



*City of Bristol
Arts & Culture Commission*

INFORMATION TO ACCESS MEETING

<https://bristolct-gov.zoom.us/j/83837598503?pwd=7mmPQw4bSobMWVv0x40Niq9zNhCcgm.1>

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The regular meeting was held on Wednesday, April 1, 2026, at 6:00 PM in Meeting Room 1-3 in City Hall, 111 North Main Street, Bristol, CT 06010.

1. Call to Order

Chair Walter Lewandoski called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

a. Pledge of Allegiance

b. Attendance

Members Present:

Chair Walter Lewandowski
Vice Chair Andrea Adams
Commissioner Julie Carensa-Crist
Commissioner Juliet Norton
Commissioner Maria Salice
Commissioner Nigel Wynter
Commissioner E.Brad Yancy
Arts and Culture Supervisor Arianna Therriault

Absent:

City Council Liaison Greg Hahn

2. Approval of Minutes

a. Approval of Minutes: March 4, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Made by Vice Chair Adams to approve the March 4, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes.

Seconded by Commissioner Carensa-Crist; all in favor; motion approved.

3. Public Participation

Patti Philippon from the American Clock & Watch Museum, and Member of the Bristol America 250 Committee, proposed the City Arts and Culture Commission have a booth at the Bristol America250 Celebration on June 14, 2026. Discussion followed.

Sarah Johnson of 108 Collins Road in Bristol, inquired about the discussions being had about a new art festival with the Creative Collective. Chair Lewandoski stated that a new art festival is being discussed, and he has an upcoming meeting with the West End Association about it as well. Discussion followed.

4. Arts and Culture Supervisor's Report

a. Supervisor's Report

Arts and Culture Supervisor Arianna Therriault presented the Supervisor's Report. Supervisor Therriault updated the commission on recent ticket sales, and which shows are gaining traction. Discussion followed.

b. Project Spreadsheet

Arts and Culture Supervisor Arianna Therriault presented the Project Spreadsheet. Nothing to report.

c. Year to Date Financials

Arts and Culture Supervisor Arianna Therriault presented the Year-to-Date Financials. Supervisor Therriault stated that Downtown Live at the Rockwell Theater ticket sales have been closing the deficit and will see a profit this fiscal year. Discussion followed.

5. Chairman's Report

Chair Walter Lewandoski presented the Chairman's Report. Chair Lewandoski met with Hilary at the West End Association about planning a PorchFest, Ms. Iris White, Superintendent of Bristol Public Schools, about using the Bristol Arts and Innovation Magnet School for an Art Festival and the mural curriculum. Discussion followed.

6. Old Business

a. Update on the Main Street Community Foundation Grant for the Heart Sculpture Project

Chair Lewandoski presented the update on the Main Street Community Foundation Grant for the Heart Sculpture Project. Chair Lewandoski stated that the next step is to order the Heart Sculpture as it would take an estimated 7 weeks. Discussion followed.

MOTION: Made by Vice Chair Adams to place the order for the Heart Sculpture from Icon Poly for the Heart Sculpture Project for a total of \$1290.35.
Seconded by Commissioner Carensa-Crist; all in favor; motion carried.

MOTION: Made by Vice Chair Adams to appoint Ava Mendoza as the artist to design the artwork for Heart Sculpture.
Seconded by Commissioner Wynter; all in favor; motion carried.

b. City Hall Student Art Project Update

Chair Lewandoski presented the City Hall Student Art Project Update. Chair Lewandoski had some meetings with Ms. Iris White, Superintendent of Bristol Public Schools, about the City Hall Art Project, for June. Discussion followed.

c. Sculptor David Skora Graphics Update

Chair Lewandoski presented the updates from sculptor David Skora Graphics. Chair Lewandoski shared some conceptual designs of the sculpture with the commission for their feedback. Discussion followed.

d. "Laugh in the Dark" Grant Application

Commission Norton presented the grant submitted by Charles Burnham, the "Dark Ride Artist" and owner of the Laff in the Dark Ride. Charles Burnham, in collaboration with the New England Carousel Museum, would like to transport and display a restored vintage Lake Compounce, Laff in the Dark Ride. Discussion followed.

MOTION: Made by Vice Chair Adams to donate \$1000.00 to sponsor the Laff in the Dark Exhibit at the New England Carousel Museum from the Arts and Culture District Fund.
Seconded by Commissioner Carensa-Crist; all in favor; motion carried.

e. Reworld - Department of Public Works Art Project Approval

Chair Lewandoski presented the Department of Public Works Art Project. Chair Lewandoski met with the Public Works Department, Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, and Reworld to create artwork using plastic bottles. Reworld showed interest in donating to the project to help offset costs. Discussion followed.

f. By Commissioners

Commissioner Norton inquired about the Traffic Box Project. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Carensa-Crist presented the idea to hand out the Cultural District Map at the America 250 Celebration. Discussion followed.

7. New Business

a. Thank you Letter for the Main Street Community Foundation

City Arts and Culture Supervisor Arianna Therriault presented the Thank-You Letter to the Main Street Community Foundation. Chair Lewandoski offered to draft the letter to be sent to the Main Street Community Foundation. Discussion followed.

b. West Bristol School Mural

Arts and Culture Supervisor Arianna Therriault presented the West Bristol School Mural Grant. This grant is for a Welcome Mural at the entry of the school. Discussion followed.

MOTION: Made by Vice Chair Adams to be a Community Sponsor and donate \$250.00 to the West Bristol School Mural.

Seconded by Commissioner Norton; all in favor; motion carried.

c. New Project/Event Proposals

Commissioner E.Brad Yancy presented the idea of meeting with other Arts and Culture Commissions and organizations to coordinate a film festival similar to the Film Festival In Norwalk, CT. Discussion followed.

d. By Commissioners

Nothing to report.

8. Reports and Committee Reports

a. City Council Liaison Report

Nothing to report.

9. Adjournment

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Wynter to adjourn at 7:48 p.m.
Seconded by Commissioner Salice; all in favor; motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amaris Estrada
Recording Secretary
City Arts and Culture Commission