



**ART AND CULTURE COMMISSION
MEETING AGENDA
JANUARY 26, 2026 AT 4:00 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. November 17, 2025 Minutes
4. Citizens To Be Heard
5. Business Items
 - A. 2025 Annual Report
 - B. Project Updates - Indigenous Sculpture, Historical Video Series, and Sidewalk Stamps
 - C. Project Discussion - Future Project Planning
6. Reports/Information
7. Adjourn

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**MINUTES OF THE ART AND CULTURE COMMISSION
HJEMKOMST CENTER AUDITORIUM - 202 1ST AVE N.
November 17, 2025 - 4:30 PM**

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Roll call of the members was made as follows:

Present (4): Allison Koster, Britta Trygstad, Brandon Baity, Paula Krogen

Absent (3): Jonathan Rutter, Carrie Rogers, Chuck Hendrickson

Chair Trygstad called the meeting of the Art and Culture Commission to order.

2. Agenda Amendments

Motion to Approve November 17, 2025 Agenda made by Allison Koster and seconded by Paula Krogen.

For 4: Allison Koster, Britta Trygstad, Brandon Baity, Paula Krogen

Against 0: None

Abstain/Recuse 0: None

Motion Passed

3. Approval of Minutes

A. September 15, 2025 Minutes

Motion to Approve made by Allison Koster and seconded by Paula Krogen.

For 4: Allison Koster, Britta Trygstad, Brandon Baity, Paula Krogen

Against 0: None

Abstain/Recuse 0: None

Motion Passed

4. Citizens To Be Heard

None

5. Business Items

A. Project Updates - Indigenous Sculpture, Historical Video Series, and Sidewalk Stamps

Staff provided updates related to the current status of the Indigenous Sculpture, Historical Video Series, and the sidewalk stamp inventory expansion/11th Street Underpass installations.

B. Project Discussion - Future Project Planning

Staff provided a brief overview on the proposed funding dedicated to art and culture in 2026. The commission discussed potential options for future projects, which included an inaugural sculpture walk, youth engagement, neighborhood parks, and interactive art.

6. Reports/Information

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

7. Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn at 04:53 PM made by Allison Koster and seconded by Paula Krogen.

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

DRAFT



To: Moorhead Art and Culture Commission
Subject: 2025 Annual Report
Date: January 26, 2026
Prepared By: Ethan Johnk, Assistant City Planner

2025 ART AND CULTURE ANNUAL REPORT

GENERAL INFORMATION

The purpose of the Moorhead Art and Culture Commission is to advise the Mayor and City Council on the development of arts and culture activities, projects, organizations and facilities within the City of Moorhead.

The Commission is tasked to develop, update and recommend Arts and Culture vision, goals, public agenda and strategic plan for arts and culture in Moorhead; provide leadership for completing the comprehensive plan sections regarding civic arts and culture goals and planning and providing input for plan revisions; plan and advocate funding from individuals, corporate, foundation and city funding for arts and culture activities approved by the City Council; and facilitate collaboration and joint planning among public and private agencies involved with related issues such as economic development, tourism and arts education.

Members of the Art and Culture Commission in 2025 include:

- Allison Koster At-Large representative
- Jonathan Rutter At-Large representative
- Chuck Hendrickson Mayor/Council representative
- Carrie Rogers, Vice Chair 1st Ward representative
- Britta Trygstad, Chair 2nd Ward representative
- Brandon Baity 3rd Ward representative
- Paula Krogen 4th Ward representative

2025 PROJECTS

In 2025, the commission has been a part of several projects that have shaped our surroundings. The Art & Culture Commission has assisted in recommendation or approval of the following projects:

- RiverArts Expansion – Worked with Moorhead Parks and Recreation to continue reimagining this popular event series with more offering to entice a larger audience. Alcoholic drink sales and additional food vendors continued to bring in larger crowds of people. With great music, art and refreshments, the Hjemkomst Center was activated for five lively evenings:
 - June 11th RiverArts
 - Main Event – Post Traumatic Funk Syndrome
 - Cultural Performance – Fargo Spelemannslag (Hardanger fiddle)



