



**Columbia Arts, Historic Preservation and Philanthropy Committee  
Arts, Historic Preservation & Philanthropy Committee Meeting  
Agenda**

**Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 10:00 AM**

City Hall, Council Chambers, 1737 Main Street, 2nd Floor, Columbia, SC 29201  
City Clerk's Office: (803)545-3045 or [email cityclerk@columbiasc.gov](mailto:cityclerk@columbiasc.gov)

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The Honorable Tyler D. Bailey, At-Large, Chair  
The Honorable Edward H. McDowell Jr., District II • The Honorable Tina N. Herbert, District I

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**Call to Order**

**Approval of Minutes**

1. December 9, 2025 Arts, Historic Preservation and Philanthropy Committee Meeting Minutes

**Committee Discussion**

2. Vista Neighborhood Association Public Art Placement Project

**Adjournment**



**ARTS, HISTORIC PRESERVATION & PHILANTHROPY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2025**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

The Arts, Historic Preservation & Philanthropy Committee conducted a meeting on Tuesday December 9, 2025 at City Hall (Mayor’s Conference Room), 1737 Main Street, Second Floor, Columbia, SC 29201. The Honorable Tyler D. Bailey, Chair called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m.

<b>Attendee Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>
Tyler D. Bailey	Chair	Present
Edward H. McDowell	Member	Present
Tina N. Herbert	Member	Absent

**INVOCATION**

The Honorable Edward H. McDowell, Jr. offered the invocation.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. September 23, 2025 Arts, Historic Preservation, & Philanthropy Committee Meeting Minutes – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Bailey, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the September 23, 2025 Arts, Historic Preservation, & Philanthropy Committee Meeting Minutes.

2. October 21, 2025 Arts, Historic Preservation, & Philanthropy Committee Meeting Minutes – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Bailey, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the October 21, 2025 Arts, Historic Preservation, & Philanthropy Committee Meeting Minutes.



**ARTS, HISTORIC PRESERVATION & PHILANTHROPY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2025**

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**COMMITTEE DISCUSSION**

3. Vista Neighborhood Association's Public Art Placement Project - Mr. Barton Walrath – *Received as information.*

Mr. Barton Walrath, Vista Neighborhood Association explained that the project had been tabled for some time due to ongoing discussion regarding the replacement of fencing and gates. He noted that there has been good dialogue and communication with the Columbia Police Department, as well as assistance from Assistant City Manager Henry Simons. The proposal has since changed in approach, and the gateway will now be moved out to approximately one-third of the walkway from the face of the tunnel. He explained that the purpose of the gateway is to serve as a welcoming feature to Finlay Park and The Vista Greenway, while supporting pedestrian and bicycle traffic.

There was discussion about not doing any structural work to the tunnel; conversations with the Columbia Police Department and the Vista Guild; vendor pricing for fencing; and the ability to secure the tunnel, if needed.

There was a consensus of the committee to bring the project back when it is ready for City Council's endorsement.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:11 am.

Respectfully submitted:

Erika D. Moore Hammond, MMC, CPM  
City Clerk





PUBLIC ART PLACEMENT APPLICATION

1. Name of ~~individual~~, organization, ~~or event to be commemorated~~:

Vista Neighborhood Association in collaboration with One Columbia

2. Title of Artwork:

Gateway feature artwork at south entrance to Lincoln Tunnel

3. Attach a sheet describing the significant contribution (s) this individual, organization, or event has made in the community (no more than one-page)

4. Location, date, and time of unveiling ceremony (if approved):

*The placement of public art within the City's right-of-way shall adhere to the City of Columbia encroachment ordinance process.*

South entrance to Lincoln Tunnel on approx 6/30/26

5. District Council Member Sponsors: Councilman McDowell & Councilman Brennan

At-Large Council Member Sponsor: Councilman Basly

FOR STAFF USE:	
Arts, Historic Preservation & Philanthropy Committee:	<input type="checkbox"/> Endorsed <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected
One Columbia Review:	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected
Arts, Historic Preservation & Philanthropy Committee:	<input type="checkbox"/> Endorsed <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected
Public Works:	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected
Parks and Recreation:	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected
Support Services:	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected
Public Safety:	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected

