

Orem Cultural Arts Commission

September 15, 2026

11:30am

Orem City Council Conference Room

56 N State Street, Orem UT 84057

Minutes Approved at October 20, 2026 Meeting

Agenda Items

1. Taste of Orem
2. Orem Union Bench Canal Study
3. Orem Film Festival Outreach
4. SCERA Summer Report / Fall & Winter Preview
5. Summer Concert Series Review & Wrap-Up
6. Arts District Walk Through Report
7. End with the Art-o-Matic Field Trip to Library Hall

Taste of Orem

- Stage preparations are complete with all time slots filled, featuring 8 hours of continuous cultural performance.
- Over \$10,000 in presale tickets have been sold (ahead of last year's) and with 5 more participating restaurants than last year.
- Discussed Transportation and Parking options such as the church down the street, Orem High School, Senior Center, and main parking lot for City Hall, Center Park etc.
- Drop-off and turnaround locations for a shuttle option are being evaluated for future years and events.
- Host Scripts and Schedules will be coordinated and emailed to everyone by the Events Manager soon.

Orem Union Bench/Provo Bench Canal Study

- Background: The canal company abandoned the ~5-mile loop through northeast Orem after 100+ years, meaning no water is flowing. The city hired a consultant to study future uses.
- Potential Uses: Ideas include turning it into a trail (similar to the Murdock Canal Trail), backfilling and transferring land to adjacent property owners, utility easements, or green space/trees.
- Community Input & Concerns:
- Public input is being gathered at orem.gov/canal (over 70 responses submitted so far).
- Adjacent homeowners (~330 properties border the canal) have raised privacy/security concerns, while the broader community generally favors proactive development.
- Arts Council Opportunities:
- Suggestions were made to incorporate public art into future planning before construction begins (e.g., set aside 0.5%–1% of project costs for art).

- Creative ideas included interactive historical markers, child-friendly walking paths, painted sidewalk art, or neighborhood/school-adopted sections.

Orem Film Festival Outreach

- Organizers of the Orem Film Festival reached out to connect with the city and local arts scene.
- Location: The festival takes place on the 24th of this month at the Megaplex in Vineyard (chosen due to specific cinema projection requirements).
- Contact Updates: Council members requested updated contact details for assigned groups (to be pulled from CARE grant applications via finance).
- Organization Highlights:
- Cantorum Choir: Hosting the "Orem Sings" event on October 6 at Mountain View High School (in collaboration with local junior high/high school choirs), followed by their Christmas concert on December 8 at 7:00 PM at the Orem Library.
- World FolkFest: Reported a successful summer event with strong turnout and vibrant cultural participation.
- Colonial Heritage Foundation: Expanded educational offerings by ~35% (supported by America 250 funding).
- Zions Indie Film Fest (formerly LDS Film Festival): Continues as a major local event, held annually during the last weekend of February.

SCERA Summer Report / Fall & Winter Preview

- Summer Season Recap: Strong attendance driven by mainstage shows (*Frozen*, *Matilda*, *Guys and Dolls*), outdoor concerts (Lauren Alaina, Rachel Platten, Diamond Rio), and screen movies.
- Upcoming Indoor Season Highlights:
- Opening with *Noises Off*.
- Theater for Young Audiences (TYA) productions: *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* and *Finding Nemo* (bussing in 10,000–12,000 students per show with cast Q&A sessions).
- Holiday & Special Events: *A Christmas Story* (narrated by Ed Eyestone), *Cool Yule Jazz Show*, and the Christmas Makers Market (partnering with Orem on Dec 11–12).
- Over 20,000 residents participated in SCERA educational classes/camps over the past year.

Arts District Walk Through Report

- Site Walkthrough: Subcommittee members recently completed a walking tour around the SCERA park/neighborhood to visualize potential sites for public art, statues, and walkable connections.
- Next Steps: Connecting with Gary McGinn to review existing master plan maps and coordinate visioning.
- Planning to invite project leaders to future Wednesday subcommittee meetings (4:00 PM) to align artistic enhancements with broader city planning.

