

SOUTH CAROLINA ARTS COMMISSION
Board of Commissioners Meeting
April 17, 2025

Note: The time, date, location, and agenda for this meeting were publicized as required by South Carolina laws covering meetings of public bodies.

Members Present

Dee Crawford, Heidi Carey, Flavia Harton, Dr. Sarah Lynn Hayes, Barbara Nwokike, Rip Parks

Staff Present

David Platts, Nick Boismenu, Angela Brewbaker, Ashley Brown, Tanisha Brown, Daisha Calhoun, McKenzie Drake, Maria Earl, Jonathan Eason, Krista Grendze, Milly Hough, Trinity Howell, Daphne Hudson, Wendy Jackson, Victoria McCurry, Amanda McSwine, Mikayla Moore, Kimberly Washburn Motte, Amanda Noyes, Laurel Posey, Johnathan Rabon, Abby Rawl, Ce Scott-Fitts, Chris Scudder, Harvee White, Hailey Yasinski

Call to Order

Chair Dee Crawford called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Introduction of New Members

Executive Director David Platts recognized new commissioners Heidi Carey of Columbia and Russell “Rip” Parks of Easley, who were appointed by Gov. McMaster and confirmed by the Senate in March.

A University of South Carolina-educated cellist and attorney, Ms. Carey joined her current firm Riley Pope and Laney, LLC in 2008 and became a member of the firm in 2010. She is a tenured cello section member of the South Carolina Philharmonic and serves at Eastminster Presbyterian Church, Columbia.

Russell P. “Rip” Parks practiced healthcare architecture for 35 years across the U.S. and internationally. He is a graduate of Clemson University and holds separate master’s degrees in business, architecture and urban design. A visual artist, Parks currently leads the visual arts ministry at First Presbyterian Church, Greenville.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Crawford called for a motion to approve the February 6, 2025, minutes. Dr. Hayes made a motion; Ms. Carey seconded. The minutes were approved.

FY2025 Third Quarter Financials

Finance Director Angela Brewbaker provided a general overview to help Ms. Carey and Mr. Parks understand how financial information is presented at board meetings. She outlined the income sources shown on the Statement of Activities – federal, state, and other. The agency is allowed to carry forward nonrecurring state funds and 10% of recurring state funds, and requests permission from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to extend federal funds beyond the initial grant period. For expenditures, the statewide arts services section reflects programming and outlines the five major grants categories, with each grant listed separately.

Ms. Brewbaker reviewed the balance sheet showing the agency’s assets and liabilities. The Due from Special Revenue Fund details the amount due from the NEA for each year of extended awards. The NEA grant is reimbursable, and Ms. Brewbaker submits draws as expenditures occur.

Ms. Brewbaker stated that expenditures are in line with where they should be for the third quarter.

Mrs. Crawford called for a motion to approve the third quarter financials as presented. Dr. Hayes made a motion; Ms. Carey seconded. The motion passed.

Grants Request

Deputy Director Ashley Brown presented one grant request for a new category: Barrier Free Arts SC. This grant will provide knowledge, support and resources to empower arts organizations to prioritize accessibility for constituents and artists with disabilities. The predecessor to this grant is Arts 4 All, which was created two years ago. Barrier Free Arts SC will cover a three-year cycle and include a cohort that will support grantees in creating an accessibility plan and in professional development. The first year of funding includes up to \$3,500 per grant and will help fund grantee attendance at the national LEAD (Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disabilities) conference. The second and third years of funding will be up to \$5,000 each year. Eight organizations have advanced from the Letter of Intent stage to be approved for the full grant. The LEAD conference takes place in August, with registration in May, so today's approval allows time to notify grantees of their award.

Request for grant approval for Barrier Free Arts SC:

- FY26 - \$28,000
- FY27 - \$40,000
- FY28 - \$40,000

Mrs. Crawford called for a motion to approve the grant request as presented. Dr. Hayes made a motion; Mr. Parks seconded. The motion passed.

FY2026 – FY2030 Strategic Plan

Senior Deputy Director Milly Hough reviewed the Canvass of the People planning process that launched publicly in March 2024. Activities leading up to the official launch included a staff brainstorming session, scheduling host sites for in-person forums, and creating an online survey. Since March 2024, the public has had opportunities to share their ideas through the survey, at six forums held around the state, and during several other in-person and virtual meetings.

