

**Minutes of the Jasper Community Arts Commission  
City of Jasper, Indiana  
February 4, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Jasper Community Arts Commission was held at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at Jasper City Hall Council Chambers. Roll call was held with the following **Commission Members Present in Person:** Darla Blazey, Jasmine Bosler, Emi Donato, Corie Eckerle, Bibianna Green, Heath Kluemper, Beth Seidl, Pat Thyen, and Selena Vonderheide. **Non-Voting Student Representative:** Absent. **Observed Remotely via Zoom:** Linda Kahle. **Commission Members Absent:** Jay Hamlin. **Staff Members Present:** Kyle Rupert, Eric Herndon, Danny Kopp, Emily Peak, and Liz Book. **City Attorney:** Renee Kabrick. **Guests in attendance:** Jane Chambers. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Emi Donato** moved to approve the minutes of January’s meeting. **Pat Thyen** seconded. Motion passed 9-0.

**City Financial Statement**

**Corie Eckerle** moved to approve the claims as presented. **Heath Kluemper** seconded. Motion passed 9-0.

**Donation Report**

The Legal Department and Clerk/Treasurer’s Offices have requested that the Commission formally accept all restricted-use donations beginning in 2025, with the restrictions in the provided Donation Report. **Heath Kluemper** made a motion to accept the restrictions of the following donations: \$150,000 for performances and other activities determined by the Director and \$3,000 for Jasper Arts’ 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner. **Beth Seidl** seconded. Motion passed 9-0.

**Old Business**

- Emily presented new quotes for purchasing a clay pug mill. A quote from Kentucky Mudworks was originally accepted at the December 2024 meeting. Since then, Kentucky Mudworks is no longer honoring the quote and there have also been issues with receiving clay orders in a timely fashion. Emily recommended accepting the quote from Bailey Ceramics. She spoke with several others in the clay community, and they have had success with Bailey. She also spoke with the manufacturer, and they suggested purchasing the equipment through a local company.

| Company  | Price      | Shipping          | Warranty             | Total Cost  |
|--|------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Kentucky Mudworks  | \$7,799.00 | Unknown           | Through Peter Pugger | \$7,499.00+ |
| Bailey’s Ceramic Supplies & Bailey Pottery Equipment Corporation | \$7,799.00 | Freight: \$699.00 | Through Peter Pugger | \$8,468.00  |
| Peter Pugger   | \$7,799.00 | Est: \$535.00     | 2-year warranty      | \$8,334.00  |

- Emily presented quotes for the installation of blackout shades on the gallery windows. In December 2024, Former exhibiting artist Wendy Calman donated funds to cover the cost of the shades and installation. One 180-inch shade would cover three windows, and each gallery would require three shades. The shades would not be powered. Emily recommended accepting the low quote from Corbin’s Drapery & Design Studio. **Beth Seidl** made a motion to accept the quote from Corbin’s Drapery & Design Studio. **Pat Thyen** seconded. Motion passed 9-0.

| Company                          | Product  | Material                      | Labor/Installation   | Total Cost  |
|----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Corbin’s Drapery & Design Studio | 9 Roller Shades<br>180” x 32”<br>Manual Clutch<br>Operation<br>Aluminum Fascia | 100 % Black<br>Room Darkening | Through Peter Pugger | \$15,595.00 |

|                   |   |                 |                   |                |
|-------------------|---|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Evansville Blind  | Blackout Fabric<br>180" x 32"<br>Motorized/Controlled<br>by Remote<br>(Must be charged<br>twice a year) | Blackout Fabric | \$3,100 per shade | \$27,900.00    |
| Kentuckiana Blind |   |                 |                   | Did Not Submit |
| Bringnox          |   |                 |                   | Did Not Submit |

### New Business

- Kyle presented four artists to be approved for Jasper Arts' 2025-2026 performance season. Next season will feature an ambitious lineup. Two of the presented artists have offers that have gone out and the other two shows he is in active conversations with their representatives. One of the proposed shows will also include a school performance. He is also working with a nearby venue to secure routing to help bring down the cost. Kyle explained that the board approving the artists now will help speed up the contract process. **Pat Thyen** made a motion to accept the proposed artists. **Bibianna Green** seconded. Motion passed 9-0.
- Kyle asked permission to seek quotes for the 2025-2026 performance season guide. **Jasmine Bosler** made a motion to permit Kyle to seek quotes for season guides. **Heath Kluemper** seconded. Motion passed 9-0.
- Kyle is still working on updating the 2025-2026 Corporate Sponsorship Guide. He is making changes to give more businesses to participate. **Darla Blazey** made a motion to table the Corporate Sponsorship Guide discussion until next month. **Selena Vonderheide** seconded. Motion passed 9-0.

