



EAST LANSING AGENDA

Arts Commission Meeting

5:30 p.m. - June 18, 2026

Hannah Community Center - 819 Abbot Rd.

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MINUTES

Arts Commission Meeting

5:32 p.m. - April 16, 2026

Hannah Community Center (819 Abbot Rd.)

The Arts Commission of the City of East Lansing was called to order on Thursday, April 16, 2026, at 5:30 PM, in the Hannah Community Center, with the following members present:

PRESENT: Barbara Worgess, Elinor Holbrook, Commissioner Allie Siarto, Commissioner Leslie Wilbur, Commissioner Gabriel Biber, Commissioner Nina Silbergleit, Courtney Miniffee, Gail Burke, and Cara Ronk

EXCUSED:

1. OPENING

1.1 Roll Call

1.2 Approval of the agenda

No objections

1.3 Approval of the minutes

No objections

2. COMMUNICATIONS FROM AUDIENCE

Bob Cleveland present. Photographer who would like the Arts Commission to help him set up a show. - The Cultural Arts Grant program, MSUFCU gallery, Scene Metroospace, Snyder Philips Gallery.

3. BUSINESS ITEMS

3.1 Cultural Arts Grant Guidelines

Original motion was, "Motion to approve the 2027 Cultural Arts Grant Guidelines as presented." Moved by Commissioner Wilbur, seconded by Vice Chairperson Ronk.

Discussion: Commissioners reviewed the edited Cultural Arts Grant. Edits were requested on the budget template and application page.

Moved by Gabriel Biber, seconded by Leslie Wilbur, Move to approve the 2027 Cultural Arts Grant Guidelines as amended.

Moved by Leslie Wilbur, seconded by Courtney Miniffee, Motion to approve the

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Cultural Arts Grant Increase letter as amended

YEA: Barbara Worgess, Allie Siarto, Leslie Wilbur, Gabriel Biber, Courtney Minifee, Gail Burke, and Cara Ronk

NAY: Elinor Holbrook

ABSTAINED: Nina Silbergleit

CARRIED

3.2 Letter for Cultural Arts Grant Increase

Original motion: Motion to approve the Cultural Arts Grant Increase letter as presented and authorize the Arts Commission Chairperson to sign. Moved by Commissioner Wilbur, seconded by Commissioner Worgess.

Discussion: amendments were requested.

3.3 2027 Goals for Arts Commission

Moved by Gabriel Biber, seconded by Leslie Wilbur, Move to approve these three goals; Goal 1: Revise and relaunch the Cultural Arts Grants program to increase clarity, fairness, and alignment with city arts priorities, Goal 2: Develop a strategic one-year plan that identifies the commission's top arts priorities for spending the Public Art Fund to support long term objectives related to the City of East Lansing's identity as a "City of the Arts.", and Goal 3: Commissioners will collaborate to attend at least eight community meetings/events to connect with local stakeholders outside of Arts Commission meetings, for the Arts Commission to accomplish in 2027.

[2026 Goals and Timeline-revised-4-16](#)

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

4.1 City of the Arts Discussion

Chairperson Siarto shared a presentation she put together on what "City of the Arts" means for other communities and what it could look like in East Lansing. Presentation is attached.

Commissioners also discussed the need for better collaboration with other organizations and better communication across the area about what arts events are upcoming.

[EL-city-of-the-arts](#)

5. REPORTS

5.1 Council Liaison

Not present

5.2 Commissioners

Commissioner Silbergleit - The DDA funded the 2nd phase of Art Space. Meetings have resumed.

Commissioner Holbrook - The Summer Solstice Jazz Festival has a fundraiser April 27.

Vice Chairperson Ronk - "My Secret Lansing" poetry and prose, but for East Lansing idea.

5.3 Staff Report

Reviewed

5.4 Chairperson

Chairperson Siarto will be absent in June. The next Arts and Humanities luncheon is coming up. Commissioner Silbergleit is attending.

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Mayor

Administrative Secretary

2026 Goals & Timeline

Goal 1: Revise and relaunch the Cultural Arts Grants program to increase clarity, fairness, and alignment with city arts priorities.

5 Year Plan Alignment:

- **Goal 2:** Improve commission operations
- **Goal 4:** Develop fair and equitable art selection criteria

Actions & Outcomes:

- Draft a fully updated grant application, evaluation rubric, and review process by April, 2026.
- Launch the updated grant cycle in July 2026.

Goal 2: Develop a strategic one-year plan that identifies the commission's top arts priorities for spending the Public Art Fund to support longterm objectives related to the City of East Lansing's identity as a "City of the Arts."

5 Year Plan Alignment:

- **Goal 3:** Create Recognition of the City of the Arts

Actions & Outcomes:

- One Commissioner will take the lead on research and present to the Commission on what elements have led to other cities becoming known as art destinations; e.g.:
 - Arts branding approaches
 - Grant program structures
 - Any public-private partnerships
 - Signature art pieces, events, or programs
- The Commission will conduct a planning workshop by June 2026 to gather Commissioner input.
- The Commission will create a document defining how they want to move toward making East Lansing a creative and cultural destination. The document will include a one year plan that outlines top art funding priorities/locations in relation to how the Commission defines East Lansing as a creative and cultural destination.
- Review this plan quarterly and adjust priorities or messaging as needed.

Goal 3: Commissioners will collaborate to attend at least eight community meetings/events to connect with local stakeholders outside of Arts Commission meetings.

