



**ARTS, HISTORIC PRESERVATION & PHILANTHROPY COMMITTEE
MEETING AGENDA
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2025**

The Arts, Historic Preservation & Philanthropy Committee will conduct a meeting on Tuesday, September 23, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at City Hall (Mayor's Conference Room), 1737 Main Street, Second Floor, Columbia, SC 29201. Members of the public may view the meeting online at www.columbiasc.gov. Please contact the City Clerk's Office at (803)545-3045 or cityclerk@columbiasc.gov if you have questions regarding this meeting.

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

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. August 5, 2025 Arts, Historic Preservation & Philanthropy Committee Meeting Minutes

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

2. Vista Neighborhood Association's Public Art Placement Project - Mr. Barton Walrath

ADJOURNMENT



MEETING DATE: September 23, 2025

DEPARTMENT: City Clerk

FROM: *Erika Hammond, City Clerk*

SUBJECT: August 5, 2025 Arts, Historic Preservation & Philanthropy Committee Meeting Minutes

FUNDING SOURCE & ORIGINAL BUDGET:

ATTACHMENTS:

- **#a:** AHPP_MN_080525 (DOCX)



**ARTS, HISTORIC PRESERVATION & PHILANTHROPY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

The Arts, Historic Preservation, & Philanthropy Committee conducted a meeting on Tuesday, August 5, 2025 at City Hall (Mayor's Conference Room), 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201. The Honorable Tyler D. Bailey, Chair called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. and the following members were present:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of the December 10, 2024 Arts, Historic Preservation & Philanthropy Committee Meeting Minutes – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bailey and seconded by Ms. Herbert, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the December 10, 2024 Arts, Historic Preservation & Philanthropy Committee Meeting Minutes.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

2. Persimmon Peace Pole Project - Ms. Elaine Frick, Columbia Peace Pole Initiative – *Endorsed for City Council consideration*

Ms. Pamela Zeljak, Public Art Administrator for One Columbia shared that an endorsement letter for the Persimmon Peace Pole Project has already been submitted. She noted that the selected artist, Olga Yukho, has prior experience with public art installations, and One Columbia is confident the sculpture will be both visually appealing and durable. The Columbia Parks and Recreation Department has already had conversations with the Columbia Peace Pole Initiative.

There was discussion about the design and location of the sculpture.



**ARTS, HISTORIC PRESERVATION & PHILANTHROPY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2025**

Ms. Elaine Frick, Columbia Peace Pole Initiative announced that August 6, 2025 will mark the 35th Annual Columbia Hiroshima Day of Remembrance. She shared details of the planned Persimmon Peace Pole, which will feature the phrase "May Peace Prevail on Earth" surrounded by cherry blossoms, with imagery symbolizing the nuclear threat. Trees will also be planted by the Forestry and Beautification Department.

There was consensus of the committee to endorse the Persimmon Peace Pole Project for City Council's consideration.

3. Vista Greenway at Taylor Street Public Art Project - Ms. Abby Anderson, Executive Director / Vista Guild – *Received as information.*

Ms. Abby Anderson, Executive Director of the Vista Guild shared plans for the Vista Greenway at Taylor Street Public Art Project, which is set to be unveiled in Spring 2026. Inspired by the idea of continuity from the Blue Marlin Restaurant to Finlay Park, the project aims to add murals and vibrant color to an otherwise barren area.

There was discussion about completion of the mural and artist selection.

There was consensus of the committee to endorse the project and it will be referred to One Columbia for Arts and Culture for review.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:19 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Erika D. Moore Hammond, CMC, CPM
City Clerk



MEETING DATE: September 23, 2025

DEPARTMENT: City Clerk

FROM: *Erika Hammond, City Clerk*

SUBJECT: Vista Neighborhood Association's Public Art Placement Project - Mr. Barton Walrath

**FUNDING SOURCE &
ORIGINAL BUDGET:**

ATTACHMENTS:

- **#a:** VNA Public Art Application (PDF)



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: Endorsed Rejected

One Columbia Review: Approved Rejected

Arts, Historic Preservation & Philanthropy Committee: Endorsed Rejected

Public Works: Approved Rejected

Parks and Recreation: Approved Rejected

Support Services: Approved Rejected

Public Safety: Approved 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

CL

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Matt Varner", written over a horizontal line.

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 Ellefeson.

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.
Edward H. McDowell, Jr.
District II

Tyler D. Bailey
Tyler D. Bailey
At-Large Member