

COLUMBIA CITY ARTS COMMISSION MEETING

August 4, 2026

5 p.m.

City Council Chambers - City Hall

Roll Call:

Present: April Frazier, Connie Boggs, Mike Thomas, Jennifer Zartman Romano, Greg Hockemeyer, Taylor Ford, Doug Egolf, Chip Hill (staff), Aaron Mathieu (guest)

Absent: none

Approval of Minutes from July 7, 2026, meeting:

Motion: Connie moved to approve the minutes from the July 7 meeting.

Second: Taylor seconded.

Outcome: Motion carried unanimously.

Aaron Mathieu - Whitley County Historical Museum

Aaron Mathieu, director of the Whitley County Historical Museum came to tonight's meeting to talk about Art @ The Museum and provided an info graphic about the annual event and workshops. Cartoonist Bob Lang presented a workshop today. OSD had provided funding to pay artists for workshops in the past, but they were unable to support it this year. Advertising says \$5 per person, but scholarships are offered and if they're able to get funding, they would like to offer the workshops for free. He asked for a \$500 grant to support workshops. He also plans to reach out to Whitley County Historical Society to help fund it as well. He thanked the museum for supporting the rebuild of the rolling displays for art that are essentially shared by both organizations. The museum will provide the labor.

Greg wondered about the CCAC's current financial position. April said that the CCAC still had \$12,658 before SPARK expenses. Now, that figure is at \$9673.53. This would not yet include some other small recent expenses. We have earmarked \$1000 for music and sound at the September event. We have \$1500 earmarked for artists. Electrical boxes were expected to be about \$492.51 each and we are hoping to do two of them this year.

Motion: Greg moved to offer a grant of \$500 for art workshops at the Whitley County Historical Museum.

Second: Doug seconded.

Outcome: The motion was unanimously approved.

OPEN ISSUES

The Baker Park Studio Art Tour will be held in Baker Park on September 12, 2026, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Next steps:

Jennifer talked to Matt Heiden and since that park isn't really used, we don't have to fill out any paperwork theoretically. He is aware of what we are doing however.

Jennifer is mentioning the event to people as they bring in art to the museum for the show there. There's definitely interest. A bigger push begins tomorrow.

April talked to 46 Graphics about our banner. He can fix the date on the banner. It will be \$70 to fix it (both sides included). We are on the calendar for getting the banner put up. We will be up the week before and the week of.

Motion: Greg authorized the expense of up to \$100 for repair/update of banner for Line Street.

Second: Mike seconded.

Outcome: Motion was unanimously approved.

April pointed out that we don't need to print off maps, but we may want to do some yard signs. In the past, they were about \$35 each. Five of them would be good. April also suggested postcards and maybe a sign. Mike suggested making new signs that could be easily updated. Jennifer said she could even cut the vinyl. Jennifer said maybe every year we can make a couple of more. Greg suggested putting some signs and banners at the park.

Motion: Greg moved that we spend up to \$400 on yard signs and other marketing materials under the direction of April Frazier.

Second: Connie seconded.

Outcome: The motion carried.

Taylor suggested creating a new standard design for the Baker Park Studio Art event. April reminded everyone about keeping information simple on road signs.

Jennifer suggested getting our information on digital signs like the one at Morsches and the one at the Museum.

Greg wondered if we need to get a tent. We have an arts commission tent and also another one. The query is tabled until the next meeting when we have a better idea what the weather might be the day of the event.

Jennifer said she will be posting information about how to sign up to be a vendor at the event.

Mike said he has been working on the music.

Mike wondered if the Parks Department could do some weed whacking, get some garbage cans and general tidying of the park getting ready for the event. Chip said he will look into what can be done to help get it ready for September 12.

Chip shared that the old prism/wood art installation in Ohki Alley has been taken down, but wondered if we want it for Baker Park. It could be installed down there. There was a lot of interest among CCAC members to put the installation into Baker Park.

Calendar

Jennifer had nothing new to add to this. Jennifer has reached out to multiple local photographers and parents of performing arts students to get photos. Greg mentioned that he would like to see more kinds of performing art, including adults and professionals. The design might include collages as well. Several have been sent in so far. Goal is still to try to have this potentially by September. April remembered that it took 2-3 weeks to get them back. Jennifer will look into the cost of getting them printed ourselves considering that local printers would be outsourcing as well. Deadline is preferably August 15.

Public Art Initiatives

We are considering infrastructure displays. We can potentially do two of them this year. We will need to put together a plan for that. Greg suggested we maybe put that on pause until the spring. There's no time frame on this. The process can begin in January or sometime early in 2027. Doug agreed, adding that we have a lot going on that needs our focus right now. April shared that January might be ideal and we can float it to the artists in Baker Park. Doug mentioned the schematic that Chip provided to show potential artist candidates what the plan is. We are super excited, but we don't want to rush it. The boxes will be at Main and Van Buren and Line and Van Buren.

Artist Meet & Greet events

We're keeping this on the agenda. The September 12 event will be great for this. The artists always comment that they'd like to see each other's art and meet each other.

Art @ The Museum

Jennifer mentioned that the supplies to build out the rolling art displays were ordered and delivered. The new fixtures will have steel cable systems with adjustable hangers on both sides, allowing for many creative ways to hang art for shows. She will be working on the construction over the next several weeks. Once completed, the CCAC and the Whitley County Historical Museum will be able to use them for displaying art in the community. The supplies came in well under budget.

Parking at Baker Park

Doug wondered if we need to think about parking for the event in September. Greg volunteered to be our Traffic Director. Parking will be available in Kids Dreamland and DeVol Field. There might also be parking available at the American Legion if we want to reach out to ask them if they mind if people park there. April said she has some cones.

Greg asked about food vendors. Sunny Sips was a yes. Janie's Donuts was a no. Brew'ha might

be an option. Reaching out to vendors at the Farmers Market who do baked goods might be a good idea as well. Is there a food truck? Jennifer will ask Jennifer Esterline if she'd want to bring her food truck down to the park for our event. "Come for the food, stay for the art?" April will check with 1897 BBQ.

Greg moved to adjourn. Taylor seconded. The motion approved and the meeting closed at 5:50 p.m.

Next Meeting: September 1, 2026

MEETING MINUTES APPROVED BY THE MEMBERSHIP

THIS _____ DAY OF _____ 2026.
