

MOSCOW ARTS COMMISSION



Aaron Johnson
Commission Chair
mac@ci.moscow.id.us

Regular Meeting
~Minutes~

Megan Cherry
Staff Liaison
208.883.7036

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

**Tuesday,
August 12, 2025**

5:00 PM

**Council Chambers
206 E. Third St.**

Foard called the meeting to order at 5:04 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sonja Foard, Vice Chair: Cindy Barnhart, Michelle Chamberlain, Kim Crimmins, Gail Martin, Sandra Stoops, Donna Woolston, Stefan Yauchzee
MEMBERS ABSENT: Sue Clark, Aaron Johnson, Erica Wagner, Jacob Wilson
OTHERS: Bryce Blankenship
STAFF: Megan Cherry, Jennifer Fleischman

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.*

Stoops read the mission statement.

Barnhart arrived at 05:05 PM

2. Approval of Minutes from July 8, 2025 (ACTION ITEM)

Yauchzee moved for approval of the minutes as presented, seconded by Chamberlain. Roll Call Vote; Ayes: Barnhart, Chamberlain, Crimmins, Stoops, Woolston, Yauchzee (6). Nays: None. Abstentions: Foard, Martin (2). 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 offered.

4. Moscow Poet Laureate 2025-2027 Selection (ACTION ITEM)

The RFQ (Request for Qualifications) for the fourth Moscow Poet Laureate term was open from June 2nd to August 1st, 2025. A total of two submissions were received, and are viewable here: <https://moscowarts.submittable.com/gallery/59a7d87a-6505-4112-8275-53bac1ea7a59> Following

MAC discussion and vote to recommend a Moscow Poet Laureate, staff will complete initial meetings and a contract with the poet.

The Chair briefly described the process for selection of the Moscow Poet Laureate and asked for Staff to provide a review of the two applications received. Members noted that one of the submissions included poetry more reflective of Moscow than the other. The Commission went through the selection criteria rubric for each applicant and agreed that they would be lucky to have either one of the applicants representing Moscow and were greatly impressed.

Yauchzee moved to select Miriam Åkervall as the upcoming Moscow Poet Laureate, seconded by Crimmins. Roll Call Vote; Ayes: Unanimous (8). Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

5. Mural at City Shop (DISCUSSION)

The MAC voted on July 8, 2025 to recommend the project concept for the construction of a wall and installation of a mural at the City Shop site. Commission members asked that Arts staff gather input from the community and from City Shop staff regarding the site. Arts staff published a survey for both City Staff and community members from July 21 to August 1, 2025. A total of 37 responses were received from the public, and City Shop staff submitted two responses. The MAC is invited to consider public input and to discuss potential creative directions for the mural. Following this discussion, Arts staff will prepare an artist RFQ for the MAC's consideration at a future meeting.

The Commission reviewed the comments left by the community and City Staff for the proposed mural at the new City Shop. There was a discussion about potential ideas for the theme criteria for an artist Request for Qualification (RFQ). Staff will draft the RFQ as directed by the Commissioners and bring it back for MAC's consideration at a future meeting.

REPORTS

1. Volunteer Hour Tally for July 2025 (Cherry)

2. Staff Report (Cherry)

Portable Collection Exhibition & Conservation

The Portable Collection is still on display until early September and the next exhibition will be the Palouse Plein Air exhibition.

Palouse Plein Air

The Palouse Plein Air exhibition will open on September 18th. Almost 30 people have registered for the event so far.

Third Street Gallery Schedule

Staff provided updates on the scheduling of various events. More information will be provided at the next meeting.

East City Park Stage

The East City Park Stage design is currently at 30% completion and an update will be presented to City Council on August 18th.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 P.M.

Minutes Approved On

SEP 9 2025
Bethany A. Juhl
Clerk/Deputy Signature

From: [Sue campbell Clark](#)
To: [Megan Cherry](#)
Subject: Re: 8/12 MAC Meeting
Date: Wednesday, August 6, 2025 9:42:29 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

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.

Hi, Megan,

I read through the packet. Thanks for sending it.

I hoped that some of my friends in my writing group would apply for poet laureate, but none of them did. I do not personally know either candidate, so I'm happy to make a recommendation. I thought Colin Criss would be the better choice. This is why: he had specific ideas of things to do that sounded very exciting and he had experience doing them before. He had more publications and more experience sharing poetry in the community. I thought Miriam Akervall has potential for the future but needed more experience and more publications.

Public comment on the mural outside the City Shop was interesting! There were a wide variety of viewpoints, but most liked the idea of public art at that location. A theme of "city meets countryside" seemed to predominate. A nature theme would probably have the most universal appeal. Residents think the current fence is ugly and I hope there is a larger plan to replace or update it.

I was excited about the comments of the city employee who said that their staff has a lot of fabricating experience! I'm wondering if they could fabricate some metal artwork to add along the longer fence that would complement the section of mural??? Idea: old gears used as flowers with fabricated stems & leaves??

I'm sorry to miss the meeting.

Sue

On Wednesday, August 6, 2025 at 08:48:23 AM PDT, Megan Cherry wrote:

Hello, Everyone –

I know Britany will send a link to the agenda as well, but I wanted to add some notes about the 8/12 meeting materials that are ready for your review:

<https://moscowid.portal.civicclerk.com/event/3377/files/agenda/9106> Please take some time to look at these prior to the meeting if you are able. We have [Poet Laureate submissions](#) as well as public and staff comment on the City Shop Mural. It would be ideal if everyone could take time with these before Tuesday. If you are not able to attend the meeting but would like to provide any comments about these topics, please email your thoughts to me so I can share with the group.

Finally, if you indicated that you would attend, please underline it on your calendar! With a few folks out of town for travel and other reasons, we have *just enough* to meet quorum on Tuesday.

Than you all for your help with moving projects forward while balancing full, busy lives.

All best,

Megan Cherry

Arts Manager

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From: Megan Cherry
Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2025 11:20 AM
Subject: 8/12 MAC Meeting

Hello, MAC Members –

The next regular meeting of the MAC is coming up on Tuesday, August 12. I'd like to confirm that we have a quorum for that meeting, as there are some time-sensitive items on the agenda. These include a review of the City staff and public input about the mural at the City shop as well as selection of the next Moscow Poet Laureate. Please let me know about your attendance plans by the end of day on Friday, August 1. Also, if you have any items for the agenda, please let me know about that as well.

Thanks,

Megan Cherry

Arts Manager

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