

**ARTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
January 27, 2026
City Hall, Conference Room #6**

Attendees: Chairman Mary Lee Ryba, Vice Chair Abby Light, Commissioner Charlotte Doutriaux, Commissioner Chuck Ethridge, Commissioner Kate Walker, Commissioner Sally Shortridge, Commissioner Lindsey Sichelstiel, Commissioner Tracey Benson, Commissioner Cynthia Newkirk, Commissioner Duncan Menzies, Commissioner Alysyn Amaya, Commissioner Denise Yost, City Administrator Troy Tymesen, and Councilmember Amy Evans.

Guests: Max Mendez and Jacob Garringer

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Ryba called the meeting to order.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION: There was none.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Benson, seconded by Commissioner Ethridge, to approve the November 25, 2025 meeting minutes. **Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT: Ms. Mateski provided a brief overview of the November and December 2025 financial reports. She noted that for the month of November 2025, under Fund 076 (Public Art Fund – ignite) continue to earn interest income and no expenditures were noted. Fund 074 (Public Art Fund – 1%) earned interest income while \$1,428.66 were proceeds from the CDA Arts Awards silent auction, and \$1,600 donations for the Navy Nurse statue of Dale Young. Expenditure under this account includes the youth art scholarship in partnership with Emerge CDA, expenses for the CDA Arts Awards event, Art Spotlight grant for Music Conservatory and CDA Summer Theater, and plaques for the 2025-2026 Art Currents. Fund 077 (Maintenance) earns interest income with no expenses recorded for the month. For the month of December 2025, Fund 076 earns interest income with no expenses. Fund 074 expenditures include Emerge youth art scholarship in partnership with Emerge CDA, additional expense for the CDA Arts Awards event, and cost of labor for Streets Department crew in the installation and pick-up of Art Currents sculptures. Expenditures under Fund 077 (Maintenance) are the electricity for the feather artwork at NW Boulevard and postage of thank you letters for the CDA Arts Awards performers.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Light, seconded by Commissioner Menzies, to approve the November and December 2025 Financial Report. **Motion carried.**

COMMISSIONER/ STAFF COMMENTS: Chair Ryba welcomed new Arts Commissioner Denise Yost. Ms. Yost shared a brief background, noting that she grew up in the Spokane area and completed both her undergraduate and master’s degrees at WSU. She earned her PhD from the University of Maryland. She later taught at Washington University and the University of Maryland for several years, and most recently served as Assistant Director for a NASA program. A long-

time lover of the arts, she is currently an MFA student at the Institute of Arts in Chicago.

RECOMMENDATION OF REAPPOINTMENTS TO THE ARTS COMMISSION: Chair Ryba stated that the terms of Vice Chair Light and Commissioners Sichelstiel and Shortridge had expired.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Newkirk, to recommend the reappointment of Vice Chair Light, Commissioner Shortridge and Commissioner Sichelstiel. **Motion carried.**

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES:

Marketing & Technology: Chair Ryba mentioned that Commissioner Sichelstiel has asked to resign as chair of the Social Media Subcommittee so for the moment this position is open.

Poet Laureate: Mr. Garringer shared that Poet Laureate Jennifer Passaro will read a poem at the Governor's Address on February 4.

PUBLIC ART PROGRAM GUIDELINES PRESENTATION: Chair Ryba noted that the meeting packet includes the City of Coeur d'Alene Public Art Program Guidelines. She also provided copies of the Arts Commission's 2025 Annual Report to all members and mentioned that the Commissioner Orientation and Student Representative handouts are included in the packet as well.

Chair Ryba introduced Max Mendez, who led a design sprint focused on ways the Commission can encourage public interest and participation in the arts. Mr. Mendez explained that a design sprint is a more structured and targeted form of brainstorming. He asked the Commissioners to write down approximately five ideas to promote public engagement in the arts and post them on the board, after which the Commissioners would vote on the submissions. The following ideas received the most votes:

- Annual CDA Art Day
- More art at public buildings
- Art parties, painting, and sculpture
- Art float on the 4th of July parade
- Dress up as your favorite art piece
- Mural festival (Annual)
- City Civic Arts Center
- Grants specifically for collaborative initiatives
- Award most unique angle for a photo of public art
- Sponsor free concerts and shows
- Ask community for ideas they have
- Partner with the Arts and Cultural Alliance

Mr. Mendez explained an action-planning approach that uses an impact–effort scale, which subcommittees can reference to help prioritize their work while also incorporating feedback from

the group. He then asked the Commissioners to list ideas for additional support for arts education and engagement. The following ideas received the most votes:

- Partner with NIC on arts and performing arts program
- Send a call to youth artists for the city's collection
- Sponsor artists to rotate through schools and teach/ travelling exhibits by local artists in schools
- Pair students with project collab, for example, murals
- Arts Commission seat for NIC representative
- Arts Education city administer role to coordinate arts programming in schools
- Build program with educators that can be replicated and shared
- Hold specific free art education classes in a series with different artists teaching
- Host socials, art talks, art cocktails, artists meet people
- Communicate with Arts Teachers to get their input
- Sponsor short trips to art destinations/ public art field trips

Mr. Mendez noted that the Commissioners generated great ideas and emphasized the importance of prioritizing them and creating alignment within the Commission. He recommended using the design sprint results and suggested that subcommittees repeat the exercise in smaller groups to refine their strategic plans. Chair Ryba thanked Mr. Mendez for facilitating the process and commented that the Commissioners came up with excellent ideas.

ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Sichelstiel, seconded by Commissioner Ethridge to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried.**

The meeting ended at 5:15 p.m.

The next Arts Commission meeting will be on February 24, 2026.

Respectfully submitted by,

Jo Anne Mateski
Executive Assistant