

**Minutes of the Jasper Community Arts Commission**  
**City of Jasper, Indiana**  
**January 6, 2026**

The regular meeting of the Jasper Community Arts Commission was held at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, January 6, 2026, at Jasper City Hall Council Chambers. Roll call was held with the following **Commission Members Present in Person:** Darla Blazey, Jasmine Bosler, Corie Eckerle, Bibianna Green, Linda Kahle, Heath Kluemper, Beth Seidl, Pat Thyen, and Selena Vonderheide. **Non-Voting Student Representative:** Allison Woodruff. **Observed Remotely via Zoom:** None. **Commission Members Absent:** Julie Burns, and Emi Donato. **Staff Members Present:** Kyle Rupert, Emily Peak, Casey Uebelhor, Danny Kopp, and Liz Book. **City Attorney:** Renee Kabrick. **Guests in attendance:** Mayor Dean Vonderheide, Candy Neal, and Ubaldo Kopp. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Election of Officers**

Pat Thyen and Beth Seidl served on the Officer Nominating Committee. Pat presented the proposed slate of officers: Corie Eckerle - President, Selena Vonderheide - Vice-President, and Beth Seidl - Secretary. No additional nominations were made from the floor. **Bibianna Green** made a motion to accept the proposed slate of officers. **Heath Kluemper** seconded. Motion passed 9-0.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Darla Blazey** moved to approve the minutes of December's meeting. **Linda Kahle** seconded. Motion passed 9-0.

**City Financial Statement**

**Jasmine Bosler** moved to approve the claims as presented. **Heath Kluemper** seconded. Motion passed 9-0.

**Donation Report**

**Jasmine Bosler** moved to accept the restricted-use donations of \$35 for workshop supplies. **Beth Seidl** seconded. Motion passed 9-0.

**Old Business**

**New Business**

- Kyle requested to table the job title change for the Event Coordinator position. He requested the job title change based on the changes the department has seen since the Thyen-Clark Cultural Center opened. Starting the hiring process provides an opportunity to evaluate what other staff roles look like and how best to focus work in their specialized areas. Kyle wanted to give the board more time to review the job description. The job description was drafted with input from Mayor Vonderheide, Personnel Director Cale Knies, and City Attorney Renee Kabrick. To change the job title, the Board will need to pass a resolution recommending the change, and the resolution will need to be approved by City Council.
- Director of Dubois County CARES, Candy Neal, requested that the board waive the rental fee for renting the Jasper Arts Center. Kyle shared that the department is working on developing a policy to address fee waivers, but it has not yet been finalized. Any fee waiver would need to be approved by the board. She shared the mission of Dubois County CARES, as well as the impact substance abuse and alcohol have on youth and the organization's initiatives to support youth mental health. Recent surveys showed that the students are feeling increasingly stressed. The requested free usage would provide a space for a speaker to talk to all 8th-grade students in the county and would also host a session for parents. **Beth Seidl** made a motion to waive the rental fee for Dubois County CARES on February 24. **Pat Thyen** seconded. Motion passed 9-0.

**Director's Report/Performing Arts**

Kyle reported:

- Kyle shared highlights from the 2025 annual report. Ticket revenue hit a new record, gallery visits were up 34%, and community impact remains strong. Almost 9,000 students and lifelong learners experienced Jasper Arts school performances and workshops. Almost 5,000 people attended Jasper Arts performances. Total usage has leveled off since the Cultural Center opened, but it is up 157% from 2017. There was an increase in expenses due to Jasper Arts' 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations and investment in purchasing new equipment. A new kiln and pug mill will help the expanded interest in clay workshops and open studio. The percentage increase in expenses has matched revenue growth. Camp Create camps were held over Spring and Fall Breaks and over the summer. 2025

saw the first exhibit installed in the Black Box Theatre and saw installation exhibits from Kevin Titzer and Steve Gerberich.

- Kyle gave an update on *LeAnn Rimes*' December performance. The show was well received, and they were great to work with. Kyle thanked Thyens, the crew, Renee, and Clerk-Treasurer's office for their assistance in making the show possible. There are two upcoming shows in January: *Beo String Quartet* and *Step Afrika*. He shared that *Step Afrika* will be a unique opportunity for the community to experience a different type of dance. The *Plain White T's* will perform on February 14.
- Over the last couple of weeks, he has fielded multiple rental inquiries for renting the Cultural Center.

### **Building and Structure Report**

Kyle reported for Danny:

- Danny shared that the bag check for *LeAnn Rimes*' performance went well. Due to cold weather, the bag check was brought inside the lobby. This is the second show that Jasper Arts has contracted CSC for bag checks, and it has gone smoothly.
- Dance by Mallory continues to use the dance studio, and cosmetic upgrades are planned for the space. For Dubois County CARES rental on February 24, Mallory's classes will be moved to the Black Box Theatre.
- There are a few exterior lights on the front of the Cultural Center that need to be replaced. The parts have been ordered by Weyer Electric and are waiting for delivery.
- 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. Astro is working on finalizing other projects from the end of 2025 before scheduling Jasper Arts' projects.
- He needs a few volunteers for *Step Afrika*. Load-in is on January 30, and the show is on January 31. Since it is a matinee performance, it will be an earlier evening.

### **Visual Arts Report**

Emily reported:

- *Ron Peake's* exhibit opened last month. He and his wife were very happy with how the exhibit turned out. *Chris Dixon* performed some of Ron's original music at the opening reception. The exhibit will be open through February 22.
- An exhibition in memory of former Jasper Arts Director and Visual Arts Coordinator, Kit Miracle, will open on Thursday. The exhibit will feature a variety of her work and her sketchbooks. Several framed pieces are for sale. Many more unframed watercolor and oil/acrylic paintings are available for sale and can be taken once purchased.
- The *Visual Arts Committee* exhibit will be open through the end of the month.
- The Holiday Pop-Up Market that was part of the December reception was a great success. She hopes to offer the opportunity again throughout the year. Several of the artists created their work during Clay Open Studio.
- The gallery walls will be patched and painted in the next couple of months. It has been a few years since this was last completed
- Clay classes are still ongoing, and open studio is offered on Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.
- The 2026 exhibit guides have been mailed to those who are on the exhibit postcard mailing list.
- *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. Some who have already applied are artists who have already had their work on display in the galleries.
- The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Soup-Port event will take place in April. She is working on coordinating dates to throw and glaze the bowls.

### **Education Report**

Casey reported:

- Several holiday-themed workshops were held in December. She is currently working on the winter/spring schedule.
- Last month, she spoke with the Jasper Kiwanis Club about the education opportunities Jasper Arts provides for the community.
- Casey has planned a field trip and workshop for Mentors for Youth.
- The Education Committee will meet to discuss potential shows for the schools during the 2026/2027 school year.

- Dubois County Pride will continue to rent a workshop each month to host its *Create with Pride* workshops. Jasper Arts will partner with Pride to create a sculpture that will be on display in June. She is also working on co-hosting another workshop opportunity.
- Later this week, Casey will host another on-site watercolor workshop for St. Charles residents.
- There is one spot remaining for Leah Diekhoff's Van Gogh My Way oil workshop.
- Casey shared how impressed she is with the Kit's watercolor artwork that is featured in the gallery.

### **Public Business**

### **Adjournment**

**Bibianna Green** moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:14 pm. **Selena Vonderheide** seconded. Motion passed 9-0.

Chris Eke 2/3/26

Deeth Seidel, Sec.