



Salt Lake City Arts Council Board Meeting Minutes

June 17th, 2026

5:30 – 7:00 P.M.

54 Finch Lane – SLC, Utah 84102

ATTENDANCE:

Board Members in Attendance:

- Eugenie Hero Jaffe
- Cuauhtemoc "C-moc" Sandoval
- Nick Pedersen
- Matthew Coles
- Travis English
- Denise Begue

Board Members in Attendance Online:

- Gabriella Huggins
- Hannah Nielsen
- Pablo Cruz-Ayala

Board Members Excused:

- Caitlin Tursic
- Anthony Wright
- Sabrina Martinez
- Lana Taylor
- Ryan Canter
- Ignacio Rosenberg

Board Members Not In Attendance, Unexcused:

N/A

Council/City Staff/Public in Attendance:

- Felicia Baca, Arts Council Executive Director
- Laurel Cannon Alder, Arts Council Deputy Director
- Susan Campbell, Community Investment and Development Manager
- Brett Mosby, Constituent Liaison (online)

MISSION: To promote, present and support artists and arts organizations in order to facilitate the development of the arts and expand awareness, access, and engagement.



MINUTES

Call to Order and Welcome Guests

- Mr. Coles called the meeting to order and welcomed Mr. Mosby, who was joining the meeting in Ms. Richards' absence.
- ii. **Mission Moment (Future events & SLC worthy recognition)**
 - The board discussed the latest arts & culture events they have attended around the city and look forward to attending in the future. Some events mentioned included Mr. Pedersen noting his recent award of the Friends of Pando residency, Mr. English noting his attendance at the Utah Blue Festival, Ms. Nielsen discussing the preview events for the Museum of Utah ahead of the public opening on June 27th, and the Art Garden by the Blocks. Ms. Begue discussed a recent trip to Steamboat Springs and how she was inspired by how the bike paths incorporated art along their routes.

II. Approve Board Meeting Minutes

- Mr. Pedersen motioned to approve the May board meeting minutes. Ms. Huggins seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Management

General Program Management

- Ms. Baca noted that despite some bad weather, attendance at Busker Fest was solid. It was noted that Ms. Borchardt will provide a full recap of Living Traditions and Busker Fest at the August meeting. It was noted that there was some press leading up to the festival about potential budget cuts that would potentially impact the festival's future. The team worked to socialize the news with the artists ahead of the festival to reduce questions.
- Ms. Baca noted strong attendance for the first acoustic music stroll of the season.
- Ms. Baca noted that *Strut* was now open along the 4th South Viaduct. It represents a unique approach to public art since the team worked to integrate the artistic design directly into the bridge design led by the Department of Transportation.
- Ms. Baca noted that the team recently created a great video for social with the Museum of Natural History, which featured Kosmo the dinosaur.
- Ms. Baca noted the team attended AFTACON, a conference for Americans for the Arts in NM, which provided an opportunity to connect with other arts organizations.
- Ms. Baca noted the completion of the ZAP Tier 1 application and that the Fleetblock finalist proposal was sent to the mayor and approved. The selected artist was a national artist and will include local artist projects.

IV. Budget/Financial

Review of Financials

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- Ms. Baca provided an overview of the May financials—overall, the budget is on track and at a healthy balance. Activity of note included \$20K in corporate contributions and \$54K in honoraria paid to Living Traditions artists, as well as related salaries and supplies. It was noted that individual contributions related to Living Traditions increased due to a donation QR code making it more frictionless to donate (double the previous year). Living Traditions met its \$35K in alcohol sales goal, and we saw healthy tipping. It was noted that row 51 of the expenses tab reflects costs related to Busker Fest and Living Traditions. Travel expenses for the traveling bands are reflected here as the council booked their travel directly instead of paying honorariums.

FY26 Budget Amendment

- Ms. Cannon Alder noted that the need for the amendment is driven by mostly housekeeping items. It was noted that the budget for supplies for the Art Barn is less than budgeted, so those are being brought closer to actuals. She noted the amendment accounts for the outreach budget related to the Poet Laureate program, as \$10K is coming from the Mayor's budget.
- Mr. Coles asked who was on the selection committee for the Poet Laureate, and it was noted that it was a mix of other state/city poet laureates and stakeholders from local bookstores like Kings English.
- Ms. Cannon Alder also noted the amendment accurately reflects the \$7K related to the art in each district that came from the City Council. This is now properly reflected in contracted services as in-kind and reflecting expenses accurately as well.
- Mr. Sandoval motioned to approve the amendment, and Ms. Begue seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

FY27 Proposed Budget

- Ms. Baca thanked the board for their thoughtful conversation last board meeting that helped inform the team's decision-making.
- Ms. Baca noted that the recommended way forward was to pursue the hybrid approach, which includes cutting \$70K from the budget. This will remove support for Busker Fest/Mondays in the Park, with the remaining \$125K budget cut from the City supplemented by pulling from the fund balance.
- Ms. Baca noted that the budget also reduces other expenses to minimize the total amount that needs to be pulled from the fund balance. It was noted that next year's budget landscape will likely remain tough as this year's city budget saw a one-time \$6M budget fill that won't be available to the city council next year.
- Ms. Baca noted that the art council's fund balance is a Public Treasurer's Investment Fund (PTIF), which is not like a traditional endowment account. Only two years ago it wasn't a proper revenue line item, but after a new policy was adopted it has provided an additional avenue for revenue.
- Ms. Baca noted that on a more macro level, we should anticipate a conservative Federal budget and a lower State grant budget.
- Mr. English motioned to approve the FY27 budget, and Ms. Huggins seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Board

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Brainstorm information and education for upcoming board meeting meetings

- Ms. Cannon Alder noted that the board will receive a survey after our next board meeting where they can note suggestions for what topics can/should be discussed at upcoming board meetings. Members were provided with a list of the topics discussed over the last few meetings to help inform their suggestions.

Artist in the Classroom Grant

- Ms. Nielsen provided an overview of the Artist in the Classroom grant applications. It was noted that there was an increase in applicants this year, 10 total, up from 8. Based on the application scores, the committee is recommending that all 10 applicants receive funding.
- It was discussed that the one application which received a 'below average' score did so because their application was less robust, but this would be the second year this program is being held, and the committee was confident that the actual program would be robust and worthy of funding.
- Ms. Begue and Ms. Huggins expressed their positive sentiment for how well the grant program was run and managed.
- Ms. Hero Jaffe motioned to approve the recommendation and Ms. Begue seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Public Comment

- None

VII. Other Business

- A reminder that the public grand opening of the Museum of Utah June 27th 9:00 am - 8:00 pm (Executive Director, Tim Glenn, presented in a previous board meeting)

Mr. Pedersen motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Begue seconded. The meeting was adjourned.