

City of Rockville  
Cultural Arts Commission Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, September 10, 2025

Link for Webex recording:

<https://rockvillemd.webex.com/rockvillemd/jdr.php?RCID=586efcc393bdf0c6236c7d9ec1497ca3>

Attendees:

- Commissioners: Karen Askin, Melissa Beattie (joined at 7:23pm), Frances Bevington, Howard Jung, Liz Ortuzar, Brian Rogers
- City Staff: Linda Moran, Assistant to the City Manager; Anne O'Dell, Arts and Culture Program Manager, Staff Liaison

Meeting called to order at 7:07pm.

Welcome: Karen Askin, Commission Chair

Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting: Karen Askin

Motion to approve minutes as written made by Liz Ortuzar; Seconded by Frances Bevington; All in favor: Melissa Beattie, Frances Bevington, Howard Jung, Liz Ortuzar, Brian Rogers; Abstain from voting: Karen Askin

Chairperson Report: Karen Askin

Commissioner Askin reported on current VisArts exhibition and Cristin Cash's upcoming art lecture.

Mayor Report: Mayor Monique Ashton, The Mayor and Council Liaison

No report submitted.

Staff Report: Anne O'Dell, Arts and Culture Program Manager and Staff Liaison

Report included city-managed arts and culture programs and Resident Performing Arts Companies upcoming performances, Chapter IV Arts and Cultural Affairs Ordinance revision process, FY27 Budget comment process, and update on Poster Contest planning.

Questions about the Chapter IV Ordinance revision from Commissioner Bevington were:

1. Why was the order of parties participating in the Ordinance revisions and approvals changed?
2. Will the Office of the City Attorney review the CAC's comments?
3. Will the CAC's comments be shared with the Mayor and Council?

Staff provided the following answers:

1. Anne O'Dell will forward this question to the Executive Leadership Team and return their response to the CAC at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

2. The Office of the City Attorney (OCA) reviews all documents before they are presented to the Mayor and Council. Any revisions made to the Ordinance after the OCA's first review will be reviewed by the OCA before it is presented to the Mayor and Council.
3. The CAC's comments will be included in the staff report for the revised Chapter IV Ordinance when the revised version is presented to the Mayor and Council.

Commissioner Bevington requested the CAC be informed of the change in the revision and review process in addition to the reply to question 1. Commissioner Bevington also requested the December 2025 meeting when staff will receive CAC comments on the revisions be turned into a working meeting. Anne O'Dell agreed and proposed receiving written comments from the CAC before the meeting so those comments can be organized and presented on the screen during the conversation. Commissioner Bevington and Anne O'Dell agreed that new comments would be included in the conversation should they come up.

Commissioner Askin asked the following questions:

1. Can the revised Ordinance be emailed to the CAC in advance of the December 2025 meeting so that commissioners will have time to review it?
2. Is all of the Chapter IV Ordinance being reviewed?

Staff provided the following answers:

1. It is staff's goal to have the revised document to the CAC at least one week before the meeting.
2. Yes.

During the discussion about the FY27 budget process, Commissioner Askin asked for the dates the budget will be made available. Staff will notify the CAC when the dates are made public. Commissioner Askin discussed the budget process in previous years and the CAC's role in working with staff to identify priorities. Commissioner Bevington discussed that priorities were determined in Committee and then brought by the Committee to the Commission for the Commission's vote. Those priorities would then be included in the budget proposal received by the Mayor and Council. Anne O'Dell said she would share that with the Executive Leadership Team and provide the response at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

#### Committee Updates

- Art in Public Places Temporary Works Committee - Francis Bevington
  - Updates were provided on the College Gardens Park and Twinbrook Community Recreation Center Annex murals and Rocktoberfest.
- Art in Public Places Permanent Works Committee - Liz Ortuzar
  - Updates were provided on the Memory Walk Park Public Art Project, David Scull Park Public Art Project, and conservation and maintenance of the Public Art collection.

#### Old Business

Commission vote on the draft of the Commission's letter recommending the city pursue an Arts and Entertainment District designation. - Liz Ortuzar

Motion made to approve the letter made by Liz Ortuzar; Seconded by Melissa Beattie; All in favor of discussion: Melissa Beattie, Frances Bevington, Howard Jung, Liz Ortuzar, Brian Rogers; Abstain from voting: Karen Aski.

Commissioners Bevington, Ortuzar, and Askin made one edit was made to a sentence describing the arts and culture assets of the city.

Motion made to approve the letter with the edited sentence made by Frances Bevington; Seconded by Liz Ortuzar; Melissa Beattie, Frances Bevington, Howard Jung, Liz Ortuzar, Brian Rogers; Abstain from voting: Karen Aski

### New Business

Commission discussion and vote to have Mark Pierzchala present his recommendations for a performing arts venue at King Farm Farmstead, and for the Commission to draft a letter recommending a performing arts venue be included in the King Farm Farmstead Redevelopment Project. - Howard Jung

Discussion revolved around where the planning process was and if having Mark Peirzchala present to the CAC would circumvent the planning process. Anne O'Dell explained that the comment period for planning had closed, and the CAC had the opportunity to participate in the planning during the filtering sessions that were open to the public. Anne O'Dell also directed commissioners to the July 21, 2025, Mayor and Council meeting during which the worksession for King Farm Farmstead was presented and the Mayor and Council gave direction for the final planning stages. It was requested that Anne O'Dell ask staff leading the planning process if they would give a presentation to the CAC. Anne O'Dell said she would forward the request and provide the response at the next regularly scheduled CAC meeting.

### Announcements

Commissioner Askin received a request from Moyi Arts Concepts, a for-profit arts organization not based in Rockville to give a presentation to the CAC and seek funding. The Commission determined it would not be advisable for the organization to give a presentation because it is not based in Rockville, the CAC does not provide organizational funding, the organization is for-profit, and the CAC prioritizes Rockville-based arts organizations. Commissioner Askin will send an email to Moyi Arts Concepts regarding the Commission's decision to not have the organization present.

Motion to adjourn: Frances Bevington; Seconded by Liz Ortuzar; All in favor: Melissa Beattie, Frances Bevington, Howard Jung, Liz Ortuzar, Brian Rogers; Abstain from voting: Karen Askin

Adjourned at 8:34pm.

After adjournment, the request was made to reactivate the chat function in the meeting. Anne O'Dell replied that can be done, but it must be used in alignment with Roberts Rules of Order (RRO) and people cannot enter comments in the chat while someone else is talking because

only one person can talk at a time according to RRO.

[Minutes approved October 8, 2025.]