



# Ocala

## Municipal Arts Commission

### Minutes

110 SE Watula Avenue  
Ocala, FL 34471

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

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Wednesday, August 6, 2025

4:00 PM

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1. Call To Order

a. Roll Call

**Present:** Emily Andrews  
Jaye Baillie  
Arnold Barbaro  
Pedro "Tito" A. Comas  
Jean Floten  
Leslie Hammond  
Natalie McComb

**Absent:** Greg Thompson

**Excused:** Brooke Hutto  
Darian Mosley  
David Reutter

2. Proof of Publication

The Public Notice for the Ocala Municipal Arts Commission was posted on July 30, 2025.

3. Approval of Minutes

a. June 4, 2025

**Attachments:** [OMAC Minutes - 6.4.25 Draft](#)

**RESULT:** APPROVED

**MOVER:** Arnold Barbaro

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

**AYE:** Andrews, Baillie, Barbaro, Comas, Floten, Hammond and McComb

**ABSENT:** Thompson

**EXCUSED:** Hutto, Mosley and Reutter

4. Grants / Applications

a. Approve Public Education Foundation of Marion County Grant Application for \$3,500 for the 2025 Ocala Film Derby Application

**Attachments:** [1. OMAC grant application Ocala Film Derby](#)  
[2. Ocala Film Derby 2025 Sponsorship booklet](#)  
[Conflict of Interest - Pedro Comas](#)

Cultural Arts Supervisor, Emily Parkman presented a grant application submitted by Public Education Foundation of Marion County; they are requesting \$3,500 for an

equipment pack to sponsor the 2025 Ocala Film Derby. The Ocala Film Derby, now in its third year, is a five day immersive film making competition where eight teams of students are paired with mentors to create short films. The requested funds would cover a full set of industry standard equipment for one team, including cameras, sound, and lighting gear.

Representatives from the Ocala Film Derby were invited to share additional details and answer questions from the committee.

Mr. Pedros A. Comas recused himself from voting, he is a graphic artist and advertising consultant for The Ocala Film Derby.

Motion to approve the Public Education of Marion County grant application in the amount of \$3,500.

**RESULT:** APPROVED

**MOVER:** Jean Floten

**SECONDER:** Emily Andrews

**AYE:** Andrews, Baillie, Barbaro, Floten, Hammond and McComb

**ABSENT:** Thompson

**RECUSED:** Comas

**EXCUSED:** Hutto, Mosley and Reutter

- b. Approve Nehyssa Turenne Grant Application for \$3,000 for her LEAP Through Dance program

**Attachments:** [2. LEAP OMAC grant application](#)

Ms. Parkman presented a grant application submitted by LEAP (Launching Equal Access to the Performing Arts) Through Dance, a nonprofit founded by local dancer Nehyssa Turenne. The requested fund is in the amount of \$3,000. If awarded, the grant would provide 5-6 free community youth dance workshops in under-served areas in Marion County. These workshops are expected to reach more than 100 local children, providing them with opportunities to learn dance, build confidence, and be mentored by a positive role model.

Ms. Turenne and her mother Judith Carasco emphasized that the program was created to give children the same opportunities Ms. Turenne had through dance programs. They also noted that while the written request was for \$3,000, the portion specifically tied to the community workshops is \$2,000.

The Ocala Municipal Arts Commission (OMAC) committee asked for clarification on the program expenses.

Ms. Turenne explained that funds would not only support free workshops but could also help provide students with dance wear, shoes, and basic supplies which often can be a barrier for families.

OMAC Committee requested an updated budget that reflects the \$2,000 requested rather than the \$3,000 listed in the application. They also clarified that grant funds cannot be used for pageants or competition fees in alignment with City and State restrictions.

Ms. Turenne agreed to revise and resubmit the budget with eligible expenses focused solely on the community dance outreach program.

Ms. Emily Andrews had to leave and excused herself for the remainder of the meeting.

Motion to table Nehyssa Turenne grant application for the LEAP Through Dance program until the revised budget information has been provided.

**RESULT:** TABLED

**MOVER:** Jaye Baillie

**SECONDER:** Natalie McComb

**AYE:** Baillie, Barbaro, Comas, Floten, Hammond and McComb

**ABSENT:** Thompson

**EXCUSED:** Andrews, Hutto, Mosley and Reutter

5. Project Updates

a. Review updates for approved Ocala Main Street vacant storefront mural program

Ms Parkman provided an update on the following project:

Ocala Main Street (OMS)

- Awarded \$1,000 by OMAC on 12/4/2024 upon conditions of new timeline for project.
- No FAFO grant funding, reconsidering locations and timeline.
- OMS investigating for additional funding.
- Possibly only building available for projects is the correctional building (24 NE 1st St.).
- Deadline for new timeline is August.

6. Other Business

a. Review current license plate grant fund and available funding for fiscal year 2025

**Attachments:** [1. Other Business - Current Grant Balance](#)

Ms.Parkman reported that the License Plate Fund holds \$11,385.72. Of this amount, \$1,000 has been allocated for Ocala Main Street, bringing the balance to \$10,385.72. For Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25), only \$4,400 is currently available to spend.

