



City of Marquette, MI
Minutes
Arts & Culture Advisory Committee

Tuesday, May 5, 2026
5:30pm
Peter White Public Library - City of Marquette Arts & Culture Center

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the Arts & Culture Advisory Committee was held at the Peter White Public Library, Marquette, MI, on Tuesday, May 5, 2026. The meeting was convened at 5:33 p.m. by Secretary Dr. Athena Stanley.

Roll Call:

Present: Secretary Dr. Athena Stanley, Kendal Mentink, Ashley Saari, Susan Estler, Brian Shier, Youth Representative Mateo Rangel

Absent (excused): Maddie Goodman, Johanna Worley, Walker Derby (motion to excuse by Ashley, seconded by Kendal. Motion carried unanimously).

Vacancy: Vice Chair

Staff Present: Amelia Pruiett

Approval of the Agenda:

Motion: Moved by Athena, seconded by Susan to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: Motion: Moved by Ashley, seconded by Kendal to approve the April 2026 minutes at the May meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Announcements:

- Art Awards nomination content will be provided to Ashley Saari for distribution through the LSCP network.
- Leslie provided an update (outside of the ACAC meeting) regarding the Fisher Street Makerspace initiative, including a recommendation to connect with Grow and Lead regarding board formation.

Public Comment: N/A

Presentation(s): None.

Other Reports:

1. **Chair:** N/A
2. **Staff Liaison – Amelia Pruiett**

- Amelia shared updates regarding current Arts & Culture initiatives and partnerships. Additional details are available through the City Arts & Culture spring update published on MQT Compass.
- Positive feedback was received from the City Manager regarding the ACAC annual presentation, particularly related to financial leveraging and presentation metrics.
- The Peg Hirvonen Bandshell fundraising campaign has reached full funding.
- Planning continues for the bandshell ribbon cutting and first concert, scheduled for the last Thursday of June. Committee members are invited to attend.
- Staff continue efforts to activate the Cultural Trail through partnerships with NMU students, the Marquette Regional History Center "5th-H History" 4-H Club, and other community collaborators.
- Summer and fall programming continues, including:
 - Fresh Coast Plein Air Painting Festival
 - Presque Isle Art Fair
 - City Band concerts
 - Upper Peninsula Folklife Festival
 - Fringe/Spectacle Festival
 - Winter Ice Festival planning for early 2027
- Staff are working with the Peter White Public Library to expand public gallery and display opportunities.
- The 2027 Public Gallery Program artists have been selected and will be announced later in May. Discussion included possible expansion of public art display opportunities into additional public spaces such as City Hall and the Trailhead.
- Building occupancy for the new Arts & Culture space is anticipated in June, with broader public activation expected later in the fall as furnishings and installations are completed.
- LSCP is expected to assist with ribbon-cutting event coordination.

Old Business:

1. Art Tour

- Amelia reviewed the history and logistics of the Art Tour and discussed whether it should be revitalized.
- Discussion included:
 - Using the Art Tour as a framework to activate spaces and highlight areas of Marquette through themes and partnerships.
 - Potential integration with Travel Marquette's pass systems and destination initiatives.
 - The importance of consistent organizational structure and participating venue commitment.
 - Suggestions that participating galleries or venues may take on greater leadership responsibilities.
 - Agreement that pausing during 2026 may be appropriate as a transition year while intentional planning occurs for the 2027 season.

2. Art Awards

- Committee members were encouraged to continue promoting award nominations within their own networks.
- Discussion included:
 - LSCP email distribution support
 - Outreach to youth through local instructors
 - Possibility of reusing or revisiting past nominations
- Important dates:
 - Nomination deadline: July 16, 2026
 - Event date: November 8, 2026

3. Election of Officers

- Discussion tabled until a future meeting with broader committee attendance.

4. Peg Hirvonen Bandshell Concert Series

- Discussion included:
 - The current reservation structure and fee schedule
 - Anticipated public interest following the ribbon cutting
 - Possibility of grant funding to subsidize a concert series
 - Questions regarding stewardship, promotion, and review of programming connected to cultural public spaces, including the Bandshell, Cultural Trailhead, and Mattson Park

New Business:

1. Respect Marquette Presentation

- Susan Estler presented on the Respect Marquette initiative.
- Discussion included:
 - Copenhagen as an example of community-forward infrastructure, adaptive reuse, and sustainable tourism practices
 - Respect Marquette's origins as a coalition centered around shared community goals and tourism stewardship
 - Program initiatives including:
 - Bark Rangers
 - Collect Marquette
 - Visitor pledge campaigns
 - Community storytelling and engagement efforts
 - Travel Marquette media partnerships and content distribution strategies
 - Intentional efforts to connect Respect Marquette with the Cultural Trailhead and broader Arts & Culture initiatives
- The committee discussed how arts and culture programming can support community identity while helping address overuse of outdoor recreation spaces.
- Susan thanked the committee for their interest and engagement.

Public Comment: None.

Comments from Board/Committee members: None.

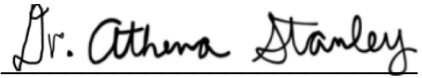
Comments from the Chair: None.

Comments from the Staff Liaison: None.

Adjournment:

Motion: Moved by Ashley, seconded by Brian to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by



Dr. Athena Stanley, Secretary
Marquette Arts & Culture Advisory Committee

06/02/2026

Date approved