

# MOSCOW ARTS COMMISSION



Aaron Johnson  
Commission Chair  
[mac@ci.moscow.id.us](mailto: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,  
September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**5:00 PM**

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

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

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

## **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.*

Johnson read the mission statement.

### **2. Approval of Minutes from August 12, 2025 (ACTION ITEM)**

Yauchzee moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Foard. Roll Call Vote:  
Ayes: (7). Abstentions: (0). Nays: None. Unanimous. 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.

**Minutes Approved On**

### **4. Peanut Project Selection (ACTION ITEM)**

OCT 14 2025  
*Britany A. Luft*  
Clerk/Deputy Signature

*The RFQ (Request for Qualifications) for the Peanut Project, a small vinyl mural in the City Hall parking lot, was open from July 14 to August 29, 2025. A total of 5 submissions were received, and are viewable here along with the selection criteria:*

*<https://moscowarts.submittable.com/gallery/bb8e47aa-8e1a-4361-8ff4-c496b5377c56/>*

*Following MAC discussion and vote to recommend a design, staff will complete a contract with the artist and proceed with installation.*

**PROPOSED ACTION:** *Recommend selection of an artist and design, re-open call for submissions, or take such other action deemed appropriate.*

Staff reviewed submission criteria and discussed scoring methods for the 5 submissions. Two submissions are artists under 18 years old.

Foard moved to recommend the entry entitled “Gargantuan Squirrels” as the selected Peanut Project Artist, seconded by Yauchzee. Roll Call Vote: Ayes (7) Abstentions: (0). Nays: None. Unanimous. Motion carried.

#### **5. Public Art at East City Park Stage (DISCUSSION)**

*At the August 18, 2025 City Council meeting, Community Development Director Cody Riddle presented the 30% design of the new stage along with Ned Warnick of Design West Architects. The MAC is invited to review the design document, along with potential design changes generated by staff, to support discussion about integrating public art into the site. Staff will provide a summary of the design and the potential opportunities to incorporate art.*

Cody Riddle discussed that it was determined in 2024 that the East City Park stage was deteriorating more rapidly than initially anticipated. As a result, the awning was removed, and the stage was temporarily reinforced until a replacement can be constructed. Staff conducted an open house and several public outreach events to gather community input. During these sessions, members of the public expressed concerns regarding lighting and sound amplification, while others suggested that the new stage presents an excellent opportunity to incorporate a public art installation. Staff plans to issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for stage design services in fall 2025.

Staff also discussed various options for integrating art into the new stage design. It was noted that while the art pieces do not need to be directly attached to the stage, they should be installed within East City Park.

MAC members are encouraged to visit the park to visualize the proposed new structure and to bring ideas to the October meeting to facilitate further discussion of potential options.

#### **6. RFQ for Mural at City Shop (ACTION ITEM)**

*The MAC voted on July 8<sup>th</sup>, 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<sup>st</sup> to August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. A total of 37 responses were received from the public, and City Shop staff submitted two responses. Following the MAC’s discussion about this input, staff created a draft RFQ for the MAC to consider. Following MAC discussion and vote to recommend the RFQ, staff will present the project budget, RFQ, and sample contract to City Council.*

**PROPOSED ACTION:** *Recommend project RFQ, suggest changes to RFQ, or take such other action deemed appropriate.*

Staff reviewed suggested revisions to the proposed RFQ and discussed the timeline following its recommendation. Cherry presented an update on the mural site, noting that the existing rolling gate will be reconfigured and that trees may be removed if they become unhealthy. The designated mural area will measure 6 feet in height and 65 feet in length, enclosed by chain-link fencing. It was requested that the City's Engineering Department explore lighting options and consider a cast-in-place cap to enhance the mural's durability.

Additionally, staff confirmed that the Engineering Department will be responsible for the structural design of the wall. Once the design is finalized, related design details may be incorporated into the site documents for the artist's reference.

The project budget remains uncertain at this stage pending an estimated cost from the Engineering Department.

Yauchzee moved to recommend project RFQ as provided, seconded by Foard. Roll Call Vote: Ayes (7) Abstentions: (0). Nays: None. Unanimous. Motion carried.

## **REPORTS**

### **1. Volunteer Hour Tally for August 2025 (Cherry)**

### **2. Staff Report (Cherry)**

#### *Palouse Plein Air*

A reminder that George Scribner is the Juror for this Palouse Plein Air show. 71 artists have signed up for the Palouse Plein Air Show, setting another registration record for the event. 2024 was also a record-setting year with 56 artists. On Wednesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, art will be hung up and the reception is scheduled for September 18. Johnson and Cherry will set up. Foard volunteered to assist if needed.

#### *Third Street Gallery Schedule*

The exhibitions following Palouse Plein Air will all open on October 16<sup>th</sup>, with receptions scheduled for October 23.

1<sup>st</sup> floor: Brooch the Subject

2<sup>nd</sup> floor: Covering the Palouse

3<sup>rd</sup> floor: The Sweet Controversy

An exhibition honoring the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Moscow Farmers Market will be installed in January.

#### *Moscow Police Department*

Staff announced that the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Officer Newbill's passing was coming up on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2027 and that a potential commemorative public artwork would be included on the next MAC agenda for discussion.

**The meeting adjourned at 6:12 PM.**