

Arts Council of Alachua County

Date: June 2, 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 5:30 p.m.

Members Present: Christian Duran, David Morris, Queenchiku Ngozi, David Ruiz, Alexander Sanchez-Hamilton (alternate), Stephanie Silberman, and Carol Velasques Richardson

Members Absent: Amy Koester

New alternate member, Alexander Sanchez-Hamilton, was welcomed and introduced himself.

2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Dr. Queenchiku Ngozi nominated David Morris as Chair, but he declined. Carol Velasques Richardson and David Ruiz self-nominated for Chair and Vice Chair respectively. David Morris made a motion for Carol Velasques Richardson to serve as Chair and David Ruiz as Vice Chair; Christian Duran seconded; unanimous approval; motion carried.

3. Approval of the Agenda

David Morris made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; Stephanie Silberman second; unanimous approval; motion carried.

4. Approval of Minutes

David Morris made a motion to approve the April 7 minutes as presented; Stephanie Silberman second; unanimous approval; motion carried.

5. Poet Laureate Call to Artists Review - Leira Cruz Caliz

Leira Cruz Caliz provided an OpenGov training, explaining the evaluation process, conflict of interest, and cone of silence. Submittals will be shared with

evaluation team members via email. Scores are due by close of business July 31.

6. Art Loan Agreement - Teralyn Legall

Stephanie Silberman made a motion to recommend the Board of County Commissioners approve the Art Loan agreement with Teralyn Legall; David Morris seconded; unanimous approval; motion carried.

7. 4th Annual Artists Conference Post Event Follow Up

The Council reviewed the survey responses.

8. Art Grant Application Review

The Council reviewed the DRAFT application, Final Report, and funding amounts. They had a robust discussion regarding how to handle grant defaults. Stephanie Silberman made a motion to include application language stating, "failure to meet grant requirements will result in ineligibility for two grant cycles"; David Ruiz seconded; unanimous approval; motion carried.

In 2026, the consensus was to use OpenGov for the grant submittal process and offer a session at the Artists Conference.

9. Craftsmen's Guild Ideas Discussion

Several ideas were discussed including adding links to the Arts Council website, collaborating with small cities, and highlighting craftsmen arts via art walk/festivals. Please email Gina Peebles your ideas for inclusion on our August 4 agenda.

10. Fall Semester Meeting Time - Stephanie Silberman

Stephanie Silberman reported that she has a conflict during the fall semester and asked if the Council would consider 6 p.m. meeting start times this fall. The consensus of the Council was to keep the meeting start time at 5:30 p.m.

11. Call-to-Artist Update

11.1 Court Complex

DA Clark was commissioned to create "Justice for All" a bronze sculpture.

11.2 Fire Station 21 Bronze Sculpture

The Fire Station 21 sculpture has not yet been installed. The ribbon cutting ceremony was May 30.

11.3 Pleasant Street

The County Attorney's Office is still incorporating minor changes to the agreement. Once finalized, it can be presented to the County and City Commission for approval/execution.

12. Public Comment

Oaklianna Caraballo reported the Florida Association of Public Art Professionals conference focused on Cultural Resilience. They also spearheaded a cookbook project which was incredibly well received. Next year's conference will be held in Palm Beach.

Barbara Mitola, UF College for the Arts Human Resources Director, offered to provide workshops on how to navigate and apply with UF. This could be a potential Artists Conference session.

Dr. Queenchiku Ngozi has published her latest book, "Whispering Lights Beyond Shaded Lenses" Infrared Photography available for purchase on lulu.com.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.