



Arts, Historic Preservation and Philanthropy Committee Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, August 4, 2026 at 10:00 AM

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 and April 28, 2026 Arts, Historic Preservation, and Philanthropy Committee Meeting Minutes

Presentations

2. Gemini Arts Update — Dr. Shirley Smith and Mr. Michael Krajewski, Resident Artist
3. Vista Guild Senate Street Public Art Project — Mr. Joseph Kendrick, Board Member / Congaree Vista Guild
4. Columbia Art Center Update — Mr. Kenya Bryant, Director of Parks and Recreation and Ms. Bohumila Augustinova, Recreation Program Coordinator / Columbia Art Center

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



Arts, Historic Preservation and Philanthropy Committee Meeting Minutes Tuesday, April 28, 2026

Call to Order

The Columbia Arts, Historic Preservation and Philanthropy Committee conducted a meeting on Tuesday, April 28, 2026 at City Hall (Mayor's Conference Room), 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201. The Honorable Tyler D. Bailey called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. The Honorable Edward H. McDowell, Jr. and The Honorable Tina N. Herbert, Mayor Pro-Tempore were absent.

Approval of Minutes

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

This item was deferred.

Presentations

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

Mr. Mark Rapp, Executive Director of the ColaJazz Foundation shared the history and mission of ColaJazz, emphasizing its role in strengthening Columbia's cultural life through education, performance, and community engagement. He explained that ColaJazz reaches more than 15,000 students across South Carolina each year and produces over 50 year-round events. He highlighted that Columbia's growing jazz movement is gaining recognition beyond the city. He also noted the Foundation's rebranding of Jazz + Roots at Finlay Park and its continued partnerships with artists, schools, and civic organizations. He emphasized that ColaJazz provides paid opportunities for local artists, activates public spaces, and helps define Columbia's cultural identity.

There was discussion about the dates of the upcoming Jazz + Roots festival; summer camps; and the difference between hosting the festival on Main Street and at Finlay Park.

Committee Discussion

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

Ms. Abby Anderson, Executive Director of the Congaree Vista Guild presented a memorial project honoring Mr. Bobby Gillespie, the long-time Operations Manager of the Clean and Safe Program who passed away last June. His family and the Guild collected funds to create a memorial garden and plaque in his honor. The proposed location is at the corner of Taylor Street and Lincoln Street near the Lincoln Street Tunnel mural.

Councilor Bailey recommended moving the memorial proposal forward for OneColumbia's

review and bringing it back to the committee at its next meeting. He added that, on behalf of the citizens of Columbia and Councilor Herbert, the proposed location is fitting given Mr. Gillespie's longtime presence in the area.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Erika D. Moore Hammond, MMC, CPM
City Clerk



Meeting Date: August 4, 2026
Department: City Clerk's Office
From: Erika Hammond, City Clerk

Gemini Arts Update — Dr. Shirley Smith and Mr. Michael Krajewski, Resident Artist

Background Summary:

Attachments:

1. Gemini Arts



Michael Krajewski, Resident Artist
Shirley Smith, Ph.D.

2847 COMMERCE DRIVE 29205
HISTORIC ROSEWOOD COMMUNITY



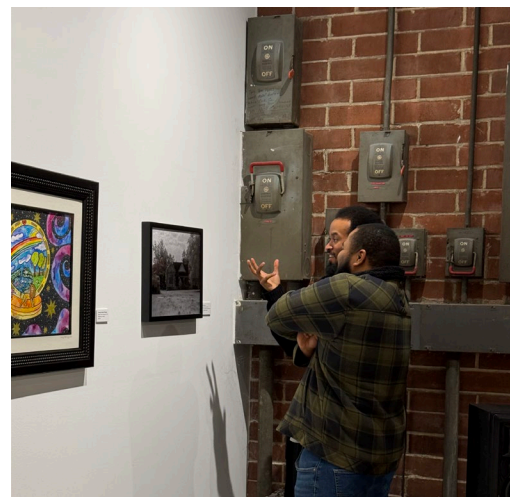




















Meeting Date: August 4, 2026

Department: City Clerk's Office

From: Erika Hammond, City Clerk

Vista Guild Senate Street Public Art Project — Mr. Joseph Kendrick, Board Member / Congaree Vista Guild

Background Summary:

Attachments:

1. Vista Public Art Placement Application- Senate Street



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*

Email Address

Print Name

Mailing Address

Phone Number

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:

2. Title of Artwork:

Sculpture on Senate Street Medion

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.