She then presented a draft of the new strategic plan, focusing on areas that are different from the current plan. The new plan will cover July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2030. *(complete document attached to minutes.)*

Mrs. Crawford called for a motion to approve the new strategic plan as presented. Mr. Parks made a motion; Ms. Carey seconded. The motion passed.

Creative Careers Studio Overview

Ms. Brown shared information about the Creative Careers Studio (CCS) website, which was launched in September. CCS is a virtual and programmatic platform that provides a central location for high school students to learn about pursuing a creative career. After many years of hearing from students, parents, and guidance counselors who could not easily find information about careers in the arts, SCAC staff decided to work toward filling that gap. Although high school students are the primary audience, the site can also be used by teachers, school administrators and counselors, parents, college students, and young professionals trying to switch careers. The site is also useful for state legislators and partners in workforce development.

A companion YouTube channel includes a new video series featuring creative professionals working in fields such as the auto industry and product development. These docushorts were produced in partnership with SC

Future Makers (a K-12 initiative of the S.C. Manufacturer's Alliance) to show students how creativity and the arts play a vital role in advanced manufacturing and technology careers.

Ms. Brown shared a tour of the CCS website, demonstrating a quiz where students can identify their personal preferences and then generate a list of possible job matches based on their personality and preferences. She also previewed the careers catalog, an overview of various creative jobs in S.C, and a list of colleges that offer applicable courses, certificates or degrees. She encouraged board members to visit the site at [creativecareers.art](https://creativecommons.org/).

Agency Updates

Mr. Platts shared several updates:

- The National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) is communicating regularly with state arts agencies regarding the federal policy landscape and advocacy work on behalf of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA.) NASAA is in touch with Congressional leaders about the impact of the NEA and the federal-state partnership and is supporting NEA leadership's efforts to educate the White House about the value of the agency. NASAA staff is also available to consult with state arts agency executive directors as they navigate state-level political climates.
- The S.C. House and Senate both included \$500,000 in recurring funds and \$1 million in nonrecurring funds for the Arts Commission's budget. The original request was for \$7 million total to support work around Arts Hub Regions, an increase for operating support and the festivals grant, and to launch a cultural district grant. The budget process now moves to conference committee.
- The Arts Commission's per capita funding based on state appropriations has increased from .69 cents in 2019 to \$1.47 this year. That amount began to grow in FY2021 with a \$1 million increase in recurring funds and continued with recurring increases of at least \$1 million from FY2022 through FY2025. Those increases have fueled growth in the agency's services and grants. In 2019, the Arts Commission had 11 grant categories; in 2025 the agency offered 30 grant categories.
- The filming for the Governor's Award for the Arts has been completed. The finished production will air on the agency's YouTube channel May 19.

Mr. Platts introduced Trinity Howell, who joined the staff April 2 as assistant grants coordinator. She most recently worked as a sales associate at the State Museum and is self-employed teaching viola and violin. Ms. Howell earned a bachelor's degree in music (viola performance) from Winthrop University and a master's degree in music (viola performance) from Illinois State University. She also holds a Suzuki Violin certification.

Mr. Platts announced that Arts Learning Director Kimberly Washburn Motte has been promoted to Deputy Director in charge of Arts Hub Regions. Arts and Education Accessibility Director Amanda Noyes will take over leadership of Arts Learning with a title change to Arts Learning and Accessibility Director.

Board Member Updates

- Dr. Hayes reported that after 30 years in the works, a performing arts center in Rock Hill is finally coming to fruition. If all pending funding comes through, the plan is to begin building in 2026.
- Ms. Carey expressed her readiness to learn more about how she can help with advocacy around public funding for the arts, using her connections with legislators and others.
- Mr. Parks stated that he is eager to continue working to engage various groups around the arts and music and has an interest in arts therapy.
- Ms. Nwokike reported that she just attended the Engaging Creative Minds board meeting where staff and other board members expressed appreciation for receiving the Governor's Award for the Arts.

