they can accommodate the Freedom Gallery before July 4th.

2. Art City Subcommittee Presentation - Mike Ramsey

Mike Ramsey, representing the Art City Subcommittee, delivered the quarterly report entitled "ART CITIES of the United States" to the Commission.

The presentation detailed the criteria that define an "Art City" and examined prominent examples, including Los Angeles, Santa Fe, Cincinnati, Asheville, Atlanta, New York City, and San Francisco. Mike highlighted the unique cultural characteristics distinguishing these locations. Factors contributing to the enduring success of these cities were identified as sustained civic commitment, annual festivals, and the transformation of public infrastructure, such as streets and sidewalks, into interactive galleries.

To advance Orem toward Art City status, Mike emphasized the necessity of improving the City's digital presence. His recommendations included:

- Developing an accessible "Arts in Orem" calendar.
- Implementing a website registration portal for arts and culture event notifications.
- Fostering partnerships between the City and local artists or organizations.
- Launching social media initiatives to promote Orem's cultural offerings.

Current estimates indicate that approximately 0.8% of the City budget is allocated to arts programming.

Next Steps: Subcommittee members will identify and study cities with demographic and cultural profiles comparable to Orem.

Upon the conclusion of Mike's report, a request was made to establish a Google Drive folder or other digital repository that would allow Commission members to easily archive and access future presentations, handouts, and essential documentation.

Action Item: Kaitlin will look into this for the group.

3. Homecoming Series - Brainstorming Session

Quinn Mecham will be sending out an email with names of local artists that could be featured in the Homecoming Series. Please add to the list and come prepared to give feedback and discuss more in depth at the next Arts Council meeting on 7/21.

Action Item: Quinn will send Homecoming Series email to all commission members

Performance Arts Subcommittee was asked to present next meeting

4. Orem City Art Collection - Holly Grierson

Guest speaker Holly Grierson, representing the Orem City Library, provided a presentation on the Orem City Art Collection. Established in the late 1960s, the collection has expanded over several decades through a combination of acquisitions and private contributions. Max Weaver, an artist and art instructor, played an instrumental role in the collection's growth and development.

While the majority of the municipal collection is curated within the Public Library, several pieces are prominently displayed at City Hall and the Senior Friendship Center.

During her showcase, Ms. Grierson spotlighted several notable works and artists, including:

- James C. Christensen: Known for "Springville Barn" and his contributions to the Timpanogos Storytelling Festival.
- Cass Barney: Represented by the work "The Big Show."
- Kathe Kollwitz: Artist of "Storming the Gate."
- Marty Miller: Creator of the sculpture "Incoming #3."
- Avard T. Fairbanks: Featured for his metal sculptures "The Family" and "The Pony Express."

Ms. Grierson concluded by inviting the Commission to pursue collaborative projects with the library, expressing a strong interest in future joint initiatives.

5. Adopt Meeting Minutes from 05/19/2026

A motion was made by La Beene to approve the meeting minutes from 05/19/2026.

Motion seconded by Gina Cavallo.

All commission members voting YES: Nathan Christiansen (vice-chair), Shelby Killpack, Mike Ramsey, La Beene, Jeremy Hall, Scott Swain, Gina Cavallo. None opposed. [Stephanie Goodman absent]

Motion to approve Arts Council meeting minutes 05/19/2026 passes.

6. Adjourn

A motion was made by Mike Ramsey to adjourn the meeting.

Motion seconded by La Beene.

All commission members voting YES: Nathan Christiansen (vice-chair), Shelby Killpack, Mike Ramsey, La Beene, Jeremy Hall, Scott Swain, Gina Cavallo. None opposed. [Stephanie Goodman absent]

Motion to adjourn passes.

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