5 Year Plan Alignment:

- **Goal 6:** Develop and strengthen collaborative relationships among regional stakeholders

Actions & Outcomes:

- The Arts Commission will brainstorm local organizations and meeting opportunities by August, 2026 and assign volunteers to attend at least eight external meetings to build upon collaborative relationships and opportunities.
- Assigned volunteers will attend their meetings to better connect with local stakeholders related to the mission of the Arts Commission.
- As of March, 2026, the chair will have met with:
 1. Greater Lansing Humanities, Arts, and Cultural Leaders luncheon (quarterly)
 2. The East Lansing neighborhood presidents
 3. Representatives from MSU, including:
 - Janet Lillie, Assistant Vice President for Community Relations
 - Judith Stoddart, Vice Provost of University Arts and Collections
 - Morgan Butts, Senior Director of Communications and Marketing, Michigan State University Arts and Collections
 - Kristin S. McCool, Assistant Director of Off Campus Life, Office of Community & Student Relations | Student Affairs

CITY OF THE ARTS

Presented by Allie Siarto
EL Arts Commission Chair
April, 2026



ANCHOR INSTITUTIONS

Cultural hubs tend to form around:

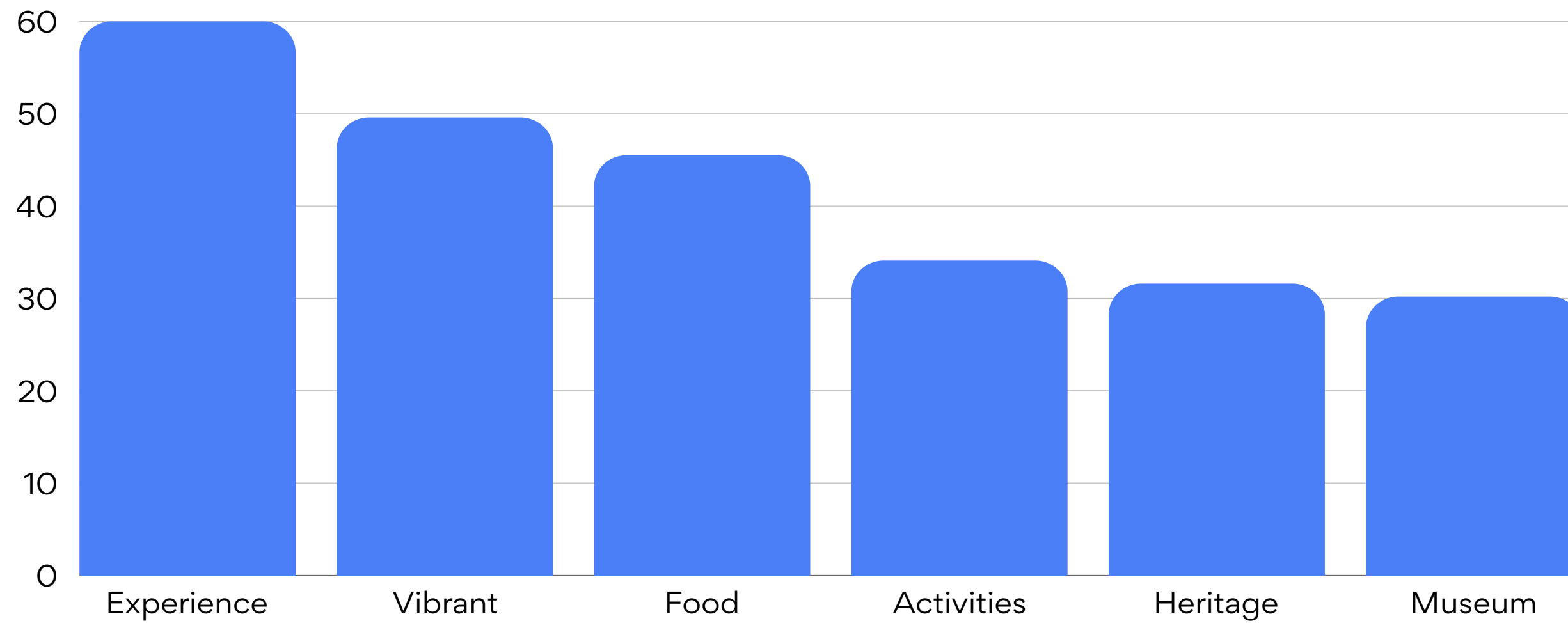
- Institutions (e.g. universities, theaters, museums)
- Walkable environments
- Regular programming

Placemaking research warns against cultural silos.



TOP WORDS ASSOCIATED WITH “ARTS DISTRICT” IN SOCIAL MEDIA

By Percentage



EL'S CURRENT STRENGTHS

What we already have



- **High-quality arts experiences and institutions; e.g.**
 - Broad Museum
 - Wharton Center
 - MSU performances/programming
 - Hannah Community Center programming
 - EL library programming
 - Summer concert series
 - East Lansing Art Festival
 - Ruhala Performing Arts Center
 - (SCENE) MetroSpace
 - Farmers market music
 - A large number of physical art pieces in the community

- **Annual grants program to support local artists and community projects**
- **A large creative population; e.g.**
 - MSU Students and faculty in the arts, including clubs
 - Dance companies
 - Community Music School
 - Local schools (arts, music, performance)
- **Downtown foot traffic**
 - Not necessarily arts-motivated
- **Active neighborhood associations**



EL'S CURRENT **WEAKNESS**

What we could improve on

- Anchor institutions are somewhat siloed
- Limited budget (we need to be strategic with what we have)

EL'S CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

Interpreted from National Endowment for the Arts research and other placemaking studies



- **Create low-barrier entry points** for residents who don't attend festivals or shows, or who can't afford expensive performances
- In addition to events that people put on their calendars, **create opportunities to encounter art “out in the wild”**
- **Create repeated opportunities for artists to show up in our community;** e.g.
 - Artists who create physical art
 - Musicians
 - Dance companies
 - Performers
- **Make the university–downtown boundary feel more “porous” and less siloed from the city**
- **Reduce other silos** by bringing stakeholders together



REFRAME THE QUESTION

Instead of asking: “How do we become a city of the arts?”

