



Salem Cultural Council
MEETING MINUTES
Monday August 3, 2026

1. Call to Order – 7:06 PM.
2. Roll Call.
 - a. Members Present: Cris Gladly, Stephanie Call, Ian McLeod, Jess Crescimano
 - b. Members Absent: John Newhall, Cassandra Warren
3. Prior meeting minutes vote (July 13, 2026).
 - a. Motion to vote on July meeting by Ian, seconded by Stephanie.
 - i. Matter passed.
4. SCC Roles Discussion
 - a. John is stepping down as co-chair position.
 - b. Ian and Cris have agreed to serve as co-chairs.
 - i. Motion by Stephanie and seconded by Jess. Matter passed.
 - c. Cris will remain treasurer for one year while serving as co-chair.
 - i. Motion made by Ian and seconded by Stephanie. Matter passed.
5. Membership
 - a. SCC needs to focus on attracting new members this year and an active plan for recruitment is needed.
 - b. John's term is up in March 2027. Cass's term expires in August 2027. Ian and Cris's terms both end June 2027.
6. Survey results
 - a. Discussion about survey results and the need for the SCC to clarify their role in the arts and culture sector vs. other city functions.
 - b. Residents largely interested in developing an all-ages performance venue and music scene; seeing more lectures and cultural festivals; and events that bring locals together as a community, including public art spaces to create art and local history topics outside of witch history.
 - c. Residents also commented on the need for more spaces to be accessible to people with disabilities, and that it is difficult to know what is happening in Salem.

5. Discuss potential changes/updates to guidelines and priorities.
 - a. Changes to the guidelines were discussed.
 - b. Statement added that SCC will not use AI to review grant applications or make decisions.
 - c. Add dates and deadlines to the guidelines so applicants understand the full grant cycle.
 - d. Discussion about priorities and low priorities.
 - e. Motion made to vote in priorities was made by Ian; Stephanie second. Matter passes.
6. Continued discussion of AI usage in proposals and projects.
 - a. AI usage conversation. "Low to no priority" on guidelines leaves space for people to explain their rationale for using AI.
 - b. SCC will see how technology evolves this year and how to address in future.
7. Discuss/review upcoming grant cycle calendar.
 - a. Cris presented grant cycle task list and deadlines coming up and expectations for council members.
8. Ian requests the floor for business.
 - a. Ian suggested having an in-person grant reception.
 - b. Invite council members, grant recipients, and the liaison from MCC.
 - c. This is also a membership recruitment possibility.
9. Public calls.
 - a. None.
10. Any other business.
 - a. Tips for writing a good grant: maybe as a FAQ; with additional questions. This information should also be included in the priorities.
 - b. Priorities also need to be translated into Spanish.
 - c. Regarding a former council member's suggestion from July meeting, other councils do have ad hoc volunteer members, but they are non-voting, skill-specific volunteers.
 - d. Assign council members to different grants as liaisons and go to their events if possible.
10. Motion to adjourn by Cris. Adjourn—8:34.

Next steps:

1. Submit guidelines to MCC- Cris
2. Submit guidelines to City- Cris
3. SCC needs to update website for the city- Cris
4. Prep some communications to go live on 9/1- Ian
 - a. Point people to MCC grant webinar on 9/10
5. Cris meeting with City's financial director about Council financial report

/END