



Ocala

Municipal Arts Commission

Minutes

110 SE Watula Avenue
Ocala, FL 34471

www.ocalafl.gov

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

4:00 PM

1. Call To Order

a. Roll Call

Present: Emily Andrews
Arnold Barbaro
Pedro "Tito" A. Comas
Jean Floten
Leslie Hammond
Natalie McComb
Darian Mosley
David Reutter
Greg Thompson

Excused: Jaye Baillie
Brooke Hutto

2. Proof of Publication

The Public Notice for the Ocala Municipal Arts Commission was posted on November 21, 2025.

3. Approval of Minutes

a. October 1, 2025

Attachments: [OMAC 10.1.25 Minutes - Draft](#)

RESULT: APPROVED

MOVER: Emily Andrews

SECONDER: Arnold Barbaro

AYE: Andrews, Barbaro, Comas, Floten, Hammond, McComb, Mosley,
Reutter and Thompson

EXCUSED: Baillie and Hutto

4. Grants / Applications

a. Approve 2025 MAX utility box mural grant application for \$2,000

Attachments: OMAC Grant Application
Proposals Electrical Control Box Mural Project
IRS Letter of Determination - MAX TAX EXEMPT
Darian Mosley- Agenda Item 2026-0325
Pedro Comas - Agenda Item 2026-0325

Cultural Arts Manager Emily Parkman reviewed the grant application submitted by

Magnolia Art Exchange (MAX) on November 17, 2025. The request is for \$2,000 to fund a mural project on electrical control boxes in Downtown Ocala. The project will involve local artists, educational workshops, and aims to enhance the cultural identity of the area. Ocala Electric Utility owns the boxes and has approved the project with the condition of final design approval and 2 years of maintenance after installation. The timeline for completion is 12 months.

Executive Administrator of Magnolia Art Exchange, Jessie Gillis, presented details of the proposed mural project involving four electrical boxes in Downtown Ocala. The project will utilize the existing MAX artist community, which currently includes 6 resident artists and 8 to 14 affiliate artists, with plans to expand participation. A call for art will be issued in January 2026, and proposals will be reviewed internally by MAX before final approval by Ocala Electric Utility. The utility has stipulated design approval and recommended thermal-resistant paint for durability. The timeline for completion is within 12 months, and Ocala Electric will provide maintenance for 2 years. The murals will primarily cover larger boxes, and designs will be left to the discretion of the artists. The project aims to enhance downtown aesthetics, promote local artists, and encourage community engagement.

The Ocala Municipal Arts Commission (OMAC) committee and Jessie Gillis held a discussion which included sustainability, maintenance, and opportunities for public awareness through plaques and QR codes linking to project information.

Mr. Pedro A Comas recused himself from voting, he is a member of the Max Board of Directors.

Ms. Darian Mosley rescused herself from voting, she is the President of the Max Board of Directors.

Motion to approve 2025 Max utility box mural grant application in the amount of \$2,000.00

RESULT: APPROVED

MOVER: Natalie McComb

SECONDER: Greg Thompson

AYE: Andrews, Barbaro, Floten, Hammond, McComb, Reutter and Thompson

RECUSED: Comas and Mosley

EXCUSED: Baillie and Hutto

5. Project Updates

a. Review of Ocala Film Derby final report

Attachments: OMAC OFD Final Report
Ocala Film Derby letter
Ocala Film Derby timeline

Ms. Parkman provided an overview of the Ocala Film Derby final report. OMAC awarded the Public Education Foundation of Marion County a \$3,500 grant for the 2025 Ocala Film Derby, held June 13, 2025. The funding was used to provide film industry-specific equipment to 1 of 8 student film teams participating in the Derby. This was the 3 year of the event, which included hands-on workshops, professional talks, mentorship, and a real-world film challenge culminating in an official screening before a live audience. The foundation submitted its final report on October 29, 2025, confirming that funds were utilized as outlined in the grant application. The Film Derby took place September 24-28, with the awards ceremony and screenings held at the Marion Theater on September 28, 2025. Eight student teams produced original films, supported by 12 lectures and workshops totaling 15 instructional hours. The project engaged 68 students, 35 adults, and 15 volunteers, reaching 276 participants overall. The event provided significant educational and cultural impact, and city commission members were invited to attend the screenings.

6. Other Business

- a. Review current license plate fund and available funding for fiscal year 2026

Attachments: (OMAC) Grant Balance

Ms. Parkman provided an update on the License Plate Plate fund. As of today, the current balance is \$9,572.65. The available amount to spend this fiscal year (2026) is \$6,800, which will decrease by \$2,000 if a grant award is approved, leaving approximately \$4,800 available.

- b. Recommend acceptance of the donation of Flamingo sculpture from the 7th Biennial Ocala Outdoor Sculpture Competition valued at \$9,500 into the City's public art collection

Attachments: Flamingo photo
Flamingo photo_2
Michael-Okhaen-Statement-Flamingo
Michael-OKhaen-Resume
Michael-Okhaen-Flamingo-Care Sheet

The Ocala Outdoor Sculpture Competition, initiated in 2012 as part of the Tusawilla Park Master Plan, will enter its 8 season in January 2026, replacing the previous year's sculptures with 10 newly selected sculptures for public display. One of the current sculptures, P. Ruber's Story Flamingo by artist Michael O'Khaen, has offered to donate the sculpture to the City for permanent outdoor display.

In accordance with the City's public art donation policy adopted in 2021, the artist provided a maintenance guide outlining minimal upkeep requirements, including resealing every 12-18 months to prevent UV damage. The sculpture is valued at \$9,500 and would diversify the City's collection, as there are currently no works by this artist. The piece is already installed and secured with a metal plate and bolts, and relocation to a smaller site within Tusawilla Park is planned if accepted.

Motion to approve the donation of the P.Ruber's Story Flamingo Sculpture to the City for

permanent outdoor display

RESULT: APPROVED

MOVER: Jean Floten

SECONDER: Pedro "Tito" A. Comas

AYE: Andrews, Barbaro, Comas, Floten, Hammond, McComb, Mosley,
Reutter and Thompson

EXCUSED: Baillie and Hutto

7. Public Comments

None

8. Staff Comments

Ms. Parkman stated the Public Artist Roster open call will go live on January 2, 2026, and by February 2026, an update will be provided to the committee on the applicants. Then, starting in April 2026, discussions and reviews will begin, likely requiring at least two sessions for OMAC to complete the evaluation process.

9. Board Comments

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

10. Next Meeting: February 4, 2026

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.