

MOSCOW ARTS COMMISSION



Lauren McCleary
Chair

~Minutes~

Megan Cherry
Staff Liaison

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

**Tuesday
August 8, 2023**

5:00 PM

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

McCleary called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM

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

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 McCleary.

2. Approval of Moscow Arts Commission July 11, 2023 Minutes

Barnhart moved for approval of the minutes as corrected, seconded by Clancy. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Barnhart, Clancy, McCleary, Wagner, Walker, Woolston (6). Nays: None. Abstentions: Clark, Johnson, Martin, Stoops (4). 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.

None.

4. Commission Survey Questions

During the regular meeting on July 11, 2023, the MAC identified some areas of interest for inclusion in a Commission Survey to be released in 2023. The MAC is now invited to consider the five questions identified and to discuss any recommended edits. Discussion and action may also include the identification of three questions that would be the highest priority in the instance that the overall Commission Survey needed to be edited for length. The intent is to prioritize questions that can be repeated over the course of several survey periods in order to study consistent data points over time.

The Commissioners discussed five questions as drafted by Staff, and ranked them in order of priority.

Johnson moved for approval of the Commission Survey questions as ranked and edited, seconded by Clark. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous (10). Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

5. MAC Band

At the July 11, 2023 MAC meeting, members of the community and the Moscow Arts Commission Band presented ideas for consideration in the planning of MAC Band performances for 2024. MAC discussion could include program history and evolution as well as options for booking the MAC Band to play at existing City of Moscow events.

Cherry gave a presentation about the history of Entertainment in the Park (EITP) and the MAC Band, and recommended that the Commission invite the MAC Band to play at both EITPs and/or play at a second Farmers Market with a smaller group or different genre of music.

The MAC Band is part of the City of Moscow Arts Programming and would not be able to plan their own events. It was suggested that the MAC Band could be transitioned to function as a separate organization with a different band name. The Commission members talked about how expensive and time consuming it is to host live performances and how to balance that with the tradition of providing multiple annual performance opportunities for the MAC Band. Various options were discussed to provide for more concerts. Community Events Staff sets the performance schedule for the Farmers Market and they would be amenable to the proposed inclusion of a second performance by the MAC Band, if it was markedly different from their other scheduled performance.

The Commission agreed with Staff's recommendations. Staff will discuss the options with the MAC Band Director and report back at a different meeting.

REPORTS

1. Volunteer Hour Tally for July 2023 (Cherry)

None.

2. MAC Volunteer Shifts (Cherry)

Poetry in the Park *Thurs., Aug. 24 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.*
Katherine Clancy volunteered.

Elevated Perspective *Thurs., Aug. 31 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.*
Katherine Clancy volunteered.

3. Staff Report (Cherry)

Mural at Jackson & A Street
Staff is reviewing the budget for addressing the mural.

2023-2024 Artwalk Season Preparation

There have been some Artwalk poster submissions, but Staff is hoping to get more before the closing date. Season host and sponsor registrations will be opened next week.

Current Opportunities: Palouse Plein Air, Artwalk Season Poster

Palouse Plein Air has about fifteen (15) registrations now, and will be open for approximately another month. Artwalk season poster submissions are open until Friday August 11th. The Palouse Plein Air reception is scheduled for September 21st. New Public Art maps were handed out to the Commissioners.

Johnson motioned to close the meeting and Clancy seconded. The meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.





Entertainment in the Park and MAC Band History

MAC Regular Meeting

August 8, 2023

Moscow Arts Commission Band

- The band was founded by the MAC in 1982.
- 30-40 volunteer musicians participate in rehearsals and performances as their individual schedule allows.
- Musicians of all ages and abilities sign up to play without audition requirements.
- The band's repertoire includes the classics, Broadway, Hollywood, and Sousa marches.
- MAC Band Director is paid by the City of Moscow to manage rehearsal spaces, equipment, music, and to conduct the band.



