



Salt Lake City Arts Council Board Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2026

5:30 – 7:00 P.M.

54 Finch Lane – SLC, Utah 84102

ATTENDANCE:

Board Members in Attendance:

- Matthew Coles
- Anthony Wright
- Lana Taylor
- Nick Pedersen
- Cuauhtemoc "C-moc" Sandoval
- Caitlin Tursic
- Sabrina Martinez
- Eugenie Hero Jaffe
- Travis English
- Denise Begue
- Ryan Canter
- Hannah Nielsen
- Pablo Cruz-Ayala

Board Members in Attendance Online:

- Gabriella Huggins

Board Members Excused:

N/A

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
- Lindsey Day, Art Council Office Facilitator
- Susan Campbell, Community Investment and Development Manager
- Dawn Borchardt, Performing Arts Program Manager
- Sylvia Richards, Public Policy Analyst (online)
- Amanda Mulia, ZAP Tier I & Zoological Advisory Board Member (online)

MINUTES

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.



Call to Order and Welcome Guests

- Mr. Coles called the meeting to order and welcomed Ms. Mulia, who is observing as part of her ZAP board member duties.
- **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. Coles mentioning the Twilight Concert Series, Mondays in the Park, Ms. Hero Jaffe mentioned the unveiling of the new mural for Out of the Blue, the new Antelope Island Visitor Center has some of the Wake the Great Salt Lake artists incorporated, and the GSL Hotline won an Alfred Lambourne award.

II. Approve Board Meeting Minutes

- Mr. Wright motioned to approve the June board meeting minutes. Ms. Begue seconded. Ms. Martinez and Ms. Taylor abstained. The motion passed.

III. Management

General Program Management

- Ms. Baca noted that the Twilight Concert Series has kicked off and the shows have gone very well, highlighting that Suki Waterhouse sold out at the doors. It was noted that while overall attendance is down, the series has met its revenue goals. It was noted that Mondays in the Park has concluded.
- Ms. Baca noted that Out of the Blue was unveiled on 801 Day to a largely positive reception. She noted an article in the Salt Lake Tribune regarding snowfall and shared that participating in press interviews to explain the meaning behind the work has been effective.
- Ms. Baca noted that projects across all seven districts with a \$14,000 budget have been accomplished, with the exception of one fabrication delay. Regarding the SLC Stories project—which includes murals, sidewalk clings, and murals on businesses—Ms. Baca addressed a question from Ms. Taylor regarding their official presence on the website, clarifying that because they are not permanent, they do not fall under the Design Board/artwork owned by the city..
- Ms. Baca noted that the Fleet Block vision is being finalized, and the selected artist will be announced and shared soon. She also noted updates on the Japantown mural.
- Ms. Baca noted that the organization was recommended to participate in the SMU DataArts City Arts Data Exchange partnership to share grant data, joining a program that has run two previous cohorts with other cities.
- Ms. Baca noted that the city entered into an agreement to participate with the Land Art Generator Initiative (LAGI) to potentially create a work for the Civic Center.
- Ms. Baca noted that the North Temple mural projects and the Public Utilities Jordan River mural project are currently underway. She also noted the completion of Journey Lines at Donner Park.

Performing Arts Overview

- Ms. Borchardt provided an overview of the Performing Arts programs, which encompass the Living Traditions Festival, Mondays in the Park, Busker Fest, Acoustic Music Stroll, and the Twilight

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Concert Series. She highlighted several successes aligned with the strategic plan, including cultivating key partnerships such as the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, expanding diversity and representation across Twilight and Living Traditions, building internal competency through a peer folk festival research project with an upcoming professional cohort in Hawaii, and strengthening internal marketing collaborations. In response to Mr. Canter's inquiry about the Smithsonian partnership's alignment with America250, Ms. Borchardt clarified that, while the grant was a one-time initiative, the team was deeply inspired by the framework and hopes to replicate aspects of that support model in future years.