Ask: How can we lower the barrier to experience art in everyday life?



WHAT WE DON'T NEED RIGHT NOW

- A new “arts district”
- Ongoing major capital projects every year (e.g. more murals)
- More large headline events (\$\$\$)

PRORITY 1

FOCUS ON SMALLER, MORE FREQUENT “ART IN THE WILD” EXPERIENCES



What This Could Look Like

- Regular public micro-performances (e.g. music, theater excerpts, dance)
 - Build on the foundation that’s already been created by the Summer Concert Series
- Smaller community and artist collaborations with public visibility; e.g.
 - Artist led community art installations
 - Smaller or temporary installations
 - Continuing to promote grants projects that have solid public visibility

Smaller, repeatable interventions build social meaning faster than occasional large spectacles. [civicarts.org].

PRORITY 2 MAKE THE UNIVERSITY-DOWNTOWN BOUNDARY FEEL MORE “POROUS”



Placemaking research warns against cultural silos. NEA’s research emphasizes that successful creative places:

- Physically and psychologically blur institutional boundaries
- Allow culture to “spill out” of formal venues and into daily movement patterns. [civicarts.org]

PRORITY 3 CONTINUE TO BRING STAKEHOLDERS TOGETHER



Partner and communicate with the DDA, MSU, neighborhood associations, and other institutions/artists to work together on funding and initiating projects.

WHAT THIS COULD LOOK LIKE IN PRACTICE



<https://seguintexas.gov/243/Seguin-Squirrel-Trail>

Create a “Sculpture Parade” using the same fiberglass sculptures painted by different artists or communities - place these across downtown, campus, & neighborhoods or neighborhood schools (like a series of “Easter eggs” to find throughout the city).

This aligns with the following points:

- Create opportunities to encounter art “out in the wild”
- Physically and psychologically blur institutional boundaries
- Allow culture to “spill out” of formal venues and into daily movement patterns.
- Visually and creatively connect different East Lansing “corridors,” including MSU, downtown, and neighborhoods.

Cost: Roughly \$1,200 - \$2,500 per fiberglass sculpture, plus paint supplies and artist fees

Potential to partner with DDA, MSU, and/or local businesses for some funding (possibly even use the grants program to get neighborhood communities involved, or local school art teachers to tie in with schools).

WHAT THIS COULD LOOK LIKE IN PRACTICE



Permanent Outdoor Piano (Cadenza) to set the foundation for future micro-performances (partner with Broad Museum to manage programming and maintenance)

This aligns with the following points:

- Create low-barrier entry points for residents who don't attend festivals or shows, or who can't afford expensive performances (ongoing micro-performances)
 - Create "piano recitals" for all ages to perform (non-professional adults rarely get a chance to perform)
- Create opportunities to encounter art "out in the wild"
 - The piano is open for anyone who comes across it to use
- Create repeated opportunities for artists to show up in our community (e.g. "Music at the Museum") series; e.g.
 - Musicians
 - Dance companies
- Make the University-Downtown Boundary Feel more "Porous"

Cost: \$30,000 - \$50,000



Arts Commission
AGENDA ITEM REPORT

To:

Subject: Art Space Report

Meeting: Arts Commission - 18 Jun 2026

Department: Parks, Recreation and Arts

Staff Contact: Lori Mullins, Downtown Development Authority Executive Director

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Lori Mullins, Downtown Development Authority Director, will update the Arts Commission on the status of Art Space.



Arts Commission
AGENDA ITEM REPORT

To:

Subject: FY27 Budget Update

Meeting: Arts Commission - 18 Jun 2026

Department: Parks, Recreation and Arts

Staff Contact: Heather Majano, Art Festival & Arts Initiative Coordinator

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The FY27 budget was approved by City Council at their May 26, 2026 meeting. The Public Art Fund budget is attached.

ATTACHMENTS:

[FY27 Budget Report](#)

———— City of East Lansing ————
PUBLIC ART FUND

———— City of East Lansing ————

PUBLIC ART FUND

Revenues, Expenditures, & Changes in Fund Balance

	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027
	Actual	Amended	Budget
<u>Revenues & Financing Sources:</u>		Budget	Request
Community Support	\$ 15,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
Interest Income	2,814	2,200	1,460
Other Financing Sources:			
Transfers In	36,860	72,270	51,780
Reappropriated Equity	-	9,225	52,455
Total Revenues & Financing Sources	<u>54,674</u>	<u>108,695</u>	130,695
<u>Expenditures & Financing Sources:</u>			
Personnel Services	-	16,130	24,220
Operating Costs	65,813	62,565	76,475
Capital Outlay	<u>16,000</u>	<u>30,000</u>	30,000
Total Expenditures & Financing Sources	<u>81,813</u>	<u>108,695</u>	130,695
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	<u>\$ (27,139)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	\$ -
<u>Statement of Fund Balance:</u>			
Fund Balance as of June 30, 2025 (per audited financial statements)			\$ 84,696
Anticipated Operating Surplus (Deficit) for year ended June 30, 2026			<u>49,050</u>
Estimated Available Fund Balance as of June 30, 2026			133,746
Anticipated Operating Surplus (Deficit) for year ended June 30, 2027			<u>(52,455)</u>
Estimated Available Fund Balance as of June 30, 2027			<u>\$ 81,291</u>
FY2027 Estimated Fund Balance as a Percentage of Operating Expenditures			62.2%

