



Ocala Municipal Arts Commission Agenda - Final

Wednesday, October 1, 2025

Meeting Information

Location

Customer Service Center (CSC)
"Growth Management Department"
201 SE 3rd St
Second Floor - Growth Management
Training Room
Ocala, Florida 34471

<https://www.ocalafl.gov/meetings>

Time

4:00 PM

Board Members

Emily Andrews
Jaye Baillie
Arnold Barbaro
Pedro "Tito" Comas
Jean Floten
Dr. Leslie Hammond
Brooke Hutto
Natalie McComb
Darian Mosley
David Reutter
Greg Thompson

Staff:

Emily Parkman
Cultural Arts Supervisor
Growth Management Department

Jeff Shrum, AICP
Director
Growth Management Department

Aubrey Hale
Planning Director
Growth Management Department

William Spinney
Community Outreach Manager
Growth Management Department

WELCOME!

All members of the public are invited to attend. If reasonable accommodations are needed for you to participate in this meeting, please call 629-8287 forty-eight (48) hours in advance so that arrangements can be made.

APPEALS

Any person who desires to appeal any decision at this meeting will need a record of the proceedings and for this purpose may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made that includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is made.

1. Call To Order
 - a. Roll Call
2. Proof of Publication

The Public Notice for the Ocala Municipal Arts Commission was posted on September 23, 2025.
3. Approval of Minutes
 - a. [August 6, 2025](#)
4. Grants/Applications
 - a. [Approve Nehyssa Turenne LEAP Through Dance grant application update for \\$2,000](#)

Presentation By: Cultural Arts Supervisor, Emily Parkman
5. Project Updates
 - a. [Discuss updates on Ocala Main Street vacant storefront mural program grant application.](#)

Presentation By: Cultural Arts Supervisor, Emily Parkman
6. Other Business
 - a. [Review current license plate grant fund and available funding for fiscal year 2026.](#)

Presentation By: Cultural Arts Supervisor, Emily Parkman
 - b. [Approve revised Ocala Public Art Roster open call for 2026.](#)

Presentation By: Cultural Arts Supervisor, Emily Parkman
7. Public Comments
8. Staff Comments
9. Board Comments
10. Next Meeting: December 3, 2025
11. Adjournment



Ocala

Legislation Text

110 SE Watula Avenue
Ocala, FL 34471

www.ocalafl.gov

File #: 2025-2130

Agenda Item #: a.

Submitted By: Cultural Arts Manager, Emily Parkman

Department: Growth Management

Ocala Municipal Arts Commission

August 6, 2025



Ocala

Municipal Arts Commission

Minutes

110 SE Watula Avenue
Ocala, FL 34471

www.ocalafl.gov

Wednesday, August 6, 2025

4:00 PM

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.



Ocala

Legislation Text

110 SE Watula Avenue
Ocala, FL 34471

www.ocalafl.gov

File #: 2025-2124

Agenda Item #: a.

Submitted By: Emily Parkman

Presentation By: Cultural Arts Supervisor, Emily Parkman

Department: Growth Management

STAFF RECOMMENDATION (Motion Ready):

Approve Nehyssa Turenne LEAP Through Dance grant application update for \$2,000

BACKGROUND:

Nehyssa Turenne is a local competitive dancer, current Miss Northeast Florida Teen, Third Runner Up at Miss Florida Teen 2025, and performing arts accessibility advocate. Nehyssa is committed to providing accessible dance programming to Marion County youth. Nehyssa created LEAP (Launching Equal Access to the Performing Arts) as a community initiative to offer free dance workshops and mentorship opportunities to children struggling with accessibility or intellectual disability.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS:

Ocala Cultural Arts received the OMAC grant application for Nehyssa Turenne's LEAP Through Dance program requesting \$3,000 on July 23, 2025. Old grant application form with proposal and budget breakdown of \$3,000 funding request for choreography fees, dance costumes, dance shoes and gear, competition entry fees, studio rehearsal rental and coaching, and community dance outreach marketing materials and other supplies. No other funding sources listed. The applicant has not received an OMAC grant in the last 12 months or ever. The grant proposal was presented to OMAC on August 6, 2025. OMAC tabled the proposal due to concerns about workshop timeline and location along with budget clarification and breakdown of \$2,000 or \$3,000 funding to determine eligibility.