- Ms. Borchardt reported on the 2026 Living Traditions Festival, noting that attendance reached 28,985—up from 22,000 in 2025 following improved weather conditions. School Day engaged 1,395 students across 11 Title I schools, and the festival supported 1,365 artists across 162 groups, supported by 506 volunteer hours. Key operational updates included diverting 350 pounds of food waste to Odyssey House, providing ASL interpretation for 12 performances and workshops, and increasing compensation for key festival staff roles to align with industry standards.
- Ms. Borchardt noted that the festival marked its 40th anniversary with an intercultural drum exhibition, the Youth Showcase Torchbearers, a Grand Powwow celebrating Indigenous heritage, special edition merchandise, an artist-designed stage backdrop, and a children's scavenger hunt presented in partnership with One Kind Act a Day. Through the Smithsonian partnership—where Living Traditions was one of 40 events nationwide awarded financial support and one of only five to receive additional NEA funding—the festival received onsite staff support, accessibility and food demonstration support, and funding that helped secure headline acts including the Preservation Hall Jazz Band, an Alaskan performing group, and Hawaiian craft demonstrators. On the development side, corporate and foundation fundraising exceeded its \$90,000 goal, totaling \$128,350 while remaining on budget, aided by the adoption of Give Lively for individual donations. Ms. Borchardt shared photos of interactive workshops, including Ukrainian doll-making, alebrijes, and henna, prompting Mr. English to commend Ms. Borchardt for her strong leadership.
- Ms. Borchardt noted that Mondays in the Park concluded its season the prior Monday, with a total of 1,735 attendees across six shows. Attendance was slightly down compared to prior years due to extreme heat, which reduced spontaneous attendance from casual park visitors. The series featured 149 artists across 12 groups, six of which were first-time participants. Ms. Taylor shared community feedback from attendees who traveled from outside the area and expressed disappointment that the season was ending.
- Ms. Borchardt reported that Busker Fest drew approximately 10,000 attendees and engaged 163 artists across 87 groups, and was preceded by a film screening and an artist mixer at UMOCA. The Acoustic Music Stroll hosted two events with a total of 600 attendees, slightly lower than the prior year due to the heat. The stroll engaged 47 artists, with 10 of the 15 groups performing for the first time.
- Ms. Borchardt concluded with updates on the Twilight Concert Series, noting that the season remains underway. Looking ahead to the series' 40th anniversary next year, a new fundraising strategy is rolling out, and board members were encouraged to connect staff with potential corporate sponsors and invite prospects to attend remaining shows.

General Operating Support Grants

- Ms. Nielsen presented an overview of the General Operating Support grants, noting that 46 applications were received, including three new applicants. The committee recommended funding

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for 43 of the 46 applicants. Mr. Wright moved to approve the recommendations, Ms. Martinez seconded, and the motion passed.

Project Support Grants

- Ms. Nielsen presented an overview of the Project Support grants, noting that 59 applications were received, 21 of which were from new applicants, with six of those new applicants recommended for funding. Across the full pool, 21 projects across all council districts were recommended for funding. Ms. Nielsen noted that 20 of the recommended grants were awarded to organizations and only one to an individual artist, highlighting this distribution as an area for the committee to evaluate in future granting cycles to better support individual artists. Ms. Taylor moved to approve the recommendations, Ms. Tursic seconded, and the motion carried.

IV. Budget/Financial

Review of Financials

- Ms. Tursic provided an overview of the July financials, noting that an in-depth audit presentation will be shared with the board soon and that overall the organization remains in a very good financial position.
- On the Profit & Loss statement—reflecting the first month of the fiscal year—activity of note included \$5,450 in gallery commissions tied to sales, which are subsequently paid out to artists less fees. It was noted that ZAP funding was received but moved back into FY26 accounting, and \$32,000 was recorded under contracted services for S&S.
- On the Balance Sheet, Ms. Tursic highlighted net unrestricted assets currently sitting at \$1.2 million compared to \$1.9 million at the same time last year. It was noted that the prior year's figure was inflated due to Bloomberg grant funds and the timing of expenditures, which will be reconciled during the forthcoming audit.

V. Board

Executive Committee Nominations

- It was noted that Mr. Rosenberg stepped down from the Executive Committee due to moving out of SLC. Mr. Wright presented the recommended slate of nominations: Mr. Sandoval for Secretary, Mr. English for Vice President, and Ms. Martinez for Member-at-Large. Mr. Wright moved to approve the slate, Ms. Tursic seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Call for board member nominations, especially Districts 1 and 5 & Cultural Core

- A call for new board nominations has been opened, with an emphasis on recruiting representation for Districts 1 and 5. It was noted that there is also a vacancy representing the Downtown Cultural Core / City-County partnership on the Finance Committee; candidates for this role are not required to reside within Salt Lake City proper, but must reside within Salt Lake County.

VI. Public Comment

- None

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VII. Other Business

- None

Ms. Tursic motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Taylor seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED

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