———— City of East Lansing ————

PUBLIC ART FUND

Estimated Revenues

EXPLANATORY INFORMATION

The Public Art Fund provides for the acquisition, placement, and display of works of art within the City of East Lansing and administration of the Arts Commission and art initiatives. Though expenditures are budgeted to exceed revenues for FY2027, unspent developer contributions from prior fiscal years will fund these purchases and activities.

INCOME

- \$ 25,000 Community Support - Expected contributions from private construction projects subject to the Percent for Art ordinance.
- \$ 1,460 Interest Income - Amount of income on idle cash balances and fund balances throughout the year.
- \$ 51,780 Transfers In - This category represents transfers from the General Fund in the amount of \$6,780 from the Percent for Art ordinance, based on expected FY2026 capital expenditures, and \$45,000 to support the Arts Commission's cultural arts grant program that funds public art projects and events in East Lansing.
- \$ 52,455 Reappropriated Equity - Estimated amount of fund balance, or reappropriated fund equity, expected to be used during FY2027.

As of June 30, 2025, the Public Art Fund had a fund balance of \$84,696. Anticipated operating surplus for FY2026 is \$49,050 and an operating deficit of \$52,455 is expected for FY2027. As of June 30, 2027, estimated fund balance will be \$81,291, representing 62.2% of operating expenditures. Fund balance reserves are necessary for future investment in and maintenance of the City's public art.

———— City of East Lansing ————

DEPARTMENT APPROPRIATION

FUND	Public Art
FUNCTION	Culture and Recreation
STAFF RESPONSIBLE	Heather Majano/Justin Drwencke

PROGRAMS

- The Public Art Fund was established under the Percent for Art Ordinance (No. 1339, later amended by Ordinance No. 1547), which requires 1.0% of General Fund expenditures for capital improvement projects to be appropriated to the Public Art Fund for the acquisition and maintenance of works of art for public enjoyment
- Private development projects may donate 1.0% of the total project cost (up to \$25,000) to the Public Art Fund in lieu of installing public art on the project site
- The Arts Commission promotes art in the community, encourages cooperation with regional arts agencies, develops and recommends proposals for activities related to the exhibition, performance and instruction in the arts, and advises the City Council on matters pertaining to art programs
- The Cultural Arts Grant program supports high-quality public art projects and events in East Lansing that encourage artistic expression and public participation

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The Public Art Fund supports public art programs and projects that provide high quality art experiences, encourage artistic expression and public participation. Objectives for FY2027 align with the goals outlined in the Arts Commission’s 2025-2029 Cultural Arts Plan, including:

- Increase recognition of the City of East Lansing as a creative and cultural destination and create access and awareness to public art for residents and visitors. (*Sense of Place*)
- Develop fair and equitable art selection criteria while supporting artists, musicians, performers, creatives and community. (*Sense of Place, High-Performing Government*)
- Develop and strengthen collaborative relationships among regional stakeholders. (*High-Performing Government*)

EXPLANATORY INFORMATION

Expenditures budgeted for FY2027 total \$130,695, including personnel services of \$24,220. In FY2026, personnel expenses for the public art program were realigned and incorporated into the Public Art Fund. These expenses were previously budgeted in the Arts Planning and Administration division of the Parks and Recreation Fund.

Operating costs total \$76,475 for FY2027, including \$10,000 for public art maintenance and repairs to clean downtown murals, \$8,000 for the East Lansing Song Contest, \$3,000 for contracted services for up to six artist sample payments, and \$1,000 in sponsorship for the People’s Choice Award for the 2027 Art Festival. Operating costs also include \$45,000 for the FY2027 Cultural Arts Grant program and costs associated with Arts Commission and Art Selection Panel meetings.

Capital outlay is budgeted at \$30,000 in FY2027 for the acquisition of new public art.



Arts Commission **AGENDA ITEM REPORT**

To:

Subject: Greetings Tour Mural Maintenance

Meeting: Arts Commission - 18 Jun 2026

Department: Parks, Recreation and Arts

Staff Contact: Heather Majano, Art Festival & Arts Initiative Coordinator

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Greetings Tour Mural was installed in 2020 on Harrison Roadhouse (720 E. Michigan Ave.). This was a Public Art Fund, funded project. The easement that is in place for this publicly funded mural on private property, requires that maintenance is funded and organized by the City of East Lansing.

Staff communicated the needed repairs with the original artists, Victor and Lisa. They are based in California and recommended that Dustin Hunt, a local artist, be the one who does the repairs.

The recommended repair is to check for ongoing water damage, repair the peeling areas and add protectant that will extend the life of the mural and repair. Due to the question of repairing ongoing damage, staff recommends approving a higher dollar amount than the quote.

The quote from Dustin Hunt is attached. Photos of the damage are included in the quote.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Up to \$3500 allocated for repairs from the Public Art Fund.

