



Columbia Arts, Historic Preservation and Philanthropy Committee Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, April 28, 2026 at 2:00 PM

City Hall • Mayor's Conference Room

1737 Main Street, 2nd Floor, Columbia, SC 29201

City Clerk's Office: (803)545-3045 or cityclerk@columbiasc.gov

The Honorable Tyler D. Bailey, At-Large, Chair

The Honorable Edward H. McDowell Jr., District II • The Honorable Tina N. Herbert, District I

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes

1. February 9, 2026 Arts, Historic Preservation, and Philanthropy Committee Meeting Minutes

Presentations

2. ColaJazz Update — Mr. Mark Rapp, Executive Director / ColaJazz Foundation

Committee Discussion

3. Congaree Vista Guild Public Art Placement Application — Ms. Abby Anderson, Executive Director / Congaree Vista Guild

Adjournment



Columbia Arts, Historic Preservation and Philanthropy Committee Meeting Minutes Tuesday, February 10, 2026

Call to Order

The Columbia Arts, Historic Preservation and Philanthropy Committee conducted a meeting on Tuesday, February 10, 2026 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 10:00 a.m. and the following members were present: The Honorable Edward H. McDowell, Jr. and the Honorable Tina N. Herbert.

Approval of Minutes

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

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Ms. Herbert, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the December 9, 2025 Arts, Historic Preservation, and Philanthropy Committee Meeting Minutes.

Committee Discussion

2. Vista Neighborhood Association Public Art Placement Project

Ms. Pamela Zeljak, Public Art Administrator / One Columbia shared that One Columbia submitted a letter of endorsement and has been engaged since the beginning of the project. The project will be an incredible addition to the emerging public art corridor, complementing nearby murals and tunnel lighting. She noted that local artist Clark Ellefson had been selected, highlighting the importance of involving hometown artists in the project.

Councilor Herbert asked what the issue was with the gate and how was it resolved.

Mr. Henry Simons, Assistant City Manager of Operations explained that staff met with Chief Holbrook of the Columbia Police Department and his team to assess security needs for the Lincoln Tunnel. Based on that assessment, fencing will be installed to allow the tunnel to be secured when necessary for public safety, but it will not remain closed at all times. The neighborhood association has been informed and understands the plan.

Mr. Barton Walrath, Vista Neighborhood Association stated that Assistant City Manager Simon invited them to meet with Chief Holbrook regarding the Lincoln Tunnel. Due to plans to install new fencing at the tunnel entrance, the original location for the public art structure was adjusted. The structure will now be placed along the public art walk leading to the tunnel.

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Ms. Herbert, there was consensus of the committee to endorse the Vista Neighborhood Association Public Art Placement Project for City Council's consideration.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Erika D. Moore Hammond, MMC, CPM
City Clerk

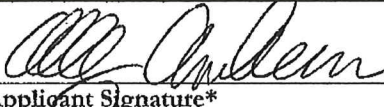


PUBLIC ART PLACEMENT APPLICATION

Please see submission checklist for materials necessary for application.
SUBMISSION MATERIALS MUST ACCOMPANY APPLICATION.
Application form and materials are **DUE AT 4:00 p.m.** thirty (30) days prior to installation.

- Is the designation:
- Public Art
 - Statue
 - Monument / Memorial
 - Individual Commemoration
 - Organization Commemoration
 - Event Commemoration

- Checklist:
- Application
 - Council Members (District and one At-Large Sponsor)
 - 3 Letter(s) of Support
 - One letter expressing Community support
 - One letter expressing Neighborhood/Neighborhood Association or Merchant Association support
 - One letter expressing Councilmembers' support

 Applicant Signature*	abby@vistacolombia.com Email Address
Abby Anderson Print Name	701 Gervais St, Ste 150-118, Cola, SC 29201 Mailing Address
803 269 5946 Phone Number	1/29/2026 Date

Check and initial acknowledging application requirements.

- AA Artist Information, Description and photos of artwork.
- AA Any changes to initial request must be made in writing no more than 30 days prior to art placement.
- AA Artwork and resolution must be finalized at least 30 days prior to placement.
- AA Applicant must provide letter(s) of support as outlined in the above checklist.



