

**MINUTES
CULTURAL COMMISSION - REGULAR SESSION
THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2025, 7:30 AM**

The Cultural Commission convened in regular session at 7:30 AM, May 8, 2025. Chair Faisal Rashid called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Crystal Bricker	Commissioner	Present
Shweta Shukla	Commissioner	Present
Dallas Long	Commissioner	Present
Peter Pontius	Commissioner	Present
Angelique Racki	Commissioner	Present
Amber Collins	Commissioner	Absent
Katherine Browne	Commissioner	Absent
Faisal Rashid	Commission Chair	Absent

Arts and Entertainment Staff Present: Anthony Nelson, Director; Kathy Sawyer, Development Manager | Public Guest: Janean Baird, Art Vortex Studio and Coordinator of BN Art Scene; Tony Jones, Coordinator of Cultural Fest and Juneteenth community events

Public Comment
No public comment

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

Item 4.A. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of the April 10, 2024, Regular Cultural Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Pontius made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Long, to approve the item as presented

Chair Rashid directed the clerk to call roll:

AYES: Racki; Shukla; Long; Pontius; Bricker

Motion carried.

Regular Agenda

The following item was presented:

Item 5.A. Discussion on 2025 Bloomington Center for Performing Arts upcoming shows and updates.

Director, Anthony Nelson highlighted One Night in Memphis coming up May 10 and the First Friday concerts that have all been announced now: Revel in Red, June 6; Walker Montgomery, July 11; and Deja Voodoo, August 1.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.B. Discussion on 2025 Grossinger Motors Arena upcoming shows and updates.

Nelson highlighted that the Arena will host Sesame Street Live May 15 and TaylorFest May 17, then graduation season follows. Heartland Community College, May 16; Normal graduations, May 24; and Bloomington, May 25. Looking further into the summer, we will have Jehovah's Witnesses, June 27-29 and July 4-6. Also this summer, we'll have Special Olympics gymnastics (June 20-21) and Autorama 3, June 14.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.C. Discussion on 2025 Cultural Commission events.

Art & Health Day, July 19: ConnectTransit will support Art & Health Day. Sunday, the Town of Normal will close part of Uptown Normal for "Let's Move." 20 cities participated last year.

Commissioner Bricker will work with Carle Health to see if Carle can table. Kathy Sawyer will reach out to the organizations who participated in the Chrissy Whitehead show at the BCPA last year. Anthony Nelson will present information to the BN Artists meeting next Wednesday at Inside Out Gallery. The suggested flow for the event is every 30 minutes a different event will start, lasting 15 minutes and allowing 15 minutes to get to the next one. Suggested activities are Yoga, a live Artist, Zumba, Sculpting, Kickboxing, and the connection between Art & Mental Health. Commissioner Racki has invited a chiropractor.

Locations will be Franklin Park and the Creativity Center and use a public address (PA) system from the Creativity Center. Except for the week of July 4, BN Artists will be running the Art Trail on Route 66, so they might cross-promote. Flyers can be available at the City's Farmers' Market information booth. We need to cross-promote as much as possible.

Slow Art Day—April 5, 2025: Bloomington-Normal was the first citywide Slow Art Day in the world. Now it's celebrated on all the continents, even Antarctica. More than 20 sites were participating in Bloomington-Normal. ArtScene McLean County paired with BN Artists. There's a new gallery location—Jan Brandt Gallery is now on Main Street, and Jan is exhibiting at the Bloomington Public Library. There are 14 galleries featured in the First Friday postcards. Corn on the Curb, an earlier exhibition of corn cobs, featured Herb Eaton's sculpture that is now

exhibited on the lawn of the History Museum. There are other cob sculptures from that effort at Specs Around Town and in the backyard of a house at Shelbourne & School streets.

New Business

Juneteenth, June 21, 12-5pm at Miller Park: Tony Jones is the event organizer. Tony has Save the Date fliers which he will send to Anthony and Kathy.

Volunteer needs so far: In the Vendor Area, volunteers can help set up and take down tents. Tony is still pursuing the idea of a large tent, recommended by Peter last year, maybe in time for Cultural Fest in August. Since the event will be in the Pavilion too, maybe the nearby road could be closed for Juneteenth. Who donates the big tent for Special Olympics?

Bounce House vendor: Anthony suggested Inflata- Fun Rentals – Obstacle course and bounce house cost \$350 for 4 hours during an event in Downs last year. Arthur Haynes has also rented bounce houses. The event might also have horseback rides and possible food vendors: A to Z Catering, 7 Brothers Fish, Uncle Tony's, and a Funnel Cake Vendor (My Funnel Truck and Lemonade is an option).

Cultural Fest, Saturday, August 23: (moved from August 9, but new date conflicts with Sweet Corn Circus, August 23-24) The lineup is still in formation and volunteers will be needed for this event as well. Commissioner Racki encouraged all Commissioners to bring all cultural news to the next Commission meeting so all the events can be amplified. This year, she added, we should blow up First Fridays and try to make them the best they've ever been.

Adjournment

Commissioner Racki made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Pontius, to adjourn the meeting.

Chair Rashid directed the clerk to call roll:

AYES: Racki; Shukla; Long; Pontius; Bricker

Motion carried.

The Meeting Adjourned at 8:23 A.M.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON



Faisal Rashid, Chair



Anthony Nelson, Staff Liaison