

Minutes of the Jasper Community Arts Commission
City of Jasper, Indiana
July 1, 2025

The regular meeting of the Jasper Community Arts Commission was held at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, July 1, 2025, at Jasper City Hall Council Chambers. Roll call was held with the following **Commission Members Present in Person:** Darla Blazey, Emi Donato, Corie Eckerle, Heath Kluemper, Beth Seidl, and Pat Thyen. **Non-Voting Student Representative:** Absent. **Observed Remotely via Zoom:** None. **Commission Members Absent:** Jasmine Bosler, Bibianna Green, Linda Kahle, and Selena Vonderheide. **Staff Members Present:** Kyle Rupert, Eric Herndon, Emily Peak, Danny Kopp, Casey Uebelhor, and Liz Book. **City Attorney:** Renee Kabrick. **Guests in attendance:** Mayor Dean Vonderheide, Mike Jones, and Legal Intern Lauren Verkamp. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes

Pat Thyen moved to approve the minutes of June's meeting. **Beth Seidl** seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

City Financial Statement & Donation Report

Heath Kluemper moved to approve the claims as presented and accept the restriction of the following donations: \$750 for exhibits, and \$600 for the building fund. **Beth Seidl** seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

Old Business

- Emily presented the board with quotes for a new kiln. Skutt KMT – 1227-3 is designed for volume production and fast turnaround which will work well to keep up with the demands of the clay studio.

Company	Details	Estimated Totals
Brickyard Ceramics Indianapolis, IN	Kiln: \$5,129.75 Freight: \$275.00 Add-ons: \$1,082.20 (Envirolink, service, furniture) 1 Year Warranty	\$6,487.25
The Ceramic Shop Philadelphia, PA	Kiln: \$5,532.75 Freight: \$149 Add-ons: \$2,503 (Elment upgrade, Envirolink, service, furniture) No Warranty	\$8,184.75
ABR Imagery Bloomington, IN	Kiln: \$6,370 Freight: \$220 Add-ons: None No Warranty	\$6,590.00

Emily recommended accepting the low quote from Brickyard Ceramics. **Darla Blazey** made a motion to accept the recommended kiln quote. **Corie Eckerle** seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

- Kyle shared an update on the clear bag policy. After further conversations with the staff, City Hall, and a review of the artist contracts, he proposed moving forward with a bag check for select performances. For the 2025-2026 bag checks will be in place for 4 of the 12 performances: *Walk off the Earth*, *LeAnn Rimes*, *Plain White T's*, and *Mandy Patinkin*. CSC Crowd Control Management company will complete the searches. Jasper Arts has contracted with CSC for other performances when Jasper's Auxiliary police have not been available. Information will be posted on the website, on the specific show ticketing pages, and when tickets are purchased. Ticket reminder emails will also include the information. Day of show information and notices will also be posted at the venue.

New Business

- Kyle requested to pay deposits for the following artists: \$15,000 for *Walk off the Earth*, \$17,500 for *Tom Papa*, and \$5,000 for the *Yumi Kurosawa Trio*. All requested amounts are 50% or less of the total fee and are within what is allowed by Indiana Code. **Heath Kluemper** made a motion to accept paying the deposits, as requested. **Emi Donato** seconded. Motion passed 6-0.
- Danny requested permission to seek quotes for a new lawnmower for the Arts Center. The current lawnmower has had multiple repairs and needs another. He would like to get an idea of how much a new one would cost. **Darla**

Blazey made a motion to allow Danny to seek quotes for a new lawn mower. **Beth Seidl** seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

Director's Report/Performing Arts

Kyle reported:

- He shared an update on the usage numbers for the month. There has been a lot of interest and return visitors to *Steve Gerberich's* exhibit.
- Season ticket sales are going well, and so far, the feedback has been positive. The season will be announced publicly on Thursday, and tickets will go on sale on July 5th.
- The Indiana Arts Commission is holding off on awarding its AOS grants until September. Kyle still doesn't know if Jasper Arts has been awarded a grant.
- Kyle has met with Mayor Vonderheide and the Clerk/Treasurer's office to discuss the budget proposal for 2026. He will present the budget to the board at the next board meeting.