900 block of ~~East~~ Senate Street - April 2027

5. District Council Member Sponsor:

Ed McDowell

At-Large Council Member Sponsor:

Tyler Bailey

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

The Vista Guild would like to work with One Columbia for Arts and Culture on a new public art piece. This piece will be in the median on the 900 block of Senate Street. The Vista Guild would like to commission an artist to create a sculpture. The Vista Guild is hopeful that the addition of another sculpture in this median, we can work with the City of Columbia on creating a sculpture garden in this space.

Senate Street has grown into a beautiful space with the addition of the Hilton and the USC Alumni Center. With the upcoming additions of the residential housing at the corner of Park (Local Columbia), the renovation of the Hilton and the possible convention center hotel in the works, we want to bring a spotlight to this beautiful block. The opening of The Lantern hotel in January of 2026 helped draw more people to this corridor. We believe continuing to bring attention to this median and the current art that is there will help in making Senate Street a showcase for the Vista. The Vista takes pride in being an Official South Carolina Cultural District. We hope that by continuing to add public art like this, we will continue to lead the city in the arts for years to come.

Subject: VNA Letter of Support

Date: Friday, April 24, 2026 at 6:47:44 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Carolyn Leedecker

To: Abby Anderson

Dear City of Columbia and

Arts, Historic Preservation and Philanthropy Committee:

The Vista Neighborhood Association (VNA) fully supports The Vista Guild's proposed public art project to add a sculpture into the median on the 900 block of Park Street. The sculpture will contribute to and enhance the art scene of the Vista.

Art is important to the culture and life of our city and the Guild plays an integral role in the artistic and economic development and viability of the Vista and thus has our total support and endorsement for this project.

Sincerely,

Carolyn LeeDecker,
VNA president

Sent from my iPhone

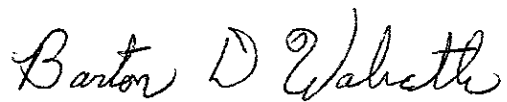
April 27, 2026

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 to add a sculpture into the median on the 900 block of Park Street in the Senate Street median. The continued development of this Art Park in a highly trafficked area of the Vista only strengthens the Vista's designation by the State of South Carolina as an Arts and Entertainment District and reflects the neighborhood's vibrant character and supports our objective to be a walkable, arts-focused community

Please let me know if you need anything further

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barton D Walrath". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'B' and 'W'.

Barton D. Walrath
803 960 1411



CITY OF COLUMBIA
SOUTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF CITY COUNCIL

July 20, 2026

To Arts, Historic Preservation Committee:

We are writing to express our full support for the Vista Guild's Public Art Placement Application proposing the installation of a new sculpture within the median on the 900 block of Senate Street.

The Vista Guild has demonstrated consistent leadership in strengthening Columbia's identity as a vibrant cultural destination. Their proposal to commission a sculpture for this corridor aligns with the City's commitment to expanding public art, enhancing walkability, and elevating the aesthetic character of our shared public spaces. Senate Street has undergone significant growth in recent years, with the addition of the Hilton, the USC Alumni Center, new residential development, and the opening of The Lantern hotel. Continued investment in public art will help ensure that this corridor remains a welcoming, engaging, and visually compelling gateway into the Vista.

The Guild's vision to build upon the existing artwork in the median and work collaboratively with One Columbia for Arts and Culture to establish a sculpture garden is forward-thinking and well-aligned with the Vista's designation as an Official South Carolina Cultural District. Public art in this location will not only beautify the area but also reinforce the Vista's role as a hub for arts, entertainment, and community engagement.

For these reasons, we respectfully endorse the Vista Guild's request and encourage approval of this public art placement.

Sincerely,


Edward H. McDowell, Jr.
District II


Tyler D. Bailey
At-Large