



Independence Arts Council Minutes

October 7, 2025 5:30 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 PM.

Members GK Callahan, Byron Constance, Nancy Eppert, Tom Hall, Donna Knold, Cindy McClain and Alan Voss were present.

Member Katie Gall was absent.

Councilmember Heather Wiley and Assistant City Manager Charlie Dissell, representing the City, were also present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of July 1, 2025, Meeting Minutes

There was not a quorum present to approve the minutes, so approval will be moved to the next regularly scheduled meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion of the City of Independence Public Art Policy

A discussion was held among the Arts Council members present, Assistant City Manager Charlie Dissell, and Councilmember Heather Wiley regarding the City's current Art Policy.

Arts Council Member Callahan noted that, upon reviewing the existing policy, several potential improvements could be made, including:

- Updating the name of the Commission/Council to reflect its current designation.
- Allocating a portion of the 1% funding specifically for maintenance.
- Allowing a fee in lieu of payment, enabling the Council to place art in more strategic locations.
- Expanding the 1% requirement to include public infrastructure projects and private development incentives.
- Clarifying the process for selecting art for the City (e.g., through a Request for Proposals).
- Better defining the criteria for granting waivers by the Council.

Arts Council Member Hall inquired about the process for amending the policy. Assistant City Manager Dissell explained that the Arts Council would need to collaborate and submit a formal recommendation to the City Council for consideration.

Arts Council Member Hall also asked how other communities manage their public art policies. Arts Council Member Knold noted that it took the City of Liberty several years to build up to \$30,000–\$40,000 in funding when their program began. Arts Council Member Callahan shared that Kansas City had a balance of nearly \$5 million following the airport project, and that Lee’s Summit likely generates \$50,000–\$60,000 annually. Arts Council Member McClain added that Blue Springs’ funding is comparable to that of Lee’s Summit.

Arts Council Member McClain also expressed concern that placing art on the public buildings from which the funding originates may not be the most effective approach.

Arts Council Member Callahan recommended removing the current \$10,000 maximum expenditure cap.

Councilmember Wiley suggested forming a subcommittee to review potential changes and present recommendations to the full Arts Council.

Motion: Arts Council Member Hall moved to appoint Member Callahan as Chair of the Subcommittee, with Members Eppert and Knold serving as members.

Second: The motion was seconded by Member Eppert.

Vote: The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Eppert moved for adjournment at 6:28 PM, and Member McClain seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, the meeting was adjourned unanimously.