

City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron St.

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

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Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 6, 2025

7:00 PM

This meeting will be broadcast live on CTN Cable Channel 16, ATT Channel 99, and online at a2gov.org/watchCTN. To speak at public comment call: 888 788 0099 (Toll Free) or 877 853 5247 (Toll Free) Enter Meeting ID: 981 8900 7959

Ann Arbor Public Art Commission

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Thiefels called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present city staff, speakers, and/or guests: Christopher Cespedes, Erin Donnelly

Present: 6 - Allison Buck, Peggy Wier-Leonard, Jamall Bufford, Mary Thiefels, Sarah Fuller, and John Kotarski

Absent: 2 - Marianetta Porter, and Cynthia Harrison

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Vice Chair Fuller, seconded by Commissioner Bufford, that the Minutes be Approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council and should be returned by 7/7/2025. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

[25-1433](#) Ann Arbor Public Art Commission Meeting Minutes_06-04-25

Attachments: Ann Arbor Public Art Commission Meeting Minutes_06-04-2025.pdf

A motion was made by Commissioner Kotarski seconded by Vice Chair Fuller, that the Minutes be Approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council by 9/15/2025. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

OLD BUSINESS**Follow up discussion on Comprehensive Land Use Plan***Discussion Highlights:*

- CIP process and possible ordinance language were noted as mechanisms.
- City has not issued a direct request, but is open to recommendations.
- Commissioners emphasized placemaking as a priority theme.
- Interest in reviving a role similar to the former Design Review Board to advise Planning staff.
- Reminder of prior AAPAC guidance on department-level public art and public involvement.
- Staff noted draft procedures are in development; commission requested early review.

NEW BUSINESS**Update on Commission roster***Discussion Highlights:*

- Chair Thiefels reported on recruitment process: 7 applications received, 3 finalists identified. Two (Jenna Carter and John Jordan) expressed strong interest and await Mayor/Council nomination.
- Discussion clarified appointment process: nominations by Mayor → Council approval → Clerk's office onboarding paperwork.
- Two new commissioners likely to begin service in September or October 2025.
- Clarification: Commission maximum membership is 9 per bylaws.

REPORT FROM COMMITTEES*Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Work Group:*

- No new updates until 2026 CIP list is developed; 2025 recommendations already approved.

Communications & Outreach Work Group:

- Commissioner Jamal reported on Affordable Housing RFQ for 4th & Catherine project (Ann Arbor Housing Commission/Avalon); will share link and post to Instagram.

Fundraising Work Group / Mini-Grant Proposal:

- \$22K available, increasing by ~\$5K yearly.
- Pilot program proposed for 2026, first of its kind in Ann Arbor.
- Plan to form a mini-grant committee; new commissioners may participate.
- Clarification needed on using funds for promotion; legal/finance review required.
- Outreach ideas included CAFÉ, Penny Stamps, AAPS, MLive, Observer, and social media.
- Commission will refine framework with staff and legal input; rollout targeted for 2026.

Special Projects Work Group:

- Golden Paintbrush Awards: Deadline extended to Oct. 1, 2025. Commissioners asked to boost outreach; staff to coordinate with Communications for shareable posts.
- "I Voted" Stickers: Clerk's Office considering City flag design for next cycle and exploring inclusion of AAPAC projects (e.g., Golden Paintbrush winners).
- Manhole Covers: Follow-up requested on third design status and new competition potential; ideas included mapping installed covers and partnering with Art Center for contest management.

REPORT FROM STAFF*Discussion Highlights:*

- Erin Donnelly announced transition of liaison role to Chris Cespedes.
- Donnelly reported City Council approved mural-at-bridge resolution on July 21, 2025.
- Cespedes and Thiefels met with Watco regarding mural logistics; RailPros approved site application (initial \$2,600 fee waived). Design expected for Commission review in September.

ADJOURN

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

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**City Clerk's Office
301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104**

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