



**CULTURAL CORE
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, July 14th, 2026**

Committee Members in Attendance: Kathryn Carlisle-Kesling, Seth Brown, Matt Castillo, Felicia Baca

Committee Members Not in Attendance: Isaac Gonzalez, Mohan Sudabattula, Claudia Loayza,

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

The meeting was called to order at **9:07am**. **Kathryn Carlisle-Kesling** initiated the roll call. **Seth Brown** made a motion to approve the minutes from May 12th, 2026. **Kathryn Carlisle-Kesling** seconded the motion, and the motion passed with no opposition.

Review of Public Comments

No public comments to review.

ACTION: Felicia Baca brought the Vice Chair vacancy to the board

- **Spencer Lawson** has resigned his position and Vice Chair is now open
 - The committee has a list of potential candidates that needs to be remade with new up-to-date candidates
 - Voted to move **Kathryn Carlisle-Kesling** to Chair position
 - Motioned by **Seth Brown** and seconded by **Felicia Baca**
 - The committee has been tasked to come up with a candidate in the following weeks
 - Will have a one-off meeting to hold a vote for the new member

UPDATE: Matt Castillo and Felicia Baca updated the committee on Salt Lake City and County

- **Matt Castillo** updated the committee on what the County has been up to
 - Sports, Entertainment, and Culture District
 - Design team visited Calgary for ideas around similar goals
 - Abravental Hall and UMOCA Renovations
 - Aiming to have renders/designs available to share to the public by end of August or early September

- **Felicia Baca** updated the committee on what the City has been up to
 - Twilight Festival
 - Kicked off on July 13th
 - Mondays in the Park
 - Started on July 13th (Living traditions)
 - Public art call
 - There has been a call for murals on the Jordan River Parkway and has since closed
 - Bezos Earth Fund
 - The city has been selected for a grant from the Bezos Earth Fund for \$11.5 Million which will be aimed at the fleet block and the nine line
 - Out of the Blue artist announcement coming soon
 - The city's first public laureate
 - A new program featuring an official poet for the city

UPDATE: Kai Henriksen and Lucas Horns gave an update on The Blocks' summer programming and marketing/social media

- **Kai Henriksen** updated the board on Blocks Summer programming
 - Art Garten
 - Beer/Sculpture Garden in the old Utah Theater lot
 - Partnering with a few local breweries and Square Kitchen along with a different local artist performing each night
 - Edison House recently took over programming for Thursday nights
 - UMOCA has been in partnership as well bringing large sculpture to the Art Garten
 - Steppin' on Main
 - Fridays 7-9pm
 - Has been expanded to a 3rd block
 - Exchange Place, Gallivan Center, Eccles Theater Steps
 - Mariachi Festival
 - Happened on June 20th
 - Attendance was 1,800
 - 3 local mariachi bands
 - Worked with local artist to create some sculptures
 - POGO Festival
 - Happened on June 20th
 - In collaboration with Quarters Arcade Bar/The DLC
 - Multi-venue music festival with only local musicians
 - Main outdoor stage was free at Exchange Place
 - Plein Air
 - On July 11th

- In partnership with ArtsForce and Workshop SLC
 - Painted an iconic building in Downtown which will be displayed for sale in the matching building for 2 weeks
 - Will be moved to Eccles theater from the end of August to March 27th
 - Artists set their own price and receive 100% of sales
- Bachauer Piano Sculpture
- Exhibitions on Main
 - Installed in March
 - Same program as the past with 4 artists design all 5 panels of the kiosks
 - Held a reception for the artists with community members at Felt Bar & Eatery
- Sonder SLC
 - 2nd installation of this activation
 - Focused on the unsung heroes of the downtown area
 - Photographed in color
 - Located at Vassilios Priskos Walkway
- **Lucas Horns** updated the committee on The Blocks social media activity
 - Hired an intern for social media outreach
 - The instagram had gone from 50,000 views in April to near 300,000 views in June of 2026
 - April-June
 - +10% in followers
 - +888% interactions
 - Facebook saw a climb from 5,000 views in April to just over 20,000 views in June
 - April-June
 - +2% Followers
 - +1,850% interactions
 - The Blocks also created a Tik Tok in June
 - 284 Followers
 - 12,700 Views
 - 1,572 Interactions
 - Produced content in collaboration with Downhaus Media
 - Multiple artist feature videos and much more
 - Mural Mondays with Kai
 - Every Monday is a video/interview of an iconic downtown mural and its creator

UPDATE: Lucas Horns gave an update on the year end financial report

- **Lucas Horns** presented the committee with an estimate on the year end financial report
 - The final financial report will be ready by the next committee meeting
- Revenue was budgeted at \$700,000 and turned out to be a little over \$800,000

- Expenses are lower than budgeted with programming expenses about \$14,000
- Excess reserves will be updated on in the next meeting

UPDATE: Lucas Horns updated the committee on the Temple square open house plans

- Met with the church in the weeks leading up to the committee meeting
 - There will be a lot of programming on Temple Square
 - Buskers
 - Art
 - Performances
 - Kai and Lucas are currently looking into creating a busker program for programming going down Main st
 - Almost all exits from the open house tours will be on South Temple
 - March is the un-official start of the open house with VIP guests arriving then
 - Felicia updates the group on the SLC Budget adoption
 - The budget for Busker Fest has been cut
 - Supplementary funds have been set aside for collaboration and programming along with support for buskers

UPDATE: Lucas Horns gave the committee an update on metrics and reporting

- **Lucas Horns** presented the committee with proposed metrics and goals of the CCAP
 - **Lucas Horns** would like to revisit/revise some of these proposed metrics
 - Days of activation
 - Local artists/orgs hired through the Blocks
 - Audience members across arts and cultural venues
 - Earned media
 - Money paid directly to artists
 - Percent of budget directly to artists
 - Visitation downtown 6pm-Midnight
 - Goals of the CCAP
 - Celebrate and promote Salt Lake's rich array of arts and cultural activities and experiences
 - Enhance Salt Lake's brand and support increased visitation from the region and Intermountain West
 - Support increased collaboration and creative development among Salt Lake's creative community
 - Expand and diversify audiences for Salt Lake's arts and culture
 - Foster downtown as an inclusive, diverse and welcoming place
 - Support downtown residential growth
 - Enhance the downtown business environment
 - Enrich the urban experience and sense of place

With no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15am.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 8, 2026 at 9:00am