

Athens Municipal Arts Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: January 14, 2026

Time: 5:30–7:00 PM

Location: Armory, Large Conference Room

Attendance

Present: David T., Mateo G., Katherine Ann Jordan, Kate F., Beth Clodfelter (City Council Representative), Jessica Thomas (City Council At Large), Megan Jennings (City Planning), Kelee R., Mayor Steve Patterson

Absent: Devin Sudman. **Regrets:** Tina Wilson

I. Preliminaries

The meeting was called to order with introductions and welcoming remarks.

II. Approval of Minutes

The Commission reviewed the minutes from the November 12, 2025 meeting. Kate F. moved to approve; Mateo G. seconded. **Motion approved.**

III. AMAC Administration

Andrea Baird Commissioner Application

The Commission reviewed Andrea Baird's qualifications for appointment as a commissioner. Beth Clodfelter moved to recommend her appointment to Mayor Patterson. **Motion approved.**

IV. Legislative Updates

Mayor's Report (Megan Jennings presenting)

Mayor Patterson shared his history with AMAC, noting he served as Council representative to the Commission in 2012. He highlighted the significant increase in public art throughout Athens since 2016, crediting the partnership between AMAC and city leadership. Key projects discussed included:

- Depot Street lift station mural
- Art Outside the Box (traffic wrap project)
- Sculpture Walk jury service
- Current RT 682 road project featuring Passion Works flowers installation
- Sells Park Pond sculptures
- Athens Community Arts and Music Festival

Commerce Pavilion Project

Mayor Patterson and Katherine Ann Jordan are collaborating on a Commerce Pavilion to be built on city land at

the former tennis courts site for the Farmer's Market. The project includes a Phase 1 structure build perpendicular to the solar arrays; Phase 2 includes an L-shaped extension parallel to the bike path, creating space to potentially develop for holding outdoor movie screenings and performances in fine weather.

City Council Report (Beth Clodfelter)

Beth reported on a draft street closure request process for festivals, which she will share with AMAC when it's ready..

V. AMAC Projects

Service Eligibility Bylaws Amendment - Kelee Riesbeck

Kelee presented a proposal to expand AMAC membership. David T. suggested involving OU students with a dedicated seat. Following the discussion, Kelee moved to recommend adding two seats to AMAC—one for a City of Athens resident and one for an Athens Township resident—bringing the proposal to Mayor Patterson for consideration. Beth Clodfelter seconded. **Motion approved.**

2027 AMAC Conference and Ohio Municipal Arts Consortium- David Telega

David presented the concept of hosting a statewide arts commission conference and launching the Ohio Municipal Arts Consortium. Discussion points included:

Concerns raised by Kate F.: Limited budget, need for venue, advertising requirements, workload considerations, and the necessity of involving additional volunteers beyond current commissioners.

Kelee's input: Suggested forming an ad hoc committee with community members outside AMAC. Requested more detailed planning information before committing. Asked what conditions would need to be met for AMAC to move forward.

Mateo's suggestion: Align the conference with AMAC's 25th anniversary and use it to launch the consortium, though these could happen separately to allow more preparation time.

Mayor Patterson's contributions:

- Offered use of the Armory for this and potentially other AMAC endeavors at no cost
- Recommended reaching out to Donna Collins at the Ohio Arts Council to learn what funding is possible for the Conference and Consortium project
- Emphasized the value of creating an arts infrastructure hub in Southeast Ohio, noting it's currently a gap in state arts organizing
- Suggested surveying other SE Ohio mayors about their arts commissions
- Mentioned Sunday Creek Horizons (Zach Space) as a potential partner for event planning and funding
- Proposed focusing on Appalachian Ohio rather than the entire state of Ohio

Additional input: Kelee noted the Athens County Foundation offers grants that could support the effort.

The Commission will continue developing this concept with additional research and planning.

VI. Public Projects

Tabled Projects

The Commission tabled discussion of the Athens City Mural Audit and Enhancement project and Art in City

Spaces for a future meeting.

Art Outside the Box- Kate Fetterolf

Update provided on posting project information to the mAppAthens site.

Athens Poet Laureate

Did not discuss

Local Arts Group Coalition Formation – Kate Fetterolf

Kate communicated the benefits of a more localized coalition in order to meet the specific needs for area artists. Coalition plans are in the works.

VII. Arts West/APRD Update

Katherine Ann Jordan reported on upcoming Arts West programming:

- Spring 2026 gallery exhibition planning underway
- Dance and string instrument classes underway
- Valentine card-making workshop being planned
- Ukulele classes to come
- Knitting classes to come
- Summer 2026 Concerts in the Park series will happen, just not on Thursdays this year. Timing to be determined)

VIII. Announcements and Other Business

Mayor Patterson shared that the City currently oversees 24 boards and commissions and is evaluating whether some could be consolidated. He briefly considered merging the Recreation Advisory Board with AMAC, but concluded that the arts must maintain its own dedicated platform. No changes will be made.

Adjournment

Kate F. moved to adjourn; Beth Clodfelter seconded. **Motion approved.**

Next Meeting: February 11, 2026, 5:30–7:00 PM at Arts/West