- b. Approve to accession “Music on Broadway” to the City of Ocala’s permanent public art collection

**Attachments:**    [Accession Form - Music on Broadway](#)  
                              [Music on Broadway1](#)  
                              [Music on Broadway2](#)  
                              [Completed Install 3](#)  
                              [Conflict of Interest - Jaye Baillie](#)

Ms. Parkman provided an update on "Music on Broadway" art mural and is proposing the accession of the mural.

Ms. Jayes Baillie recused herself from voting, she is a staff member for Brick City Center for the Arts.

**RESULT:**            APPROVED

**MOVER:**            Natalie McComb

**SECONDER:**        Leslie Hammond

**AYE:**                Barbaro, Comas, Floten, Hammond and McComb

**ABSENT:**           Thompson

**RECUSED:**        Baillie

**EXCUSED:**        Andrews, Hutto, Mosley and Reutter

- c. Approve to accession “Double Helix” into the City’s permanent public art collection

**Attachments:**    [Accession Form - Double Helix](#)  
                              [Double helix\\_photo](#)

Ms. Parkman provided an update on "Double Helix" outdoor art sculpture and is proposing the accession to the City's permanent outdoor art collection.

**RESULT:**            APPROVED

**MOVER:**            Jean Floten

**SECONDER:**        Leslie Hammond

**AYE:**                Baillie, Barbaro, Comas, Floten, Hammond and McComb

**ABSENT:**           Thompson

**EXCUSED:**        Andrews, Hutto, Mosley and Reutter

- d. Review guidelines and process for OMAC’s role in the new East Ocala CRA mural grant program

**Attachments:**    [1. EO CRA Commercial Grant](#)  
                              [2. Guidelines for Murals - EO CRA Commercial Grant](#)  
                              [3. East CRA Application Attached - NWS 8th Ave, LLC on 7-28-2025\\_Part1](#)

Ms. Parkman provided an overview on the East Ocala CRA Mural Grant Program:

- East Ocala CRA mural grant program approved on July 15.
- Public art projects using CRA funds will go through OMAC review process similar to current Downtown Ocala art projects process.
- OMAC will review project proposal with relevant application/paperwork and design submissions. OMAC will consider both artist and project.
- OMAC will provide recommendations not necessarily "approvals". OMAC will recommend project "proceed pending" or OMAC "does not recommend".
- CRA funds don't reimburse for design fees; OMAC grant could assist with this cost through the separate application process.

e. Approve revised Ocala Public Art Roster open call

**Attachments:**    [1. Public Art Roster 2025 open call edits](#)  
                              [2. 2025-PAR-Application-Worksheet - WA](#)

Ms. Parkman provided an update on the Ocala Public Art Roster Open Call for 2025. She explained that the roster will serve as a resource for both open calls, where nationally known artist can apply, and short list, which will allow the City to recommend multiple artist for projects without a full open call. Ms. Parkman outlined a timeline and process:

- Reapplication every 4-5 years, notify current artist of renewal to reapply
- Open calls every 2-3 years, informal rolling applications (biannually to assist with CRA grants)
- Application Requirements
- Selection Process
- No rubric examples from other cities for selection process
- Selection Criteria: strength/skill/success of past artwork, experience, capability of adhering to project timeline and budget, ability to engage site and community, unique perspectives
- Open to the public January 2026 and run until the end of April 2026
- OMAC review applications starting June 2026
- Review revised open call PDF

Ms. Parkman also shared other city examples of the Artist Roster to provide the committee with context and a basis for comparison.

The committee discussed making revisions to the Artist Roster application. It was agreed that artists should provide 2-3 references and at least eight (8) artwork images. Also, the artist is to reapply every five (5) years to keep their information current.

Motion to table the Ocala Public Art Roster open call until the revisions to the application process are made.

**RESULT:**            TABLED

**MOVER:** Jean Floten

**SECONDER:** Leslie Hammond

**AYE:** Baillie, Barbaro, Comas, Floten, Hammond and McComb

**ABSENT:** Thompson

**EXCUSED:** Andrews, Hutto, Mosley and Reutter

7. Public Comments

None

8. Staff Comments

- a. Approve next OMAC meeting location to Growth Management Training Room on October 1, 2025

**Attachments:** [Staff Comments 1. OMAC meeting relocation](#)

Ms. Parkman proposed the relocation of OMAC October 1, 2025 meeting to the Growth Management Training Room at 201 SE 3rd St, 2nd FL, Ocala, FL 34471. Ms. Parkman advised City Hall second floor will start renovations in September and it will impact all meetings in the Council Chambers.

Motion to approve the relocation of OMAC October 1, 2025 meeting to the Growth Management Training Room.

**RESULT:** APPROVED

**MOVER:** Arnold Barbaro

**SECONDER:** Jean Floten

**AYE:** Baillie, Barbaro, Comas, Floten, Hammond and McComb

**ABSENT:** Thompson

**EXCUSED:** Andrews, Hutto, Mosley and Reutter

9. Board Comments

None

10. Next Meeting: October 1, 2025

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:32 p.m.