SOUTH CAROLINA ARTS COMMISSION

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES • 1 October 2026**
via Zoom only

**Board Members Present**
Flavia Harton (chair), Heidi Carey, David Hodges, Barbara Nwokike, Rip Parks, Jessica Rourke, Linda Stern, Danielle Thompson, Bhavna Vasudeva.

**Staff Present**
Ashley Brown, Ce Scott-Fitts, Kimberly Washburn Motte, Angela Brewbaker, Daisha Calhoun, McKenzie Drake, Taylor Dublin, Amelia Dupont, Jonathan Eason, Julia Greene, Krista Grendze, Trinity Howell, Wendy Jackson, Julian Jant, Amanda McSwine, Mikayla Moore, Amanda Noyes, Laurel Posey, Johnathan Rabon, Jason Rapp, Abby Rawl, Harvee White, Hailey Yasinski.

**Others Present**
Ben Zeigler (counsel to SCAC).

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**Call to Order**
HARTON asked for a motion to call the meeting to order at 2 p.m.

- ROURKE made a motion.
- The second was acknowledged by HARTON, but unintelligible by video.
- A vote was taken, and the motion to begin the meeting passed unanimously.

**Executive Session**

- HARTON then called for a motion for the Board of Commissioners to enter executive session for legal advice from counsel Ben Zeigler.
    - PARKS made a motion.
    - CAREY and another seconded.
- A vote was taken, and the motion was approved unanimously. After some technical issues preventing all Commissioners from entering the virtual breakout room, the Commissioners and ZEIGLER entered Executive Session by virtue of the virtual breakout room at 2:12 p.m.
    - Multiple people motioned to exit Executive Session.
    - Carey seconded.
- The Board exited Executive Session at 2:28 p.m. and returned to the public meeting.

**Executive Session Business**
HARTON reported that the board received legal advice and that no action was taken in executive session.

**Operating Support Requests**
HARTON requested assistance from BROWN to review the supplemental materials submitted by Greenville Gay Men's Chorus (GGMC) and Proud Mary Theatre Company (PMTC) as requested by the board by 6-2 vote at the Aug. 20, 2026 meeting.

BROWN stated that the first of two questions asked of each organization were to resubmit their operating support budgets with line items. GGMC indicated that 100% of their budget for the grant application was for operating cost.

The final question asked of each organization was whether any expenses were allocated to in-school programming. BROWN said GGMC answered no, that they do not hold "programming or activities in school."

BROWN then reviewed the information from PMTC, which used their updated operating support budget to allocate funding to two productions. BROWN explained that PMTC was to receive less money as a result of transitioning the SCAC's operating support categories to a single Arts Industry Operating Support grant. As was explained at the August meeting, that made them eligible for bridge funding to give them one additional fiscal year to prepare for lower funding. They also broke out their bridge funding. As to the last question, BROWN shared that PMTC answered "none" to the question of in-school programming.

HARTON then called for a motion for a roll-call vote on the recommendation to fund GGMC.

- NWOKIKE made a motion to vote.
- CAREY seconded.
- There was no discussion.
    - Voting "yes" to approve operating support funding for GGMC: CAREY, HODGES, and NWOKIKE.
    - Voting "no" to deny operating support funding for GGMC: PARKS, ROURKE, STERN, THOMPSON, and VASUDEVA (by proxy held by HARTON).
    - By 5-3 vote, funding was denied.

HARTON then called for a motion for a roll-call vote on the recommendation to fund PMTC.

- ROURKE made a motion to vote.
- CAREY seconded.
- There was no discussion.
    - Voting "yes" to approve operating support funding for GGMC: CAREY, HODGES, and NWOKIKE.
    - Voting "no" to deny operating support funding for GGMC: PARKS, ROURKE, STERN, THOMPSON, and VASUDEVA (by proxy held by HARTON).
    - By 5-3 vote, funding was denied.

HARTON thanked GGMC, PMTC, BROWN and staff "for doing an incredible job during this difficult situation for all of us" and ZEIGLER for advice during the process.

**Adjourn**

- Harton called for motion to adjourn the meeting.
    - PARKS made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
    - NWOKIKE seconded.
- A vote was taken, the motion to adjourn passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason L. Rapp
Communications Director
Board Liaison