



# Ocala

## Municipal Arts Commission

### Minutes

110 SE Watula Avenue  
Ocala, FL 34471

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

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**Wednesday, April 2, 2025**

**4:00 PM**

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1. Call To Order

a. Roll Call

**Present:** Emily Andrews  
Arnold Barbaro  
Jean Floten  
Leslie Hammond  
Brooke Hutto  
Natalie McComb  
Darian Mosley  
David Reutter

**Absent:** Pedro "Tito" A. Comas  
Greg Thompson

**Excused:** Jaye Baillie

2. Proof of Publication

The public notice for the Ocala Municipal Arts Commission Advisory Committee was posted on March 26, 2025.

3. Approval of Minutes

a. February 2, 2025

**Attachments:** [OMAC 2.2.25 Minutes Draft](#)

**RESULT:** APPROVED

**MOVER:** Brooke Hutto

**SECONDER:** Natalie McComb

**AYE:** Andrews, Barbaro, Floten, Hammond, Hutto, McComb, Mosley and Reutter

**ABSENT:** Comas and Thompson

**EXCUSED:** Baillie

4. Grants/ Application

a. None

5. Project Updates

Levitt AMP Ocala MCA Awning Project Update

**Attachments:** [Levitt AMP Ocala MCA awning project update](#)

Cultural Arts Supervisor, Emily Parkman shared information on the Levitt AMP Ocala Music Series and the MCA awning art project. The concert series is held every Friday from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Webb Field along Silver Springs Blvd. Three of the ten scheduled concerts have taken place. In addition to the live music, the event features a live painting experience by selected artists working on their assigned panels, each artist was assigned two panels, each representing a different musical genre.

## 6. Other Business

## a. Current OMAC Grant Balance 4.2.2025

**Attachments:** [Current OMAC grant balance 4.2.2025](#)

Ms. Parkman Provided an update on the Current Ocala Municipal Arts Commission Grant Balance (OMAC). The current balance is \$9,745.72, with \$1,000 pending for the Ocala Main Street project. The available amount budgeted for spending in Fiscal Year 2025 is \$4,400, which includes the \$1,000 already allocated to the Ocala Main Street project.

## b. Ocala Code of Ordinance OMAC

**Attachments:** [2. Ocala Code of Ordinances OMAC  
ORD 2019-39 Sec. 122-968 Public Art](#)

Ms. Parkman, discussed OMAC's purpose and structure are defined in Chapter 2 of the Ocala Code of Ordinances, under Article III: Boards, Commissions, and Committees, Division 3: Municipal Arts Commission. The legislative intent behind the creation of OMAC is to serve as an advisory agency to the City and its citizens, promoting the artistic and cultural development of Ocala as part of the overall health and welfare of its residents. This includes coordination of arts efforts and ensuring alignment with community goals.

Ms. Parkman suggested revisiting these guidelines annually during OMAC meetings to reaffirm member responsibilities and maintain clarity around the commission's mission. Ms. Parkman also touched on form based code regulations related to public art, particularly in the downtown area, which will be discussed further in the meeting.

## c. Guidelines for the Ocala Public Art Program 2025

**Attachments:** [3. Guidelines for the Ocala Public Art Program 2025](#)

Ms. Parkman revisited the current guidelines for the Ocala Public Art Program. The original guidelines were approved by OMAC in 2021. The version included in the meeting agenda reflects updated language and minor edits. Specifically, references to the City of Ocala Cultural Arts and Sciences Division have been revised to simply Cultural Arts to reflect internal departmental changes.

One notable addition is Section 7 addressing the accession and deaccession of public art. Ms. Parkman noted that this topic has been discussed during past OMAC meetings and is

now formally included for review and future consideration. Although no action is needed at this time, Ms. Parkman encouraged open discussion about the guidelines and whether any areas might require future revision or clarification.

d. OMAC - Public Art Policy for OMAC

**Attachments:** [4. OMAC - Public Art Policy for OMAC](#)

Ms. Parkman provided an overview of the City of Ocala's Public Art Program policy and outlines the role and responsibilities of the Ocala Municipal Arts Commission (OMAC). The purpose of the Public Art Program is to promote public awareness and appreciation of fine, performing, and cultural arts. It also aims to create job opportunities for artists, make the arts more accessible to the community, and integrate art into both public and private infrastructure projects. Additionally, the program provides guidelines for incorporating art into public spaces, supports place making efforts through creative design, offers educational opportunities, builds community pride and engagement, inspires residents and visitors, and enhances the overall quality of life in Ocala.

Ms. Parkman discusses OMAC responsibilities, which include supporting the goals of the Public Art Program, advising on public art projects and proposals, helping to establish clear guidelines for evaluating and selecting public art, serving as a resource to local communities on arts and cultural matters, participating in the review and selection of artworks, and assisting with the development of potential committees related to public art.

e. OMAC Art Review Guidelines

**Attachments:** [5. OMAC Art Review Guidelines](#)

Ms. Parkman provided an overview of how public art projects are initiated and how artists or artworks are selected. The process typically begins with a project outline that defines the scope, goals, and selection criteria. Artists may be selected through various methods, including open calls such as Requests for Proposals (RFPs) or Qualifications (RFQs), invitational or limited calls, hybrid competitions, or direct selection when a specific artist is proposed by a partner. In some cases, existing artwork may be directly purchased or accepted as a donation, though staff emphasized the need to consider long term maintenance. The goal is to help OMAC members understand how projects are developed and their role in reviewing proposals and advising on public art initiatives.

f. Guidelines - Mural funded by the CRA

**Attachments:** [6. Guidelines - Murals funded by the CRA](#)

Economic Development Manager, Roberto Ellis, discussed the proposed guidelines for including murals in the East Ocala CRA commercial grant program. The goal is to allow property owners to apply for mural funding through CRA grants. OMAC would review mural proposals and provide recommendations, which would then go to the CRA Advisory Committee for final approval. This process allows CRA funds to support public art while using OMAC's expertise in project review.

## 7. Public Comments

Economic Development/Cultural Arts Coordinator, Charlita Whitehead, shared updates about upcoming arts events in the community. Ms. Whitehead highlighted events happening this Saturday, including free admission to the Appleton Museum and a special exhibit at Shapot Gallery.

## 8. Staff Comments

Ms. Parkman provided an update current ongoing projects, like the brochure, marketing, and public art maintenance fund are still in progress. Ms. Parkman noted they are exploring fundraising options to support public art without using the general fund. While there is no set timeline, updates will continue over the summer as new grant applications come in.

## 9. Board Comments

The Board discussed the various events being hosted by their organizations.

## 10. Next Meeting: June 4, 2025

## 11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.