RECOMMENDATION:

Motion to approve the repair of the Greetings Tour Mural by Dustin Hunt and allocate up to \$3500 to the repair.

ATTACHMENTS:

[EL Mural Repair Quote-Muralmatics](#)

MURAL REPAIR QUOTE

Muralmatics 2026_____East Lansing Greetings Tour Mural Repair

This document is a strictly confidential communication to and solely for the use of the recipient(s) and may not be reproduced or circulated without Dustin Hunt's prior written consent. If you are not the intended recipient,



OVERVIEW

Site Visit & Assessment

Before finalizing this quote, a site visit is recommended to assess the full condition of the mural. The peeling and discolored areas identified in the provided photos will serve as the basis for this quote. However, paint peeling can sometimes indicate moisture that has crept into areas beyond what is visible to the eye. The site visit will help confirm whether the damage is contained to the identified areas, or whether moisture has spread into other parts of the mural. If additional damage is found during the visit, the repair approach and quote will need to be reassessed accordingly.

Peeling Paint Areas

The repair process for the peeling areas will include scraping away excess peeling paint, sanding down the edges of the affected area, and removing any chalk present on the surface. An adhesive-like material, such as Zinsser Peel Stop, will be applied to the edges of the peeled area to stabilize the surrounding paint. The exposed surface will then be primed before repainting with color matched exterior latex and or spray paint.

Discolored Area

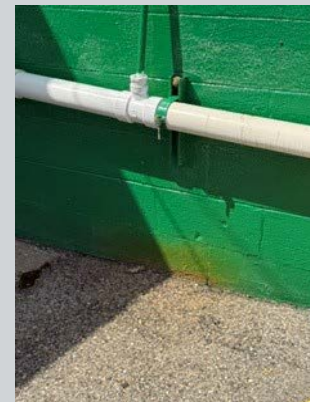
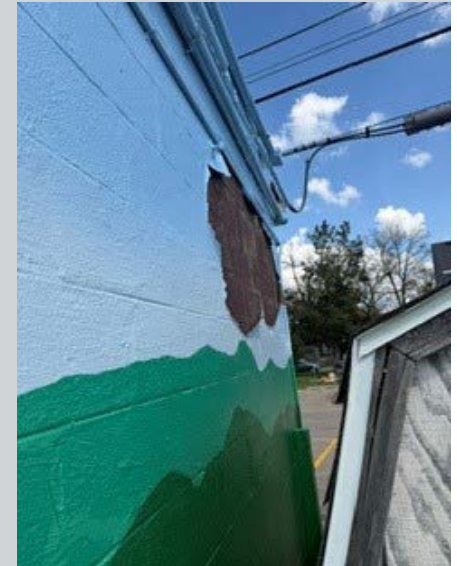
The discolored area will be sanded and primed before repainting with color matched exterior latex and or spray paint.

Protective Coating

Upon completion of all repairs, and as recommended by the original artist, two coats of Color Shield and two coats of Overcoat will be applied across the repaired areas to protect and preserve the work going forward.

SITE

- Two areas with peeling paint
- Small area of discoloration
- Approximately 50' W X 12' H (600 square feet)
- Reseal with Color Shield and Overcoat



COST

Materials and equipment	\$870
Labor	\$1,500
Insurance	\$125
Contingency (5%)	\$125

TOTAL **\$2,620**

Availability

Site visit - week of August 3, 2026

Repair - week of September 14, 2026



"Kitchen Table Conversations" for East Lansing Public Library



CONTACT

DUSTIN HUNT

e: create@muralmatics.com
w: muralmatics.com
p: (734) 985-0446
a: muralmatics



M I C H I G A N





Arts Commission
AGENDA ITEM REPORT

To:

Subject: Consideration of 2025 Arts Commission Annual Report

Meeting: Arts Commission - 18 Jun 2026

Department: Parks, Recreation and Arts

Staff Contact: Heather Pope, Community & Economic Development Director

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Under Chapter 2 of the city's Code of Ordinances, "each board or commission shall report to the city council on the business conducted by the board or commission during the previous year" (Sec. 2-252). Staff have prepared the attached 2025 annual report for the Arts Commission's review and consideration.

RECOMMENDATION:

Motion to approve the annual report and submit to City Council.

ATTACHMENTS:

[Arts Commission 2025 Annual Report \(DRAFT\)](#)



City of East Lansing

Arts Commission

2025 Annual Report

January 1 – December 31, 2025

Submitted to:

Erik Altmann, Mayor
City Council of the City of East Lansing

Introduction

Under section 2-252 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of East Lansing, “each board or commission shall report to the city council on the business conducted by the board or commission during the previous year. Such report may be made in writing or be presented at a meeting scheduled by the city council.” This report covers activities of the Arts Commission for the period from January 1–December 31, 2025.

