



Public Art Commission Meeting Minutes

Dana Frazee, Chair
Katie Gasper, Vice Chair
Colleen Andrus
Bob Gnaegy
Inger Hiller
KC Neel
Adam Thornton

Thursday, July 9, 2026

4:00 PM

Central Service Center
1400 Caprice Drive
Castle Rock, CO 80109

This meeting is open to the public. All times indicated on the agenda are approximate. Three or more Council members may also attend this meeting, during which the items listed herein will be discussed.

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CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Chair Dana Frazee called the meeting to order at approximately 4 p.m. Staff Liaison Maia Yates and Amy Fleet, art teacher at Castle Rock Christian Academy, were in attendance in addition to members of the Public Art Commission.

Present 7 - Vice-Chair Katie Gasper, Commissioner Colleen Andrus, Chair Dana Frazee, Commissioner Adam Thornton, Commissioner Bob Gnaegy, Commissioner KC Neel, and Commissioner Inger Hiller

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

[PAC 2026-016](#) Approval of the Minutes

Commissioner Inger Hiller moved to approve the June 11, 2026 meeting minutes. Commissioner Adam Thornton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

"I move to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2026 Public Art Commission meeting."

Yes: 7 - Vice-Chair Gasper, Commissioner Andrus, Chair Frazee, Commissioner Thornton, Commissioner Gnaegy, Commissioner Neel, and Commissioner Hiller

DISCUSSION ITEMS

[PAC 2026-017](#) Strategic Priorities and Future Initiatives

The Commission reviewed Tiny Art Quest submissions and discussed the artwork selected for installation throughout the community. Commissioners reviewed the collection with consideration for variety, subject matter and how the selected pieces would work together. The Commission discussed several submissions, including animal imagery, community scenes and other colorful pieces, before confirming the group of finalists. Nearly 80 submissions were narrowed down to 25 finalists. The final artworks would be translated to vinyl for installation at Festival Park to be featured in this year's Tiny Art Quest program.

Staff provided an update on the Big Drive public art project and discussed plans for the sculpture dedication event. The Commission reviewed event logistics, community engagement and opportunities to celebrate the completion of the project. Commissioners expressed enthusiasm for the installation and discussed ways to make the dedication an engaging community event.

Staff presented the quarterly Public Art Fund budget review, including current funding, anticipated expenditures and funding available for future projects. The Commission discussed long-term budget planning and the effect of inflation on maintenance, project costs and other program expenses. Commissioners discussed the importance of considering increased funding requests during future budget planning cycles, noting that Town departments routinely evaluate and request funding adjustments as costs and priorities change. Members agreed that potential funding increases should remain top of mind during future budget planning discussions rather than assuming current funding levels will remain sufficient. Members also discussed the importance of identifying specific projects and demonstrated needs when requesting additional funding rather than requesting increases without a defined purpose.

The Commission discussed the history of funding for public art and previous advocacy efforts to increase arts and cultural funding in Castle Rock. Members noted the significant work involved in securing the Commission's current funding and discussed the importance of demonstrating the economic and community benefits of public art when making future funding requests.

Commissioners discussed using data on the economic impact of arts and cultural activities to support future funding requests, including information about visitors traveling to Castle Rock for events and the role arts, entertainment and cultural amenities play in attracting residents, employees and visitors. Resources from Americans for the Arts and economic development organizations were identified as potential sources of supporting data.

The Commission discussed beginning planning for the 2028 budget in early 2027. Members expressed general support for considering additional funding requests as part of the Commission's strategic planning process, particularly when requests can be tied to maintenance needs, future public art projects and demonstrated program success. Staff noted that quarterly budget reviews will continue to provide opportunities for the Commission to evaluate funding needs.

The Commission continued discussion of the Wolfensberger Road Underpass Mural Project and the forthcoming call for artists. Commissioners discussed creating a cohesive design across both sides of the underpass while allowing artists flexibility to address the large scale of the site without requiring complete wall coverage. Commissioners discussed flowing or interconnected design elements as one possible approach while emphasizing that artists should be encouraged to propose creative solutions.

The Commission discussed the physical constraints of the site, including the length and height of the walls, pedestrian and vehicle traffic, railroad property and portions of the underpass where artwork may not be permitted without additional approval. Members agreed that accurate measurements, site drawings, surface

information and other technical information should be included in the artist call to allow artists to develop realistic proposals.

Commissioners discussed whether a mural remained the preferred public art treatment for the site. Members acknowledged the scale, cost and anticipated lifespan of a mural but expressed support for continuing with the project as contemplated in the Commission's adopted plan. Commissioners noted that issuing a call for artists does not obligate the Commission to select a proposal if the submissions are not practical, financially feasible or appropriate for the location.

Staff and Commissioner Bob Gnaegy agreed to obtain additional site measurements and investigate whether drawings with dimensions are available. Staff will prepare and circulate a draft call for artists along with examples of previous mural calls so commissioners can provide feedback before the next meeting. The Commission discussed issuing the call in August with the goal of reviewing submissions in the fall and establishing an artist contract within the 2026 budget year.

The Commission also discussed mural materials, UV protection, graffiti protection and long-term conservation. Staff shared guidance received from art conservators regarding sacrificial and permanent anti-graffiti coatings and the potential implications for future mural removal or replacement. The Commission supported consulting with art conservators as the artist call is developed to ensure appropriate paint, coating and conservation specifications are included.

Commissioners discussed geographic eligibility for the artist call and previous efforts to encourage participation by local and Colorado artists. Members noted that previous calls have included language giving preference to local artists while recognizing the importance of maintaining a sufficiently large and competitive applicant pool.

The Commission discussed increasing the Wolfensberger Road Underpass Mural Project budget from \$50,000 to \$70,000 by reallocating \$20,000 in unawarded grant funds to the project.

Commissioner Hiller moved to reallocate \$20,000 in unawarded grant funds to the Wolfensberger Road Underpass Mural Project, increasing the total project budget to \$70,000. Vice Chair Katie Gasper seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Following the vote, commissioners discussed the possibility that proposals could exceed the available project budget. Members noted that additional fundraising opportunities could be explored through the Castle Rock Arts and Culture Foundation if necessary.

Chair Frazee provided an update following a meeting with the Castle Rock Arts and Culture Foundation Board of Directors. The Commission discussed an informal meet and greet with the Foundation Board scheduled for Aug. 7 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Millhouse. The gathering will provide an opportunity for Public Art Commissioners and Foundation Board members to meet, discuss the Commission's accomplishments and current plans and strengthen coordination

between the two groups. Commissioners noted that several Foundation Board members previously served on the Public Art Commission and were involved in developing earlier public art plans and initiatives.

The Commission reviewed a draft annual planning calendar outlining upcoming projects, milestones and Commission activities. Commissioners expressed support for using the calendar as a planning tool, particularly to help new commissioners understand upcoming responsibilities and project timelines. The Commission discussed adding key milestones to meeting calendar invitations so information is readily available to commissioners throughout the year. The anticipated August release of the Wolfensberger Road Underpass Mural Project call for artists will also be added to the planning calendar.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:15 p.m.