○ June 25th RiverArts



- Main Event – Gina Powers Band
- Cultural Performance – Javier Quiroz



- July 9th RiverArts
 - Main Event – Heart & Soul
 - Cultural Performance – Fargo Folklorico (traditional Mexican dance)



- July 23rd RiverArts
 - Main Event – October Road
 - Cultural Performance – Chinese Heritage of Recreation and Dance

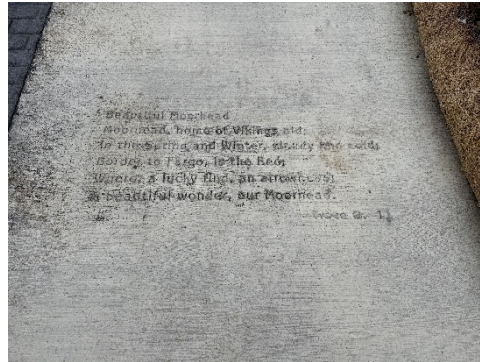


- August 6th RiverArts
 - Main Event – Front Fenders
 - Cultural Performance – Heather & Thistle Pipes and Drums



Credits to all RiverArts photos to Emma Rehder

- 11th Street Underpass Sidewalk Stamps – 27 art and poetry stamps were installed on newly paved sidewalk along 1st Avenue North, Main Avenue, and 11th Street North & South as a part of the 11th Street Underpass Project. Further, as a part of the 2025 Request for Sidewalk Art, 10 new designs were solicited and approved to be converted into new sidewalk stamps to be added to our existing sidewalk stamp inventory.



- ‘Nii Woo Gah Bow’ – Indigenous Sculpture Installation
 - As approved by the 2024 Call for Art – Indigenous Sculpture, Indigenous artist, Duane Goodwin, installed ‘Nii Woo Gah Bow,’ a bronze casted sculpture that represents an Anishinaabe Hunter Trapper.



- 2022 Call for Activation – Recommended approval for projects that looked to enhance community pride by activating the River Corridor and/or downtown area.
 - Created by Jonathan Rutter and the Rourke Art Museum as a part of Moorhead’s 2022 Call for Activation, the Moorhead Sculpture Walk, recognizing and mapping public art installations throughout the downtown area, officially launched in May of 2025: <https://moorheadsculpturewalk.com/>

2026 AND FUTURE PROJECTS

Coming soon in 2026!

- Historical Video Series that covers the topics surrounding the pinnacle of Moorhead's founding in collaboration with Moorhead Community Access Media, and the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County
- With approval and coordination from the Minnesota Department of Transportation, the installation of additional sidewalk stamps along sidewalk within the 11th Street Underpass project area may commence.

We anticipate developing a 2025 work plan and future project ideas with the guidance of:

- [2018 Arts and Culture Framework Plan](#)
 - Placemaking – Downtown/Neighborhoods/Public Art/Gathering Places
- [2020 Downtown Master Plan](#)
 - Placemaking nodes, Riverfront, Parks and Plazas. Be Authentic, vibrant, equitable and inclusive, resilient, and connected.
- [2022 Onward Moorhead Comprehensive Plan](#)
 - Goals:
 - Enhance Moorhead's visual appeal through public realm improvements, public art, and cultural activities
 - Collaborate with neighborhoods to develop a sense of place and pride
 - Develop an intentional approach to building cultural inclusion, responding to the needs of, and celebrating diverse communities
 - Invest in placemaking and creating places where people want to gather, with a focus in the downtown and riverfront areas

Thank you for your time, effort and dedication serving on the Moorhead Art and Culture Commission. It is greatly appreciated!



