

Columbia City Arts Commission Meeting Minutes

January 6, 2025

I. Call to order

Commission Chair Jennifer Romano called to order the regular meeting of the Columbia City Arts Commission (CCAC) at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 6, 2026, in the Common Council Chambers of Columbia City Hall, Columbia City, Indiana.

II. Roll call

The following people were present: Jennifer Romano (Chair), Greg Hockemeyer (member), Mike Thomas (member), Doug Egolf (member), Connie Boggs (member), April Frazier (member), Taylor Ford (member), and Mayor Ryan Daniel. Chip Hill was absent.

III. Approval of minutes from the last meeting

April Frazier moved to approve the December 2, 2025, meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Taylor Ford, and the motion was approved by voice vote.

IV. Open issues

- *Artists' Studio Tour*
 - Following the discussion, Mike Thomas moved to locate the event at Baker Park on September 12, 2026, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, seconded by Connie Boggs and carried by voice vote.
 - Jennifer Romano will reach out to the parks department.
- *2026 Calendar Project*
 - April Frazier brought final copies of the calendar. Jennifer Romano noted that several had been distributed at the museum.
 - Each of the Commissioners took a calendar. The balance is to be available to the public through City Hall, the Peabody Public Library, etc. Taylor Ford will take a set for each of the fourth-grade teachers (who are responsible for teaching Indiana history).
 - Romano confirmed WJHS will continue providing publicity in 2026, including monthly spotlights on historical or Whitley County artists, aligned with the calendar project.
- *Promotions*
 - Bones Theater Promotional Package – Tabled.
 - WJHS Underwriting – see above.
- *America 250 Collaboration:*
 - The Mayor noted that he serves on the local coordinating committee and that the vision was to create 3 (three) panels to rotate among the larger municipalities with artistic depictions of Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness from the Declaration of Independence.
 - Jennifer Romano will reach out to Charlotte Blair, state coordinator and local coordinating committee member for clarification about expectations of the partnership.
- *Baker Park* –
 - In addition to using the Park as the site for the Artists Studio Tour, the Commissions discussed it as a location for the arts pantry, as well as possible cabinets for art supply distribution.

- Doug Egolf shared conceptual sketches of potential improvements to the Park.
- *Annual Report to the Common Council* -- April Frazer and Taylor Ford will arrange to be on the agenda for the January 27, 2026, Common Council meeting.

V. Other Business

- *Biennial Officer Election* – following difficulty in obtaining consent from anyone to accept a nomination to the office of Secretary, Greg Hockemeyer moved to postpone the election until the February 3, 2026, meeting, seconded by Taylor Ford, and passed by voice vote.

VI. Adjournment

April Frazier moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mike Thomas, and passed by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:42 p.m.

January 6, 2026, MEETING MINUTES APPROVED BY THE MEMBERSHIP

THIS ____ DAY OF _____ 2026.

Presiding Officer

Secretary