PUBLIC ART PLACEMENT APPLICATION

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

Bobby Gillespie - Vista Clean & Safe

2. Title of Artwork:

plaque in a garden

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.

north entrance of Lincoln Street tunnel, near Taylor Street

5. District Council Member Sponsor:

Ed McDowell

At-Large Council Member Sponsor:

Tyler Bailey

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

The Congaree Vista Guild is working with City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department on planting a garden near the north side of the Lincoln Street Tunnel. With the new art that is coming online in the tunnel and the connector of Finlay Park, the Vista is looking to beautify that area with some gardening.

The Congaree Vista Guild lost Bobby Gillespie in June 2025. Bobby was the Operations Manager of the Vista's Clean & Safe program for ten years. Bobby's family asked that for his memory, people make donations to be used to beautify the Vista. We would like to use these funds to put in a garden in that area. This would include a plaque commemorating his work in the district.



CITY OF COLUMBIA
SOUTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF CITY COUNCIL

April 1, 2026

To Arts, Historic Preservation Committee:


We are pleased to offer our support for the Congaree Vista Guild's application to install a commemorative plaque and garden in honor of John Robert "Bobby" Gillespie near the north entrance of the Lincoln Street Tunnel.

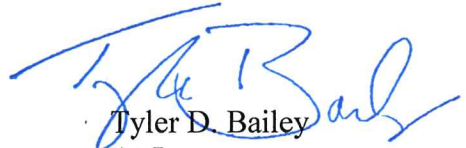
Bobby Gillespie served the Vista community with exceptional dedication through his ten years as Operations Manager of the Vista's Clean & Safe program. His work strengthened the district's sense of safety, hospitality, and community pride. Bobby's deep knowledge of the neighborhood, his responsiveness to residents and businesses, and his consistent partnership with City departments made him an invaluable asset to the Vista and to the City of Columbia as a whole.

The Vista Guild's proposal to create a garden and install a plaque using funds donated in Bobby's memory is a fitting tribute to his service. This project not only honors his legacy but also enhances a key gateway into the district, complementing ongoing improvements in and around the Lincoln Street Tunnel and the Finlay Park connector.

We believe this installation will serve as a meaningful and lasting acknowledgment of Bobby's contributions and will reflect the community's appreciation for his work. We respectfully submit our support for this application.

Sincerely,


Edward H. McDowell, Jr.
District II


Tyler D. Bailey
At-Large



February 3, 2026

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of the new project the Vista Guild is working on. Installing a plaque to honor the work that Bobby Gillespie did in the Vista is necessary. As the head of the Vista's Clean & Safe program for ten years, Bobby did excellent work in knowing the neighborhood inside and out. He was always a phone call away and was sure that everyone felt safe in the district. He left a remarkable impression in the district and is very missed.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill".

Bill Ellen
President & CEO



Columbia Metropolitan Convention & Visitors Bureau DBA Experience Columbia SC

1010 LINCOLN STREET | COLUMBIA, SC 29201 | EXPERIENCECOLUMBIASC.COM

January 29, 2026

To whom it may concern:

As a Vista resident and Vice President of the Vista Neighborhood Association, I am writing to wholeheartedly support Vista Guild's application for a plaque and garden on City property in memory of John Robert "Bobby" Gillespie

Bobby managed the Vista Guild's Clean and Safe Program with commitment to his job. His tireless efforts managing Clean & Safe and coordinating help from the City when needed improved the Vista and were greatly appreciated by business owners, residents and visitors. Bobby was an active ambassador for the Vista sharing news and helping in any way he could with all those he encountered.

Please let me know if you need anything further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barton D. Walrath".

Barton D. Walrath

Subject: Letter of support

Date: Thursday, January 29, 2026 at 3:35:55 PM Eastern Standard Time

From: Carolyn Leedecker

To: Abby Anderson

Dear Arts, Historic Preservation and Philanthropy Committee:

The Vista Neighborhood Association (VNA) fully supports The Vista Guild's proposed plaque to be placed in a city garden property in remembrance of Bobby Gillespie and to honor his lifelong legacy of dedication to the Vista community.

The Vista Neighborhood Association joins the Guild in celebrating Bobby's legacy through this project and has our total support and endorsement.

Sincerely,
Carolyn LeeDecker
VNA president

In Loving Memory Of
John Robert “Bobby” Gillespie

1954–2025

His passion for the Vista and his tireless dedication
inspired our businesses and community.

He will be deeply missed by all whose lives he touched.

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