Cultural Arts staff received grant updates on August 8, 2025. The updated grant request is \$2,000 with an updated budget and timeline. The artist, participants, and workshops are in Marion County. The budget does include \$150 of non-allowable expenditure for refreshments. The OMAC grant fund has \$8,000 available to spend this fiscal year. Staff recommends approval of grant request with changes to exclude non-allowable expenses.

ALTERNATIVE:

- Approve with Changes
- Table
- Deny

Funding Proposal

LEAP – Launching Equal Access to the Performing Arts

Requested Amount: \$2,000

About LEAP

LEAP (Launching Equal Access to the Performing Arts) is a community-driven initiative committed to breaking down financial and social barriers that prevent children and teens from participating in the arts. We believe every young person should have the opportunity to explore their creativity, build confidence, and develop life skills through dance, music, theater, and other performing arts regardless of their economic background.

Through workshops, mentorship programs, and scholarship opportunities, LEAP empowers underserved youth to access training, performance opportunities, and industry connections that can shape their futures.

Purpose of Funding

The \$2,000 requested will be used to:

Expense Item	Amount	Description
Free Community Workshops (including performance support)	\$900	Covers studio rental fees at Radar Dance Complex, insurance, basic materials, and dancewear/props for participants to showcase their work during workshops.
Scholarship Fund	\$650	Provides full or partial scholarships for underserved youth to attend local performing arts classes at Radar or at the studio of their choice in Marion County.
Marketing	\$300	Covers printed materials, journals, and teaching tools for one-on-one mentoring session.

Other/Misc. \$150.00 {refreshment and snacks at workshop on 10/31, Halloween and 12/19 Christmas celebration}.

Location & Timeline

Location: Radar Dance Complex

Timeline: October to January

Workshop Dates:

- October 11
- October 31
- November 14
- December 6
- December 19
- January 16

Marketing & Advertisement

Promotion will include:

- Social media through the official LEAP account
- Word of mouth within the community
- Flyer distribution to local stores
- Outreach through community activities and churches

Impact of Funding

Your support will:

- Give at least 15 students direct access to professional performing arts training they could not otherwise afford.

- Create safe, creative spaces for youth to build confidence, communication skills, and discipline.
- Strengthen the local arts community by fostering the next generation of dancers.
- Provide visible, measurable outcomes through community showcases and participant feedback.

Sponsorship Recognition

Sponsors will be recognized through:

- Social Media Shoutouts on all LEAP-related platforms
- Logo Placement on event flyers, programs, and workshop materials
- Recognition at Events in speeches and banners
- Community Impact Report at the end of the funded period

Contact: Judith Carasco President 352-214-5656

carasco1377@gmail.com

Nehyssa Turenne – CEO



nehyssaturenne@gmail.com |



Instagram: [@nehyssa.turenne](https://www.instagram.com/nehyssa.turenne)

OMAC Grant Proposal Budget Template

Organization/ Artist Name	LEAP/Nehyssa Turenne	
Project/Program Name	Launching Equal Access to the Performing Arts	
Project Timeline/Dates	October 2025 to Janaury 2026	
	October 11th and 31st, November 14th, December 6th and 19th, January 16th.	
Income/Projected Revenue:		
Sponsorships	\$	
Donations	\$	
Other grants	\$	
Merchandise sales	\$	
Vendor fees	\$	
Other cash received	\$	
OMAC Grant award	\$	
Total Income/Revenue:	\$	
In-kind contributions	\$	
Expenses/Projected Costs:		
Marketing	signs/flyers	\$150.00
	banners	NA
	social media ads	\$0.00
	print ads	\$150.00
	TOTAL Marketing:	\$300.00
Supplies	Dancewear/shoes	\$350.00
	TOTAL Supplies:	\$350.00
Operational	Space rental with equipment	\$550.00
	TOTAL Operational:	\$550.00
Scholarships	Enrollment in regular classes.	\$650.00
	NA	\$
	TOTAL Scholarships	\$650.00
Fees	NA	\$
	NA	\$
	TOTAL Fees:	\$0.00
Instructor/Talent/Staff	Volunteers	\$
Other/Misc.		\$150.00
Total/Expenses:		\$2,000.00



Ocala Municipal Arts Commission Grant Program

OMAC GRANT APPLICATION

Applicant Information:

Applicant Name (Organization or Individual Artist): LEAP

Name of individual to receive correspondence: Judith Carasco

Applicant Mailing Address: 4900 SW 46th Court apt 1605

City: Ocala State: FL Zip Code: 34474

Phone Number: 3522145656

Email Address: carasco1377@gmail.com

Application Type:

