

SOUTH CAROLINA ARTS COMMISSION*

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES • 30 October 2025

(via Zoom)

Board Members Present

Flavia Harton (chair), Heidi Carey, David Hodges, Rip Parks, Jessica Rourke, Danielle Thompson

Staff Present

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

Others Present

Brad Erickson, Amy Evans, Jana Riley representing the town of Summerville; Brad Jayne

Call to Order

HARTON called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Meeting minutes from the Aug. 14, 2025 meeting were presented for approval and/or comment.

- HARTON called for a motion to approve.
 - PARKS motioned to approve. CAREY seconded.
- The minutes were approved as presented unanimously

FY26 First Quarter Financials

BREWBAKER made a presentation reviewing FY26 Q1 financials, making brief comments on the statement of activities.

- PARKS asked clarifying question on human resources expenditure level for year. BREWBAKER explains several of those expenses were billed up front.
- HARTON called for a motion to approve.
 - CAREY motioned to approve Q1 financials. THOMPSON seconded.
- The financials were approved as presented unanimously.

FY26 Budget Update

BREWBAKER made a presentation to update the FY26 budget update. No questions or comments were made.

- HARTON called for a motion to approve.
 - THOMPSON motioned to approve. ROURKE seconded.
- Budget updates were approved as presented unanimously.

Grants Request

BROWN, A. presented a grant funding request in the amount of \$16,000 for two Arts Hub Services grants, one each to York County Arts Council and Greenville Center for Creative Arts. These grants are to pay for programmatic services at new Arts Hubs in the Olde English and Upstate Hub Regions.

- HARTON asked clarifying question about amount of hubs in service.
 - WASHBURN MOTTE confirmed that approval of these grants would bring the total amount of online hubs to five.
- HARTON called for a motion to approve.
 - PARKS motioned to approve. THOMPSON seconded.
- Grants request was approved as presented unanimously.

Summerville Cultural District Presentation

WHITE recapped the South Carolina Cultural Districts program and goals. She noted that the Bluffton Cultural District recently recertified. She introduced the “very enthusiastic” Summerville Arts & Cultural District team: Brad Erickson, Jana Riley and Amy Evans. Erickson made the official presentation via slide deck, outlining the process for creating the district, the map of the district, and several assets within. He thanked the staff for key assistance. The potential district contributed to forming a new Cultural Arts Commission in Summerville. There were no questions posed, or comments made. PLATTS made comments in support of Summerville and its team and SCAC staff who assisted in the process.

- HARTON called for a motion to approve.
 - THOMPSON motioned to approve. CAREY seconded.
- Motion to approve passes unanimously, approving Summerville Cultural District as the 13th South Carolina Cultural District.

FY25 Data Report

EASON made a presentation on the SCAC’s grantmaking impact for FY25. He introduced the interactive dashboard that was integrated on the website with tips on the data appears on website, how to navigate there, and how to use the interactive dashboard features that help sort data. HARTON complimented dashboard. PLATTS praised the work that went into it. PARKS complimented dashboard for potential use in advocacy.

Partnership Update

BROWN, A. and NOYES made a presentation to highlight a partnership grant recipient, MUSC, for its Arts in Healing/CATI program (Creative Art Therapy Initiative, a school-

focused program). Arts in Healing does work in the hospital and out in the communities it serves, providing access to the inherent healing powers of the arts to improve the health and wellbeing of the community. Arts therapists must be licensed, and creative arts therapies use the disciplines of visual art, music, drama and dance and focus on the creation, not the end result. CATI provides credentialed, school-based art therapy to closed groups in elementary, middle and some high schools and alternative schools. The SCAC has a goal to have a licensed arts therapist in each Hub Region. HARTON thanked them. PARKS asked a clarifying question about licensure for art therapists and offered to help make connections in Upstate. PLATTS gave praise to staff for work in this area.

Agency Updates

PLATTS presented updates on agency work that occurred since August meeting.

1. A team from the SCAC made an FY27 budget presentation to staff in the governor's office in October. Additional \$3.1 million in new recurring funds to include \$2.5 million for Arts Industry Operating Support grantees and \$500,000 for the Creative Careers Studio to help with career and workforce development.
2. He called out specific numbers from FY25 grantmaking impact.
3. The South Carolina Arts Alliance will have advocacy events in Columbia Feb. 11 and 12, 2026.
4. Planning is underway for the SCAC's Arts Leadership Institute, which is Feb. 24-26, 2026 in Clemson.

Strategic Plan Update & Accountability Report

- HOUGH highlighted Q1 work staff completed in support of the new strategic plan (a full list was included in the meeting packet).
 - Grants.
 - Spotlight Tours during fall months from programs and arts learning teams.
 - Artist Development event with the S.C. Small Business Development Center.
 - HODGES will represent the board on the Governor's Awards for the Arts panel for FY26.
- HOUGH summarized annual Accountability Report mandated by the legislature.

Other Business

HARTON gave public recognition to Milly Hough, announcing to the board Hough's retirement on Nov. 18. PLATTS provided complimentary comments as well, lauding many years of service (almost 20) to the agency and state (almost 28).

Adjournment

HARTON unilaterally adjourned the meeting at 11:23 a.m.

