



**ART AND CULTURE COMMISSION
MEETING AGENDA
AUGUST 17, 2026 AT 4:30 PM
HJEMKOMST CENTER AUDITORIUM - 202 1ST AVE N.**

Disclaimer: Voting requirements may be subject to changes in the law, parliamentary procedural matters, or other unforeseen issues. The City Attorney provides opinion on questions of voting requirements by the Moorhead City Code, Minnesota State Statutes, and parliamentary procedure.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Agenda Amendments
3. Approval of Minutes
 - A. May 15, 2026 Minutes
4. Citizens To Be Heard
5. Business Items
 - A. The Arts Partnership Update - Tania Blanich
 - B. Project Updates - Historical Video Series, Streetlight Banners, and Call for Art - Interactive Art Piece
 - C. Project Discussion - Poet Laureate
6. Reports/Information
 - A. FMVA Letter
7. Adjourn

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**MINUTES OF THE ART AND CULTURE COMMISSION
HJEMKOMST CENTER AUDITORIUM - 202 1ST AVE N.
May 18, 2026 - 4:30 PM**

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Chair Baity called the meeting of the Art and Culture Commission to order and attendance was noted.

2. Agenda Amendments

Motion to Approve May 18, 2026 Agenda made by Carrie Rogers and seconded by Jonathan Rutter.

For 5: Jonathan Rutter, Allison Koster, Carrie Rogers, Chizuko Shastri, Brandon Baity

Against 0: None

Abstain/Recuse 0: None

Motion Passed

3. Approval of Minutes

A. March 16, 2026 Minutes

Motion to Approve March 16, 2026 Minutes made by Jonathan Rutter and seconded by Carrie Rogers.

For 5: Jonathan Rutter, Allison Koster, Carrie Rogers, Chizuko Shastri, Brandon Baity

Against 0: None

Abstain/Recuse 0: None

Motion Passed

4. Citizens To Be Heard

None

5. Business Items

A. Project Updates - Interactive Art Piece

Staff provided a brief overview of the proposed Interactive Art Piece, including a proposed timeline, and noted that the draft Request for Art was undergoing internal review to ensure alignment with city procedures and public art guidelines.

B. Project Updates - Historical Video Series, Sidewalk Stamps, and Streetlight Banners

Staff provided updates related to the current status of the Historical Video Series with the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County and Moorhead Community Access Media, the Streetlight Banners for the 250th anniversary of the United States of America, and the installation of new sidewalk stamps surrounding the 11th Street Underpass project area.

6. Reports/Information

Commission members provided updates about recent events, performances, exhibitions and more throughout the community.

7. Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn at 04:54 PM made by Allison Koster and seconded by Carrie Rogers.

The proceedings of this meeting are digitally recorded and are available for public review.

DRAFT



To: Moorhead Art & Culture Commission
Subject: The Arts Partnership Update
Date: August 17, 2026
Prepared By: Ethan Johnk, Assistant City Planner

THE ARTS PARTNERSHIP

INFORMATION

Tania Blanich, Executive Director of [The Arts Partnership](#) is joining us to provide an annual update for the organization related to recent projects, initiatives and events.

2026 City Arts Partnership Grants

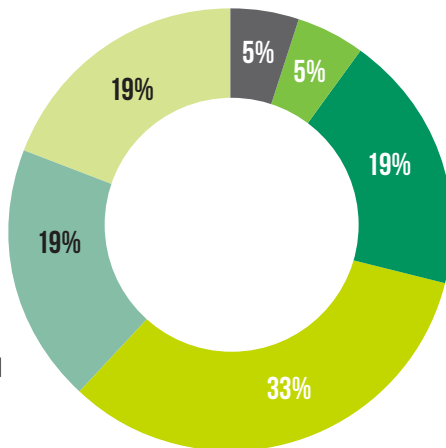
Investing in arts organizations in Fargo, Moorhead and West Fargo

Ensuring the success of the local arts sector creates vitality in our community and makes it a great place to live and visit. Art acts as a universal language that brings communities together.

\$93,550 to 21 Arts Nonprofits

Grants by Arts Discipline

- Dance
- Film
- Multi-arts
- Music
- Theater
- Visual Arts

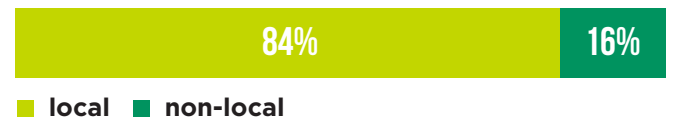


Given music's importance in our region's cultural and spiritual make-up, it is not surprising that this traditional art form is prevalent throughout our community.

Audience Members

The grantees annually serve 1+ million audience members.

Local attendees spent on average, per attendee, per event \$26 beyond the price of admission and nonlocals spent \$50. (Arts & Economic Prosperity 6 Study, released in September 2023)



FM Symphony

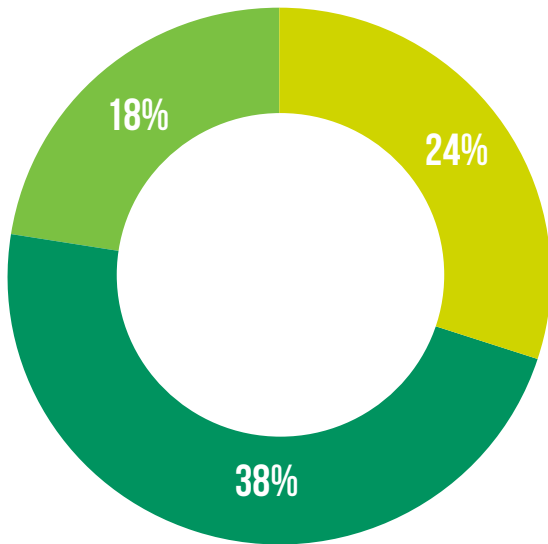


FM Youth Choir



Gooseberry Park Players

Arts Education



More than 62% of the organizations we support either serve youth exclusively or have robust youth education programs. Studies show that childhood arts education enhances overall academic performance, builds critical cognitive and emotional skills and supports lifelong civic exposure. All such programs are open to youth from Fargo, Moorhead and West Fargo.