- ☐ Arts Organization
- ☐ Attached 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt certificate.
 - ☐ Employer Identification Number (EIN): _____
- ☐ Educational Institution
- ☐ Attached IRS or tax-exempt certificate.
 - ☐ Employer Identification Number (EIN): _____
- ☒ Individual Artist
- ☐ Social Security Number (SSN): 063-98-3702

Project Information:

Project or Program Name: Launching Equal Access to the Performing Arts

Grant Amount Requested: \$ 2,000.00

Can proposed project/program continue with partial funding from OMAC? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Does this project/program have other funding sources? (If yes, please provide details.) ☒ Yes ☐ No

Additional Funding Sources: Personal Fund

- ☐ Attach itemized budget for proposed project/program. (Can submit own budget sheet or utilize and edit provided budget template. Template provided at end of the application.)



Ocala Municipal Arts Commission Grant Program

OMAC GRANT APPLICATION

Project Description:

****Provide any additional attachments necessary to elaborate on proposed project/program.****

Project/Program Category:

- ☒ Performing Arts (i.e., music, dance, drama, etc.)
- ☐ Visual Arts
- ☐ Literature
- ☐ Other: _____

Provide description of proposed program/project.

LEAP (Launching Equal Access to the Performing Arts) is a community-driven initiative committed to

breaking down financial and social barriers that prevent children and teens from participating in the arts.

We believe every young person should have the opportunity to explore their creativity, build confidence,

and develop life skills through dance, music, theater, and other performing arts — regardless of their

economic background. Through workshops, mentorship programs, and scholarship opportunities,

Describe anticipated benefits of proposed project/program in Ocala and/or Marion County.

Your support will: - Give at least 15 students direct access to professional performing arts training they could not

otherwise afford. - Create safe, creative spaces for youth to build confidence, communication skills, and discipline.

- Strengthen the local arts community by fostering the next generation of dancers for now and actors, musicians moving forward

- Provide visible, measurable outcomes through community showcases and participant feedback.

Previous OMAC Grant Funding:

Provide details of last project/program funded by OMAC regardless of time. (If applicable.)

Date of funding: _____

Grant amount awarded: \$ _____

Name of Project/Program: _____

- ☐ Tick box if applicant (Arts Organization, Educational Institution, or Individual Artist) received OMAC funding in the last 12 months.



Ocala Municipal Arts Commission
Grant Program

OMAC GRANT APPLICATION

Recipient, individual, or authorized agent of the designated organization warrants and guarantees to the City of Ocala that the funds will be used only for the purpose herein specified, at and on the time, dates and location as herein specified, or, if not so used, will be returned to the City of Ocala.

Recipient also agrees to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless, the City of Ocala and all officers and employees of the City of Ocala from and against loss, damage, demand, liability or expense by reason of any damage or injury to property or persons which may be claimed to have arisen as a result of or in connection with these services.

NT
Applicant Signature

Nehyssa Turenne
Applicant Name (Organization or Individual Artist)

Judith Carasco President

Organization Contact Name & Title
08/08/2025
Date

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Application Received: _____

Received previous OMAC funding? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ In the last 12 months?

OMAC Action:

☐ Approved Date: _____ Amount: _____
☐ Not Approved

Invoice Received Date: _____ Invoice Processed Date: _____ Invoice #: _____

Final Report Received Date: _____



Ocala

Legislation Text

110 SE Watula Avenue
Ocala, FL 34471

www.ocalafl.gov

File #: 2025-2125

Agenda Item #: a.

Submitted By: Emily Parkman

Presentation By: Cultural Arts Supervisor, Emily Parkman

Department: Growth Management

STAFF RECOMMENDATION (Motion Ready):

Discuss updates on Ocala Main Street vacant storefront mural program grant application.

BACKGROUND:

Ocala Main Street (OMS) submitted a grant application and requested \$3,500 toward their Vacant Storefront Activation mural program on December 4, 2024. Ocala Municipal Arts Commission (OMAC) approved partial funding of \$1,000 for the current confirmed building vacancies on December 4, 2024. OMAC requested an updated timeline and additional Fine Arts For Ocala (FAFO) funding from OMS prior to payment. OMS did not receive any additional funding from FAFO for this program. Storefront vacancies have changed since grant submission.