To: Moorhead Art & Culture Commission
Subject: Project Updates – Indigenous Sculpture, Historical Video Series, and Sidewalk Stamps
Date: January 26, 2026
Prepared By: Ethan Johnk, Assistant City Planner

PROJECT UPDATES

OVERVIEW

The Art and Culture Commission (A&CC) previously recommended several proposed projects in relation to Moorhead’s sesquicentennial and the 11th Street Underpass Project:

- In an effort to expand the newly created Moorhead Sculpture Walk, collaboration with an artist to install a public sculpture that celebrates the rich heritage of Indigenous People and their cultures in our region.
- In an effort to highlight key parts throughout Moorhead’s history, creation of a historical video series in collaboration with the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County (HCSCC) and Moorhead Community Access Media (MCAM).
- In an effort to expand our existing sidewalk stamp inventory to be used on sidewalk areas throughout the 11th Street Underpass Project area, issue a Request for Art to solicit art submissions to be used to manufacture new stamps.

UPDATES

Sculpture:

- After working to translate the artists project statement into his Native language, City Staff is working to add signage and exploring adding native plants at the site in the future.

Historical Video Series:

- Coordination is ongoing with Moorhead Community Access Media and the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County to continue recording episodes covering the saloon and wild west eras in Moorhead. City Staff, HCSCC, and MCAM are coordinating regarding the release of the first episode. The first episode is being reviewed by Prairie Public Broadcasting for a potential release on the network. City Staff has been coordinating with project partners regarding an event to debut the first episode with local business partners.

Sidewalk Stamps:

- City Staff will continue coordinating with Sign Badger to manufacture the proposed new stamps as recommended from the 2025 Request for Art – Sidewalk Stamps.



To: Moorhead Art & Culture Commission
Subject: Future Project Planning
Date: January 26, 2026
Prepared By: Ethan Johnk, Assistant City Planner

PROJECT DISCUSSION

BACKGROUND

Moorhead's Art and Culture Commission was established in 2015 with the purpose to advise the Mayor and City Council on development of arts and culture activities, projects, organizations and facilities within the City. In planning for future projects, previous discussions of the Art & Culture Commission have included several primary focuses:

- **Interactive Art** – Working to create an interactive art piece that invites public participation rather than passive viewing.
- **Youth Engagement** – Working to create an art piece that's designed for the youth to interact with, encouraging creativity.
- **Location That's Equitable for All** – Identifying a possible location(s) that's accessible to all residents.

2026 PROJECT DISCUSSION

2026 Future Project Planning:

With the anticipated Art and Culture funding of \$12,500, further identifying project parameters or ideas that can be further explored for implementation in 2026:

Solicitation

- Idea: Call for Art – Issue a Call for Art to solicit an interactive art installation that engages the youth
 - Are there specific details that should be included in a Request for Art?
- Idea: Commissioning an artist to design interactive artwork that engages the youth.
- Other Ideas:

Location:

Note: With limited funding, it's unlikely that all neighborhood parks could be targeted for an interactive art installation.

- Idea: Commission a moveable art piece to target all neighborhood parks.
- Idea: Identify a different, more central location, to locate the proposed interactive artwork e.g., Viking Ship Park or Downtown Plaza (planned for future).
- Idea: Allowing the artist to choose an adequate location.
- Other Ideas:

2026 Streetlight Banners:

To celebrate the United States' 250th anniversary, the City intends to solicit multiple designs for thematic street light banners to hang on street light poles in our downtown area. Any ideas for the solicitation of different designs may be further explored.

- Idea: Call for Art – Design for streetlight banners for the United States' 250th anniversary.
- Idea: Direct hire a veteran to create a design.
- Other ideas:

GUIDING DOCUMENTS

As project planning continues, these documents can always be used as resources.

- [2018 Arts and Culture Framework Plan](#)
 - Placemaking – Downtown/Neighborhoods/Public Art/Gathering Places
- [2020 Downtown Master Plan](#)
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