Responsibilities of the Arts Commission are set forth in section 2-311 of the Code:

- (a) To advise the city council on matters pertaining to arts programs within the city. These duties shall also include the review of requests for support, monetary or otherwise, submitted to the city; advise on the priority of such requests; develop and/or sponsor activities in performing arts and crafts, and visual arts.
- (b) To be responsible for promoting arts in the community, to include, but not be limited to, dissemination of knowledge with regard to the arts, recognizing local artists and their work when appropriate, and cooperation with metropolitan agencies also dealing in the arts.
- (c) For implementing a public art program so as to provide for the acquisition, placement, and display of works of art within the city. The public art program shall be administered subject to the approval of the city council.
- (d) Responsible for reviewing the proposed public art accompanying a developer's site plan application for compliance with the requirements and review standards of section 50-38(6) of the City Code and making a recommendation to the city council as to whether or not the proposed public art is in compliance. If the commission determines the proposed public art is not in compliance, it shall advise the developer and city council of the reason it is not in compliance and what steps may be taken to have the proposed public art comply with the applicable requirements and standards.
- (e) Reviewing a proposed "donated work of art" proposed to be donated to comply with the exception requirement of section 50-38(6)d.4. of the City Code and making a recommendation to the city council as to whether or not the proposed public art is in compliance with the review standards. If the commission determines the proposed public art is not in compliance, it shall advise the developer and city council of the reason it is not in compliance and what steps may be taken to

Membership

As of December 2025, Arts Commission members were:

- Barbara Worgess, Chair
- Allie Siarto, Vice Chair
- Cara Ronk
- Courtney Miniffee
- Leslie Wilbur
- Gail Burke
- Elinor Holbrook
- Nina Silbergleit
- Gabriel Biber

Meetings and Accomplishments

The Arts Commission meets monthly on the third Thursday of the month. Throughout the year, the Commission engaged in robust discussion of issues concerning the arts in East Lansing.

- Approved the art installation for Magic of Play (2447 E. Lake Lansing Rd.).
- Reviewed and recommended changes to Ordinance 1339, adopted as Ordinance 1547. Including:
 - Removing redundancies
 - Bringing the ordinance in line with zoning ordinance
 - Increasing the allowable expenses for the Public Art Fund to include music, events and temporary art installations
- Grew the Cultural Arts Grant program and increased available funds from \$17,500 to \$45,000.
- Allocated \$1,000 from the Public Art Fund for the Community Choice Award at the East Lansing Art Festival.
- Finalized and adopted the first 5-year Cultural Arts Plan for the City of East Lansing.
- Allocated funds to purchase a plaque for the refurbished installation of the Neering Sculptures at the East Lansing City Hall.
- Reviewed 19 applications from community members for the FY26 Cultural Arts Program.
- Allocated a total of \$45,600 to 18 community members and organizations including:
 - All-of-us Express Children's Theatre
 - East Lansing Art Festival
 - East Lansing Farmers Market
 - Glencairn Neighborhood Association
 - Lansing Symphony Orchestra
 - Marble Elementary School & Michigan Opera Outreach
 - Mi Ritmo Arts & Edutainment Festival
 - MSU Art, Art History & Design - Microgalleries

- MSU Center for Survivors
- MSU Art, Art History, and Design - colored window film
- MSU Swara
- Pump House Concerts - Pumpstock Music Festival
- Pure Winds
- Spartan Sitara
- Summer Solstice Jazz Festival
- The Studio Performing Arts Center
- Whitehills Elementary - Folk Music at Arts Night
- Williamston Theatre
- Began review of processes and procedures to help ensure better understanding for Commissioners and the public.
- Discussed Public Art Requirements for a potential development at 530 Albert Ave.



Arts Commission **AGENDA ITEM REPORT**

To:

Subject: Consideration of Change to a Cultural Arts Grant Application - Mike Eyia

Meeting: Arts Commission - 18 Jun 2026

Department: Parks, Recreation and Arts

Staff Contact: Heather Majano, Art Festival & Arts Initiative Coordinator

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Mike Eyia submitted an application to the FY26 Cultural Arts Grants. He was allocated \$4000 to host the "MI Ritmo Arts & Edutainment Festival." In April 2026, Eyia asked that the funds be used for his band, Orquestra Ritmo, to perform on July 10 during the Downtown Summer Sound Concert Series instead of organizing the proposed festival. It was confirmed that no other activities or bands would be a part of this event and that the total fee would be \$1600.

Discussion for the Commission to consider:

1. Does this proposal still qualify as a Cultural Arts Grant?
2. If yes, is the extension to July, approved?

The original grant application is attached.

ATTACHMENTS:

[MI Ritmo Arts & Edutainment Festival FY26 CAG](#)

APPLICATION

Please provide the following:

- A) Application:** Please complete the application included in back of this packet. Use this as your cover page.
- B) Narrative:** The narrative can be **no longer** than two single-sided pages and must include:
 - 1. **Background:** Provide a brief overview of your organization and/or self.
 - 2. **Descriptive Narrative:** Provide a clear, detailed description of the proposed project or event. Describe what the proposed project or event is, when and where it will take place, and how the requested funds will be used.
 - 3. **Target Audience:** Describe the target audience(s), how the proposed project or event will benefit that audience, how it will benefit the residents of East Lansing and how you plan to promote to this target audience.
 - 4. **Artistic/Cultural Merit:** Describe evidence that the project or event will provide high artistic quality, merit or community value.
 - 5. **Project Management:** Describe your organization's project management history and fiscal competence or describe your plan for ensuring appropriate financial accountability.
- C) Budget:** Please attach the project budget, including anticipated expenses, income and funding sources. The budget must also clearly state how the Arts Commission funds will be used. Please be very specific. A sample budget is available here:
<https://www.cityofeastlansing.com/394/FY22-Cultural-Arts-Grant>
- D) Letters of Support and Support Materials:** Please attach any **current** letters of support and/or other support materials (no more than five pages total). Support material may include, but are not limited to: photos of past events, images of proposed artwork, social media counts, letters from individuals who support your work or support you, etc.