The MAC Band performs at the Entertainment in the Park in 2023

Entertainment in the Park

This event evolved from:

- Fresh Aire Concert Series (starting date unknown – 2007)
- In the Park (2008 – 2011)
- Entertainment in the Park (2012 – present)

Entertainment in the Park takes place every summer at Moscow's East City Park. This series aligns the Moscow Arts Commission's arts education programming with the Moscow Public Library's summer reading program, which encourages school-aged children to engage in reading and learning throughout the summer. Past lineups for the event have included Traveling Lantern Theatre, The Reptile Man, Matt Baker Comedy + Stunt Show, and magic by Star Alexander. One favorite feature of Entertainment in the Park is the Moscow Arts Commission Band, or MAC Band, a group of volunteer musicians led by director Albert Miller.



The MAC Band performs at the Fresh Aire concert series in 2003

Entertainment in the Park 2012 – 2019

The performance series featured 4-5 performances by children's entertainers and the MAC Band on each Thursday in June.

Concerns with the 2012-2019 event model:

- Frequent rain-outs in June result in shift to Hamilton Indoor Recreation Center (HIRC). The MAC Band has historically declined to play at the HIRC, resulting in cancellation of the second half of the event if weather prevents performances at East City Park.
- Increases in children's entertainer costs challenge the budgets of City of Moscow and Moscow Public Library.
- Quantity of Arts Department events scheduled in June (up to 6, including Artwalk) dilute the audience and represent operational challenges for staff at Moscow Public Library and City of Moscow.
- Annual schedule of multiple bookings for the MAC Band raises concerns about creating opportunities for other musicians across the community.



L Bow the Clown performs at the HIRC in 2019

Entertainment in the Park Event Visioning and Updates in 2020

- Event re-scheduling shifted from 4-5 EITP events to 2, scheduled for late June/early July with consideration for Rendezvous in the Park scheduling.
- New standard MAC Band schedule includes one performance at EITP and one at Moscow Farmers Market (MFM).
- Scheduling later in the year:
 1. Avoids rainy weather, increasing chance of holding the event at the park and thereby maximizes potential for the full MAC Band to play at the park as scheduled;
 2. Eliminates overlap with school district calendar, easing the scheduling burden for parents;
 3. Streamlines event scheduling for overall scope of Arts events by avoiding overlap with the Artwalk Season Finale in June.
- Updated MAC Band Director contract notes the possibility of substituting a small ensemble to play at the HIRC instead of the full band in case of a weather-related cancellation.

Consultation and consensus included:

- **Moscow Arts Commission**
- **Moscow Public Library**
- **MAC Band Director**
- **Rendezvous in the Park**
- **City Administration and Arts Staff**



MAC Band in 2020 - 2023

- 2020 Event cancelled due to pandemic
- 2021 MAC Band declined to play due to ongoing pandemic concerns
- 2022 & 2023 MAC Band performed at one EITP and one MFM event in each year



Audience members enjoy the MAC Band at East City Park in 2023



Director Albert Miller leads the MAC Band at East City Park in 2023

2019 Commission Survey

The 2019 Commission survey was conducted, though never approved by City Council and published as the onset of Covid prioritized other projects and the survey results were not revisited.

The following question provides a point of reference for attendance at a variety of City events.

Do you attend the following performance art activities hosted by the City of Moscow?	
Entertainment in the Park	22%
Farmers Market live music performances	38%
Moscow Arts Commission band	4%
Artwalk music stages	20%
Other	2%
No Response	14%

Public Input

During the MAC's regular meeting on July 11, 2023, community and MAC Band members offered public comment regarding ideas for additional bookings and increased promotion for the MAC Band.

Staff Recommendation

In order to balance MAC vision with operational capacity, options include:

- Invite MAC Band to play at the 2nd Entertainment in the Park event
AND/OR
- Invite the MAC Band to rehearse a small ensemble (10-15 musicians) with a repertoire distinct from the full MAC Band to play a date in addition to their traditional performance on 4th of July weekend at Moscow Farmers Market (e.g. Memorial Day weekend or Halloween)