



*City of Bristol
Arts & Culture Commission*

INFORMATION TO ACCESS MEETING

<https://bristolct-gov.zoom.us/j/86280576918?pwd=iQ7DubdYbSAm0Dse5qszhgaOeTG2Z1.1>

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The regular meeting was held on Wednesday, October 1, 2025, 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 6:02 p.m.

a. Pledge of Allegiance

b. Attendance

Members Present:

Chair Walter Lewandoski
Vice Chair Andrea Adams
Commissioner Julie Carensa-Crist
Commissioner Juliet Norton
Commissioner Maria Salice
Commissioner Nigel Wynter
Commissioner E. Brad Yancy
City Council Liaison Cheryl Thibault
Arts and Culture Supervisor Arianna Therriault

Absent:

None.

2. Approval of Minutes

a. Approval of Minutes - September 3, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Made by Vice Chair Adams to approve the September 3, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes
Seconded by Commissioner Wynter, all in favor; motion carried.

3. Public Participation

Edwardo Garces, owner of Café Real in Bristol, shared a video, created by Revilla Films, of his story and how he has come to be the man and artist he is today. Edwardo is now the largest green coffee distributor in the United States. He would like to connect with other families and businesses around the state to share their origin stories as well.

Christine Liveech, of the Forestville Village Association, requested an update on the traffic box project; discussion followed.

Justin Malley, of the Economic and Community Development Department, requested a letter of support from the commission for a grant that supports the Pocket Park Project; discussion followed.

4. Arts and Culture Supervisor's Report

a. Supervisor's Report

Arts and Culture Supervisor Arianna Therriault presented the supervisor's report; discussion followed.

b. Project Spreadsheet

Arts and Culture Supervisor Arianna Therriault presented the project spreadsheet; discussion followed.

c. Year to Date Financials

Arts and Culture Supervisor Arianna Therriault presented the year-to-date financials. Supervisor Therriault stated that Downtown Live was up in sales by \$30,000. Upon release of the membership program, there have already been 16 memberships sold, and about 30 tickets have been sold for the spring shows; discussion followed.

5. Chairman's Report

Chair Walter Lewandoski presented the chairman's report. Chair Lewandoski presented updates about the restoration horse at the Carousel Museum. It is still being restored as it wasn't on the display floor. Chair Lewandoski spoke with David Krezel about the funding for the wood carving being pushed back to fiscal year 2027 depending on funding. The heart sculpture for the Locks at Stocks Project is currently being powder coated, but the cement has been poured and cured.

6. Old Business

a. Coffin Race Arrival and Prizes

Arts and Culture Supervisor Arianna Therriault presented the Coffin Race arrival and prizes. The commissioners would gather gift cards from local businesses as prizes. They discussed arrival for commissioners would be at 1:00 p.m. and the race would begin at 3:00 p.m.; discussion followed.

b. Traffic Box Updates

Vice Chair Andrea Adams presented the traffic box updates. Vice Chair Adams spoke with the Public Works Department, who suggested the commission have the traffic boxes wrapped instead of being hand painted for longevity and durability. The commission will present updates on cost at the next meeting; discussion followed.

c. By Commissioners

None.

7. New Business

a. Pocket Park Center Square Grant Submission — Letter of Support

Arts and Culture Supervisor Arianna Therriault presented the Pocket Park Center Square Grant Submission letter of support. Supervisor Therriault also suggested the commission start to look for additional art ideas and artists for the sculpture; discussion followed.

8. Reports and Committee Reports

a. City Council Liaison Report

City Council Liaison Cheryl Thibeault presented the City Council Liaison Report. In her report, City Council Liaison Thibeault updated the commission about Luna's Banquet Hall, hoping to open in November, the work with Carrier Construction is on track and the city was looking to get a Safe Streets for All Grant. Discussion followed.

9. Adjournment

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Wynter to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 p.m.
Seconded by Commissioner Carensa-Crist, all in favor; motion carried.

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