OMAC and City staff require a timeline and location update and numbered invoice to process payment for the OMS grant request. OMAC grant guidelines permit 12 months for grant approval and payment distribution before expiration. OMAC members discussed duration of project with vacancy changes and possibility of new application for updated timeline and locations of murals.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS:

N/A

Update: Ocala Main Street Vacant Storefront Activation Application

- 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 project is the correctional building (24 NE 1st St.)
- Possible new application required



Ocala

Legislation Text

110 SE Watula Avenue
Ocala, FL 34471

www.ocalafl.gov

File #: 2025-2127

Agenda Item #: a.

Submitted By: Emily Parkman

Presentation By: Cultural Arts Supervisor, Emily Parkman

Department: Growth Management

STAFF RECOMMENDATION (Motion Ready):

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

BACKGROUND:

The City through the Ocala Municipal Arts Commission (OMAC) disburses funding from the state of Florida through the Florida Arts License Plates pursuant to Section 320.08058 (12) for Marion County. The City receives all funds in a designated account 001-334-000-000-09-33718. City Cultural Arts staff update OMAC each meeting on the current balance of this account and available funds designated within the current fiscal year.

The current balance of the account is \$9,937.65. The funds available to spend in Fiscal Year 2026 is \$8,000.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS:

N/A

Current Balance:

Total: \$9,937.65 (9/19)

Available to spend FY2026: \$8,000.00



Ocala

Legislation Text

110 SE Watula Avenue
Ocala, FL 34471

www.ocalafl.gov

File #: 2025-2128

Agenda Item #: b.

Submitted By: Emily Parkman

Presentation By: Cultural Arts Supervisor, Emily Parkman

Department: Growth Management

STAFF RECOMMENDATION (Motion Ready):

Approve revised Ocala Public Art Roster open call for 2026.

BACKGROUND:

On December 4, 2024, staff presented and proposed a new open call for the Artist Roster, a directory of visual artists around the country approved by OMAC to be shortlisted for public art projects, both city and private initiatives. OMAC directed staff to create new written call for consideration. Staff presented a draft of the Artist Roster open call on June 4, 2025, and discussed a possible timeline for the call and application review. On August 6, 2025, staff provided edits to the open call along with other city comparisons to determine roster duration timeline. OMAC tabled motion recommending additional edits for October 1, 2025.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS:

Staff updated the Ocala Artist Roster open call with the following information:

- Application requirements to include 2-3 references
- Reapplications every five years for artists to remain on Roster
- Current Roster artists will be notified to update/renew in 2026
- Open call for new roster artists every 2-3 years with informal rolling applications accepted and reviewed by OMAC

Staff recommends approval of revised Ocala Public Art Roster open call and process for implementation in January 2026.

ALTERNATIVE:

- Approve with Changes
- Table
- Deny

Program Overview

The City of Ocala Public Artist Roster is a pre-qualified list of professional visual artists that serves as a resource for public art selection and commission at the City and as a reference for external organizations and private entities. The Roster may be used in combination with an open call, invitational or as the sole resource for identifying appropriate artists/teams for select projects based on an expedited selection process, need for specific skillset, or a curated opportunity. For each project, the qualifications of the artists will be reviewed by the Ocala Municipal Art Commission (OMAC) and recommended for final approval by City staff.

Applications to the call are reviewed on the artist's experience and portfolio. Previously accepted roster artists do not need to reapply but may update their portfolio materials as they see fit.

There is no application fee.

Eligibility Criteria

You are eligible to apply to the Ocala Public Artist Roster if you:

- Are a professional visual artist or an artist team/collective. (Teams of up to five artists may apply. Team members cannot apply as individual artists. If submitting as a team, portfolios should include works created by the team and not those of the individuals on the team.)
- Live in the United States or have the legal ability to work in the United States.
- Create public art or artwork well suited for public spaces and have experience creating public art in one of the following categories:
 - **Public Art** – for artists/ teams that create large scale murals or standalone works for the public environment that are permanent or temporary in nature and whose works possess the appropriate durability for the art's lifespan.
 - **Interactive/Media Arts** – for artists/teams that focus on work that is either produced, modified, and/or transmitted by means of digital technologies, such as video/photography, monitor/LED screens, projections, virtual reality, augmented reality, sound installations, and locative media.
 - **Integrated/Infrastructure** – for artist/teams with design practices that can be integrated into a wide range of projects including building design, works integrated into City buildings, Public Works projects, and works incorporated into landscape design.
 - **Creative Placemaking** – for artists/teams that focus on engagement through personal interaction and/or ephemeral artwork which facilitates collaboration between artists, organizations, and communities. This category will serve as a resource for artist-driven community engagement that occurs during events, community building, or community planning events.

