



AGENDA
SPECIAL ARTS COMMISSION
Perkins Room, 2nd Floor
Arlington Heights Village Hall, 33 S. Arlington Heights Rd.
Arlington Heights IL 60005
September 9, 2026
6:30 PM

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - A. August 5, 2026 Minutes
- IV. REPORTS
- V. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Cultural Arts Award
 - B. Downtown Public Art Plan
 - C. Mural Ordinance
 - D. Sidewalk Chalk Art
 - E. Artwork at Metropolis
 - F. Luminary Event
- VI. NEW BUSINESS
- VII. OTHER BUSINESS
- VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Anyone wishing to speak on a subject not on the Agenda may speak at this time. Please limit your comments to three minutes.

- IX. ADJOURNMENT

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**MINUTES OF
THE VILLAGE OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
ARTS COMMISSION
COMMISSIONS ROOM (2nd FLOOR)
OF THE VILLAGE HALL
August 5, 2026 AT 6:30 P.M.**

Members Present: Mary Seitz-Pagano, Arts Chair
Kristen Walter
Leena Joshi
Brian Wolf
Henry Beardsley
Kate Schwarz
Carla McAleer
Sara Altieri

Members Absent: Erika Cutlip

Also Present: Michael Lysicatos, Planning and Community Development
Conor Rockhill, Planning and Community Development
Basmah Nadeem, Planning and Community Development

Arts Chair Seitz-Pagano opened the meeting at 6:30 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

COMMISSIONER JOSHI MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SCHWARTZ, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MAY, 6 2026 ARTS COMMISSION MEETING. ALL WERE IN FAVOR, COMMISSIONER BEARDSLEY ABSTAINED. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Staff Liasson Lysicatos introduced Conor Rockhill and Basmah Nadeem from the Planning and Community Development staff who would be assisting with future Arts Commission meetings and efforts, including the Public Art Plan. Staff Liasson Lysicatos then introduced the newest Arts Commissioner, Henry Beardsley, who provided his background to the Commission.

CULTURAL ARTS AWARD

Chair Seitz-Pagano opened the discussion on the Cultural Arts Award. Staff suggested that the solicitation for the award be reposted to social media. The Commission recommended a late August post after school has started.

DOWNTOWN PUBLIC ART PLAN

Staff Liasson Lysicatos provided that staff was working to develop a structure of topics and a schedule for the plan to potentially be completed next spring. The Village Board is looking for the Art Plan before programming future funding. The plan will serve as the communication tool to identify and coordinate on priorities between the Arts Commission and Village Board. The Commission discussed the prospect of developing themes and implementation timing that would be presented to the Village Board for support of future projects and funding opportunities.

MURAL ORDINANCE

The Staff Liaison provided an overview of the Draft Art Mural Ordinance and some of the changes made since the last draft was distributed to the Arts Commission. The definition of an Art Mural was a specific point of emphasis to differentiate potential projects from commercial or even political messaging. The ordinance guidelines were reinforced to facilitate projects that were easily reviewed and avoid issues identified by the Arts Commission and ordinances from

other areas. The ordinance focuses on non-residential districts to test what projects are submitted and potentially may be modified going forward. The guidelines also address historic strictures, light-based ordinances, paying owners strictly for the use of buildings for mural space, and acknowledgment panels.

The Visual Rights Act considerations were moved to the application and review process section of the ordinance along with requirements for a maintenance plan, public notice, and mechanism for the Arts Commission meetings to serve as a hearing for proposed projects. Design review would be handled through an administrative review by Village Staff that would include previous architectural considerations by the Design Commission. This section also addresses the Arts Commission's role as a recommending body to the Village Board and the permitting and maintenance requirements for any approved projects.

The Commissioners expressed some concerns about the amount and detail of the application requirements, such as the detailed, color, scaled rendering and plat of survey. Staff explained that these requirements were developed in order to provide clarity in regards to impacts on property boundaries and building conditions. Furthermore, these elements will provide understanding of how the mural would look on the building and potential impact architectural elements of the façade that could have been the subject of previous architectural reviews. Any requirements that may become a burden could be amended or removed in the future. The requirements will also assist with the permitting and inspection of projects to ensure they are implemented as proposed. Staff explained that the goal of the submission requirements is to address as many issues as possible before an application is heard by the Arts Commission in the hope of having applicants to the Arts Commission within a month once a complete application is submitted. Additionally, the requirements and research needed before applying help ensure that the mural application is successful, has longevity, and attracts experienced artists who are accustomed to the type of process and requirements as outlined in the draft ordinance.

