

Arts Council of Alachua County

Date: August 4, 2025
Time: 5:30 pm
Location: County Administration Building - County Manager's Training 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, Amy Koester, David Morris, David Ruiz (Vice Chair), Alexander Sanchez-Hamilton, Stephanie Silberman, and Carol Velasques Richardson (Chair)

Members Absent: Queenchiku Ngozi

2. Approval of the Agenda

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

3. Approval of Minutes

David Morris made a motion to approve the June 2 minutes as presented; Stephanie Silberman second; unanimous approval; motion carried.

4. Art Grant Applications Distribution

The applications and scoring matrix will be emailed to members at the conclusion of tonight's meeting. Scores are due at our September meeting. There were 28 artists applications and one city application (City of Alachua). Discussion ensued regarding how to disburse Tourist Development Tax funding as there is a perception that grantees are penalized since 25% of their award must be used for out-of-county marketing. The Council will discuss further at the September meeting.

5. Craftsmen's Guild Ideas Discussion

In follow up to the discussion initiated at our June meeting, the Council discussed advertising a Call to Artists for craftsmen to display their work on the first floor of the County Administration Building for three months (similar to our Art Loan

program in place for the Commission Chambers). Staff will price a lit, lockable, climate controlled display case for discussion at our September meeting.

6. Call-to-Artist Update

6.1 Court Complex

The purchase order and first payment has been issued. The sculpture will take approximately one year to complete.

6.2 Fire Station 21 Bronze Sculpture

The sculpture has been installed!

6.3 Poet Laureate

Chair Velasques Richardson passed the gavel and recused herself as she has a conflict of interest (Form 8B attached). Leira Cruz Caliz, Procurement Agent, reviewed the process with the evaluation team. Each voting member shared their thoughts about each submittal. Amy Koster made a motion to recommend E. Stanley Richardson, Lola Haskins, and Superior Moves Records, LLC as the top three ranked Poet Laureates to the County Commission; David Morris second; unanimous approval; motion carried.

6.4 Pleasant Street

The County Attorney's Office is continuing their review of the agreement.

7. Public Comment

David Morris reported that he is a member of a newly formed "Art Matters" group. They are developing their mission statement this Thursday. If anyone is interested in joining, please let him know.

Carol Velasques Richardson stated that a Serenity: Art in Meditation Exhibit is currently underway at the Thomas Center and the monthly Art Walk is scheduled on Aug. 29.

E. Stanley Richardson invited everyone to the Heartwood Sound Stage on Aug. 20 at 7 p.m. for a poetry reading with musical accompaniment.

Stephanie Silberman announced that Barefoot Echoes: Listen to Earth's Wisdom through your Soles" will be at Field & Fork on Aug. 7 from 10 a.m. - 12 noon.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:14 p.m.