



# Ocala

## Municipal Arts Commission

### Minutes

110 SE Watula Avenue  
Ocala, FL 34471

[www.ocalafl.gov](http://www.ocalafl.gov)

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

4:00 PM

1. Call To Order

a. Roll Call

**Present:** Jaye Baillie  
Pedro "Tito" A. Comas  
Jean Floten  
Leslie Hammond  
Natalie McComb  
Darian Mosley  
David Reutter  
**Absent:** Emily Andrews  
**Excused:** Brooke Hutto

c. Election of Vice Chairman

There was a short discussion regarding the election of a Chairman. Mr. Comas nominated Darian Mosley. Ms. Mosley accepted the nomination.

Motion to appoint Darian Mosley as Vice Chairman

There being no further discussion the motion carried by roll call vote.

**RESULT:** APPROVED

**MOVER:** Pedro "Tito" A. Comas

**SECONDER:** Leslie Hammond

**AYE:** Baillie, Comas, Floten, Hammond, McComb, Mosley and Reutter

**ABSENT:** Andrews

**EXCUSED:** Hutto

b. Election of Chairman

There was a short discussion regarding the election of a Chairman. Ms. Hammond nominated Jaye Baillie. Ms. Baillie accepted the nomination.

Motion to appoint Jaye Baillie as Chairman

There being no further discussion the motion carried by roll call vote.

**RESULT:** APPROVED

**MOVER:** Leslie Hammond

**SECONDER:** Jean Floten

**AYE:** Baillie, Comas, Floten, Hammond, McComb, Mosley and Reutter

**ABSENT:** Andrews

**EXCUSED:** Hutto

2. Public Notice

The Public Notice for the Ocala Municipal Arts Commission Advisory Committee was posted on March 22, 2024.

3. Approval of Minutes

a. January 3, 2024 Minutes

**Attachments:** [OMAC draft minutes - 1.3.24](#)

**RESULT:** APPROVED

**MOVED:** Leslie Hammond

**SECONDER:** Natalie McComb

**AYE:** Baillie, Comas, Floten, Hammond, McComb, Mosley and Reutter

**ABSENT:** Andrews

**EXCUSED:** Hutto

4. Grants/Applications

a. Ocala Steel Orchestra, Inc. International Jazz, Art, & Blues Festival Ocala, grant application

**Attachments:** [Ocala Steel Orchestra Inc grant application](#)

Cultural Arts Manager Leslie Nottingham reviewed the grant application and provided background information on the International Jazz, Art & Blues Festival Ocala annual event. She pointed out that the event location has changed to the Mary Sue Rich Community Center.

Ms. McComb asked how many years has the event been held. Ms. Nottingham replied two or three years. Ms. Baillie asked if the applicant was awarded grant funds in the past. Ms. Nottingham responded yes, in the last cycle for their Communal Drumming event. Mr. Comas inquired as to whether a full budget was submitted. Ms. Nottingham explained the applicant is not required to submit a full budget; the application only suggests that a full budget be submitted. Ms. Baillie said the application needs to be amended to request a full budget. Ms. McComb said she would like to see their marketing plan. Ms. Nottingham stated that she would look into updating the application. Ms. Baillie said a subcommittee will be set up to review and update the application.

There was a short discussion regarding tabling the item and requesting additional information but the Board decided to move forward with the application due to the date of the event and the vendor's previous experience hosting this event.

Motion to approve a \$2,500 grant to the Ocala Steel Orchestra, Inc. for their International Jazz, Art & Blues Festival Ocala event

**RESULT:** APPROVED

**MOVER:** Natalie McComb

**SECONDER:** Pedro "Tito" A. Comas

**AYE:** Baillie, Comas, Floten, Hammond, McComb, Mosley and Reutter

**ABSENT:** Andrews

**EXCUSED:** Hutto

b. Jordan Shapot, HCA Florida Springs Emergency Department Mural, project approval

**Attachments:** [Jordan Shapot HCA FL SEDM project approval](#)

Ms. Nottingham reviewed the mural project and the grant application and provided background information on the proposed mural.

Jordan Shapot, 1124 NE 14th Street, Ocala, FL, said he was approached by HCA Florida to do a mural at the Ocala Mall because they wanted to beautify the area with a depiction of Silver Springs. He stated that he designed the mural which will go on the East wall of the Ocala Mall. HCA Florida and the Ocala Mall have signed an agreement for the mural installation. The project costs are being covered by a \$15,000 contribution from HCA Florida; a \$5,000 grant request to Fine Arts of Ocala; and a \$5,000 grant from this Board. If approved, the OMAC grant will allow the mural to be extended from 500 ft to 600 ft which will allow the mural to cover as much of the wall as possible. The mural will be very visible from SE 1st Street.

Ms. Mosley asked if the Ocala Mall was leasing the building. Mr. Shapot responded yes, and an agreement has been signed by the property owner to allow the mural.