Initial submissions or interest can be vetted by Village Staff, but the Arts Commission could provide assistance with the process as well. The ordinance merely outlines the requirements for implementing an Art Mural. An application package can be created, much like other Village application processes, to provide examples and checklists to assist with the process. The Arts Commission suggested videos that could also assist with application guidance. The Arts Commission can also use the Public Art Plan as a way to identify priority projects/locations and serve as an avenue to match artists with property owners while the Mural Art Ordinance is the pathway for allowing the projects.

COMMISSIONER WALTER MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WOLF, TO RECOMMEND TO THE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, APPROVAL OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE, INCORPORATING THE ART MURAL ORDINANCE AS SET FORTH IN THE AGENDA FOR TONIGHT'S ARTS COMMISSION MEETING. ALL WERE IN FAVOR.

SIDEWALK CHALK ART

Commissioner Joshi provided a recap of the discussion from the last Arts Commission meeting including the name for the event, coordination with downtown businesses, and "canvas" sizes of 4'x4' and 6'x6' to be provided. The project budget was discussed with staff providing that there is \$10,000 in approved funding for this year and proposed for 2027.

ARTWORK AT METROPOLIS

Chair Seitz-Pagano informed the Commission that the project is approved to move forward and asked that anyone that is interested and has time, to visit the space as a group. Some of the concepts for the art were discussed and they would be involved in a volunteer capacity with this effort. The Village would be provided an update on the status in order to ensure any departments that need to be involved are made aware of the status.

LUMINARY EVENT

Staff Liasson Lysicatos opened the discussion by providing a recap from the last meeting where the Arts Commission asked this topic to be added to the agenda. A luminary event would be an ideal topic developed through the discussion of arts events in the Public Art Plan.

NEW BUSINESS

Staff Liasson Lysicatos presented the draft 2027 Arts Commission budget which is \$1,000 for the Cultural Arts Award and \$10,000 for the Arts Commission events. The budget was circulated with the agenda.

COMMISSIONER MCALEER MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WOLF, TO APPROVE THE 2027 ARTS COMMISSION BUDGET. ALL WERE IN FAVOR.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

COMMISSIONER WALTER MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ALTIERI TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:09 PM. ALL WERE IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.



VILLAGE OF
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
— INC. 1887 —

9/9/2026

Item: Cultural Arts Award

Department: Planning & Community Development

Item Description:

There are no updates from staff as this time regarding the Cultural Arts Award.

ATTACHMENTS:

None



9/9/2026

Item: Downtown Public Art Plan

Department: Planning & Community Development

Item Description:

The Village Board identified eight Strategic Priorities for 2026–2027, one of which is to support and enhance the Village's efforts related to the arts, entertainment, and community identity. The 2026-2027 Arlington Heights Business Plan calls for the Village Staff to work with the Arts Commission to develop a Public Art Plan. The Public Art Plan will expand upon the Commission's previous focus on Downtown Public Art. The Public Art Plan will promote public art that supports a vibrant and healthy community, fosters a sense of belonging, and cultural advancement within the Village. Some of the milestones include developing the outline and scope of the plan and the public input process by the end of the year. Village Staff will present a proposed scope and outline for the final plan along with key elements of the first phase of work to develop a Community Arts Profile. The goal of the presentation is to reengage the Arts Commission on this Village-wide initiative, provide plans from other cities and regions to serve as inspiration, and organize roles for each of the Arts Commission members.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Art Plan Presentation 9.9.26



Public Art Plan

ARTS COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 9, 2026



Purpose

2026 – 2027 Village Board Strategic Priorities

Strategic Priority – The Village Board set eight Strategic Priorities for 2026 – 2027. Among these priorities was to “Support and enhance the Village’s efforts related to arts, entertainment, and community identity.” The Strategic Priorities were then translated into a Business Plan that achieves the priorities through specific tasks and efforts.

