



*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, December 3, 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 Lewandoski called the meeting to order at 6:04 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 Greg Hahn
Arts and Culture Supervisor Arianna
Therriault

Absent:

2. Approval of Minutes

a. Approval of Minutes: November 19, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Made by Vice Chair Adams to approve the November 19, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes.

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

3. Public Participation

None.

4. Supervisor's Report

a. Arts and Culture Supervisor's Report

Arts and Culture Supervisor Arianna Therriault presented the Arts and Culture Supervisor's Report. Supervisor Therriault stated that there will be 35 shows in 2025 with about \$198,000.00 in revenue. The Arts and Culture Division are offering a Make It with Yarn and a Break-Dancing class this winter if anyone is interested. To register for this class, you can register on Bristolrec.com. Supervisor Therriault provided an update on The Holiday Crawl. It will take place on December 13th, with ten businesses currently signed up and more expected. The event focuses on the Cultural District and is being led by the Arts and Culture Commission to ensure targeted support and long-term continuity, with the goal of making it an annual tradition.

a. Project Spreadsheet

Arts and Culture Supervisor Arianna Therriault presented the update on the Project Spreadsheet. This is nothing new to report.

b. Year to Date Financials

Arts and Culture Supervisor Arianna Therriault presented the Year-to-Date Financials Report. Supervisor Therriault stated that the Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services department would like to request the City Arts and Culture Commission budget be restored to \$1500 for Fiscal Year 2027. Downtown Live at the Rockwell Theater is at \$170,054.00 in revenue to date; discussion followed.

Vice Chair Andrea Adams presented our new City Council Liaison, Greg Hahn. The Arts and Culture Commission was established during Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu first term at her request and with her full support. Greg served as the City Council liaison at the time. The commission has continued successfully over the years and played a key role in opening the theater.

5. Chairman's Report

Chair Walter Lewandoski presented the Chairman's Report. A developing community art workshop and studio space. The Chair has been participating in preliminary discussions with local stakeholders. However, this initiative is not sponsored or operated by the commission. A walkthrough of the proposed site is scheduled for next Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. The potential location is the former Bank of America building on North Main Street near the Polish Club. The concept involves a shared studio environment where artists may rent workspace through a membership model. Specific operational details, including costs and policies, remain under discussion as the project is in its early stages. The effort is being spearheaded by Creative Jam, with involvement from additional community partners. The project aims to support artist collaboration while activating an otherwise vacant downtown space. Further updates will be provided as planning progresses. Updates were shared on public art projects, including the Pocket Park at Riverside and North Main Street and the Heart project. Current installations, such as seven locks at Stocks, are beginning to populate, and the Chair is gathering information from similar projects in other cities to guide local efforts.

Joanne Moran's mural grant request was denied by the Main Street Foundation. She has revised her proposal, but the project remains costly, and the current budget does not allow funding. The Chair advised her to revisit the project in spring. Ms. Moran aims to use a community mural to kick off her concept and plans to connect with Max, owner of Express Kitchen, who is interested in collaborating on murals. Communication will be facilitated via email, and she plans to attend the upcoming meeting to stay informed.

6. Old Business

Conceptually approve the installation of public art wraps on four (4) traffic boxes located at the intersections of Broad Street and Central Street, Pine Street and Lincoln Avenue, West Street and Center Street, and Stafford Avenue and Washington Street, and refer to staff for the creation of an RFP.

The Commission discussed moving forward with decorating traffic boxes. It was clarified that formal approval from the Commission is required before creating an RFP to request artist proposals. Funding for the project will come from the Arts and Culture Commission Contribution Fund, primarily through donations, and may be limited based on budget availability.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Carensa-Crist to approve the installation of public art wraps and/or decoration on four (4) traffic boxes located at the intersections of Broad Street and Central Street, Pine Street and Lincoln Avenue, West Street and Center Street, and Stafford Avenue and Washington Street, and referred to staff for the creation of an RFP.

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

- a. Accept donations through the Arts & Culture Commission Contribution Fund to offset the cost of the four (4) public art traffic box installations, to total approximately \$3,600.**

The Commission discussed accepting donations through the Arts and Culture Commission Contribution Fund to help offset the cost of traffic box installations, estimated at approximately \$3,600 total (\$800–\$900 per box for a wrap). It was clarified that accepting donations does not commit the Commission to using wraps or exceeding the budget; it simply allows funding to be collected to support the project.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Carensa - Crist to accept donations through the Arts & Culture Commission Contribution Fund to offset the cost of the four (4) public art traffic box installations, to total approximately \$3,600.

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

- b. Update on the Heart Sculpture Sponsored by the Broad View Fund**

The Commission discussed the next steps for the heart sculpture project. It was agreed that while funding has been secured from Bob through the Main Street Community Foundation, the **official order** should not be placed until a final installation location is confirmed. The total cost of the sculpture is approximately \$834, with shipping estimated between \$400 and \$500.

Potential locations discussed include the Memorial Boulevard Veterans Garden, Federal Hill, and a site in front of a school under the Board of Education. Considerations for placement include visibility, high traffic areas, and vulnerability to vandalism. Approval from relevant authorities, including the Parks Board, Veterans Board, and any property owners, will be required prior to installation.

The Commission agreed that members should identify and propose potential locations before the next meeting to finalize placement, ensure approvals can be obtained, and proceed with ordering and installation planning.

c. Ace Awards Update

Commissioner Salice was to present the Ace Awards Update. There is nothing to report at this time.

d. Plaque for the Locks at Stocks Sculpture from the Artistic Bronze

The Commission inquired about a plaque for the Locks at Stocks Sculpture from the Artistic Bronze. An update will be presented at the next meeting after pricing is acquired.

e. By Commissioners

The Commission inquired about an update on the Cultural District Map. Chair Lewandoski stated that he would get the complete file of the Cultural District Map.

7. New Business

a. Approval of the 2026 City Arts and Culture Commission Meeting Calendar

The 2026 City Arts and Culture Commission Meeting Calendar was presented to the commission for review.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Norton to approve the 2026 City Arts and Culture Commission Meeting Calendar.
Seconded by Commissioner Carensa-Crist; all in favor; motion carried.

b. Request for Official Community Impact/Alignment Award or Recognition for the Free Community Open Mic Series by the City Arts and Culture Commission

Arts and Culture Supervisor Therriault presented the Request for Official Community Impact/Alignment Award or Recognition for the Free Community Open Mic Series by the City Arts and Culture Commission; discussion followed.

MOTION: Made by Vice Chair Adams to award the Creative Jam Art Co. an Official Community Impact/Alignment Award for hosting the Free Community Open Mic Series by the City Arts and Culture Commission.
Seconded by Commissioner Carensa- Crist; all in favor; motion carried.

c. By Commissioners

None.

8. Reports and Committee Reports

a. City Council Liaison Report

City Council Liaison Greg Hahn spoke with the Mayor, Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, about restoring the \$15,000 City Arts and Culture Commission Budget in Fiscal Year 2027. Liaison Hahn also noticed the lack of art in the new City Hall Building. He proposed that they have local students submit artwork for a chance to be placed on the wall within the building.

9. Adjournment

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Carensa-Crist to adjourn at 7:21 p.m.

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

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

