

MOSCOW ARTS COMMISSION



Lauren McCleary
Chair

~Minutes~

Megan Cherry
Staff Liaison

<https://www.ci.moscow.id.us/452/Moscow-Arts-Commission>

**Tuesday
July 11, 2023**

5:00 PM

**Council Chambers
206 E. 3rd St.**

McCleary called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lauren McCleary, Chair: Cindy Barnhart, Katherine Clancy, Sonja Foard, Gail Martin, Erica Wagner, JacQueline Walker, David Wilson
MEMBERS ABSENT: Aaron Johnson, Sue Clark, Sandra Stoops, Donna Woolston
OTHERS: Julia Parker
STAFF: Megan Cherry, Taylor Riedner

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Reading of the Mission Statement

The mission of the Moscow Arts Commission is to enrich the community by celebrating and cultivating the expression of all forms of art and culture.

Fulfillment of this purpose shall be based upon the following values:

- *Recognition and promotion of artists' value by creating opportunities for work to be experienced.*
- *Facilitation and promotion of the social, educational, and economic value of all forms of art and culture in the community.*
- *Performance of leadership, collaboration, and outreach in the conversation between all forms of art and culture with partner agencies, city leaders, and the community.*

The Mission Statement was ready by Clancy.

2. Approval of Moscow Arts Commission June 13, 2023 Minutes

Wagner moved for approval of the minutes as written, seconded by Barnhart. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous (8). Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

3. Public Comment and Response to Previous Comments (limited to 10 minutes)

Members of the public may speak to the Commission regarding matters NOT on the agenda or currently pending before the Commission. Please state your name and address for the record and limit your remarks to three (3) minutes.

Kenton Bird, Moscow, Moscow Arts Commission Band member, thanked the commission for their work and spoke regarding the past present and future of the MAC Band which has been together for 42 years. Albert Miller is the current director since 2017 and was not able to attend this meeting but would like to meet again later this year. The band has not had much of a presence over the last few years since the onset of COVID. Kenton reached out to community and band members who were all in support of the proposal to expand the band's concert season and return to pre-covid schedules. Written comments have been received by the commission and an excerpt was read from a few them. Kenton has proposed 5 concerts for the MAC Band to perform and would like to start advertisements earlier to promote a larger audience and begin fundraiser discussions.

Aly Bean, Moscow, expressed gratitude to the commission for the opportunity to consider bringing back more of the MAC Band performances and how important it is to the community.

Gerri Sayler, Moscow, declared strong support for the opportunities of younger artists to become involved and the impact it can make on their lives. The idea of a band would bring more of the community members together.

Bill Voxman, Moscow, shared that years ago he intended to run for the City Council and his plan was to bring the Arts program more into the community. Emphasized the importance of the Band's impact on the members and noted the history of support from Council and community. He proposed bringing the City and University together to expand the program more.

McCleary proposed addressing this topic as a discussion item at the next regular commission meeting.

4. Third Street Gallery 2024 Schedule

The Third Street Gallery (TSG) subcommittee proposes a slate of exhibitions for the calendar year 2024. The TSG currently features five new exhibitions per year, including the annual Palouse Plein Air exhibition. Palouse Plein Air will return to the Prichard Art Gallery when it re-opens, at which point the TSG will present new exhibitions on a quarterly basis, contingent upon the City's budget process. MAC members and Arts staff collaborate to determine the structure and topic of each show as well as the artists represented. TSG aims to keep audiences engaged by avoiding the repetition of media or thematically-focused exhibitions that have been presented in recent years. Similarly, the Gallery schedule balances the presentation of invitational, juried, open call, and solo/two-person exhibitions. The TSG subcommittee presents the attached schedule after checking for alignment with these goals. All exhibition suggestions from the MAC and the public not pursued during 2024 will be kept in mind for possible development in future years.

Following a majority vote of MAC members to approve the slate of exhibitions, Arts staff will finalize all dates in the Gallery schedule, contact artists and jurors to confirm participation, and will seek MAC or TSG subcommittee advice on artistic direction as needed.