2026 – 2027 Business Plan

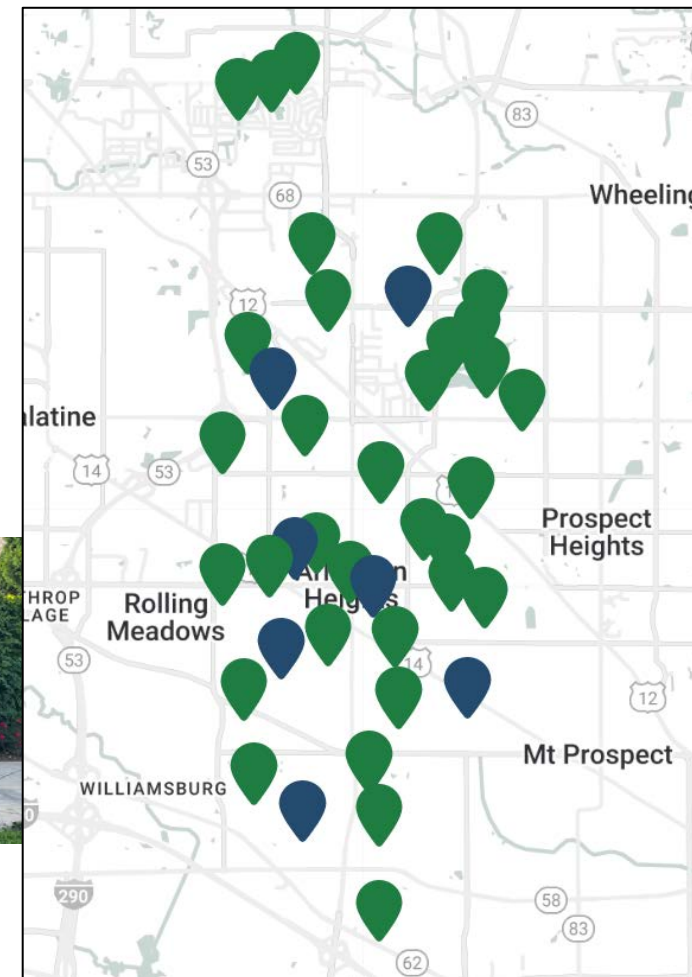
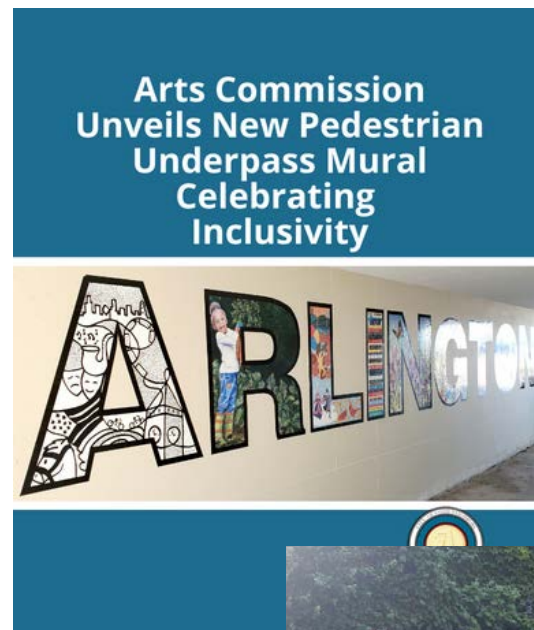
The Business Plan set a specific goal of developing a Public Art Plan to promote public art that supports a vibrant and healthy community, fosters a sense of belonging, and cultural advancement within the Village. Some of the milestones include developing the outline and scope of the plan and to being the public input process by the end of the year.

The Art Plan will provide a working set of priorities the Village Board can endorse and use in developing specific policies and funding decisions.



