

**APPROVED**

**MINUTES OF  
THE VILLAGE OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS  
ARTS COMMISSION MEETING  
HELD IN THE COMMISSIONS ROOM  
OF THE VILLAGE HALL  
FEBRUARY 4, 2026 AT 6:30 P.M.**

Arts Chair Seitz-Pagano called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Mary Seitz-Pagano, Arts Chair  
Erika Cutlip  
Brian Wolf  
Leena Joshi  
Carla McAleer  
Kate Schwarz  
Sara Altieri  
Gretchen Grassl

Members Absent: Kristen Walter

Also Present: Michael Lysicatos, Assistant Director of Planning and Community Development  
Derek Mach, Staff Liaison

Arts Chair Seitz-Pagano led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**COMMISSIONER WOLF MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CUTLIP, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 3, 2025 ARTS COMMISSION MEETING. ALL WERE IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.**

Staff Liaison Derek Mach informed the Commission he would be retiring February 12<sup>th</sup> after 26 years. He thanked the members and proud of what the Arts Commission has been able to accomplish. The new Staff Liaison will be Michael Lysicatos for the time being until a permanent staff person is assigned the role.

**CULTURAL ARTS AWARD**

Arts Chair Seitz-Pagano mentioned that the award would be presented on February 17<sup>th</sup> at the Village Board meeting. The topic of the nomination for the 2027 Cultural Arts Award was discussed, including the call for artists, renominating past recipients and timing of the solicitation. The Arts Commission discussed the issue of nomination of past recipients. The intention of the submission guidelines was to encourage renominating individuals who may not have won, not past winners. Potential solutions discussed included restricting previous winners from being nominated for a certain time period (i.e., 10-year restriction), including previous winner names in the packet for the sub-committee, allowing for the same entity but not the same person, or preferred status for individuals who have not received the award. The submission guidelines could be updated stating the preference for individual how have not received the award and the updated list would be provided to the review sub-committee in a packet or maintained in a digital form.

The timing of the 2027 solicitation was also discussed. The members discussed announcing the call for artists on April 15<sup>th</sup> (World Art Day) with a last call deadline on January 31<sup>st</sup> (National Art Day). The final deliberation would ideally be done at the February Arts Commission meeting to allow staff to make the final preparations for the next available Village Board Meeting. That would allow the Commission to recognize the winner on April 15<sup>th</sup> (World Art Day) along

with opening the next solicitation. The members discussed finalizing the application at the next meeting in order to prepare for the April 15<sup>th</sup> announcement.

**DOWNTOWN PUBLIC ART PLAN**

Staff Liaison Derek Mach provided an update regarding the Downtown Public Art Plan. The Arts Commission discussed possibly including a conflict-of-interest form and a disclosure addressing products designed by Artificial Intelligence (AI). Assistant Director Lysicatos discussed the Strategic Priorities set by the Village Board, which includes promoting arts, and aligning the art plan with the Business Plan which addresses how priorities will be implemented.

**MURAL ORDINANCE**

Arts Chair Seitz-Pagano inquired about the status of the Mural Ordinance. Assistant Director informed the Commission that this was a priority with the Village Manager's office and staff would work to refine the ordinance with the sub-committee. Commissioner Wolf and Altieri updated the members on the working document produced by the sub-committee. Drawing a distinction on the type of text that could be included in a mural would help in promoting diverse work, while limiting art that would be connected to commercial activity. Staff requested an updated ordinance through the sub-committee who would review comments from the rest of the Commission. Follow-up discussion clarified the intent of the ordinance to govern mural art projects on private property, where the Public Art Plan would be geared towards mural projects on public property. Commissioner Wolf added that the ordinance would also need to address a waiver of rights under the federal visual artist rights act. The process of approving the application on the building will require further discussion in terms of which boards and commissions would be involved, such as the Design Commission, and roles they would play in this process.

**SIDEWALK CHALK ART**

Commissioner Cutlip discussed how the project could be coordinated with businesses and events such as Arlington Alfresco, Taste of Arlington, or sidewalk sales to allow more interaction and involvement from the public. It was recommended that the Commission could coordinate with the downtown business association on events they are planning and businesses that would participate. Members discussed project ideas including multi-generational participation.

**ARTWORK AT METROPOLIS**

Staff recommended preparing a concept when coordinating with the Metropolis on the art project. Arts Chair Seitz-Pagano mentioned coordinating with the director of the Metropolis Theater and was provided clarification that meeting to work on the project would not be considered a public meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**PUBLIC MEETING RULES DISCUSSION/ADOPTION**

**COMMISSIONER SCHWARZ MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ALTIERI TO APPROVE THE PUBLIC MEETING RULES AS PRESENTED BY STAFF. ALL WERE IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**COMMISSIONER WOLF MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER JOSHI TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:50 P.M. ALL WERE IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.**