



PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, July 21, 2026

The South Burlington PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE held a regular meeting Tuesday, July 21, 2026, at 5:30PM at 180 Market Street in Room 301, and by remote participation.

Members present: Amanda Holland (Chair), Sebastian Ryder (Vice-Chair), Isaac Cates, Karen Lamos, Penne Tompkins, Mark Behr, Sophia Babbitt, Bryce Myers, Thomas Lindlay, Ilona Blanchard (staff, non-voting), Tim Barritt (council liaison, non-voting)

1. The meeting was convened at 5:33 PM by Amanda.
 - a. Ilona reviewed the emergency procedures.
 - b. Penne Tompkins was identified as the minute taker for the meeting.
 - c. The agenda was reviewed, and no changes were made. A motion was made by Sebastian and seconded by Karen to accept the agenda as provided. Motion was approved unanimously.
 - d. No members of the public attended the meeting on items not on the agenda.

2. Introductions and welcome to new committee members

Amanda led the group in introducing themselves to our two new committee members Bryce Myers and Thomas Lindlay. Current members as well as staff liaison Ilona Blanchard and city council liaison Tim Barritt shared a bit about themselves, how long they have been on the committee and why they joined. The group looks forward to fostering public art in the community with our newly expanded membership of nine committee members. Bryce, Thomas, Sebastian and Penne began new terms as of July 1.

3. Minutes from the October 21, 2025 and June 16, 2026 meetings

- a. Following a motion from Penne, seconded by Karen, committee members voted unanimously to approve the meeting minutes of October 21, 2025.
- b. Following discussion, a number of amendments were made to the minutes of June 16. A motion was made by Isaac and seconded by Mark to approve the June 16 minutes with the amendments. Motion was unanimously approved.

4. Updates:

- a. Chair- Amanda reported on her presentation at the City Council meeting Monday July 20 as the council considered the Public Art Committee's recommendation to move forward with the sculpture proposal from Flywheel called LoopDeeLoop for the new pocket park being created as part of the Garden Street/Williston Rd. Streetscape project. After a few questions and discussion, the Council voted unanimously to approve moving forward with commissioning the new public art piece.
- b. Staff- Ilona reported on a few items:

- i. She reminded us that with the expansion of the committee to nine members, our meeting quorum is now five members.
 - ii. The PAC Annual Report is due in October 2026. Ilona suggested identifying one or two members to work on this at the August meeting so that it can be prepared for the committee's review by the September meeting.
 - iii. Committee members were reminded that the groundbreaking for the new pedestrian bridge over I-89 is Monday July 27 at 2 p.m. in the Staples parking lot off Williston Road. The nature of the PAC's engagement with the project was described for the benefit of the newer members.
 - iv. Lastly, Committee members were asked to hold the date for the SB3C Annual meeting August 27 at the Homewood suites at 5:30 p.m. There will be a great speaker (to be announced) and updates on the progress of this initiative to build our city center collaborative.
- c. Council – Tim
- i. Tim reported on the ribbon cutting for the City Center Park July 7. The community event was well attended and residents really appreciate the new boardwalk, Storywalk and connectivity of the project which Tim noted was funded with Penny for Paths, support from the Friends of the Library and, importantly, with TIF district funds.
 - ii. Tim reported on the progress being made on creating the bike/pedestrian path in Hubbard Park. He also mentioned the hope to soon be able to connect land from South Point through Hubbard and strengthen connectivity in that part of the city.
 - iii. The last piece of property right of way has been secured for the Dorset Street shared use path.
- d. Working Groups – Amanda reported on the regrouping of the Rec & Parks and Open Spaces Master Plans Advisory Group on which both she and Penne were attendees last year. From a public art perspective, we are hoping that the work that comes out of this project will assist our committee in identifying city areas that would benefit from public art. Amanda and Penne will continue to serve on the advisory group as the project is near completion although other members are welcome to attend. The next meeting is July 27 at 6:30 p.m.

5. Committee Officer Elections

Amanda explained the yearly process to review and elect committee officers, Ilona shared descriptions of the roles of Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk. Amanda asked for someone to step up to become chair as she has held the role for a few years and is ready to allow someone else the opportunity.

After some discussion about the roles and responsibilities, Sebastian Ryder, who has been serving as vice chair, agreed to be nominated for Chair and Isaac Cates agreed to be nominated for Vice Chair. Formally, a motion to nominate Sebastian as Chair, was made by Karen, seconded by Mark and the motion passed unanimously and Karen made a motion to nominate Isaac as Vice Chair, seconded by Sebastian, which also passed unanimously. Finally, a motion was made by Karen, seconded by Penne, to approve the slate of officers for Chair and Vice Chair. The motion passed unanimously.

The committee members opted not to elect a designated clerk but rather to continue with sharing the duties of clerk which consists largely of taking the minutes at regular meetings.

Following this election, Sebastian assumed the responsibility for leading the balance of the meeting.

6. Green Community Festival – *Katie O'Brien Barritt joined the meeting at 6:30 p.m. to provide input on item #7.* The committee discussed ideas and planning for the Public Art Committee hosting an activity at the city's Green Community Festival Saturday September 19 from 11-3.
 - a. Katie shared a few options for easy to lead art projects using recycled materials: large pieces of art using plastic bottle caps and other recycled materials, plastic flowers made from recycled water bottles, and small collaged figures using many different materials.
 - b. She described ways to collect materials and a bit of the process for making the items.
 - c. The option to create a single community piece versus smaller individual pieces that participants could take home was debated with further discussion to follow.
 - d. Sophia asked if there would be a cost associated with doing the project and it was noted by Katie that as a teacher she has rarely received monetary support for the projects.
 - e. Committee members loved the ideas Katie presented and thanked her for coming to share her expertise. She has indicated she would be happy to help us organize as we continue to pursue one of these ideas.
 - f. Isaac, Penne and Amanda agreed to serve as a smaller team to work with Sophia, in her capacity as Exec Director of SB3C, and Bettina, on city staff, who are organizing the festival for the city.

7. Public Art Gallery Exhibition proposal for Sept-November 2026, opening reception October 1
Curator Maedeh sent a proposal for an exhibition featuring faculty members from the University of Vermont Department of Art and Art History. The exhibition will explore how artistic practice functions as a form of inquiry, which expands understanding, challenges assumptions and serves to inspire emerging student artists. Thomas informed the group of a recent remodeling of UVM's theater building which has created a small gallery space that has been used to show art faculty and student work. He wondered if there could be a way to collaborate more directly with UVM to show some works as part of the show also at UVM. Thomas will reach directly to Maedeh about these ideas. Penne suggested that the content of this exhibition could present an excellent opportunity for a public program with some of the artists in addition to the opening reception. It was noted that often our opening receptions do not seem to bring in many general community members and we would like to improve that.

Overall, members appreciated the proposal and liked what it would bring to the gallery. Based on the timing that Maedeh is proposing, Ilona will explore the possibility of keeping the student art on the walls a bit longer than originally scheduled. Isaac made a motion to approve the show, seconded by Karen. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Other Business: there was no other business discussed.

Sebastian adjourned the meeting at 7:04 PM.

The next regular meeting will be at 5:30 PM on August 18, 2026.

Respectfully Summited,

Penne Tompkins