Needing no further discussion, Barnhart moved to accept as presented and Foard seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous (8). Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

5. Commission Survey Questions

The MAC is invited to consider the history of Arts-related questions asked in community surveys from 2002-2019. From 2002-2014 the Commission questions were integrated into the Citizen Survey. The 2016 survey consisted only of the Citizen Survey questions and starting in 2017 Commission questions were sent out separately in their own survey. The 2019 Commission survey was never approved by City Council or published as the onset of Covid prioritized other projects. Starting with the 2017 Commission survey, questions were organized by Commission whereas previous surveys were scrambled. The 2017 survey also included each Commission's mission statement.

In 2023, each Commission is invited to list five questions they would like to have the public respond to and prioritize them from most important to least important for inclusion on the survey. Questions from all Commissions will be prioritized and the survey will be sent out at the beginning of October. The intent is to select questions that can be repeated over the course of several survey periods in order to study consistent data points over time.

Discussion ensued regarding past questions and ideas were brainstormed including the following:

- In what ways have you heard about public art? Map, social media, website, word of mouth
- In what ways would you prefer to receive more information about? Social media, mailing list, public radio
- How satisfied are you with public art opportunities?

- Rate your interest on 1-5 for the different art offerings? What cultural offerings would you like to see more of.
- Did you attend the Third Street Gallery, Artwalk, Entertainment in the Park?

Commission members asked staff to draft these questions to review at the next meeting and this item has been tabled. No vote was made.

Barnhart left the meeting at 5:45 PM.

6. Portable Collection Donation Proposal

Carol Werner has offered a donation of six artworks from a collection built with her late husband, duck decoy carver Frank Werner. These include works on paper by regional artists as well as one artwork by an unknown artist. The value of the artworks has yet to be determined. Potential framing updates may include the addition of conservation glass and archival matting materials.

Following discussion and a vote by a majority of MAC members to recommend acceptance of the donation, Arts staff will work with the Legal Department to draft agreements for review by City Council alongside the donation proposal. Artwork will be installed and insured pending Council approval.

McCleary asked for clarification on how the process works for accepting the collection and whether there are criteria to meet in order to accept or a process should there be a denial. Cherry shared that consideration of any donation proposal needs to include the maintenance and conservation needs for the item. The value of the item and the artist name is not always available at the time of the donation. However, an estimated value does need to be determined for insurance purposes.

Foard moved and Wagner seconded to approve the donation as presented. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous (7). Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

7. Mural on Water Department Building at Jackson & A Streets

As part of the consideration of the potential mural site at the Water Filter Plant, the Public Art subcommittee has discussed options for a theme to guide the project description. The MAC is invited to discuss themes for the mural at this early stage of project development.

Discussion ensued with ideas for the wall including transformation and growth of the community, water, and a memorial dedication. Walker made notes of the suggestions and mentioned she would bring them back to the subcommittee at their next meeting. No vote was made.

REPORTS

1. Public Art Subcommittee Report (Walker)

An update was shared regarding the budget research process, a theme for the mural was shared as well as timing of the dedication.

2. Third Street Gallery Subcommittee Report

Foard shared that there was a lot of successful conversation that was put into scheduling the 2024 Calendar of the Third Street Gallery from their previous meeting.

3. Volunteer Hour Tally for June 2023 (Cherry)

The volunteer time sheet was passed around.

4. Staff report (Cherry)

Cherry shared that the updates of events that happened after the cancellation of the July 6th event. There could be another children's entertainer that is available in the future should another cancellation happen. 375 people attended the Entertainment in the Park. Elevated Perspective is on its way to installation in the

near future and the closing reception will be at the end of August. The upcoming Artwalk season includes an already opened Artwalk poster call. Palouse Plein Air calls are also open at the moment and closes in September.

Wagner motioned to close the meeting and Wilson seconded. The meeting adjourned at 6:35p.m.



From: [Sielert, Vanessa \(vanessas@uidaho.edu\)](mailto:vanessas@uidaho.edu)
To: [Megan Cherry](#)
Cc: [Kenton Bird](#)
Subject: MAC Band
Date: Tuesday, July 11, 2023 12:35:35 PM

CAUTION: This message originated from outside the City of Moscow's network. Exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments. If in doubt, please contact Information Systems at extension 7004.