Public Art Placement Application  
Attachment 1 – Letters of Support

- 1a Vista Neighborhood Association
- 1b Arsenal Hill Neighborhood
- 1c Congaree Vista Guild
- 1d Councilman Brennan
- 1e Councilman McDowell & Councilman Baily

**From:** Carolyn Leedecker caleedecker@gmail.com  
**Subject:** VNA tunnel art project letter of support  
**Date:** July 22, 2025 at 9:56 AM  
**To:** Pamela Zeljak pamela@onecolumbiasc.com  
**Cc:** Bart Maria Walrath wallycom@aol.com, Charles Leedecker chleedecker@verizon.net



**Dear City of Columbia Arts, Historic Preservation and Philanthropy Committee:**

The Vista Neighborhood Association (VNA) is fully committed to its planned art installation on the south entrance of the Lincoln Street Tunnel which is a gateway not only to the tunnel itself but also to Finlay Park and the Vista Greenway.

The art installation will provide a new aesthetic and community experience for locals and visitors alike. In so doing, it will contribute to the vibrant, art-centered identity of the Vista and support the City's goal of providing more public art to the downtown area.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Carolyn LeeDecker  
President, VNA



**ARSENAL HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**  
ADD AN ADDRESS HERE

July 30, 2025

To whom it may concern:

This letter is to confirm that Arsenal Hill Neighborhood Association wholeheartedly supports the Vista Neighborhood Association's proposal to add a gateway feature at the south entrance to the Lincoln St pedestrian tunnel. This will further enhance the city's greenway path and help encourage the public to use this connector from the Vista to reach the revitalized Finlay Park and Columbia's other downtown neighborhoods beyond.

Please reach out if there are any questions or further action needed

Regards,

Matt Varner  
Vice President AHNA  
803 787-8865

c: Susan Skinner – AHNA President



July 21, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

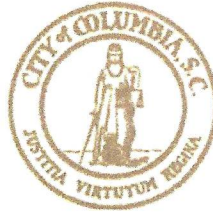
On behalf of the Congaree Vista Guild, I am writing to lend community support for the proposed public art project by the Vista Neighborhood Association. The Congaree Vista Guild enjoys working on public art pieces with the Vista Neighborhood Association (VNA) and look forward to continued neighborhood support on this project.

The VNA is looking to add a gateway feature to the south side of the Lincoln Street Tunnel. With the upcoming lighting installation in the tunnel, we are hopeful that this project will enhance the lighting piece and create a more vibrant neighborhood.

The Vista Guild is hopeful that the City will support this piece and allow the VNA to continue their great work with public art around the Vista district. Please let me know if you need anything further.

Sincerely,

Abby Anderson  
Executive Director  
Congaree Vista Guild



CITY OF COLUMBIA  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
OFFICE OF CITY COUNCIL

August 11, 2025

Arts, Historic Preservation & Philanthropy Committee:

I am pleased to offer my full support for the Public Art Placement Policy application submitted by the Vista Neighborhood Association for the installation of public art at the Lincoln Street pedestrian tunnel in the Vista by local artist Clark Ellefson.

As a member of Columbia City Council, I have had the privilege of witnessing the positive impact that public art can have on our community. This project was first envisioned by Congaree Vista Guild in its Public Art Placement Plan. The Vista Neighborhood Association now applying for installation demonstrates residents and businesses working together to improve their community.

This gateway feature at the south entrance to the Lincoln Street tunnel will welcome pedestrians, cyclists, and other users to the soon to be installed rainbow forest lighted tunnel, Finlay Park and the Vista Greenway as well as reflect the Vista's vibrant character and objective to be a walkable arts focused community.

Again, I am proud to support this application

Sincerely,

Will Brennan  
District III

Public Art Placement Application  
Attachment 2 – Artist & Artwork Description

Vista Neighborhood Association and One Columbia have selected a well-known and respected local artist, Clark Ellefson, principal designer and owner of Lewis+Clark, a local business in the Vista for our public art project at the south entrance of the Lincoln Street Tunnel.