Motion to approve the HCA Florida Springs Emergency Department mural project

**RESULT:** APPROVED

**MOVER:** David Reutter

**SECONDER:** Leslie Hammond

**AYE:** Baillie, Comas, Floten, Hammond, McComb, Mosley and Reutter

**ABSENT:** Andrews

**EXCUSED:** Hutto

c. Jordan Shapot, HCA Florida Springs Emergency Department Mural, grant application

**Attachments:** [Jordan Shapot HCA FL SEDM grant application](#)

There was no discussion by the Board.

Motion to approve a \$5,000 grant for the HCA Florida Springs Emergency Department mural

**RESULT:** APPROVED  
**MOVER:** Natalie McComb  
**SECONDER:** Pedro "Tito" A. Comas  
**AYE:** Baillie, Comas, Floten, Hammond, McComb, Mosley and Reutter  
**ABSENT:** Andrews  
**EXCUSED:** Hutto

d. Ocala Civic Theatre, The Academy West, grant application

**Attachments:** [Ocala Civic Theatre TAW grant application](#)

Ms. Nottingham reviewed the grant application and provided background information on the Academy West Program.

Ms. McComb asked about the costs to rent the space at the Mary Sue Rich Community Center. Ms. Nottingham replied that she assumed the space is being donated because of a partnership between the two entities. Ms. Baillie suggested they approve the grant provisionally and then get staff to determine if the Mary Sue Rich Community Center is available. Mr. Reutter asked what is the fee for the students. Ms. Nottingham responded that she doesn't know and the information is not included on the application. Ms. Baillie suggested staff find out about the fees and check to see if scholarships are available.

Ms. Baillie recused herself from voting on the grant because she is on the Board of Directors for the Ocala Civic Theatre.

Motion to approve a \$2,500 grant for the Ocala Civic Theatre, The Academy West Program with the provision that the Mary Sue Rich Community Center donates the space for the classes and the fees are free or nominal

**RESULT:** APPROVED  
**MOVER:** Natalie McComb  
**SECONDER:** David Reutter  
**AYE:** Comas, Floten, Hammond, McComb, Mosley and Reutter  
**ABSENT:** Andrews  
**RECUSED:** Baillie  
**EXCUSED:** Hutto

e. Grant Fund Proposal

Ms. Nottingham explained that the City has proposed that OMAC offer two \$5,000 grants to the public in order to use up the funding, which is approximately \$21,000. Instead of doing the smaller grants for \$2,500 and under, the Committee would offer three \$5,000 grants each grant cycle.

Mr. Reutter stated that it would probably be difficult for the grantees to apply for the larger grants. The Board needs to firm up the grant requirements and the application prior

to making any changes. Ms. McComb stated that she liked the \$2,500 grant because it is for smaller projects and it is flexible for smaller nonprofit agencies. If we're not getting enough applications, then a public call and marketing needs to be reviewed and improved to get more agencies to apply for the grants. In her opinion, it is better for the grant program to be flexible and keep the smaller rollover grants. Ms. Floten asked if the Board was in jeopardy of losing the funds. Ms. Nottingham responded yes because government entities get nervous when money is sitting for long periods of time and is not being spent. Ms. Baillie commented that OMAC is different and added that she loves the fluidity of their grant program. If we do the three \$5,000 grants and the funding is depleted, then the Board won't be able to fund any grants. Ms. Floten added grants are needed for the public, and she recommended the Board continue using the rollover grant program. Mr. Comas said all the funds used to get spent but after the application form was changed the number of applicants dwindled. He suggested the application be reviewed.

Ms. Baillie asked Mr. Shapot to provide feedback since he just recently completed an application. Mr. Shapot said the application was confusing and had conflicting information on it. He agreed with the Board that the application needs to be reviewed because more clarity is needed.

Motion to approve that the Board continues its current grant program practice of processing the grants on a rolling basis

There being no further discussion the motion carried by roll call vote.

**RESULT:** APPROVED

**MOVER:** Darian Mosley

**SECONDER:** Natalie McComb

**AYE:** Baillie, Comas, Floten, Hammond, McComb, Mosley and Reutter

**ABSENT:** Andrews

**EXCUSED:** Hutto

## 5. Project Updates

- a. Strategic Community Alliance, Inc., Experience India update

**Attachments:** [Strategic Community Alliance EI update](#)

Ms. Nottingham said the visiting artist is arriving today and the grantee provided updated information on the event.

- b. Skateboard Panels at Levitt

Ms. Nottingham announced that 16 to 20 skate park panels are being repainted. The artists are painting the panels during the Levitt AMP concert series, which is currently in week four of its eight week series.

## 6. Other Business

- a. 119 S Pine Ave | 2853-014-003 Mural, Chris Mendez

**Attachments:** [119 S Pine Ave mural](#)

Ms. Nottingham stated this project has been tabled. The project is within our discipline category but the artist did not apply.

7. Public Comments

None.

8. Informational Items

- a. Staff Comments

None.

- b. Board Comments

Ms. Baillie stated a subcommittee meeting to revise the application would be held at Brick City for the Arts and then asked for volunteers. Members McComb, Reutter and Hammond volunteered to be on the subcommittee.

The Members provided updates on their projects and events.

9. Next Meeting: August 7, 2024

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:56 pm.