



City of Ann Arbor

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Ann Arbor Public Art Commission

301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
<http://a2gov.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

Wednesday, October 1, 2025

7:00 PM

Electronic Meeting

This meeting will air live on CTN Channel 16, ATT Channel 99, and online at a2gov.org/watchCTN. To speak at public comment, call 888-788-0099 or 877-853-5247 (Toll Free), enter Meeting ID: 932 8112 0347 and Passcode: 199831

I.) CALL TO ORDER (Mary Thiefels) (1 Minute)

Chair Thiefels called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II.) ROLL CALL (Christopher Cespedes) (2 Minutes)

Present city staff, speakers, and/or guests: Christopher Cespedes, Paul Matthews

New Commissioner Welcome: Jenna Carter (landscape architect, Site Design Group) and John Jourden (architect; returning Ann Arbor native) introduced themselves and expressed interest in advancing public-space art.

Present: 9 - Allison Buck, Peggy Wier-Leonard, Marianetta Porter, Jamall Bufford, Cynthia Harrison, Mary Thiefels, John Kotarski, Jenna Carter, and John Jourden

Absent: 1 - Sarah Fuller

III.) CONSENT AGENDA (Mary Thiefels)(2 Minutes)

III.A.) Approval of Agenda

III.B.) Approval of Minutes

25-1703 Ann Arbor Public Art Commission Meeting Minutes of September 2025

Attachments: AAPAC_Mtg_Minutes_SEP_2025.pdf

A motion was made by Commissioner Wier-Leonard, seconded by Commissioner Kotarski, that the Agenda and Minutes be approved by the Commission as presented. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

IV.) PUBLIC COMMENT - 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER (Christopher Cespedes)

No public comments.

V.) BUSINESS

V.A.) AAPAC Recommendation: Urging City Council to Oppose State Arts and Culture Funding Cuts (Mary Thiefels) (30 minutes)

25-1704 AAPAC Recommendation - Opposition to State Arts and Culture Funding Cuts

Attachments: AAPAC Recommendation - Opposition to State Arts and Culture Funding Cuts.pdf

Discussion Highlights:

- Follow-up to September discussion on statewide arts funding cuts;*
- Commission reviewed a statement (compiled by Kotarski with commission input) and a one-page letter drafted by Chair Thiefels (with facts from Creative Washtenaw).*
- Council Member Harrison will explore adding the item to Council's agenda; also requested an emailed copy for Council.*

A motion was made by Commissioner Kotarski, seconded by Commissioner Neal, that the Ann Arbor Public Art Commission recommend transmittal of the advocacy statement and companion letter on state arts funding to the Ann Arbor City Council as a communication item. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried unanimously.

VI.) INFORMATION OR DISCUSSION

VI.A.) Winter Maintenance and Public Art Installations (Paul Matthews, Public Works Manager) (30 minutes)

Discussion Highlights:

- Paul Matthews (Public Works) reported staff will install reflective markers around Street Roundabout mural to guide plows and protect artwork.
- Site will be included in snowplow operator training; salt exposure will be minimized where possible.
- Mural currently has no topcoat; Chair Thiefels will review protective options.
- Street sweepers will be advised to avoid the mural surface.
- Kotarski requested status on the Dreisaitl sculpture pumps/lights; Cespedes will confirm functionality.
- Matthews noted the third Manhole Art design is now deployed citywide; GIS mapping to be updated. Staff will assess feasibility of a future art-lid competition.

VII.) COMMUNICATIONS

VII.A.) Staff Report and Updates (Christopher Cespedes) (10 Minutes)

Discussion Highlights:

- Website & Records: AAPAC webpage updated; agendas and minutes backfilled on Legistar; publicartcommissions@a2gov.org established for public correspondence (privacy redactions applied in packets).
- Golden Paintbrush Awards: 15 nominations received (deadline closed). Staff to confirm review process (prior model used an external jury panel) and post past winners/photos on the site.
- Virtual Public Art Tour: Update underway with IT; commissioners invited to flag missing works.
- Per City Clerk guidance: Quorum = 5. Working groups with fewer than 5 members may meet privately; 5 or more require 48-hour public notice and public access (e.g., Zoom or public venue). Staff can assist with posting notices. Commission may consider bylaws language to clarify "subcommittee" vs "working group."

VII.B.) Commission Member Communications (Mary Thiefels) (10 minutes)

Discussion Highlights:

- *Community Events: Announcements included A2 Arttoberfest, Guild fundraiser (Nov. 1, Ypsi Freight House), Embracing Our Differences banners at Gallup Park (reinstalled), and local gallery openings (Gutman youth exhibition; new Cluster gallery on N. Main)*
- *Commissioners noted opportunities to attend together and increase visibility.*

VII.C.) Reports from Working Groups (Mary Thiefels) (15 minutes)

Reports & Updates (brief):

- *Capital Improvement Projects (CIP): Next review targeted for January 2026; recent projects (e.g., AAHC sites, Fire Station art) reflect improved follow-through.*
- *Communications & Outreach: New Instagram launched; goal to engage youth artists and broaden reach; will share collection highlights periodically.*
- *Fundraising / Mini-Grant Concept: Using Community Foundation endowment earnings (~\$5K/yr) to seed a pilot mini-grant program pending legal review of process/eligibility.*
- *Special Projects: Golden Paintbrush to reconvene to define jury, criteria, and timeline; invitations open for new members to join.*

VIII. Next Agenda Items (Mary Thiefels) (3 minutes)

No specific future agenda items were suggested

IX. Adjournment (Mary Thiefels) – 2 minutes

Chair Thiefels brought the meeting to adjournment at 7:58 p.m.

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