

Arts Council of Alachua County

Date: April 6, 2026
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 5:31 p.m.

Members Present: Christian Duran (arrived at 5:53 p.m.), Amy Koester, David Ruiz (Vice Chair), Alexander Sanchez-Hamilton, Jay Rosen (alternate), and Carol Velasques Richardson (Chair)

County Staff Present: Chief Jeff Taylor and Grant Bosier

2. Public Comment

Chair Velasques Richardson introduced Oaklianna Caraballo, the City of Gainesville's Art in Public Places Trust Chair.

3. Approval of the Agenda

David Ruiz made a motion to approve the agenda as amended; Amy Koester second; unanimous approval; motion carried.

4. Approval of Minutes

David Ruiz made a motion to approve the Mar. 2 minutes as presented; Alexander Sanchez-Hamilton second; unanimous approval; motion carried.

5. Armory Call to Artist Submittals Scoring - Leira Cruz Caliz

Procurement Agent, Leira Cruz Caliz, reviewed the scoring process and advised the committee that no local artists submitted a proposal. Each member was afforded the opportunity to provide their thoughts on each submittal.

David Ruiz made a motion to invite A Lewis Arts LLC., Birdy Co. LLC, and Legacy Art Studio Inc., as the top three ranked submittals, to provide a sketch of their proposed art installation for the Fire Rescue-themed, public art installation at the new Alachua County Fire Rescue Headquarters and Emergency

Operations Center; Alexander Sanchez-Hamilton second; unanimous approval; motion carried.

6. Art Grant - OpenGov Demo - Leira Cruz Caliz

Leira Cruz Caliz provided a demo of the FY 27 Art Grant process via OpenGov. The consensus of the Council was to accept and evaluate applications this cycle in OpenGov.

7. Art Loan Program - Christian Duran

Christian Duran offered to coordinate the curation of art on display in the County Administration Building. This item will be added to the next agenda for additional discussion.

8. 5th Annual Artists Conference

To date, 46 attendees have registered for the Artists Conference.

9. Old Business

9.1 Youth Member

To date, no applications have been received for the Youth Member vacancy. David Ruiz made a motion to recommend the Youth Member seat be returned to a Citizen at Large seat; Alexander Sanchez Hamilton second; unanimous approval; motion carried.

10. Call-to-Artist Update

10.1 Court Complex

The artist is waiting on the County to complete construction.

10.2 Pleasant Street

The Call to Artists will be advertised next week with submittals reviewed at the August Council meeting.

11. Public Comment

David Ruiz suggested that, in honor of the Council's 10 Year Anniversary in 2028, a two-day conference be planned.

The consensus was to cancel the May meeting since the Council is meeting twice in April due to the Artists Conference.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.