

Orem Arts Council Meeting
October 20, 2026
11:30am
Orem City Council Conference Room
56 N State Street Orem UT 84057

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Approve Minutes from September 15th Meeting
2. Timpanogos Symphony Orchestra Presentation
3. Artist in Residence Program

Attendees : Quinn Mecham, Mike Ramsey, Adam Robertson, Brandon Jeppson, Lara Beene ,
Gina Cavallo, Scott Swain, Shelby Killpack (virtual)

Absent: Stephanie Goodman

Timpanogos Symphony Orchestra Presentations

Presenters John Pugh and Sarah McCann

Background & Venue:

- Founded in 2011 (in its 16th season); volunteer classical orchestra.
- Moving performances to Orem High School's 1,400-seat auditorium.

Concerts & Programming:

- Performs 5 concerts per year (3 Masterworks series featuring classical works by Brahms, Tchaikovsky, etc., plus Halloween and Christmas themed concerts).
- Frequently collaborates with guest artists (e.g., Jenny Oaks Baker, Aubrey Oliverson).

Community & Educational Outreach:

- **Aspiring Musicians Concert:** Auditions for youth and college-age soloists to perform with the symphony.
- **Side-by-Side Concerts:** Mentoring opportunities for youth orchestras to perform alongside adults.
- **School Visits:** Performs *What Instruments Roam the Earth* in elementary schools, introducing student bodies to orchestral instruments.
- **Instrument Petting Zoo:** Partnered with Summerhays Music to let children try instruments hands-on.
- **Sensory/Autism-Friendly Concert:** Shorter, relaxed Halloween concert designed for individuals with sensory sensitivities.
- **Community Events:** Participated in Orem City's Trunk-or-Treat promoting their *Bluey*-themed classical concert.

Grants & District Facilities:

- Expressed gratitude for receiving Orem CARE grants.
- Noted potential upcoming changes in school district facility pricing/insurance backing and will follow up with the city if support is needed.

Commission Business and Introductions

Meeting Minutes

- Gina invited the motion to approve the previous meeting minutes.
- Mike motioned Jeremy seconded
- VOTES: YES (6) NO (0) ABSENT (1)

New Member Welcome:

- Brandon Jepson introduced as the newest member of the Arts Commission (replacing a outgoing member; previously served on the Arts Master Plan subcommittee).

Commission Member Introductions:

- Members and city staff shared their backgrounds spanning HR, theater, visual arts, design, music, and community outreach.

Attendance & Quorum Protocol:

- Members are reminded to notify staff in advance if attending via Zoom or absent.
- Staff will also begin sending out reminder emails to the committee on the Friday before our upcoming meetings to better allow members to plan accordingly.

Orem Artist in Residence Program

Overview & Funding:

- Budgeted for both an **Artist in Residence** and a **Writer in Residence** grant (\$10,000 stipend + up to \$3,000 for travel/lodging/expenses).

Application Details:

- Application period set for **October 20 – November 20**.
- Open to applicants nationwide (18+), provided they meet work eligibility requirements.
- Selected recipients will participate in a 6-week residency between February and June 2027.

Expectations & Deliverables:

- Complete a substantive artistic project presented to the public.
- Serve as a community ambassador, conduct workshops/mentorship, and participate in library/city events.
- Document creative process for city storytelling/media.
- We anticipate informing the artists in January and begin the process of scheduling the dates of their residencies.

Feedback & Refinements:

- Broaden wording to encompass all art forms (visual, performance, materials).
- Clarify that physical living/studio space is not directly provided (stipend covers expenses).
- Utilize social media, university networks, and arts commissions for broad outreach.

Next Meeting : November 17th : possibly a different conference room due to booking, but staff will give that update at a later time.

Gina invited the motion to adjourn

Adam motioned. La seconded

VOTES YES (6) NO (0) ABSENT (1)