



Independence Arts Council Minutes

March 6, 2025 6:00 PM

**111 E Maple Ave
Independence, MO 64050
Conference Room D**

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Heather Wiley welcomed the Commission. Assistant City Manager Charlie Dissell called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM.

Roll call was taken, with the following members present: Stacie Short, Cindy McClain, Byron Constance, Tom Hall, Katie Gall, and Nancy Eppert.

Dissell requested the appointment of a chairperson. Commissioner McClain nominated Stacie Short, with Commissioner Eppert seconding the motion. The motion was approved by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. 2026 Parade of Hearts

Jenn Nussbeck, Executive Director of the Parade of Hearts, opened with a short video before providing a brief history of the event and presenting the new design to the Commission. She highlighted the Parade of Hearts app and shared that 150 sculptures will be featured in 2026. Emphasizing the importance of municipal partnerships, Nussbeck outlined the benefits for participating cities. For Independence to take part, a \$10,000 financial commitment is required by April 30, with full payment due by December 31. Additionally, the Council must

appoint a representative to the Parade of Hearts task force, which begins in May. The appointed member would need to commit 3–5 hours per month from May 2025 to September 2026.

Chairperson Short asked how municipalities typically select a task force representative.

Nussbeck noted that it is often the Chamber Director.

Short also inquired if the event is tied to FIFA. Nussbeck clarified that while it is not connected to FIFA, it aligns with key events happening in 2026.

2. Independence Municipal Commons Public Art Presentation

Dissell introduced the discussion and provided an overview of the 1% arts requirement for municipal projects.

Rich Kemple, Assistant Director of Municipal Services, presented plans for the Independence Municipal Commons, highlighting artistic elements of the canopies. These canopies will feature backlit Arktura panels, visible at night, on both the Jackson Drive and Interstate 70 sides of the building. Kemple also shared design concepts for the building's signage and noted that the second-floor open area near Community Development would serve as a display space for local artists.

Commissioner Gall inquired about the project timeline. Kemple stated that limited staff are currently in the building since remodeling has not yet started, with substantial completion expected by October.

Chairperson Short asked about costs. Kemple explained that the total building cost is estimated at \$20 million, with the 1% arts requirement allocating \$200,000 for artistic elements. The canopies are estimated at \$800,000, with the artistic components contributing \$200,000–\$300,000 of that cost. When asked what distinguishes the canopies as art, Kemple described their wave-like design. Short also sought clarification on the signage, to which Kemple responded that it would be of higher quality than standard commercial signs.

Commissioner Gall asked if the designs were final and about the use of glass on the backside. Kemple confirmed that while architectural renderings may appear soft, the designs are final after several revisions.

Commissioner Hall asked about the Commission's role in the project. Dissell explained that since the Commission was recently restarted, it was not involved in earlier design phases but would be part of artistic planning on future municipal buildings.

Commissioner Eppert asked if additional art could be incorporated into the building. Kemple noted that expanding artistic elements would increase costs, and staff aim to maximize taxpayer dollars.

Commissioner Hall suggested enhancing the artistic value of the windows near the entrance, while Commissioner McClain emphasized the importance of creating a unique design that sets Independence apart from other cities.

3. Independence Arts Commission Membership/future meetings

Chairperson Short noted that four former members have yet to be appointed. Commissioner Eppert expressed concerns about certain theater groups in Independence serving on the Commission and suggested appointing a Landscape Architect. Dissell requested suggestions for new members be sent to him or Council Member Wiley before the next meeting.

The Commission agreed to hold bi-monthly meetings, with the next meeting scheduled for

Tuesday, May 6, at 6:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Eppert moved to adjourn at 7:26 PM, with Commissioner McClain seconding the motion. The motion was approved by voice vote.