Dear Megan,

I hope this short note finds you well. It is my understanding that members of the Moscow Arts Commission Band (MAC Band) intend to meet with the commission this evening to discuss the possibility of a longer season moving forward. Unfortunately, I will be unable to be at this meeting as I am meeting a prospective student for a lesson. However, I did want to share my support for a longer season for this important community ensemble. I first performed with the MAC Band over 30 years ago, when I was an undergraduate student living in Moscow for the summer. MAC Band was a wonderful experience, allowing me to perform alongside faculty members and students of the LHSOM, as well as many generations of community members. At the time, it made me feel like I was part of the larger Moscow community - not simply a student of the University of Idaho. Upon my return to Moscow as a faculty member at UI, the MAC Band continued to provide that community to LHSOM students and community members. Now, as a parent of a soon-to-be eighth grader, I look forward to my son having the opportunity to play alongside some of the same folks I played with over thirty years ago. As with any ensemble, so much more than performing comes out of the group experience. There is setting up, tearing down, helping each other in rehearsals and the need to listen to one another. MAC Band provides a beautiful way for this to happen organically.

It is my hope that you will give this request your consideration. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Vanessa

VANESSA SIELERT, D.M.A.
she/her
Professor of Music
Selmer Performing Artist-Clinician

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University *of* Idaho

Alycia Bean
511 Britton Lane
Moscow

As a 22-year resident of Moscow, I can tell you that attending a Moscow Arts Commission (MAC) concert in the park is one of my family's favorite summer activities.

The music itself is wonderful – I love pointing out to my son the different instruments and observing which ones are playing and which are waiting for their cue from the conductor.

But in addition to the opportunity to dance with fellow community members and tap along to the band's repertoire of the classics, Broadway, Hollywood, and Tin Pan Alley is the opportunity to gather with old and new friends.

A MAC concert is an experience – a very special one. It is not dancing in a closed space to a band. It is a family-friendly event in an open space where the children can run and play while adults sit on blankets and soak in the sun or enjoy the shade of East City Park's trees. People who haven't seen each other in years come together to enjoy the concert and get to catch up, give hugs, and reconnect.

Rendezvous in the Park is a treat and I enjoy that as well – however, MAC's free concerts in the park afford everyone in our community the chance to enjoy great music and fun. The audiences I have seen in the park have been diverse and inter-generational. I just told a couple who moved to town how wonderful of an event it is and what a great opportunity it is to meet others.

People who leave Moscow share with me that there is no place like it. Maybe they found better work or moved closer to family, but the resounding theme is that Moscow's sense of community is unlike any other. That has to do with the individual people, for sure, but it is cultivated by community events such as these that provide space to enrich our lives through the expression of all forms of art and culture.

For that, I am grateful for the Commission and your contribution to promoting art and culture in our community. I also respectfully request and sincerely hope you will continue to support this community institution and provide means for the MAC Band to play once a week in the park again as they have for many years. It truly is a cornerstone to Moscow being the "heart of the arts".

Thank you



From: [Diane Prorak](#)
To: [Megan Cherry](#)
Cc: [Kenton Bird](#)
Subject: Moscow Arts Commission band
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 10:07:35 PM

CAUTION: This message originated from outside the City of Moscow's network. Exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments. If in doubt, please contact Information Systems at extension 7004.

Please read this letter as part of the public input regarding the Moscow Arts Commission (MAC) band.

I was a member of the MAC Band for several years before the pandemic and was again able to join this year. I was unable to participate last year because I was out of town for only five days and I missed the entire season!

This year I was available, but it took until the final concert before I was finally feeling comfortable playing with the ensemble. It takes a few times playing together as a group before an ensemble can really start to make music. Dr. AJ Miller is a fantastic director, but having such a short rehearsal and performance window really only works for professional musicians. While some professionals do play with the MAC band, the target group is (and should be) amateurs in the community who are looking for an ensemble to play in. Many of us played an instrument in high school or college and want to play in a group for fun. Some may not have many opportunities to play music and need a few weeks to get up to speed again.

When looking at the season for the MAC band, especially for the concerts in East City Park, you may be wanting to program a variety of musical groups to provide diversity for the audiences. While I understand that, I ask that you consider the MAC band musicians also. MAC band provides a recreational, artistic and social opportunity for amateur musicians in the community. Much like Parks and Recreation offers classes to provide learning and social opportunities for its citizens, the MAC band is an important offering for the Arts Commission. Playing music together is a wonderful benefit to people's mental health. It is popular with senior citizens, as well as younger adults and some youth, and therefore provides wonderful inter-generational connections.

I ask that you expand the MAC band season to a longer season, much like in the past, when it was 4-5 weeks and included several concerts.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Diane Prorak
Moscow, ID