**City of East Lansing Arts Commission
Fiscal Year 2026 Cultural Arts Grant Application**

Date: 8/22/25

Proposed Project or Event Title: Mi Ritmo Arts & Entertainment Festival

Applicant Name: Miguel (Mike) A. Eya

Organization: Mi Ritmo Latin Arts Council

Address: 5330 Hawk Hollow Dr. E. Bath, MI 48808

Phone Number: 517-927-9384

E-Mail: MIKEEYA07@gmail.com Website: www.orgoestaritmo.com

Total Cost of Event/Project: \$ 23,000.- Grant Amount Requested: \$ 7,000.

Admission Fee/Ticket Price of Event: \$ 25.00

If there is an admission fee/ticket price, is there a discount to East Lansing residents? yes.

Date/s of proposed Event or start of project: Summer of 2026

I understand that the availability of Arts Commission grants is based upon a variety of factors, including availability of funds, number of applicants and compliance with grant guidelines.

Miguel A. Eya 8/22/25
Signature of Applicant Date

For Office Use Only:	
Grant Award Amount _____	Fund Source _____
Fund Distribution _____	Check _____ Fund Transfer _____

Organization Background

MI Ritmo Latin Arts, Culture & Edutainment is a statewide cultural heritage organization created in 2023, that connects and promotes Latin Artists in the entertainment industry as well as the visual, performing and fine arts in Michigan. Orquesta RITMO has been promoting Latin Arts and Education throughout the State for about the last 40 years. **Your DONATION will help make possible opportunities for students to take part in Master Classes with award winning Latin artists and to foster Afro Indigenous Latinx artist entrepreneurship.**

Our mission is centered on uplifting our beautiful Latin legacy by providing educational and cultural experiences that will promote and preserve our diverse Latin heritage and traditions in the arts by creating engaging community events and leadership development tools that will empower our youth in both cultural pride and business.

DESCRIPTIVE NARRATIVE The primary purpose of our Latino music festival is to celebrate and share the rich diversity of Latin American culture, music, and traditions through storytelling via vibrant live music performances, food, dance, and community gatherings. This festival will serve as cultural touchstone, fostering unity and providing a platform to connect with roots, express identity, and introduce diverse audiences to the dynamic world of Latin music genres, from reggaeton to mariachi and beyond. It is a vital platform in cultural expressions, preserving and showcasing traditional and contemporary music, dance, crafts and culinary arts to the community and beyond. It will help promote community cohesion, creating a sense of cultural pride and shared identity while promoting understanding and appreciation of Latin American heritage. E. Lansing is a central location for Michigan's Latinidad to travel to and having the event during the summer of 2026 will tie into statewide campaign to unite the Latin festival circuit across the state, along with celebrating our country's 250th anniversary. Due to the current political climate, our challenge is creating a space that will become a cultural sanctuary for all. We will use the funds awarded us to help us to network with a broader collective of cultural advocates by partnering with organizations like the Hispanic Latino Commission of Michigan (HLCOM) which is celebrating their 50th anniversary as the oldest ethnic commission in the United States this, the Latino Leaders for Equity Advocacy & Development (LLEAD) both with statewide reach, along with other institutions such the National Association of Latino Arts & Cultures, Puerto Rican Organization for along with other institutions such the National Association of Latino Arts & Cultures, Puerto Rican Organization for the Performing Arts (PROPA) and the Smithsonian Museum of the

American Latino. We believe that working with these organizations along with other philanthropic foundations and community stakeholders we can ensure a welcoming celebration for all to enjoy.

TARGET AUDIENCE Our audience will be all those who love and enjoy Latin music, dance and food! The importance of this festival is pivotal in that it will be an opportunity to showcase and share the diverse stories of Cubans, Puerto Ricans, Mexicans and Central Americans who make up the amazing American immigrant story especially as we celebrate our country's Sester centennial anniversary. Bringing together Latino musicians and artists from across our beautiful state to E. Lansing uniting Michiganders intergenerationally and cross culturally through the rhythms of folklorico dance, the syncopations of Afro Latin Caribbean music all the while enjoying the mouthwatering delights of Cocina C

TARGET AUDIENCE Our audience will be all those who love and enjoy Latin music, dance and food! The importance of this festival is pivotal in that it will be an opportunity to showcase and share the diverse stories of Cubans, Puerto Ricans, Mexicans and Central Americans who make up the amazing American immigrant story especially as we celebrate our country's Sester centennial anniversary. Bringing together Latino musicians and artists from across our beautiful state to E. Lansing uniting Michiganders intergenerationally and cross culturally through the rhythms of folklorico dance, the syncopations of Afro Latin Caribbean music all the while enjoying the mouthwatering delights of Cocina criolla. Our key goal is to introduce or reintroduce Latin culture to broader, multicultural audience in Michigan, promoting understanding and appreciation of the cultural and economic impact of Latin America and its traditions. **ARTISTIC/CULTURAL MERIT** Storytelling and performing arts are deeply intertwined in Latino culture, serving as powerful tools for "criolla". Our key goal is to introduce or reintroduce Latin culture to broader, multicultural audience in Michigan, promoting understanding and appreciation of the cultural and economic impact of Latin America and its traditions. **ARTISTIC/CULTURAL MERIT** Storytelling and performing arts are deeply intertwined in Latino culture, serving as powerful tools for

ARTISTIC/CULTURAL MERIT Storytelling and performing arts are deeply intertwined in Latino culture, serving as powerful tools for preserving heritage, expressing identity, and fostering community, often through music genres like corridos and salsa that narrate life and love. Latino artists are the cultural and historical griots in honing traditional and modern musical and dance styles to share unique stories, histories as well as use art to challenge stereotypes and to advocate for human rights. The performing arts also acts as a vital social force, connecting people, creating unique chemistry in relationships, and becoming a common thread for shared cultural pride.

