

Minutes of the Jasper Community Arts Commission
City of Jasper, Indiana
December 2, 2025

The regular meeting of the Jasper Community Arts Commission was held at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, December 2, 2025, at Jasper City Hall Council Chambers. Roll call was held with the following **Commission Members Present in Person:** Darla Blazey, Julie Burns, Emi Donato, Corie Eckerle, Linda Kahle, Heath Kluemper, Pat Thyen, and Selena Vonderheide. **Non-Voting Student Representative:** Allison Woodruff. **Observed Remotely via Zoom:** Beth Seidl. **Commission Members Absent:** Jasmine Bosler, and Bibianna Green. **Staff Members Present:** Kyle Rupert, Emily Peak, Casey Uebelhor, and Liz Book. **City Attorney:** Renee Kabrick. **Guests in attendance:** None. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes

Selena Vonderheide moved to approve the minutes of November's meeting. **Emi Donato** seconded. Motion passed 8-0.

City Financial Statement

Linda Kahle moved to approve the claims as presented. **Pat Thyen** seconded. Motion passed 8-0.

Donation Report

No restricted use donations were received in November.

Old Business

New Business

- Darla requested that a nomination committee be formed to select officers for the Jasper Community Arts Commission for 2026. Pat Thyen agreed to serve on the committee and said she would ask Beth Seidl if she would be interested in serving on the committee. Darla shared that she will be stepping down as President.
- Kyle requested to pay an artist deposit for the *Plain White T's* for \$22,500. This is 50% of the total artist fee. **Corie Eckerle** made a motion to approve paying the artist's deposit as presented. **Heath Kluemper** seconded. Motion passed 8-0.
- Kyle asked permission to move forward with purchasing DocuSign for the department. The department drafts more than 100 contracts each year for instructors and rentals, and it has become more difficult to receive signed contracts in a timely fashion and ready for payment or filing. The implementation of DocuSign will streamline the process. He is working through the final agreement. **Darla Blazey** made a motion to implement DocuSign. **Corie Eckerle** seconded. Motion passed 8-0.

Director's Report/Performing Arts

Kyle reported:

- Kyle gave an update on the November performances. For *Tom Papa's* rescheduled performance, the number of tickets sold exceeded ticket sales before refunds were issued to those who were unable to attend the new date. 393 people were in attendance. Lots of merchandise was sold, and Tom was easy to work with. *Damn Tall Buildings'* performance went well, and 95 people attended.
- *LeAnn Rimes'* December 13th performance is sold out. Kyle thanked the City Departments for their assistance in making this show possible. If tickets are turned in or released, those who are on the waiting list will be contacted.
- Kyle shared that ticket revenue is about the same as last year. He also shared the usage numbers for the month and year.
- Kyle will present the Annual Report in January.

Building and Structure Report

Kyle reported for Danny:

- Danny is working on a timeline for Astro Security's installation of the new fire panel and video surveillance system at the Jasper Arts Center.
- New patio furniture was ordered and placed on the patio at the Thyen-Clark Cultural Center.
- Pop-up covers were purchased to cover the gallery openings to advertise new exhibits and can also be used as backdrops for other events. The covers Velcro to the collapsible frame. More branding items will be purchased as the budget allows.

Visual Arts Report

Emily reported:

- *Ron Peake's* exhibit opens on Thursday. Ron is a multihyphenate retired educator and artist. 300 pieces were brought for Emily to sort through, and not everything will be shown. *Chris Dixon* will perform some of Ron's original music at the opening reception.
- The First Thursday and Volunteer Thank You Reception will be held on Thursday from 5-7 PM. This year, a Holiday Pop-Up Market for artists will take place, featuring a diverse range of mediums.
- Clay classes are still ongoing, and open studio is offered on Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.
- She shared updates to the 2026 visual artists who will have their work on display.
- *Call for Artists* applications for 2027 are now being accepted. The deadline to submit is March 2026, and it is open to graduate students and professional artists.

Education Report

Casey reported:

- Casey hosted field trips for the Jasper Middle School Art Club and Chrisney Elementary School.
- Several holiday-themed workshops are coming up. She is working on the winter/spring schedule.
- Camp Create Spring Break will feature artist *Vincent Van Gogh*. Many of the instructors are excited to teach about his work and style.
- Casey announced that next summer there will be a new camp, *Creative Edge*, designed for ages 13-17. This works well for kids who have aged out of *Camp Create*. The weeklong camp will cover different mediums more extensively and will include a trip to visit a permanent collection. The camp will be capped at 15 campers, and she hopes to offer six spots for free, made possible by community donations for those with financial need. She is still working on the dates for the camp.
- Jasper Arts' intern Jade is a student at Perry Central High School and has been a great asset and help.

Public Business

- Kyle thanked Darla for her service as President for the last four years.

Adjournment

Selena Vonderheide moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:58 pm. Heath Kluemper seconded. Motion passed 8-0.

Darla Blazy

Heath Kluemper