Public Art Plan – Review of Past Efforts

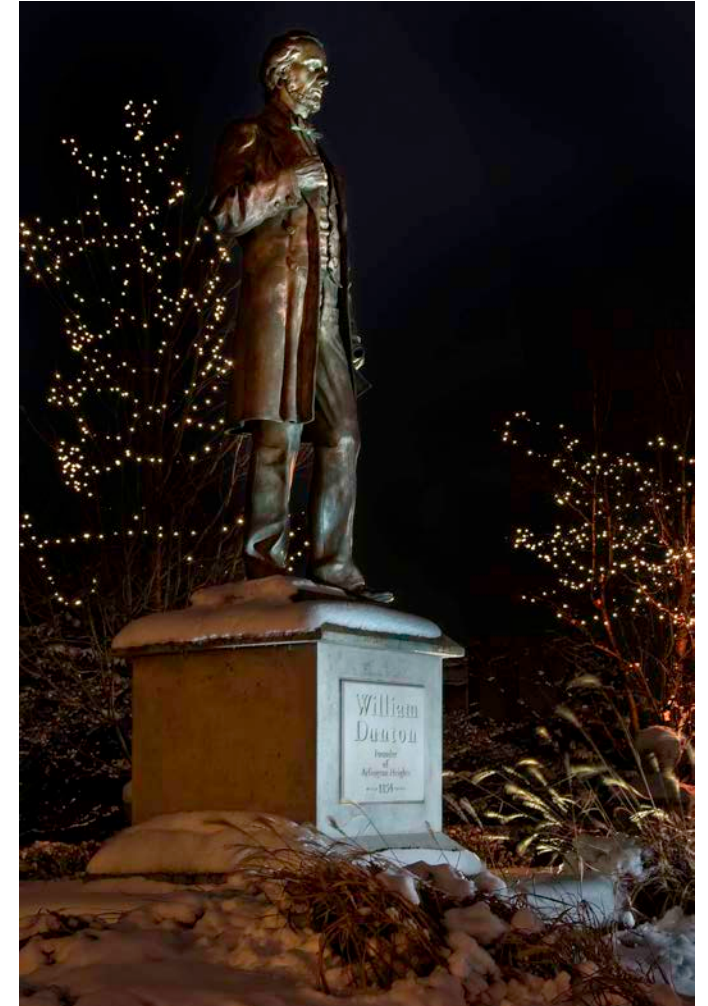
- Downtown Arts Plan
- Review of Potential Sites
- Completed Projects
- Events
- Partnerships
- Art Mural Ordinance





Public Art Plan – Scope & Structure

- Village-wide focus
- Broken down into three distinct phases.
- Topics to be led through different members of the Arts Commission
- Aligns with downtown master plan update
- Phase 1 – Community Arts Profile
- Phase 2 – Develop and Test Recommendations
- Phase 3 - Implementation





Phase 1 – Community Arts Profile

Description: Phase 1 of the plan development will introduce the Arts Plan, defining the Goals and Vision Statement to be utilized as guiding principles for the Plan. This will also include a Community Profile, detailing the past and present efforts, define appropriate public art project types, and identify key partnerships, providing building blocks for future community engagement and recommendations.



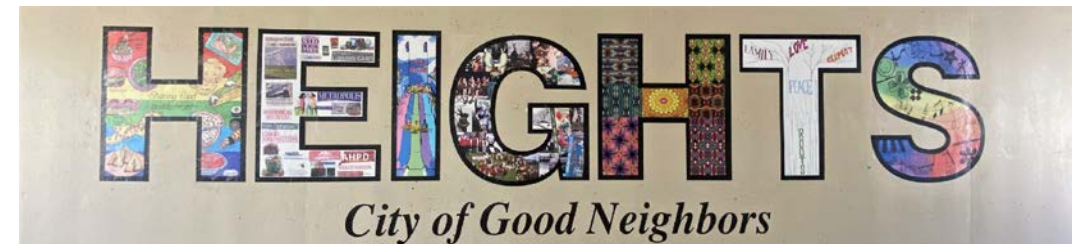
Phase 2 – Develop and Test Recommendations

Description: Phase 2 will develop hold much of the plan's content, incorporating vital community engagement efforts to identify and refine public art recommendations, select an inclusive list of art types to be placed in the community and gather aspirational examples. This art typology will inform a process to identify and select promising sites for art installations.



Phase 3 - Implementation

Description: Phase 3 of the plan will develop a roadmap, key steps, and tools for implementing public art projects including funding opportunities and the appropriate operational framework for public and private initiatives.





Phase 1 – Community Arts Profile

- **Create and refine a Vision Statement**
 - Does the Vision Statement encapsulate the essence of the plan?
- **Create and refine Public Art Plan Goals**
 - Do the plan goals meet the Business Plan goals?
- **Document existing policies and projects**
 - What policies and projects have been successfully implemented in the past and expanded in the future?
- **Evaluate best practices in Public Art**
 - What examples are appropriate in Public Art Plans from different cities and regions?
- **Define Public Art**
 - What Public Arts projects have already been completed in the community? What forms of art will be relevant to this plan moving forward?
- **Identify stakeholders and partnerships**
 - How will coordinated public arts projects further placemaking / placekeeping efforts?



