



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