- Ms. Crawford reported that Aiken city leaders are interested in developing a Percent for Art program, where a portion of construction funds are set aside to purchase art for a new or renovated building.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

Mrs. Crawford called for a motion to adjourn. Dr. Hayes made a motion. Ms. Nwokike seconded. The meeting adjourned at noon.

South Carolina Arts Commission Vision, Mission and Values

Vision:

We envision a South Carolina where the arts are valued, and all people benefit from a variety of creative experiences.

Mission:

The mission of the South Carolina Arts Commission is to expand access to the arts and foster creativity for all South Carolinians.

Values:

Accountability: We are committed to transparency, honesty, and integrity.

Leadership: We are committed to and call for leadership that advances access to the arts through policy and practice.

Creativity: We value innovation, creative expression, and a commitment to quality in artistic experiences.

Learning: We believe learning in and through the arts is integral to a continuum of lifelong growth.

Relationships: We believe building connections in communities and working in partnership deepens impact and advances the arts.

Note: the Strategic Plan follows this format:

Outcome

A. Objective

1. Success Measure

Strategic Plan
July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2030
(FY2026 - FY2030)

Outcome 1: South Carolina citizens and visitors benefit from diverse arts experiences in communities throughout the state.

- A. Activate Arts Hub Regions and Hub Extension locations to expand access to the arts.
 - 1. Six physical Arts Hub Region locations are opened to host SCAC offices and facilitate regional grants, services, and programming.
 - 2. The Spearman Center for Arts Innovation provides space for meetings, workshops, and events for SCAC and partners.
 - 3. Partners are identified and engaged within each Arts Hub Region to form a regional and statewide collective impact model.
 - 4. A resource list of assets is mapped, and a process created to support regional and statewide sharing opportunities.
 - 5. Collaborations are facilitated within Arts Hub Regions between and among arts providers, artists, and arts educators to maximize access to the arts.
 - 6. Hub Extension locations are developed within each Arts Hub Region to further localize programming, professional learning, resources, and networking.
- B. Consistently award grants and provide services that impact all 46 counties.
 - 1. Existing grants data is analyzed to guide grantmaking decisions in Arts Hub Regions and Opportunity Counties.
 - 2. Partnership and Special Project grantees provide services in counties that receive few or no direct SCAC grants.
 - 3. Grants workshops are offered virtually and in Opportunity Counties to provide assistance with applications and coaching around all grants process components.
 - 4. Horizon Opportunity grant category is evaluated and a new, targeted, system for dissemination is developed.
 - 5. Relationships are proactively pursued in Opportunity Counties to facilitate grant making and services, connect existing and potential partners, and build capacity for organizations, artists, and educators.
 - 6. Artists, teaching artists, creative arts therapists, arts educators and arts administrators provide services, professional learning, networking and mentoring in Opportunity Counties through SCAC grants and partnerships.
- C. Ensure that accessibility best practices are embedded in all grants, programs, and physical spaces.
 - 1. Able SC partnership provides professional learning opportunities, resources, and advisement for internal agency processes and for grants and programs.
 - 2. MUSC partnership helps support hiring of creative arts therapists assigned to Arts Hub Regions.
 - 3. Arts 4 All grant is expanded and rebranded to Barrier-Free Arts SC and provides arts organizations with training, tools, and funding to improve facilities, websites, and/or program accessibility.
 - 4. All SCAC physical spaces, including Arts Hub Region offices and Hub Extension locations, meet or exceed ADA requirements.

5. The Hub's venues map indicates accessibility features of all arts venues across South Carolina.

D. State Art Collection acquisition and loan policies and procedures increase access to the collection and improve safety and preservation of the works.

1. Art produced by Fellowship recipients is inducted into the collection annually.
2. Works are displayed in the Midlands office and Arts Hub Region offices as appropriate to increase viewing opportunities for the public.
3. Images of works and artist information are available and fully accessible on the website.
4. State Art Collection works are loaned to qualifying South Carolina state institutions that are open and accessible to the public.
5. The S.C. Arts Foundation supports preservation and maintenance of works.

