

SOUTH CAROLINA ARTS COMMISSION*

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES • 23 April 2026

Spearman Center for Arts Innovation, S.C. Arts Commission, Columbia

Board Members Present

Flavia Harton (chair), Heidi Carey, David Hodges, Barbara Nwokike (via Zoom), Rip Parks (via Zoom), Jessica Rourke, Linda Stern, Danielle Thompson

Staff Present

David Platts, Ashley Brown;

Nick Boismenu, Angela Brewbaker, Daisha Calhoun, McKenzie Drake, Jonathan Eason, Julia Greene, Krista Grendze, Trinity Howell, Wendy Jackson, Victoria McCurry, Amanda McSwine, Laurel Posey, Johnathan Rabon, Jason Rapp, and Hailey Yasinski.

Others Present

Patti Croft

Call to Order

HARTON called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

Executive Session

- HARTON asked for a motion for the Board of Commissioners to enter executive session.
 - STERN seconded.
 - A vote was taken, and the motion was approved, and the Commissioners and PLATTS entered Executive Session.
 - HODGES made a motion to exit Executive Session.
 - CAREY seconded.
 - The Board exited Executive Session at 10:41.

Executive Session Business

Discussion in Executive Session was related to the search for a new Executive Director. No votes were taken.

Approval of February 2026 Minutes

Meeting minutes from the Feb. 5, 2026 meeting were presented for approval and/or comment.

- HARTON called for a motion to approve.
 - STERN motioned to approve. ROURKE seconded.
- A vote was taken, and the minutes were approved as presented unanimously.

FY26 Third Quarter Financials

BREWBAKER made a presentation reviewing FY26 Q3 financials. She specifically mentioned that rent is included in purchasing/property for Hub Region Offices, there will be increases needed in FY27 budget, and she is getting invoices to pay out for SC Arts Awards (filmmakers, etc.)

- HODGES asked question about “Driven By The Arts” license plates. Some discussion ensued over how to get one, where the funds go. RAPP clarified information is on the SCAC website.

BREWBAKER continued her presentation, moving to the balance sheet, which shows SCAC in a strong position heading into end of FY.

- HODGES asked a clarifying question about where SCAC funding is housed. Funding remains with the comptroller general and is use-it-or-lose-it, otherwise it will return to the general fund. A proviso allows SCAC to carry forward some funding. An additional proviso requires 70% of SCAC recurring funding to be used on grants and programming.
- HARTON called for a motion to approve.
 - ROURKE motioned to approve Q3 financials. CAREY seconded.
- A vote was taken, and the financials were approved as presented unanimously.

Grants Request

MCSWINE made a presentation about various grants (listed in packet). School Arts Support grant funding, first giving an overview of what the grant does. No funding increase requested for FY27. She continued, giving an overview of the District Arts Coordinator grant, then moved on to the District Arts Support and ABC Advancement grants. Explained how grants support strategic plan outcomes.

- HODGES asked a clarifying question about how grants are approved, answered by BROWN. Executive director can approve a maximum of \$,2500. Commissioners approve a pot of money; reviewers, then staff, then ED approve awards. STERN made comment about explaining process, which BROWN did.
- PLATTS provided clarifying information regarding the process. No questions were asked.

HARTON called for a motion to approve the funding of the listed grants at a total of \$1,739,000 for FY27.

- ROURKE motioned to approve. THOMPSON seconded.
- A vote was taken, and the grant requests were approved as presented unanimously.

BROWN praised MCSWINE for hard work.

Agency Data Update

EASON provided an update on agency data beginning with grant awards as of April. Opportunity counties Saluda, Allendale, and Bamberg currently do not have grants awarded, but are close on getting Horizon Opportunity Grants. He followed with an explanation of Opportunity Counties and the three associated tiers.

He continued with an explanation of the Barrier-Free Arts SC (BFASC) grant/program and named first cohort of grantees for the three-year grant. BROWN reported strong interest in the second grant cohort beginning in FY27, with seven submitted letters of intent. PLATTS shared how Columbia Museum of Art is integrating accessibility as the Governor's Awards first accessibility recipient. CAREY asked a clarifying question.

Agency Updates

PLATTS began agency updates. HODGES had clarifying questions about the new Conversation StARTer email. BROWN received credit for a positive interaction with new South Carolina Poet Laureate Patrick Davis, appointed by Gov. McMaster in March, who is quite open to advancing literacy and poetry initiatives in his new position. Staff are brainstorming ways to work with him.

- HODGES asked clarifying question about PD's scheduling. BROWN shared that a meeting is planned with Davis to talk scheduling and funding the position.

New guideline language titled "Prohibited Use of Grant Funds" was introduced via handout and explanation.

- STERN asked clarifying question about pulling back funding if possible.
- ROURKE asked question about who reviews the funded artwork(s).

PLATTS continued with a review of February's Arts Leadership Institute and gave some background on why it is offered and to whom. He introduced commissioners to Julia Greene, in her second week at SCAC. Taylor Dublin, the first arts hub coordinator, begins in May. She will be based in Greenwood at the Western Piedmont Arts Hub.

Adjournment

Upon completion of business,

- HARTON called for a motion to adjourn.
 - STERN motioned to adjourn. ROURKE seconded.
- A vote was taken, the motion to adjourn was approved unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason L. Rapp