Building and Structure Report

Danny reported:

- He shared an update on rentals at the Arts Center. Next year, WBDC's Showdown will go back to a two-rental. ACT has been rehearsing its summer musical, *Mary Poppins*, and Dance by Mallory has summer classes. One rental that did not go as well as he would have liked was a comedian who was presented by an outside promoter. The renter did not show up for the event, which forced him to step into those front-of-house responsibilities. Dance Central Academy held its week-long rehearsals in preparation for its recitals. Danny thanked ACT and Dance by Mallory for their flexibility in accommodating the dance recital.
- Technical Assistant Juan Mendoza has finished boot camp and will resume work in the next week or so.
- The roof replacement is still underway, and so far, there have been no leaks.

Visual Arts Report

Emily reported:

- Over the last several days, *Kevin Titzer* has scouted Dubois County for objects to be used in the found object installation. Kevin is working on finishing touches to his piece. He will be at the First Thursday opening reception and will give a talk. Emily is also working on coordinating a film screening of a documentary that was made about Kevin's process. The film will be shown in the Black Box Theatre, and more details will be announced at a later date.
- The *Dubois County Art Guild* will present awards for its exhibit.
- Jasper Arts' Juneteenth Celebration was well attended and had a great energy
- Kid's Clay and Play class will be held every month. There is also a six-week clay handbuilding class that will be offered. Clay Open Studio is on Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.
- Applications for the *Juried Art Show* exhibition are due July 13. For \$25, artists can submit two pieces for consideration.
- Emily presented the proposed 2026 visual arts exhibits. She is still working through the process of scheduling the proposed artists, and the final lineup may change based on artist availability.
 - Christina Zimmer Robinson – Evansville, IN – paint, sculpture, & textile
 - Group Show – Collage & Assemblage – Ashley Brossart, Jane Epperson, Curtis Grace, Art Orr, Curtis Uebelhor, Bill Whorrall
 - Phoebe Scott – Spencer, IN – ceramic sculpture
 - Chris Dixon – Jasper, IN – wood sculpture & functional pieces
 - Tashema Davis – Marion, IN – oil
 - Rhonda J. Smith – Keedysville, MD – linoleum & intaglio prints
 - Nathan Sawaya – Lego sculptures
 - Penny Sisto – Floyd Knobs, IN – textiles & quilting

Corie Eckerle made a motion to accept the proposed exhibits, as presented. **Heath Kluemper** seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

Event Report

Eric reported:

- He shared the rental updates for the month. There have been weekly phone calls requesting information about renting the Atrium. It is one of the less expensive options in the area for the number of amenities offered.

- Beehive will be held on October 24-25. A fundraiser will take place on Friday evening. The ticketed fundraiser will \$50 per person and will include entertainment, food, and a silent auction. Eleven artists have been accepted into the Beehive Arts Market. This year's event will have a fine art focus. The deadline to apply is July 31.

Education Report

Casey reported:

- Casey shared a video she made featuring June Camp Create. There were 16 campers, and all were from Dubois County. In July, there will be 29 campers from Dubois County and two other counties. Pop Art is the theme for the week.
- She hosted a Project Inspire field trip that is designed to help those who need additional assistance to figure out next steps after high school graduation. She also hosted a field trip and activity for LifeSpring.
- Jen Tolbert taught a pottery and drawing double feature workshop for participants ages 13-16. Several of the participants were kids who had aged out of Camp Create.
- There are lots of other workshops offered in July, including a German flag woodcut to tie into Strassenfest
- Over the last month, Casey has given tours to several local and one out-of-state group. She has also coordinated several field trips for local schools. Lucy Dixon will be teaching wellness and watercolor classes this fall. After Camp Create is over, her focus will shift to scheduling classes for the fall.
- Casey presented the proposed Education Series shows for the 2025-2026 school year. Several of the shows that the committee was interested in were not touring or were not touring in the Midwest during Jasper Arts' availability. She is still working on finalizing the contract details for Mike Wiley, who presented a school show in 2023 on Jackie Robinson. The show was a big hit and featured audience participation with historical tie-ins. This season's show features the Montgomery Bus Boycott. The following shows were proposed: For grades kindergarten through 2nd – *Sonia De Los Santos*; grades 3-5 – *Wind in the Willows*; grades 6-8 – *Tired Souls: The Montgomery Bus Boycott*; grades 9-10 – *Ailey II*. **Beth Seidl** made a motion to accept the Education Series shows as presented. **Pat Thyen** seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

Public Business

Adjournment

Corie Eckerle moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:12 pm. **Heath Kluemper** seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

Selena Vonderheide

Heath Kluemper