

# City of Northfield

*City Hall  
801 Washington Street  
Northfield, MN 55057  
[northfieldmn.gov](http://northfieldmn.gov)*



## Meeting Minutes - Draft

**Monday, May 12, 2025**

**6:00 PM**

**Council Chambers**

## **Arts & Culture Commission**

## CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

*The meeting was called to order by Chair Granquist at 6:01 pm.*

**Present:** 8 - Chair Paula Granquist, Vice Chair Martha Anderson, Commissioner Leah Rich, Commissioner Kate Woodstrup, Commissioner Michael Johnson, Commissioner Anna Lisa Rustad, Commissioner Amanda Wigley and Commissioner Emerson Carlson

**ALSO PRESENT:** Natalie Draper (Library Director and Staff Liaison), Becky Novotny (Clerical Liaison), Kyhla Theiling (Youth Representative), and Kaia Markofski (Youth Representative).

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**A motion was made by Commissioner Woodstrup, seconded by Vice Chair Anderson, to approve the agenda for the May 12, 2025 Arts & Culture Commission meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 8 - Chair Granquist, Vice Chair Anderson, Commissioner Rich, Commissioner Woodstrup, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Rustad, Commissioner Wigley and Commissioner Carlson

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**A motion was made by Commissioner Rich, seconded by Commissioner Woodstrup, to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2025 meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 8 - Chair Granquist, Vice Chair Anderson, Commissioner Rich, Commissioner Woodstrup, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Rustad, Commissioner Wigley and Commissioner Carlson

1. Approval of March 10, 2025 Arts & Culture Commission Minutes

**Attachments:** [ACC Minutes March 10, 2025 DRAFT](#)

## PRESENTATIONS

*There were no presentations.*

## PUBLIC COMMENT

*There was no public comment.*

## REGULAR AGENDA

2. Discussion of Potential Changes to Percent for the Arts Ordinance.

**Attachments:** [2020 annual report](#)  
[2021 annual report](#)  
[2022 annual report](#)  
[2023 annual report](#)  
[2024 annual report](#)  
[Northfield-Cultural-Plan-PDF](#)  
[Percent for the arts discussion presentation](#)

*Granquist introduced the agenda item to discuss potential changes to the percent for the arts ordinance. City Council will be discussing these potential changes and would like input from the ACC before the Council has their discussion.*  
*Draper said right now there is about \$263,000 in the fund. There is an item on the agenda to approve funds for the downtown place making for two murals. They have already approved funds to be used for Bridge Square. There will be more money coming in from the ice arena project. Draper reviewed the anticipated funds to be contributed to the arts fund over the next 5 years. The fund only gets the money if these projects are completed. A discussion was had by the commission on the projects that the ACC has done in the past and talking points for the council work session. The overall consensus is that the ACC wants to continue with the percent for the arts and work with the council to meet their objectives.*

**3. Approve Percent for the Arts Funds for 2025 Downtown Murals.**

*Granquist introduced the agenda item to approve the percent for the arts funds for the 2025 Downtown Murals. One mural will be on the Loon Liquor building and one will be on the pedestrian bridge underpass on the river walk, behind the Contented Cow.*  
*Draper said the ACC previously approved matching the anticipated grant funds the Friends of Downtown Northfield (FODN) were to receive from the State Arts Board grant for this project. The FODN did not receive their grant, so for this project to move forward the ACC would have to fund the entire projected cost of the project at \$55,000.*

**A motion was made by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Vice Chair Anderson, to approve the percent for the arts funds for the 2025 downtown murals. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 8 - Chair Granquist, Vice Chair Anderson, Commissioner Rich, Commissioner Woodstrup, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Rustad, Commissioner Wigley and Commissioner Carlson

**4. Appoint a Public Art Review Committee for 2025 Downtown Murals.**

**Attachments:** [PARC details](#)

*A Public Art Review Committee (PARC) for the 2025 Downtown Murals was appointed consisting of ACC members Commissioner Woodstrup and Commissioner Wigley. Commissioner Rustad will be the alternate for the PARC, if needed.*

**A motion was made by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Rustad, to approve the Public Art Review Committee for the 2025 Downtown Murals. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 8 - Chair Granquist, Vice Chair Anderson, Commissioner Rich, Commissioner Woodstrup, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Rustad, Commissioner Wigley and Commissioner Carlson

## 5. Living Treasure Award Subcommittee Update.

*Granquist recapped the Living Treasure Award event honoring Bob Gregory-Bjorklund. Pauline Jennings was thanked for organizing the production. The event was filmed in the hopes it will be aired on Northfield Public Broadcasting in the future. The posters created by Carleton's Academic Civic Engagement (ACE) students are now displayed in City Hall. Applications for next years Living Treasure Award recipient are now being accepted. The ACC will review the nominations in August.*

## 6. Staff Update.

**Attachments:** [Minnesota arts groups reel from abrupt NEA cuts to grants](#)  
[MAY Poet Laureate newsletter](#)

## STAFF UPDATES

*Draper said conservation work will be done on the Bridge Square fountain. The work should begin soon in hopes of being completed by mid-summer. Draper reported that the National Endowment for the Arts have cancelled their remaining grants and they have been cut from the proposed budget for the next fiscal year. It has not been communicated whether the GAP grant application we have applied for will be funded.*

## BOARD MEMBER AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS

*Woodstrup reported from the SELCO Legacy committee. Libraries from Austin, Cannon Falls, LaCrescent, Pine Island and Wabasha submitted grant proposals. They had an estimated \$35,000 to spend with each library able to request up to \$7,000 each. All of the grants were approved. The Northfield Public Schools budget reductions did impact all levels of visual arts education. They are working through those changes and sorting out what it means for each department. The 5th graders from Bridgewater, Mrs. Holden's class, had an art show at FiftyNorth. The NAG will have the high school honor show going up with students from Katherine Norie's class. Johnson added that the honor show will open tomorrow with a reception on Friday. The 411 Water Street studios will be open on Saturdays for the Riverwalk Market Fair. Granquist congratulated Draper, along with Angelica Linder, for being picked as one of the Movers and Shakers in libraries by Library Journal.*

## ADJOURNMENT

**A motion was made by Commissioner Rustad, seconded by Commissioner Woodstrup to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 pm. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 8 - Chair Granquist, Vice Chair Anderson, Commissioner Rich, Commissioner Woodstrup, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Rustad, Commissioner Wigley and Commissioner Carlson