Phase 1: Vision Statement

Vision Statement: To enhance and promote public art that supports an inclusive and vibrant community, fostering a sense of belonging and cultural advancement within the Village of Arlington Heights, including celebrations of the past, present, and future.





Phase 1: Goals

Leave it up to arts commission to mull it over until next meeting

- **To Promote Community Engagement:** Encourage participation in art-related activities across all demographics of the Village and to have public art events act as a lever for collaboration.
- **To Support Village Economic Growth:** Build awareness of the Village as a destination for public art and serve as an economic driver to support development throughout the Village.
- **To Celebrate Diversity:** Reflect the village's past, present, and future through art to embrace diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts.
- **To Provide a Sense of Place:** Encourage art-related placemaking activities to foster a connection between people and the places they share, emphasizing a sense of belonging.
- **To Support the Arts Community:** Provide platforms and opportunities for local and regional artists to showcase various works and mediums.



Phase 1: Document Existing Policies and Projects

Review Art Plans from other cities and regions to identify best practices, examples, themes, goals, and implementation strategies that align with Arlington Heights.

Plans / resources include, but are not limited to:

Plans / Examples

- Sarasota, FL
- Columbus, OH
- Cuyahoga Falls, OH
- Asheville, NC
- Columbia, MO

Resources

- National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)
- Project for Public Spaces
- Call for Curators
- Metropolitan Planning Arts Council- Arts & Planning Toolkit

Local Examples

- Bloomington-Normal
- Chicago: Wabash Arts Corridor, Chicago Loop
- Skokie Murals
- Aurora Public Art



Phase 1: Evaluate Best Practices

Review Art Plans from other cities and regions to identify best practices, examples, themes, goals, and implementation strategies that align with Arlington Heights.

Plans / resources include, but are not limited to:

Plans / Examples

- Sarasota, FL
- Columbus, OH
- Cuyahoga Falls, OH
- Asheville, NC
- Columbia, MO

Resources

- National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)
- Project for Public Spaces
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Local Examples

- Bloomington-Normal
- Chicago: Wabash Arts Corridor, Chicago Loop
- Skokie Murals
- Aurora Public Art



Phase 1: Define Public Art

What is Public Art?

Refine the categories of public art identified in the evaluation of best practices. Site examples to use in public engagement and testing.

- **Types (Mural, Sculpture, Etc.)**
- **Scale**
- **Utility**
- **Venues / Locations**
- **Static vs. Interactive**
- **Cultural**
- **Permanent vs. Temporary**
- **Performance**
- **New Media**
- **Events / Exhibits**



Phase 1: Stakeholders and Partnerships

Who are our partners?

Identify organizations and individuals that help define and test the Art Plan and help coordinate implementation efforts. Partners can help in any of the following avenues:

- **Research and Content**
- **Programming**
- **Access to Artists**
- **Technical Guidance**
- **Physical Implementation**
- **Promotion and Tourism**
- **Economic Development**
- **Education**
- **Funding**
- **Cultural Groups**



General Timeline

Business Plan Milestones

- Begin public input process by end of 2026
- Begin drafting Draft Plan by end of March 2027
- Begin adopting Art Plan October 2027

Next meeting

- Finalize Vision State and Plan Goals
- Research existing policies and project
- Draft plan scope and outline, and timeline (Village Staff)



VILLAGE OF
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9/9/2026

Item: Mural Ordinance

Department: Planning & Community Development

Item Description:

Staff is preparing a presentation for the September 8, 2026, Village Board meeting which will provide an overview of the Draft Mural Ordinance recommended by the Arts Commission for approval at the August meeting.

ATTACHMENTS:

None



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9/9/2026

Item: Sidewalk Chalk Art

Department: Planning & Community Development

Item Description:

There are no updates from staff as this time regarding the Sidewalk Chalk Art.

ATTACHMENTS:

None



VILLAGE OF
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9/9/2026

Item: Artwork at Metropolis

Department: Planning & Community Development

Item Description:

There are no updates from staff as this time regarding the Artwork at Metropolis.

ATTACHMENTS:

None



VILLAGE OF
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9/9/2026

Item: Luminary Event

Department: Planning & Community Development

Item Description:

There are no updates from staff as this time regarding the Luminary Event.

ATTACHMENTS:

None