

Nashua Arts Commission
Meeting minutes
Apr. 14, 2026

In attendance:

Jennifer Annand

Jane Marquis

Judy Carlson

Lindsay Rinaldi

Tina Cassidy

Carol Robey

Chuck Emmons

Lauren Spira-Savet

Faith Mandravelis

Guests: Alderman-at-Large Amber Morgan, Kathleen Palmer (City reps)

Absent: Sara Ceaser, Paula Lochhead, Stephanie Moll; Liz Hannum (City)

Call to Order: 8:00 am. **Roll Call of Members.**

Motion to Approve: Mar. minutes – Motion to Approve was made by **Judy** and seconded by **Jenn**, all in favor. Motion carried.

Old Business

Grants results: **Jenn** gave a synopsis of the BOA's approval of the grant award recommendations at their Mar. 24 meeting. Many people came to show support. Checks have been issued by City AP.

Meeting with Mayor: **Lindsay** debriefed the members of her recent meeting with the Mayor, and gave his feedback; that meeting agenda is attached to these Minutes for more information. **Judy** advocated for a new 5-year plan but the decision not to do one at this time was already made and relayed to Mayor. Alderman-at-Large Morgan mentioned that we should move forward with legislation to move the NAC budget into the General Fund for its longevity. Who writes that legislation TBD (Liz? An alderman?)

Project Adoption Discussion: **Lindsay** read several proposed projects for the commission's \$10k project funds. (Kudos given to **Sara** for using the rubric; **Judy** objected to hearing tardy proposals but was overridden). After some discussion, **Lindsay** made a **Motion** (seconded by **Faith**) to select one of the projects and move forward with it, via forming a sub-committee to formulate a full proposal with details and budgeting for **Faith**'s project – funding the musicians and doing some NAC marketing during a Summer Music Series (Renaissance Park, Third Thursdays downtown, Farmers Market) – via Downtown Nashua Association. Approved. They are tasked with accomplishing that within two weeks, to present to Board of Aldermen at their May 26 meeting. The sub-committee will consist of **Faith** (chair), **Judy**, and **Jane**.

A second **Motion** was made by **Lindsay**, seconded by **Jane**, to empower the new sub-committee to make a direct recommendation to the BOA upon completion of their project plan. Approved.

Motion to table rest of agenda due to time constraints. Motion to table by **Lindsay**, seconded by **Judy**, all approved.

Motion to Adjourn: 9:23 am, made by **Chuck**, seconded by **Faith**, all in favor. Motion carried.

Next Meeting: **8 am Tuesday, May 12, 2026**

attachments

NASHUA **ARTS** COMMISSION

Nashua Arts Commission Report

Submitted by Lindsay Rinaldi, Chair

3/16/26

Current Priorities:

- Earn successful passage of the latest slate of proposed arts grant awards
- Launch our own arts commission led projects to earn public attention and long-standing impact
- Create a succession plan for commissioner membership and leadership
- Establish legislation to preserve the traditional 40k funding as a consistent budget line item outside of the Mayor's discretionary spending

Challenges:

Limited funding

Significant progress on parts of the arts and culture plan is not possible without additional funding. We are also missing out on quality arts projects submitted through the grant program

- Solution: Expect an extension/update of the current arts and culture plan instead of the creation of a new plan in 2027.

Commissioner appointment

The process is slow and reappointment happens automatically

- Solution: request feedback from the Chair prior to reappointment and consider shorter terms for long-standing members

Unclear communication from the Mayor's Office

- Solution: Submit directives to the arts commission in writing to the chair, aldermanic liaison, and Director of Economic Development,
- Ensure changes to meeting agendas where arts commission presence is requested are communicated in writing; consider sending appointment notices via email in addition to paper mail.

Questions:

What is the most important thing the Arts Commission should focus on right now?

-Requested 3% increase in line with the rest of the budget and got a conditional yes

Project: 2 Banners

Submitted by: Chuck

2 Banner signs to be displayed at events funded in part by grants suggested by Nashua Arts Commission

Banner Text: This Event was supported in part with Funds distributed by the Nashua Arts Commission

Or "supported in part by funds from the City of Nashua"

Include QR logo

6ft x 3ft vinyl banner costs about \$60: Banners on the Cheap: about \$50 each

Project: Bus Stop Art and Window Displays

Submitted by Sara

Sara-bus stop art, written word/partnerships w/ private businesses to display art walk

Rubric Scores:

Criterion	Storefront Windows (Score)	Bus Stops (Score)
Reinforcing City Identity	10	10
Current Community Support	7	5
Current Stakeholder Support	7	5
Opportunity for Community Engagement	10	10
Public Visibility & NAC Attribution	7	10
Return on Previous/Existing Investment	10	10
Threat of Inaction	2	3
Anticipated Cost of Entire Project	10	5
Staff/Commissioner/Volunteers Time Required	7	5
Timeline for Implementation	7	5
Potential Funding Sources	7	10
Inclusivity of Diverse and/or Underserved Audiences	10	10
Impacts on the Collective Business Community	10	7

Project Proposal: Youth art show

Submitted by Jane

2d and 3d art at Greeley Park in a June timeframe, family event, free to attend, hopefully. Free refreshment, anticipated budget \$500—move to sept?

Project Proposal: Walking Tours

Submitted by Laurie & Paula

Walking tours for Nashua historical tours (mill buildings and other areas). The guru everyone recommended, Alan Manoian, did not respond to messages so we assume he's not interested or otherwise indisposed. Does anyone have other recommendations for tour guides? If we do get a recommendation, Paula has the rubric filled out and ready to go. If not, Paula may be willing to do a mill tour herself at no charge, but that wouldn't then be a project for our remaining funds.

Project Proposal: A smart City Kiosk for the Riverfront

Submitted by Jenn, Amber, and Liz

A smart city kiosk is an interactive, outdoor digital terminal designed to improve urban life by providing 24/7 access to information, connectivity, and services. Key functions include digital wayfinding, local business directories, public transit updates, free Wi-Fi, device charging, and emergency alerts, commonly found on street corners or in high-traffic pedestrian areas. This unit is just over \$10K- hoping we could purchase and install something like this within budget for 2026.

Options:

1. Ideal [Model Option HERE](#) (fully digital)
 - a. Alternate digital options [A](#) and [B](#)
 2. [For posting flyers](#) (Non-digital)
 3. [For displaying posters and brochures](#) (non-digital)
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Project: Proposal: Art on utility boxes

Submitted by Jenn & Liz (maybe next year?)

Create art on 3 Utility boxes for the same 10K budget, based on estimates that Liz also gave me. This includes the cost of the wrap, a stipend of artists fees, and production/installation. 2-4k per box

Project: Proposal: Music at Renaissance Park

Submitted by Faith

Sponsor the music series and pay the artists, work with GAD/Alyssa, we would be in charge of picking the music

-include marketing

Programming needs: 6 Thursdays (3rd Thursdays)

All Farmer's Markets

~18 events @ \$500

Getting sound installed at the ampitheater