

City of Northfield

*City Hall
801 Washington Street
Northfield, MN 55057
northfieldmn.gov*



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Monday, September 8, 2025

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

Arts & Culture Commission

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Anderson at 6:01 pm.

Present: 7 - Vice Chair Martha Anderson, Commissioner Leah Rich, Commissioner Kate Woodstrup, Commissioner Michael Johnson, Commissioner Anna Lisa Rustad, Commissioner Amanda Wigley and Commissioner Emerson Carlson

Absent: 3 - Chair Paula Granquist, Commissioner Quinn Weitz and Commissioner Sam Froehle

ALSO PRESENT: Natalie Draper (Library Director and Staff Liaison) and Becky Novotny (Clerical Liaison)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Woodstrup, seconded by Commissioner Rustad, to approve the agenda for the September 8, 2025 Arts & Culture Commission meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - 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 Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Woodstrup, to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2025 Arts & Culture Commission meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Vice Chair Anderson, Commissioner Rich, Commissioner Woodstrup, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Rustad, Commissioner Wigley and Commissioner Carlson

1. Approval of the July 14, 2025 Arts & Culture Commission Draft Minutes

Attachments: [ACC Minutes July 14, 2025 DRAFT](#)

PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

REGULAR AGENDA

2. Update on Art in Public Places Program.

Draper gave an update on the two murals that are being completed downtown. The River Walk mural by Natasha Mae Platt was completed just before the fine arts fair that took place during the Defeat of Jesse James Days. The mural on the Loon Liquor building just started today. This was the first time working with the Arts Guild on public art project management. Johnson shared that it has been a great opportunity for the Guild to

support the ACC with these projects. The call for artists for the ice arena project is live and will be due on Sept. 28. The Public Art Review Committee (PARC) will meet on Oct. 13 at the Water Street Studios to review the applications. Draper asked for a youth member to serve on the PARC. Carlson said she could serve pending no other commitments.

3. STAFF UPDATES

Attachments: [CONSERVATOR REPORT](#)
[SEPTEMBER POET LAUREATE](#)

Draper gave an update on the fountain work at Bridge Square. Cleaning will be done annually in the hopes of preventing major restoration work the future. Draper met with Aramis Wells regarding his work that will be installed in City Hall later this year. It will be a combination of this photographs and prints from the Fire Department's collection that he has restored. Draper and Woodstrup met with John Sterner about incorporating his artwork in the library grounds remodel. Draper spoke of the social story by artist Rocky Casillas Aguirre that was created in memory of Tonya Yarmakov. Draper said that through the City's budget process they have considered eliminating several commissions and the Arts and Culture Commission is one of them. When looking to trim costs the ACC is something that has been supported with library staffing and resources that is considered external and not directly related to library services. Draper asked for a discussion from the commission. Discussion included concerns as to who would assume the work the ACC does regarding local art projects, the vision of public art for Northfield, who will decide where to spend the percent for the arts money, and the excess workload on the NAG in managing art projects. Draper said there will still be a need for the Public Art Review Committee process. There will be an opportunity for volunteers to give input on art projects that are being done by the City.

BOARD MEMBER AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Woodstrup joined Draper in meeting with artist John Sterner. She is happy that his work can continue at the library in the new exterior plan. New art from students will start going up in City Hall now that school is back in session. She worked with Kathy Ness to power wash the literary steps at the library this summer. Their artwork has been on the steps for 4 years now.

Johnson said there were 65 artists at the fine arts craft show during DJJD. They opened the 411 Water Street studios during the festival for people to tour. The Guild will have a reception for Jim Bohnhoff's show that features his hand-painted signs that are displayed throughout downtown Northfield.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Rustad, seconded by Commissioner Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 6:37 pm. The motion carried by the following vote:

Present: 7 - Vice Chair Martha Anderson, Commissioner Leah Rich, Commissioner Kate Woodstrup, Commissioner Michael Johnson, Commissioner Anna Lisa Rustad, Commissioner Amanda Wigley and Commissioner Emerson Carlson
Absent: 3 - Chair Paula Granquist, Commissioner Quinn Weitz and Commissioner Sam Froehle