

**SOUTH CAROLINA ARTS COMMISSION**  
**Board of Commissioners Meeting**  
**August 14, 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**

Flavia Harton, Heidi Carey, David Hodges, Barbara Nwokike, Rip Parks, Jessica Rourke, Linda Stern, Danielle Thompson, Bhava Vasudeva

**Staff Present**

David Platts, Nick Boismenu, Angela Brewbaker, Ashley Brown, Tanisha Brown, Daisha Calhoun, McKenzie Drake, Amelia Dupont, 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, Jason Rapp, Abby Rawl, Ce Scott-Fitts, Chris Scudder, Harvee White, Hailey Yasinski

**Call to Order**

Chair Flavia Harton called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Harton called for a motion to approve minutes from the June 26 meeting. Mrs. Stern made a motion; Mr. Parks seconded. The minutes were approved.

**FY2026 Fourth Quarter Financials and Budget**

Finance Director Angela Brewbaker presented the FY26 fourth quarter financials reflecting the final closeout of FY25. On the Statement of Activities, under Administration Expenditures, she noted a slight increase in the accounting line due to an increase in the Arts Commission's required share of paying for statewide audits. An increase in the Purchasing/Property Contractual Services is due to contracting with the Dept. of Administration to handle some procurement services while the agency's procurement position was vacant. The additional salaries and fringe under Administration reflects a realignment, not an actual increase. Some salaries and fringe were moved from the Statewide Arts Service section to the Administration section to better align with agency structure. Summer Arts Education Projects (SAEP) grants increased slightly over projection to allow for July and early August summer arts activities to be carried forward into the next fiscal year. Deputy Director Ashley Brown added that originally the SAEP grant crossed over into a second year due to ESSER funding availability. However, for FY26, the grant will adhere to a one-year timeframe with summer arts activities taking place only in June.

On the Balance Sheet Ms. Brewbaker noted that the State Cash line includes nonrecurring and recurring carry forward from FY25 to FY26. The agency is allowed to carry forward any remaining nonrecurring funds and 10 percent of recurring funds. The FY23 and FY24 NEA grants will be closed out in October, leaving balances for the FY25 and FY26 NEA grants.

Ms. Harton called for a motion to approve the fourth quarter financial report as presented. Ms. Carey made a motion; Mr. Parks seconded. The motion passed.

Ms. Brewbaker presented a revised FY26 operating budget. The budget approved by the board in June included some estimates due to year end close out not being completed. Ms. Brewbaker has increased the budget for accounting expenditures due to state legislation impacting audits for all state agencies. She also increased the budget for utilities. In the Arts industry grant category, she has combined the general and operating support for small organizations into one line for ease in reporting.

Ms. Harton called for a motion to approve the revised FY26 operating budget as presented. Ms. Carey made a motion; Mrs. Stern seconded. The motion passed.

### **Grants Request**

Deputy Director Ashley Brown presented additional grant requests for FY26. Under Arts Learning, the ABC Advancement request reflects a shift of \$32,500 from the ABC Institute Partnership grant to increase each ABC school's Advancement grant by \$500. Previously, the ABC Institute paid schools to hire substitutes so teachers could attend ABC professional development. This shift will eliminate several steps in the process and award funds directly to each school to cover substitutes.

The second Arts Learning request of \$542,000 will fund ArtsNow Advancement grants to build sustainability for up to 10 schools in Year 1 of 3 and for up to 4 schools in Year 2 of 3.

One Partnership grant request is for \$75,000 for the S.C. Civil Rights Museum in Orangeburg, a long-time grantee partner. The second partnership grant for \$29,000 is for ArtsNow to increase professional development opportunities for principals, teachers, and instructional coaches. Ms. Brown noted that most partnership grants have been reduced for FY26 due to the transition away from ESSER funds.

The Special Projects grants request will support new service agreements with three Arts Hub Regions – Public Works Arts Center in Summerville, Florence School District 1, and the Arts Center of Greenwood. The fourth request is also for the Public Works Arts Center to install a wheelchair ramp to provide accessibility from the first floor to the second floor. The total for all four Special Projects grants is \$81,000.

