

MOSCOW ARTS COMMISSION



Aaron Johnson
Commission Chair
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Regular Meeting
~Minutes~

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

**Tuesday,
October 14th, 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: Michelle Chamberlain, Sue Clark, Kim Crimmins, Sonja Foard, Sandra Stoops, Jacob Wilson, Stefan Yauchzee
MEMBERS ABSENT: Cindy Barnhart, Gail Martin, Donna Woolston, Erica Wagner,
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.*

Clark read the mission statement.

2. Approval of Minutes from September 9th, 2025 (ACTION ITEM)

Foard moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Yauchzee. Roll Call Vote:
Ayes: (8). 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.

Cynthia King, journalist with Moscow Report

Melanie Killmer, WSU student journalist reporting on East City Park Stage

David Hall, Moscow resident

4. Public Art at East City Park Stage (DISCUSSION)

At the September 9th, 2025 MAC meeting, Community Development Director Cody Riddle presented the 30% design of the new stage. The MAC was 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 provided a summary of the design and the potential opportunities to incorporate art. MAC members are now invited to discuss 3-5 options for integrating Public Art at the site.

Staff discussed the potential design changes and described a variety of areas where public art could be installed. Possibilities include free standing sculptures, murals, mosaics, pathway inlays, replacing metal siding with murals. Cherry emphasized the need to prioritize safety considerations for park visitors/kids.

Blankenship mentioned that Council is partial to the full roof design option, as opposed to the partial roof design option. Staff/Council have discussed ways to incorporate or memorialize pieces from the old stage in the design on the new stage if possible. Staff discussed sculptures that are already present in the park area.

Commission members discussed ideas for public art installations, including sidewalk design/inlays in the pathways leading up to the stage as well as complementary installations on the stage structure itself. Members discussed that the upstage wall was a less ideal location for public art due to the location's use for backdrops and other potential scenery elements.

Staff shared that the call to artists would be published after the stage design was complete.

David Hall (public comment) commented that he does not want plastic benches in the park and prefers metal or wood.

5. Public Art at the MPD Station (DISCUSSION)

On May 19th, 2007, MPD Officer Newbill died in the line of duty while serving the Moscow Community. Staff will present options for a potential commemorative Public Art piece to honor the 20th year since his passing. The MAC is invited to discuss initial impressions and options for art installation.

Staff presented a potential sculpture location in front of the MPD station. Cherry noted that an installation could be timed with a commemoration of the 20th anniversary of Officer Newbill's passing while on duty. Due to the sensitive nature of the commemoration, a selection committee would be put together including members of MPD and Officer Newbill's family.

Commission members noted that the site would be ideal for a three-dimensional sculpture. Members discussed the possibility of bronze or stone as materials that would be appropriate to the subject matter. Staff noted that the project budget would be part of the upcoming FY27 budget request. Commission members asked that staff consult with Newbill's family about ideas or themes they would like to see.

REPORTS

1. Volunteer Hour Tally for September 2025 (Cherry)

2. Staff Report (Cherry)

Palouse Plein Air

Cherry reported that Palouse Plein Air had set another record for registration, with seventy-one (71) people signed up and sixty (60) artists displaying paintings. There was a total of one hundred thirty-three (133) paintings in the gallery for the exhibition. Next year will be the 17th annual Palouse Plein Air.

Third Street Gallery Schedule

Cherry noted that there were three shows opening simultaneously:

1st floor – The Box Gallery was displaying jewelry by Chandra Drennen.

2nd floor – Covering the Palouse featured covers of the Palouse Journal and Moscow Magazine

3rd floor – Sweet Controversy featured paintings by UI Art + Design students

Cherry noted that the installation would begin on the weekend and would stretch into the following week. The reception coincides with Artwalk and is scheduled for Thursday, October 23rd.

Volunteer Opportunity: 10/23 Gallery Hosting (3 volunteers needed)

Cherry requested volunteers to help with attendance counting on the night of the event.

Other

Doodle Poll results: November MAC Meeting will be Tuesday, November 18th

Johnson will officially be resigning from the Moscow Art Commission to focus his time on a new role at UI. This is his last meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:49 PM.

Minutes Approved On

DEC 9 2025

Clerk/Deputy Signature