E. Celebrate and support the many ways South Carolinians engage in artistic expression and creativity.

1. Communication vehicles including The Hub, social media, news releases, videos, Arts Daily, Arts Grow SC website, and SCAC website consistently publish arts-related content.
2. Video content is created to showcase SCAC impact and celebrate the arts through grantee stories.
3. Arts Daily podcast is developed to broaden awareness of statewide arts events.
4. Communications staff supports Arts Hub Region offices' communications to ensure consistency in brand and messaging.
5. Data staff supports Arts Hub Region offices' data collection, analysis, and reporting to ensure consistency in strategy and use of data.
6. Arts Daily online calendar includes arts activities hosted at Arts Hub Region and Hub Extension locations.
7. Annual SC Arts Awards recognize individuals and organizations for outstanding achievement and contributions to the arts in South Carolina.

Outcome 2: Artists have opportunities to build sustainable careers in South Carolina.

- A. Provide a robust **grant portfolio** for individual artists based on SCAC budget levels, funding sources, and agency capacity.

Strategic Plan Year One (FY26)

1. Program staff works with agency leadership to identify, pursue, and track new funding from private and public sources for SCAC artist development grants.
2. Fellowship program expands the number of available artistic disciplines.
3. Emerging Artist grant program supports artistic and career development for early-career artists.
4. Arts Project Support grant program allows artists opportunities to fund projects, professional development, or technical or online capacity.
5. Artists' Business Initiative grant program enables the creation or expansion of arts-driven businesses.
6. Alumni grants for Emerging Artists and Artists' Business Initiative deepen relationships with artists, supporting continuum of career advancement.

7. Develop infrastructure for a Public Art grant category that supports artists, organizations, and municipalities in developing community-based public art, which will launch in FY27, pending funding.

Strategic Plan Year Two (FY27)

1. Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Initiative is relaunched and expanded to other artistic disciplines.
 2. Fellows receive additional recognition of their artistic achievement when their works are inducted into the State Art Collection.
 3. Launch Public Art grant category that supports artists, organizations, and municipalities in developing community-based public art, pending funding.
- B. Cultivate **direct programs and partnerships** that create professional opportunities for artists statewide and within Arts Hub Regions.
1. Partnerships are formed with arts providers, schools, municipalities, and businesses to support artists.
 2. Arts Directory in-person offerings are structured around Arts Hub Regions to best serve artists throughout the state.
 3. Exhibition opportunities for artists are localized within Hub Extension locations.
 4. Creative Careers Studio is a resource for emerging artists and artists seeking a new career direction.
- C. Activate **peer networks and external resources** to support programming, advocacy, funding, and other resources for artists statewide and within Arts Hub Regions.
1. Cooperation and shared communications are facilitated among artists through a collective impact model.
 2. Fiscal partnerships with private funders (such as Donnelley Foundation, Coastal Community Foundation, and Central Carolina Community Foundation) support SCAC's work with artists.
 3. Program staff works with agency leadership to identify funding from private and public sources to directly support artists.
 4. Networking opportunities for artists are localized within Hub Extension locations.
- D. Offer opportunities for artists to participate in a **learning continuum** ranging from pre-professional to advanced career training.
1. High quality cohorts, one-on-one advisement, and other professional learning opportunities are offered virtually and in-person and are aligned with the needs of artists throughout multiple stages of their careers.
 2. Artist Entrepreneur Incubator is offered virtually and in-person throughout Arts Hub Regions.

Outcome 3: Students receive a comprehensive education in and through the arts that aligns with the knowledge, skills, and characteristics outlined in the Profile of the SC Graduate.

- A. Provide a robust **grant portfolio** for Arts Learning based on SCAC budget levels, funding sources, and agency capacity.

Strategic Plan Year One (FY26)

1. Program staff works with agency leadership to identify, pursue and track new funding from private and public sources for SCAC arts learning grants.
2. School Arts Support grants help 4K and/or K-12 schools acquire supplies, materials, equipment, or professional development.
3. Summer Arts Education Project grants support arts education programs for Preschool (3K-4K) and/or K-12 students between school years, through community-based providers.
4. Term Arts Education Project grants support arts education programs for Preschool (3K-4K) and/or K-12 students during the school term (including beyond the school day), through community-based providers.
5. ArtsNOW Learning & Engaging Creative Minds Schools Advancement grants support partner schools as they engage students, equip educators, and grow school communities.
6. ABC Schools Advancement grants support ABC Institute Certified Schools in their commitment to executing their arts strategic plan.
7. District Arts Support grants fund school districts committed to implementing standards-based arts curricula through implementation of a district arts strategic plan and employment of a district arts coordinator.
8. District Arts Coordinator grants fund the remaining participants in the District Arts Coordinator cohorts as they complete their funding cycle (5 districts will sunset at the end of FY26).

