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 7, 2026 **7:00 PM** **Electronic**

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 electronic meeting of the Ann Arbor Public Art Commission to order at approximately 7:06 p.m.

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

Present city staff, speakers, and/or guests:
• Christopher Cespedes, Staff Liaison

Present: 5 - Peggy Wier-Leonard, Marianetta Porter, Jamall Bufford, Mary Thiefels, and John Kotarski

Absent: 5 - Allison Neal, Cynthia Harrison, Sarah Fuller, Jenna Carter, and John Jourden

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

III.A.) Approval of Agenda

III.B.) Approval of Minutes

26-1703 SEP_2026-A2 Public Art Commission Minutes

Attachments: SEP_2026-A2 Public Art Commission Minutes.pdf

A motion was made by Commissioner Kotarski, seconded by Commissioner Porter, to approve the consent agenda as presented, including the October 7 agenda and September 2 meeting minutes. In a unanimous voice vote, the Chair announced that the consent agenda was approved.

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

26-1706 Oct 2026 - Email Correspondence

Attachments: A Conversation About Artists, Art & the Way Forward.pdf, Aaron Hall, Pubic Art Commission City of Ann Arbor.pdf, Darlington Neighborhood Racial Covenant Project.pdf, Oct 2026 - Email Correspondence

Discussion Highlights:
• Commissioners reviewed correspondence regarding artist support, volunteer interest, a neighborhood public art proposal, and the "Wild Table of Love."
• Staff clarified that the neighborhood proposal was referred to Parks staff and that potential artwork purchases must follow City procurement procedures.
• Commissioners discussed future public art locations and opportunities for donor and community partnerships.
• No formal action was taken.

Live Public Comment:
• University of Michigan social work student, stated that she was observing for a class and thanked the Commission.

Received and Filed

V.) BUSINESS

V.A.) City of Ann Arbor Policy Agenda FY2026 Recommendations (Christopher Cespedes) (20 Minutes)

26-1707 AAPAC FY2026 Policy Agenda Discussion

Attachments: AAPAC FY2026 Policy Agenda Discussion.pdf

Discussion Highlights:
• Staff presented potential public art policy recommendations for City Council consideration.
• Commissioners identified two priorities: a Citywide Public Art Plan and expanded Public Art Partnerships, addressing public art planning, funding, and community partnerships.
• Staff successfully consolidate and submit the recommendations by the October 12, 2026 deadline.

Commissioner Kotarski moved to recommend a Citywide Public Art Plan and expanded Public Art Partnerships to the City Council Policy Agenda Committee. Seconded by Commissioner Leonard. In a unanimous voice vote, the motion passes.

VI.) INFORMATION OR DISCUSSION

VI.A.) Updated Ann Arbor Public Art Commission Annual Report (Mary Thiefels) (15 Minutes)

26-1705 2025 Ann Arbor Public Art Commission Annual Report

Attachments: 2025 Ann Arbor Public Art Commission Annual Report (1).pdf

Discussion Highlights:
• Chair Thiefels provided an update on the 2025 Annual Report, which was finalized with additional project descriptions and photographs.
•Commissioners expressed appreciation for the report, highlighting the Commission's accomplishments and the accessibility of recent public art projects.
• The Commission had previously authorized revisions to the report; no additional action was required.

Approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council due back on 11/5/2026

VI.B.) Nixon Road Roundabouts Public Art Selection Committee (Christopher Cespedes) (15 Minutes)

26-1704

Attachments: Nixon Rd Roundabouts - Public Art.pdf

Discussion Highlights:
• Staff confirmed that public art will proceed at the remaining Nixon Road roundabouts despite changes to the project's third phase.
• The Ann Arbor Art Center requested one or two AAPAC representatives for the artist selection committee.
• Commissioner Leonard volunteered, pending staff outreach to Commissioners Carter and Jourden.
• Commissioner Bufford agreed to share the call for artists on AAPAC's Instagram.

Received and Filed

VII.) COMMUNICATIONS

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

Discussion Highlights:
• Staff advised that Golden Paintbrush Awards recognition on the November City Council agenda was unlikely without sponsorship from a Councilmember or the Mayor.
• Chair Thiefels agreed to contact Councilmember Harrison regarding sponsorship and the possibility of a November presentation.
• Staff reported that MDOT approved the North Main mural permit, with installation anticipated in spring 2027.

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

Discussion Highlights:
• Commissioner Bufford announced the October 11 opening of Porter's Place, a new community arts and gathering space located within Dunbar Tower.
• Chair Thiefels shared information about the upcoming Artober event in downtown Ann Arbor on October 10.

VII.C.) Reports from Working Groups (Mary Thiefels) (30 minutes)

No additional working group updates were provided.

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

No additional agenda items were identified.

IX. Adjournment (Mary Thiefels) – 2 minutes

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:24 p.m.