### Director's Report/Performing Arts

Kyle reported:

- Kyle shared highlights for the 2024 Annual Report. Discussion was had on how to best market shows and other activities that Jasper Arts is presenting. He shared that time is the biggest hindrance in accomplishing the presented marketing ideas. An additional staff member whose primary focus was marketing would be beneficial. He recommended the Board reach out to the City Council about the need for additional marketing help.
- Beth Seidl shared that some patrons left at intermission for *Yesterday & Today's* show last weekend thinking that the show was over. Some suggestions were made about how to communicate to the audience when there is an intermission.

### Building and Structure Report

Danny reported:

- Danny shared that one of the approved artists will have an extensive load-in on a weekday due to a Friday school show performance. He will need assistance to make it happen.
- Due to an accident, a repair had to be made to the loading dock door at the Cultural Center.
- Danny thanked the City and Staff for their efforts in clearing the snow.
- Beck Studio inspected the flyline system at the Arts Center, and it passed.
- The City's Safety Committee inspected the Cultural Center a few things were pointed out that have since been corrected.
- He led the staff's annual safety training and will also take OSHA training specifically for entertainment.
- New posters have been hung in the Arts Center Lobby that features Jasper Arts' new branding.
- Dubois County CARES, and Law Enforcement trainings will be held at the Arts Center. Actors Community Theatre has also started rehearsals for its production of Neil Simon's *Rumors*.

## Visual Arts Report

Emily reported:

- *Speck Mellencamp's* will open on Thursday. She thanked Selena, John, and Danny for their help in hanging the exhibit. Speck will be at the First Thursday and will answer predetermined questions. *Mark Brosmer* and *Darryl Halbrooks's* exhibits will close at the end of the month.
- *Fernando Lozano's* immersive exhibit will open on February 28 in the Black Box Theatre. Guests attending the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner will be the first to see it.
- Youth Art Month exhibits will feature High School and Elementary art from Dubois County schools. The exhibits will open in March.
- SOUP-port the Arts fundraiser will be held on April 27. 230 bowls have been made and will be glazed on Sunday, February 23rd from 10 AM to 1 PM.
- Two Beginning Wheel Throwing classes have started, and an Advanced will throwing class will start in early March.
- Laura Pommier will host a Zoom Sketch of the Week class beginning in mid-February.

## Event Report

Eric reported:

- He shared the rental updates for the month.
- He updated the board on Chalk Walk. Volunteer requests have been sent out, and applications for Food Vendors and Arts Market Vendors are now available. He has contacted Jasper Embroidery to supply t-shirts for the event. Media releases have been drafted and will periodically be sent. The caricature and balloon artists have been booked, and the bounce houses have been reserved. Squonk will also give two performances during Chalk Walk. He plans to feature Squonk in a separate media release.
- Chalk Walk attendance was down slightly last year. One factor may have been that physical brochures did not go home with the elementary school children in the county. The schools had requested the information be shared electronically. He plans to have postcards printed to help advertise the event.
- Papa John's will provide pizza for the staff and volunteers and has also donated coupons for free pizza for those who register. Walmart has donated all of the boxes of chalk needed for event. He is looking for a sponsor for the bags.

## Education Report

Kyle reported for Casey:

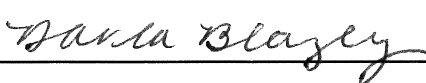
- Susan Ahlbrand has been selected to be the Kennedy Center Partners in Education artist in residency teacher.
- 28 workshops will be held between February and May.
- Spring Break Camp Create will be held in March, and the featured artist is Impressionist artist Claude Monet.
- She is working with her committee to select shows for the 2025-2026 school year.

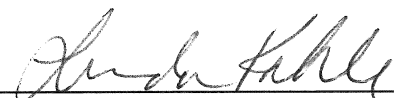
## Public Business

- Darla shared that board member Emi Donato's class will present at the Indiana Statehouse for Indiana's official State Fruit to be the persimmon. Emi thanked Former Superintendent, Tracy Lorey for her assistance in ensuring all fourth graders participate in the presentation at the Statehouse.

## Adjournment

Jasmine Bosler moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 pm. Heath Kluemper seconded. Motion passed 9-0.

  
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