The work of Lewis+Clark has earned showings in a number of exhibitions within museums that include the Miami Museum of Modern Art, Salon de Mobile, The Victoria and Albert Museum, the Chicago Art Institute, and the Columbia (SC) Museum of Art, with works in the permanent collections of the Chicago Art Institute, the Columbia (SC) Museum of Art, and the South Carolina State Museum.

Clark is pictured below with his recent Columbia, SC public art addition to the 5 points area.



This proposed public art will be a **gateway feature** marking the south entrance of the Lincoln Street pedestrian tunnel in the Vista.

The goal of this project is to create a striking and meaningful gateway that welcomes pedestrians, cyclists, and others using the Lincoln Street Tunnel, Finlay Park and the Vista Greenway. The piece will complement the Rainbow Forest Lighting Installation to be installed in the tunnel and enhance the visual identity of The Vista, reflect the neighborhood's vibrant character, and support the area's objective to be a walkable, arts-focused community. Additionally, the feature will contribute to the safety and comfort of visitors by incorporating effective and creative lighting.



CITY OF COLUMBIA  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
OFFICE OF CITY COUNCIL

August 14, 2025

Arts, Historic Preservation & Philanthropy Committee:


On behalf of Councilman Bailey and myself, we support the Vista Neighborhood Association's application to install public art by local artist Clark Ellefeson at the Lincoln Street pedestrian tunnel. This project is more than a visual enhancement it is a catalyst for economic growth, cultural vibrancy, and community pride.

Public art is a proven driver of tourism and local commerce. By creating a distinctive gateway at the south entrance of the Lincoln Street tunnel, this installation will draw visitors toward the Vista Greenway, Finlay Park, and the soon to be completed Rainbow Forest lighted tunnel. The result will be an enriched pedestrian experience that encourages people to explore, dine, shop, and linger in the Vista benefiting both local businesses and our city's economy.

Beyond its economic impact, this project reinforces Columbia's identity as a city that celebrates creativity, inclusivity, and community collaboration. It honors the Vista's longstanding vision of being a walkable, arts-focused destination, while fostering partnerships between residents, businesses, and cultural organizations.

We fully endorse this initiative and believe it will leave a lasting mark on our city's cultural landscape, inspiring residents and attracting visitors for years to come.

Sincerely,

  
Edward H. McDowell, Jr.  
District II

  
Tyler D. Bailey  
At-Large Member



Arts, Historic Preservation, and Philanthropy Committee  
City of Columbia  
1737 Main St.  
Columbia, SC 29201

Re: Vista Neighborhood Association – Lincoln Street Tunnel Gateway Feature

Dear Councilman Bailey ,

On behalf of One Columbia for Arts and Culture, I'm happy to share our endorsement for the Lincoln Street Gateway Feature Project. This effort is a wonderful opportunity to bring new energy and a sense of welcome to an important entry point into the Congaree Vista and Finlay Park.

The vision for this feature—to create a striking, inviting landmark that sets the tone for the district—fits beautifully with The Vista's goals of being a lively, walkable place where people, businesses, and cultural activity can thrive. A project like this doesn't just improve how a space looks; it helps strengthen the character of the neighborhood, builds local pride, and encourages people to connect more deeply with the area.

We're confident that the Lincoln Street Gateway Feature will draw more people into the district, support nearby businesses, and enhance how residents and visitors experience this part of the city. Just as importantly, it will stand as a reminder of how thoughtful public art can turn everyday spaces into memorable places.

One Columbia is proud to support the Vista Neighborhood Association in bringing this vision to life, and we look forward to seeing the positive impact it will have on our community.

Sincerely,

Pamela Zeljak  
Public Art Administrator  
One Columbia for Arts and Culture

One Columbia for Arts and Culture  
1013 Duke Ave., Columbia, SC 29203  
803-254-5008  
[www.onecolumbiasc.com](http://www.onecolumbiasc.com)