

## Arts Council of Alachua County

Date: February 3, 2025  
Time: 5:30 pm  
Location: County Administration Building - Grace Knight Conference Room  
12 SE 1 Street, 2nd Floor, Gainesville, FL 32601

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m.

Members Present: Christian Duran, Amy Koester (Vice Chair), David Morris, Queenchiku Ngozi, David Ruiz, Stephanie Silberman (Chair), and Carol Velasques Richardson

Members Absent: Jacob Case (Alternate)

### 2. Introduction of New Members - Christian Duran and Jacob Case

New member, Christian Duran, was welcomed and introduced himself. Jacob Case will be introduced at our next meeting.

### 3. Approval of the Agenda

David Ruiz made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; Queenchiku Ngozi second; unanimous approval; motion carried.

### 4. Approval of Minutes

David Ruiz made a motion to approve the Dec. 9, 2024 minutes as presented; Queenchiku Ngozi second; unanimous approval; motion carried.

### 5. 4th Annual Artists Conference Discussion

Eight (8) Call for Presentation forms were received. The consensus of the Council was to approve all submittals and invite Attorney McThenia to provide a session. A DRAFT schedule will be provided at the March meeting.

### 6. Artificial Intelligence (AI) Discussion

The Council discussed Artificial Intelligence including developing a definition and protecting the integrity of the County's Call to Artists process to ensure original works are submitted, ranked, and commissioned. The consensus was that Chair

Silberman would host a roundtable discussion at this year's Artists Conference on this topic to gather feedback from the arts community.

**7. National Endowment for the Arts Discussion**

The federal government is closely reviewing all expenditures. In an abundance of caution, staff requested the Council to consider an alternate funding plan recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners in the event we are notified that our National Endowment for the Arts grant funding was cut. David Ruiz made a motion to recommend funding a contingency plan in the case the federal government decides not to fund our \$30,000 National Endowment for the Arts grant. The top ranked grants, up to \$14,000 would be funded as follows:

Gainesville Community Playhouse - \$1,500

Gainesville Big Band - \$3,000

Spirit Led Therapy - \$3,000

1000 Voices of FL Inc - \$3,000

Star Center Children's Theatre - \$3,000

C Case - \$500

Amy Koester second; unanimous approval; motion carried.

**8. Art Selection Procedure Review**

Our most recent Call to Artists have included the following language which is slightly in conflict with the Alachua County Code:

The Evaluation Team will review the submittals and recommend the top 2-3 artists to the Board of County Commissioners to be invited to develop a conceptual sketch of the mural. The selected artists will each be paid \$150 for their sketch. Sketches will be due within 30 calendar days of notification. The sketches will then be presented to the Board of County Commissioners for final selection of the artist who will be commissioned to complete the mural. The Commission may also choose to reject all submissions and re-advertise the Call to Artists.

Sec. 29.04. Reserved Sec. 29.05. Art Selection Procedure.

The Alachua County Public Arts Program Citizens Advisory Committee ("the Committee") shall make a recommendation to the Board regarding each project. The Committee shall provide two alternatives to the recommendation. The Board may make the final selection from those options presented or any option upon its

own motion. The County Manager or designee shall be responsible for implementation of the Board's action.

Staff recommends requesting the Code be updated to state, "All art selections shall be made in accordance with the procedures contained in the Alachua County Procurement Manual."

David Ruiz made a motion to request the Code be updated as recommended; Amy Koester second; unanimous approval; motion carried.

## **9. Call-to-Artist Update**

### **9.1 Animal Shelter**

This is still on hold, pending a signed land lease with UF.

### **9.2 Armory**

The Commission just approved the contractor who will complete the building renovation.

### **9.3 Court Complex**

Leira Cruz Caliz reported that 10 submittals were received and provided scoring details to the evaluation team. Scores will be due at our March meeting.

### **9.4 EPD Conservation Lands Building**

This project is still on hold.

### **9.5 Fire Station 21 Bronze Sculpture**

The artist expects the sculpture to be delivered in May.

### **9.6 Fire Training**

The Board of County Commissioners selected Doya. He intends to complete the mural in March.

### **9.7 Parking Garage**

This project is still on hold.

### **9.8 Pleasant Street**

The consensus was to advertise this Call to Artists with the addition of an attestation, similar to the one used by *Visit Gainesville - Alachua County*, that their work is original.

**9.9 Poet Laureate**

The Call to Artists was reviewed. The consensus was to advertise through Procurement.

**10. Public Comment**

None

**11. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.