



Draft Meeting Minutes: Public Art Advisory Committee

Date: Tuesday, September 9, 2026

Minutes prepared by: Teresa Mitchell

Location: Wentworth Library – 199 Wentworth Ave. E. - Large Conference Room #150

Attendance

- Cheryl Caponi
- Bob Erickson
- JuliAnne Jonker
- Cindy Gehrig
- Lil Leatham, Dakota County Planning
- Beth Landahl, Dakota County Parks
- Teresa Mitchell, Dakota County Public Services & Revenue Division
- Heather Stephenson, Dakota County Library

Agenda

- Approval of Agenda / Chair / Approval or Modification
- Approval of Minutes / Chair / Approval or Modification
- Per Diem Requests / All / Member Signature
- Presentations
 - Blueprint Public Art Plan Questions/Comments – Plan for advancing draft: Lil Leatham
- Project Updates
 - Written Report – Unity Trail: Beth Landahl
 - 2026 Art Contest – Traveling Exhibit: Heather Stephenson
- Unfinished Business
 - Review opportunities, consider recommendations for 2026 PAAC budget
 - Burnhaven Library Remodel Potential for Exterior Art: Heather Stephenson
 - Lake Byllesby building mural: Lil Leatham or Parks staff
 - Lake Marion Grade Separated Project: Beth Landahl
 - Grant writing for funding priorities: Lil Leatham
- New Business
- Announcements

Next Meeting

Date: October 13, 2026,

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: TBD

Agenda items: Budget/resources update, review draft of updated bylaws, 2027 workplan formation

Meeting Notes

Call to Order & Chair Selection

- Meeting called to order; the committee selected a member to preside since the Vice Chair (Mike) was absent. Bob Erickson made a motion that JuliAnne preside over the meeting.

Introductions

- No formal introductions needed; all attendees familiar with one another.

Agenda Approval

- Agenda was reviewed and approved with a motion by Cheryl and second by Cindy. All members in favor.

Approval of Past Minutes

- Only April minutes required approval due to lack of quorum in subsequent months.
- Motion by Bob and second by Cheryl received; April minutes approved.

Public Art Blueprint Update

- Draft plan distributed; comments welcome through November.
- Due to county budget constraints, public release postponed until at least January.
- Timeline outlined: draft refinements by year-end, public review early next year, final plan anticipated by March–April.
- Committee members expressed strong positive feedback on the plan's visuals, opportunity profiles, thoroughness, and balance with budget realities.
- Staffing and organizational considerations noted; plan will inform staffing discussions with the Office of Performance & Analysis.

Bylaws Revision

- Current bylaws outdated and tied to an older, much narrower program.
- Proposed to revise bylaws this fall, aligned with the new Public Art Blueprint.
- Staff will prepare a draft for review at the October meeting.
- Committee members generally supportive; editing feedback expected.

Committee Membership Recruitment

- Need for future membership recruitment discussed.
- Recruitment typically handled broadly through county communications, social media, newsletters.
- Interest in conducting a membership drive once the blueprint is adopted.

Unity Trail Project Update

- Partnership among Inver Grove Heights, Inver Hills Community College, Inver Glen Library, and Simley High School.
- Mosaic benches completed; four installed, three awaiting placement after Mississippi River Greenway node construction.
- Strong community engagement; poetry elements included.
- Staff noted project complexity and lessons learned for future efforts.

2026 Art Contest Update

- Exhibit traveling among library locations (Galaxy Library → Pleasant Hill → Heritage).
- Works displayed as photographs, not originals.
- Discussion about future contests: continuation depends heavily on staffing availability and the county's budget outcome.
- Committee interest in continuing the contest, but final decision will align with the broader 2027 work plan and resource availability.
- Notably, dedicated Public Art Committee budget proposed for elimination; future projects will rely on host departments for staff support.

Unfinished Business – Review Opportunities for remaining 2026 PAAC budget

- Budget may be carried into 2027 if allocated to a specific project in 2026. Projects were reviewed at last meeting and further details and discussion formed the committee's recommendation. Remaining PAAC budget is approximately \$25,000.
 - Burnhaven Library Remodel Potential for Exterior Art was discussed with a budget request of \$10,000. This project would be completed by early 2027. The Library has other external funding options to supplement any allocation. Bob proposed that he would reach out to the mayor, Commissioner Workman and rotary members for a possible partnership or funding support.
 - Lake Byllesby building mural was discussed along with the construction timeline. The mural could be completed in 2027. The Parks department would also have other possible external funding to supplement any PAAC funding allocation.
 - Lake Marion Grade Separated Project is farther out into 2028 and has the possibility of being a very large budget depending on scope. Bob pointed out that this could also be an opportunity for city partnerships and that he would help facilitate a discussion with the Lakeville Area Arts Association about potentially being a funding partner..
 - Grant writing for funding priorities. This opportunity would require the full PAAC budget and there is concern that there may not be staff time to support this work. This investment would take a long time to see results.
- The committee was supportive of the staff recommendation of funding \$10,000 to the Burnsville sculpture and \$15,000 for the Lake Byllesby shelter mural to achieve prompt results in 2027. Cindy made the motion and Chery was the second. All members were in favor.

New Business

Announcements

Bob shared details of the Lakeville art festival and the planned sculpture dedication in his name. Cheryl shared details of the Sound Garden events at Caponi Art Park.