



**Minutes
Cultural Commission - Regular Session
Thursday, May 14, 2026 - 5:00 PM**

The Cultural Commission convened in regular session in the Conference Room of the Creativity Center at 5:00 PM.

1. Call to Order

The Cultural Commission convened in regular session in the Conference Room of the Creativity Center at 5:17pm. Chair Faisal Rashid called the meeting to order.

2. Roll Call

PRESENT: Commissioner Faisal Rashid
Commissioner Katherine Browne
Commissioner Crystal Bricker
Commissioner Rakshith Reddy Venumuddala
Commissioner Treyce' Gaston-Spears
Commissioner Angelique Racki

ABSENT: Commissioner Shweta Shukla

Staff Present: Anthony Nelson, Director of the Arts & Entertainment Department;
Kathy Sawyer, Development Manager of the Arts & Entertainment Department

3. Public Comment

No emailed Public Comment was received.

4. Consent Agenda

Items listed on the Consent Agenda are approved with one motion; Items pulled from the Consent Agenda are listed and voted on separately.

- A. **Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of the April 9, 2026, Regular Cultural Commission Meetings.** (Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)

Commissioner Racki made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gaston-Spears, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Chair Rashid called roll:

Ayes: Commissioner Bricker, Commissioner Browne, Commissioner Racki, Commissioner Gaston-Spears, Commissioner Venumuddala, Chair Rashid

Motion passes.

5. Regular Agenda

A. Discussion on 2026 Bloomington Center for Performing Arts Upcoming Shows and Updates. (Recommended Motion: None; Presentation Only.)

May 15 Commissioner Venumuddala's rental event

May 28 Tom Kiefer and L.A. Guns

June 5 First Friday: Captain Geech and the Shrimp Shack Shooters (Yacht Rock)

June 6 Route 66 event in Downtown Bloomington: Music by Motown Nation with a 60s theme, along with a projection onto the History Museum at intermission when it's dark. It will be a 10-minute tour of Route 66 shown on the outside of the Museum. Come to the concert in costume too.

The rest of the locations and eras are as follows:

1920s: Chenoa, Saturday morning

1930s: Lexington, Saturday afternoon

1940s: Towanda, Saturday afternoon into early evening

1950s: Normal, Sunday afternoon

1960s: Bloomington Saturday

1970s: Shirley/Funks Grove, Sunday afternoon

1980s: McLean, Sunday evening

B. Discussion on 2026 Grossinger Motors Arena Upcoming Shows and Updates. (Recommended Motion: None; Presentation Only.)

The Bisons' season is done.

Next, graduations will be happening at the Arena. Unit 5 on Saturday and District 87 on Sunday.

June 6 Autorama will be a free event

June 13 Special Olympics gymnastics

C. Discussion on 2026 Cultural Commission Events. (Recommended Motion: None; Presentation Only.)

Bloomington Meals & Music

Commissioner Browne suggested this series could be a fusion idea: we'll combine different kinds of music with different kinds of cuisine at restaurants.

Commissioner Browne clarified that the Commission is not making money from the Music & Meals events.

Time span: 6-8pm generally although Commissioner Venumuddala wants to have an event at Bloom Bawarchi that spans 5-9pm.

June 9 6-9pm Bloom Bawarchi with Band Bhuvana

June 16 6-8pm Signature Cafe with Kate Brown

June 23 6-8pm Flame @ Bloom

June 30 6-8pm Crawford's Corner Pub

July 7 6-8pm Eastside BloNo (Maybe with Rocky's World Flight concept?)

July 14 6-8pm JJ's Fish & Chicken with Amreen

July 21 6-8pm Wild Oak Social

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON



Faisal Rashid, Commission Chair

ATTEST



Anthony Nelson, Staff Liaison

Arts & Health Day, July 18

Potential Schedule

Commissioner Browne suggested that from 9-9:30am there could be a light musical performance in Franklin Park

Get the vendors together

Commissioner Racki offered that Mike Manus (spelling?) - Loft builder at Prairie and Douglas streets - could be a potential sponsor of a mural or of the initial conversation about what the community wants in a mural.

Commissioner Browne wondered if the event could be part of a 1K or 5K walk. The path from the Farmers' Market to Franklin Park: from Jefferson to Prairie to the Park could be a walking path incorporated into the Day's events. Commissioner Racki said that the Park has been measured when she was in high school at Central Catholic - it might be that 8 times around the Park is a mile. She will talk with Noah Tang; maybe we could get Strong Towns BloNo to serve as "ushers" for the walk, they could collect data and bring chalk and create a walking mural with community members who participate in the walk. Commissioner Racki commented that someone had the idea of starting a rickshaw business for downtown Bloomington. We could bring in ConnectTransit for this too, if people want to get from the Farmers' Market to Franklin Park, we could find the closest bus stop to the Farmers' Market (maybe Douglas & East streets?) and the closest bus stop to the Park.

Commissioner Racki asked if we need a future subcommittee meeting for this effort.

Commissioner Gaston-Spears asked if there was a walk already happening on that date. She will check with Meta Mickens-Baker.

Commissioner Racki commented that the Commission should have information about the Cultural Commission at events that we participate in so that people can learn about the Commission and consider joining it.

6. New Business

Commissioner Racki commented that BCAI is looking for Board members and that BCAI's space is rentable.

Chair Rashid commented that he will invite Tony Jones to speak at a future Commission meeting. The Commission can perhaps help with Juneteenth and Cultural Fest.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:21 PM.

Commissioner Racki made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Brinker seconded.

Ayes: Commissioner Brinker, Commissioner Gaston-Spears, Commissioner Racki, and Chair Rashid.

Motion passes.