Artist Responsibilities

If you apply for the Roster, it means you are willing to:

- Design and propose artworks - Project managers, professional conservators, and local stakeholders all may be involved in the review and approval of your work

- Travel to the project site - You should be prepared to meet with selection committees and project managers up to three times during the proposal and design process (Virtual accommodations will be determined on a case-by-case basis)
- Work within fixed budgets and/or provide basic and final estimates as requested during the contract process
- Work with committees - Committees often include non-arts professionals
- Work on teams with other artists hired for the same project
- Maintain registration as a City of Ocala vendor- You must adhere to relevant City and State permitting and licensing requirements. This includes those relating to sub-contracting and the paying of prevailing wages.
- Enter into contracts with the City of Ocala- You must fulfill contract requirements, including paying applicable taxes and insurance requirements, providing appropriate insurance and warranties as necessary, and providing documents in a timely manner as requested by the Project Manager. Other terms and stipulations of contract will vary based on project.

Application Requirements

- Current contact information
- 8-10 images of separate selections of artworks (.jpg, .jpeg, or .png at 72 dpi minimum, uncompressed)
- Artwork information for each image in .docx or .pdf format (title, date, dimensions, medium, project cost/budget, commissioning agency, project timeline, timespan/life of the work if limited, location of work, and description of artwork concept)
- Artist's Statement .docx or .pdf format (one page including artist focus, preferred medium and project types, and capability to meet project timelines and budgets)
- Artist Resume .docx or .pdf format (two pages maximum)
- 2-3 professional references

Selection Process

The Ocala Municipal Arts Commission (OMAC) is an advisory agency to local city and county government as well as local citizens for all artistic and cultural development in Ocala and Marion County. OMAC consists of eleven members appointed by the Ocala City Council who represent local arts and cultural organizations including: College of Central Florida, Fine Arts For Ocala, Marion County School Board, Marion Cultural Alliance, Ocala Civic Theatre, and Ocala Symphony Orchestra. OMAC will review all completed qualifying applications and score entries based on the following criteria:

- Experience (15 points). Evidence of the artist's ability to execute Public Art Projects according to their medium on past projects. There is a demonstrated ability to execute concepts. Capability to complete a project on time and on budget.
- Artistic Excellence (15 points). The body of work shows a strong quality and clear artistic perspective. Demonstrative workmanship and elevated execution. The body of work presents unique perspectives and/or innovative methods.



Applications without all the stated criteria and requirements will not be considered for selection. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Entries with a score of 20 and above will be recommended for the Ocala Artist Roster. Approved artists will remain on the roster for 5 years, until the next open call where artists can reapply with updates or not renew. Artists can request removal from the Roster at any time in writing.

Unsuccessful applicants may appeal the decision. We comply with all local, state, and federal laws and regulations concerning civil and human rights. You can review the City of Ocala's policy regarding accessibility, diversity, and nondiscrimination on our City of Ocala website.

Additional Information:

Inclusion on the roster does not guarantee a public art commission or that the artist will be contacted about all available opportunities including open calls. Acceptance of an application from an artist does not constitute any form of contract or agreement for the exhibition.

The City of Ocala reserves the right to request additional information from artists and make changes/clarifications to the call if necessary. Limitations include the right to cancel, amend to alter the call, its contents, or the selection process.

By applying, the applicant warrants and represents the originality of all ideas and statements in the artwork applicant submits to the City for review. Applicant warrants and represents that applicants' artwork submitted to the City for review will not directly or indirectly violate the privacy, right to publicity, copyright, or other legal rights of any person or entity, or commit any libel, slander, of any person or entity. The applicant represents that all copyright holders have consented, in writing, to applicants' submissions of artwork and City's use of the artwork during the review process. By applying, the applicant agrees that their name and contact information can be released by the City to third parties for the purpose of professional artist opportunities in their capacity as an artist.

Applicants agree to indemnify and hold harmless the City of Ocala, and all of its City Council, boards and commissions, its officers, agents, and employees from and against any and all loss, liabilities, damages, judgments, actions, costs, claims and expenses (including attorney fees) arising out of or resulting from the breach by applicant of the above-mentioned warranties and representations.

All data submitted to the City of Ocala is governed by the State of Florida Sunshine Laws.

Contact:

Emily Parkman, Cultural Arts Supervisor, City of Ocala Cultural Arts at artinfo@ocalafl.gov, 352-629-8447.