Strategic Plan Year Two (FY27)

1. District Arts Coordinator grants fund the remaining participants in the District Arts Coordinator cohorts as they complete their funding cycle (1 district will sunset at the end of FY27).

B. Cultivate **programs and partnerships** that advance learning in and through the arts statewide and within Arts Hub Regions.

1. Arts Grow SC partners deepen statewide impact on arts learning, arts enhancement and integration, and creative arts therapy, through programming designed to serve students throughout all Arts Hub Regions.
2. Poetry Out Loud activates regional partnerships to offer students the chance to participate in a poetry recitation competition that improves public speaking skills and builds confidence.
3. Creative Careers Studio provides resources for students to explore creative fields through a digital catalogue as well as virtual and in-person programming.
4. A body of research continues to evaluate the impact of arts learning, arts enhancement, and arts integration.
5. Arts Directory offerings are structured around Arts Hub Regions to best serve learning communities throughout the state.
6. The Arts in Education Task Force, a working group of education professionals, convenes to develop two key publications: a *State of the Creative State* (evaluate progress in learning in and through the arts over the last decade) and an *Arts in Education Action Agenda* (a guide for schools, districts, non-profits, and government entities to carry through the next five years).

- C. Activate the Arts Grow SC collective impact **network and external resources** to support programming, advocacy, funding, and other resources for learning in and through the arts statewide and within Arts Hub Regions.
 - 1. SCAC serves as the backbone organization for Arts Grow SC (AGSC) and works with AGSC partners, organizations, decision-makers, and advocates to affect local, state and national policies that ensure quality arts learning experiences for all students.
 - 2. Arts Learning resources are shared statewide and within Arts Hub Regions and Opportunity Counties through Hub Extension locations.
 - 3. AGSC communications are facilitated among partners, districts, schools, administrators, and educators statewide.
 - 4. In-person networking opportunities are localized within Arts Hub Regions.
 - 5. Program staff works with agency leadership to identify funding from private and public sources to directly support Arts Grow SC partners.
- D. Offer opportunities for educators, administrators, and teaching artists to participate in a **learning continuum** ranging from pre-professional to advanced career training.
 - 1. 4K and K-12 teachers and administrators are equipped with skills and strategies for learning in and through the arts via high quality in-person and virtual professional learning opportunities.
 - 2. Verified Teaching Artists and AGSC partners are equipped with skills and strategies to work in both school and community settings through high quality in-person and virtual professional learning opportunities.
 - 3. An arts integration teaching endorsement is developed and recognized by the SC Department of Education as an effective pedagogical framework whose instructional strategies transfer into meaningful student learning, authentic engagement, and desired student outcomes.

Outcome 4: Arts organizations and other arts providers have the necessary resources to deliver diverse arts experiences throughout South Carolina.

- A. Provide a robust **grant portfolio** for arts organizations and providers based on SCAC budget levels, funding sources, and agency capacity.

Strategic Plan Year One (FY26)

- 1. Program staff works with agency leadership to identify, pursue, and track new funding from private and public sources for SCAC arts industry grants.
- 2. General Operating Support and Operating Support for Small Organizations grant guidelines are revised based on evaluation data.
- 3. FY25 General Operating Support and Operating Support for Small Organizations grants are renewed for one year.
- 4. The Folklife and Traditional Arts Projects grant is revised to strengthen the folklife infrastructure in both rural and urban communities statewide.
- 5. FY25 Folklife and Traditional Arts Projects grants are renewed for one year.
- 6. Arts Project Support grant program allows arts organizations opportunities to fund projects, professional development, or technical or online capacity.
- 7. The Accessibility and Barrier-Free Arts SC grants make arts programs, websites, and existing facilities accessible to persons with disabilities.

