



Independence Arts Council Minutes

January 6, 2026 5:30 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 PM.

Members GK Callahan, Nancy Eppert, Tom Hall, Donna Knold, Cindy McClain, and Carly Young were present. Members Katie Gall and Alan Voss were absent.

Councilmember Heather Wiley, Fire Chief Jimmy Walker, Deputy Fire Chief Kirk Stobart, and Assistant City Manager Charlie Dissell, representing the City, were also present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Arts Council member Callahan moved to approve the minutes, and the motion was seconded by Arts Council member Eppert. On a voice vote, the October 7, 2025, and November 18, 2025 minutes were approved unanimously.

1. October 07, 2025 Minutes
2. November 18, 2025 Minutes

OLD BUSINESS

1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Arts Council member McClain moved to appoint Arts Council member Nancy Eppert as Chair, and the motion was seconded by Arts Council Member Callahan. On a voice vote, the motion was approved unanimously.

2. Update on Truman Connected Phase 1 Art Pads

Dissell presented plans for the installation of art pads along Winner Road as part of the Truman Connected Phase 1 project. Arts Council member Eppert inquired about tree replacement. Dissell explained that the existing trees will need to be removed because grading for the path will impact their current locations. He noted that the City's Tree Commission is actively addressing this issue. The Arts Council confirmed that the proposed art pad placements align with the discussion held during the November 18 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discuss Fire Station Projects

Chief Walker introduced three upcoming fire station projects that will be phased out over the next few months. These include Station 8 at Truman/Powell, Station 5 at 35th and Sterling, and Station 11 next to Centerpoint. Chief Walker noted that Station 8 would begin first, followed by Station 5 after FIFA. He also expressed interest in using the 1% for Art funds to honor the Fire Department. Ideas discussed for this initiative included beautifying the National Park Service (NPS) building on the Square with potential involvement from the 76ers, creating a firefighter memorial for fallen firefighters that is highly visible to the public, and integrating artwork with the memorial concept.

Callihan asked whether all art components would be combined into one project. Chief Walker confirmed that this is his preference, which would provide approximately \$450,000 in funding. Callihan also noted his appreciation for the artwork at the Kansas City Fire Station on Truman. Eppert suggested combining the art project with the fallen firefighter memorial, and Chief Walker referenced a similar project completed in Memphis, Tennessee.

McClain proposed including an element on the Square that would appeal to children. Deputy Chief Stobart added that the building on the Square is in good condition. Callihan emphasized that the 1% allocation should remain dedicated to artwork. McClain asked about the possibility of using a façade grant for improvements, and Dissell agreed to look into this option.

Hall requested that plans be developed and presented to the Arts Council. Callihan asked if an RFP should be issued, and Deputy Chief Stobart suggested involving school district art departments in the process. Dissell noted that the Fire Department is seeking recommendations from the Arts Council and will confirm Council approval for the building's use by the Fire Department as well as review lease terms. Chief Walker and Dissell will explore the RFP process for project execution.

2. Consider Recommendation on Updated Public Art Policy.

The Arts Council reviewed the arts policy and discussed practices from various local jurisdictions. Callihan noted that the team had examined current policies and made minor adjustments. Callihan also mentioned that caps were considered during the review and emphasized that this remains a policy for now, with the possibility of transitioning to an ordinance in the future. Dissell pointed out that there is an exception to the 1% requirement within the policy that would give flexibility with a cap.

Councilmember Wiley stressed the importance of convincing the Council of the policy's value, while Knold highlighted the need to make this a collaborative effort with private companies. Callihan suggested preparing a study session presentation for the Council. The group also reflected on prior conversations with Council members regarding the program. The Arts Council agreed the March Study Session would work.

Dissell raised the question whether the program should be renamed to something other than "1% for the Arts" to better reflect its purpose and appeal.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:29 PM