Ms. Harton called for a motion to approve the grants request as presented. Mrs. Stern made a motion; Mr. Parks seconded. The motion passed.

### **Partnership Spotlight**

Ms. Brown shared highlights of the agency's 10-year partnership with Engaging Creative Minds (ECM). In 2015, ECM piloted its first Summer STEAM camp in Clarendon County, supported by SCAC's partnership grant. Additional camps have been added over the years. STEAM camps are designed to take advantage of local assets and create a locally sustainable structure for future camps. ECM works in each community to identify local artists, such as photographers and quilters, who can provide camp content. Camp directors are local school administrators, and camp counselors are local teachers who learn from the teaching artists providing camp content. Local high school students are hired as junior counselors. FY25 marked the first year of SCAC offering ECM Advancement grants to the local schools that were ready to run their own camps. SCAC's partnership grant to ECM has shifted to launching new camps in each Arts Hub Region, with Greenwood hosting the first one in the Western Piedmont Arts Hub Region. Students and teachers in all six counties attended that camp. Over a three-year period, funding for ECM Advancement grants will transition to the local schools taking on more of cost over a three-year period.

Ms. Brown reported that camp evaluations indicate that 72 percent of students who attend showed no summer learning loss, and 100 percent of teachers indicated that camps impacted their ability to engage students in learning. More than 3,500 teachers have participated in ECM training.

### **Arts Hub Regions Update**

Deputy Director Kimberly Washburn Motte shared an update about Arts Hub Regions, explaining that the state was divided into six regions based primarily upon current education consortiums. An Arts Hub is defined as the primary office location for the Arts Commission in that region. Arts Hub offices will not be fully staffed replicas of the main office, but each region will have at least one employee – an Arts Hub Coordinator. The office and staff there will be the first point of contact for artists, arts educators, and organizations in that region. Ideally coordinators will live in the region and will have knowledge about local resources and potential relationships. Coordinators will provide general advisement to community members and connect them with other staff who specialize in various topics. The office will house shared resources similar to a lending library, where community members can check out educational kits, presentation equipment, and other assets. Each Arts Hub Region will have a grant services MOU with a local partner that will allow the Arts Commission to host events, workshops, and meetings in either the space where the office is located, or in other locations.

The first two Arts Hub partnerships will be Public Works Arts Center in Summerville and Florence School District One. The Public Works Arts Center is currently a public center but is renovating an adjacent building to increase their space. The Arts Hub office will be in that expanded space. Florence District One has already offered the use of a vacant office in its district annex.

Ms. Motte also mentioned that eventually SCAC intends to establish a Hub Extension partnership in each county to further increase access through relationships and locations for meetings and events.

### **Social Media Report**

Digital Communications Manager Amelia Dupont shared FY25 social media metrics. Key metrics were up for both Facebook and Instagram. Top posts vary by platform, but overall, the top four types of posts were grant openings, grantee and fellows announcements, Arts Commission news and event recaps, and the Governor's Awards for the Arts. Facebook reach and engagements were up by 45 percent and 29 percent, respectively. On Instagram, reach and engagements were up by 233 percent and 100 percent, respectively. Ms. Dupont also shared that Facebook reach has grown from 68,000 in FY23 to 121,907 in FY25, and Instagram reach has grown from 7,772 in FY23 to 33,790 in FY25. The growth can be attributed to the agency dedicating a staff position for social media management, and in FY25, hiring a multimedia manager to produce video content. Video and photo posts have contributed to the growth, with reels being the second-best performing content.

Top posts on Linkin are job and new staff announcements, aligning with that platform's purpose. The agency's YouTube channel content varies by year. Ms. Dupont stated that her goal is to grow the YouTube channel.

### **Strategic Plan Update**

Senior Deputy Director Milly Hough reviewed highlights from the FY25 fourth quarter strategic plan report and referred commissioners to the full report in the meeting packet. She mentioned that the annual Accountability Report required by the state serves as the full report for the year. That report is due Sept. 15 and will be included in the October meeting packet.

### **Agency Updates**

Mr. Platts used his time on the agenda to provide an orientation session for new board members that included information about commissioners' roles in advocating for the arts and the agency's involvement with national, regional and state arts organizations.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at noon.