8. The Art of Community: Rural SC grants support arts-based projects that engage rural communities throughout South Carolina.
9. Festivals Program grants support arts components of community-based festivals that increase public engagement and participation in arts and culture.
10. Develop infrastructure for a Cultural District grant category that supports the execution of SC Cultural District strategic plans, which will launch in FY27, pending funding.

Strategic Plan Year Two (FY27)

1. Operating Support grants are relaunched.
 2. The Folklife and Traditional Arts Projects grants are relaunched.
 3. Launch Cultural District grant category that supports the execution of SC Cultural District strategic plans, pending funding.
 4. SCAC's Arts Plus grant partners hire teaching artists, creative arts therapists, arts educators, and arts administrators to provide services.
- B. Cultivate **programs and partnerships** that support arts providers and arts leaders statewide and within Arts Hub Regions.
1. Arts Plus priorities are identified, and SCAC works with arts providers to address local issues, including creative aging, military and veterans, health and healing, and workforce development, through the arts.
 2. Arts Directory offerings are structured around Arts Hub Regions to support organizations and facilities that provide arts programs to potential Arts Plus audiences.
 3. Creative Careers Studio programming supports organizations engaged in workforce development.
 4. SC Cultural Districts attract creative entrepreneurship and encourage innovation, enhancing economic, social, and civic livability throughout the state.
- C. Activate **peer networks and external resources** to support programming, advocacy, funding, and other resources for arts providers statewide and within Arts Hub Regions.
1. Partnerships and shared resources for arts leaders are activated within Arts Hub Regions.
 2. Shared communication is facilitated among arts leaders statewide and within Arts Hub Regions.
 3. Fiscal partnerships with private funders (such as Donnelley Foundation, Coastal Community Foundation, and Central Carolina Community Foundation) support artists within Arts Hub Regions.
 4. Program staff works with agency leadership to identify funding from private and public sources to directly support arts organizations.
- D. Offer opportunities for arts leaders to participate in a **learning continuum** ranging from pre-professional to advanced career training.
1. The SC Arts Leadership Institute supports capacity building and provides networking opportunities.
 2. High quality cohorts, one-on-one advisement, and other professional learning opportunities are offered virtually and in-person and are aligned with the needs of arts leaders throughout multiple stages of their careers.

Outcome 5: There is recognition of the essential value of public funding for the arts in South Carolina.

- A. Develop and communicate unified messages about the role the arts play in quality of life, education, workforce development, and economic vitality.
 - 1. Communication vehicles consistently publish arts-related content.
 - 2. Communications, program, and data staff collaborate to analyze grants data and to create messages supporting the value of public funding.
 - 3. Communications staff pursues additional media coverage and other visibility opportunities within Arts Hub Regions to showcase how the arts support quality of life, education, workforce development, and economic development in all regions.
 - 4. Staff represents SCAC in meetings, boards, conferences, and presentations regarding the value of public funding for the arts.
- B. Equip and encourage commissioners, artists, educators, arts leaders, and advocates to communicate the value of public funding for the arts.
 - 1. Arts educators, artists, and arts leaders participate in the annual SC Arts Summit.
 - 2. Arts Hub Region offices and Hub Extension locations host training opportunities for artists, educators, and arts leaders to build capacity in communicating the value of the arts to a variety of audiences.
 - 3. Annual grants data is made available to legislators, stakeholders, advocates, and the public via Tableau and other communications tools to provide deeper understanding of agency's impact.
 - 4. Program staff works with Cultural Districts to analyze and report the impact of the intersection of arts and culture with non-arts businesses.
 - 5. The SC General Assembly increases recurring public funding for the Arts Commission annually.
- C. Conduct or commission research and evaluation that documents the value of the arts and arts education.
 - 1. Funds are allocated to update current research that provides data indicating the impact of the arts and arts education.
 - 2. Funds are allocated to commission new research and evaluation that provides data indicating the impact of the arts and arts education.
 - 3. Operating support grant final report includes reporting on grantees' leveraging of SCAC funds for matching grants.
 - 4. Research and evaluation of partnering entities is activated to provide data indicating the impact of the arts and arts education.
 - 5. Research and evaluation results are provided to legislators, stakeholders, advocates, and the public through Tableau and other communications tools.