PROJECTED BUDGET EXPENSE BREAKDOWN

ESTIMATED TOTAL ACTUAL TOTALS

LOCATION TBD \$4,000 Art & Food Vendors Sales \$4,000

Performing Artists \$20,000

Promotion & Logistic Costs \$6,500

Operations/Equipment \$8,000

Sponsorships \$15,000

Community Fundraising \$5,000

Merchandise \$3,000

Project Manager \$6,000

TOTAL COSTS \$71,000



Michael Eyia <mikeeyia07@gmail.com>

Arts grant letter

1 message

Ken Jones <kej48911@gmail.com>
To: Mike Eyia <mikeeyia07@gmail.com>

Wed, Aug 27, 2025 at 7:10 PM

August 27, 2025

To Heather Majano

Art Festival, Art Initiatives and Environmental Stewardship Coordinator

City of East Lansing

Re: Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) Cultural Arts Grant program

It is again my pleasure to recommend Mike Eyia, the Director of the Latin Band Ritmo for the Cultural Arts Grant. I am the chairperson of the East Lansing Summer Solstice Jazz Festival, an annual event held in the city of East Lansing Michigan. I have had the pleasure of working and listening to Mike Eyia and Rtimo for a few years. Looking at the application for the grant, I think the Band under the leadership of Mr. Eyia, easily fulfills the specifications of the grant.

The mission of RITMO is:

- To strengthen and preserve the cultural heritage of Latinidad in Michigan with a focus on Afro and Indigenous arts and artists as well.
- To increase cultural awareness and diversity of Latinidad by connecting latino performers, exhibits, and education in the areas of music, visual arts, dance, and film to a global community.
- To promote and connect Afro Latin & Indigenous artists in the tri-county area and across the state.
- To promote leadership development via education and internships for burgeoning Latin artists in the performing arts and entertainment industry
- To deliver events that stabilize and revitalize Latino arts and cultural sector via funding, leadership training, convenings, research, and advocacy.

I highly recommend Mike Eyia and the Band Ritmo for the Cultural Arts Grant.

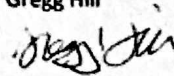
Ken Jones
Chairperson
East Lansing Summer Solstice Jazz Festival

East Lansing Arts Commission
410 Abbot Rd.
East Lansing Michigan 48823

Dear Commissioners,

Mike Eyia has been an integral part of the East Lansing music and cultural scene for decades. His band, Ritmo, has performed many times at the Summer Solstice Jazz Festival. He brings in dancers into East Lansing from all over Mid-Michigan to dance and enjoy Salsa music. For many dozens of MSU Department of Jazz Studies students it has been a rite of passage to play in Ritmo and learn the intricacies of Salsa and Latin Jazz under the leadership and mentorship of Mike Eyia. More than a few times this group has been the highlight of the festival and has given countless visitors to East Lansing great experiences and memories of their time in East Lansing. A grant to Mike would enable him to expand his vision and likely bring into East Lansing people from all over the state and beyond. Mike is a great candidate.

Sincerely,
Gregg Hill





Arts Commission **AGENDA ITEM REPORT**

To: Arts Commission
Subject: Staff Report
Meeting: Arts Commission - 18 Jun 2026
Department: Parks, Recreation and Arts
Staff Contact: Heather Majano, Art Festival & Arts Initiative Coordinator

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Update on Song Competition - Deadline for songs was April 15. Top 8 were selected by a group of 5 jurors. They have been contacted. The DMB is supporting the event with an additional \$2000.

Commissioner attendance is attached. Reminder that if Commissioners miss more than 3 meetings in a row or misses more than 1/3 of meetings in a 12-month period, they are automatically removed from the commission.

The microgallery, originally installed in the alley behind Scene MetroSpace, has been removed and restored. It has become evident that it will not withstand outdoor installation. The East Lansing Public Library has expressed interest in it being permanently installed inside the library.

The Council Manager Communication document was formerly an internal document updated by staff, to share City happenings with the City Manager and City Council. Moving forward this is now a public document. You will be able to find community events and opportunities here. The documents are linked here:
<https://www.cityofeastlansing.com/Archive.aspx?AMID=63>

Developments I'm following:
111 Saginaw - Sheetz - donation made
530 Albert - Bailey Parking Lot - install
401 Grand River - The Howard - install
1000 Cedar Village Upgrades - donation
3512 Coolidge - new

ATTACHMENTS:

[Attendance](#)

12-month Arts Commission Attendance – April 2025 – April 2026

Commissioner	4/17/2025	6/18/2025	7/18/2025	8/21/2025	9/18/2025	10/16/2025	11/20/2025	12/18/2025	1/15/2026	2/19/2026	3/19/2026	4/16/2026		(Total attended for last 12 months)	
Nina Silbergleit	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		11	92%
Allie Siarto	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		11	92%
Gail Burke	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1		10	83%
Barbara Worgess	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		12	100%
Leslie Wilbur	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1		8	67%
Courtney Miniffee	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1		8	67%
Gabriel Biber	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1		8	67%
Elinor Holbrook	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		12	100%
Cara Ronk	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		11	92%
Total present (1 = P, 0 = A)	9	6	8	7	8	7	8	8	8	6	7	9			