- **Youth Only**
- **Youth Arts Education Programs**
- **Non-Youth Focused**

2026 Grantees

Fargo Theatre	\$11,500	Learning Bank	\$2,250
FM Area Youth Symphonies.....	\$3,000	Master Chorale	\$1,850
FM Ballet.....	\$1,500	Nordic Culture Clubs	\$600
FM Choral Artists	\$4,750	Plains Art Museum.....	\$9,500
FM Opera Company	\$9,000	Red River Watercolor Society	\$500
FM Symphony.....	\$9,000	Rourke Art Museum	\$4,750
FM Visual Artists.....	\$2,000	Stage West	\$5,000
FM Youth Choir	\$1,500	Theatre B.....	\$6,000
Gooseberry Park Players.....	\$1,850	Trollwood Performing Art School.....	\$6,000
Historical & Cultural Society of Clay Co	\$9,250	United Chinese Americans FM.....	\$500
Kicks Band of FM	\$3,250		



Rourke Art Museum



FM Area Youth Symphonies



Hjemkomst Center



To: Moorhead Art & Culture Commission
Subject: Project Updates – Historical Video Series, Streetlight Banners, and Call for Art – Interactive Art Piece
Date: August 17, 2026
Prepared By: Ethan Johnk, Assistant City Planner

PROJECT UPDATES

OVERVIEW

The Art and Culture Commission (A&CC) previously recommended and provided guidance for several projects in relation to Moorhead's sesquicentennial, the 250th anniversary of the United States of America, and available 2026 public art funding:

- The creation of a historical video series in collaboration with the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County (HCSCC) and Moorhead Community Access Media (MCAM).
- The solicitation of designs for streetlight banners to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States of America.
- The solicitation of proposals for an inspirational and movable art piece with interactive elements.

UPDATES

Historical Video Series:

- With a successful unveiling of the initial episode, City Staff, the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County, and Moorhead Community Access Media are coordinating the work of a new episode covering the wild west history of Moorhead. The first episode can be viewed on MCAM's broadcasting networks and HCSCC's YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9JnOs_rhpOk

Streetlight Banners:

- With funding available to create streetlight banners for the 250th anniversary of the United States of America, City Staff issued a Request for Art for Streetlight Banner Designs and worked with a local veteran artist to solicit proposals. Local artists Mackenzie Sanders and Kim Jore's designs were selected and are now hanging on streetlight poles along Main Avenue from 4th Street to 6th Street.



2026 Call for Public Art:

- As requested by the Commission, the City of Moorhead issued a Call for Art to consider proposals for an inspirational and movable art piece with interactive elements. The Call specifies the scope of the project, a tentative timeline, and the selection process. The Call for Art is advertised on the City of Moorhead's Request for Proposals webpage and on our social media pages:

<https://www.moorheadmn.gov/news/posts/2026-call-for-public-art/>



To: Moorhead Art & Culture Commission
Subject: Project Discussion – Poet Laureate
Date: August 17, 2026
Prepared By: Ethan Johnk, Assistant City Planner

PROJECT DISCUSSION

OVERVIEW

Previously, interest has been expressed relating to establishing a Poet Laureate program in an effort to empower the voices of artists, celebrate written arts throughout the community, inspire the creation of Moorhead-inspired art, and honor poetry and poets as an essential part of Moorhead.

DISCUSSION

Any ideas and inspiration that can be identified at this time to provide staff with guidance on how to proceed with an outline to establish this program, if desired:

Example discussion questions:

- Is there an interest in establishing a Poet Laureate program/position?
- Should the Poet Laureate be open to all ages or just the youth e.g., ages 13-20
- How should the City select an individual to serve as Poet Laureate?
 - o If requesting submissions, what should the submission criteria be?
- How long should the term be for a Poet Laureate?
 - o Could an individual be Poet Laureate multiple years in a row and/or multiple times?
- What would the Poet Laureate position look like? E.g.,
 - o Creating new works
 - o Connecting life in Moorhead with art
 - o Serving as a role model for aspiring poets
 - o Presenting works at events



July 28th, 2026

Moorhead Arts and Culture Commission
Moorhead City Hall
403 Center Ave.
Moorhead, MN 56561-0779

Moorhead Arts and Culture Commission:

On behalf of the Board of Directors and members of FM Visual Artists, we extend our sincere gratitude for awarding our organization a City Arts Partnership (CAP) grant. We are deeply appreciative of The Arts Partnership and the cities of Fargo, Moorhead, and West Fargo for their continued investment in the arts and for recognizing the value that visual artists bring to our communities.

Your generous support enables FM Visual Artists to continue fulfilling our mission: *to promote and support quality visual arts in the Fargo-Moorhead area by educating and encouraging visual artists and their communities*. This funding helps us provide exhibitions, educational programs, artist networking opportunities, community outreach, and events that strengthen the cultural vitality of our region.

We are honored to partner with organizations and communities that recognize the importance of the arts in enhancing quality of life, fostering creativity, and building meaningful connections. Thank you for your confidence in our work and for helping ensure that the visual arts continue to thrive throughout the Fargo-Moorhead area.

With sincere appreciation,

Eric A. Johnson,
FMVA Managing Director