# Alexandria Commission for the Arts - Meeting

Regular Meeting - Tuesday, September 15, 2026

7:00 – 9:00 pm

Lee Center

I. *Call to Order (Chair Brian Kelley called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm)*
II. Roll Call *(Attachment 1)*
III. Public Comment *(no public comment)*
IV. Approval of Minutes *(motion by Trena Raines, second by Anne Evenhaugen)*
    a. Tuesday, July 21, Regular Meeting
V. Chair Report *(Attachment 2)*
VI. Committee and Liaison Updates *(oral updates)*
    a. Arts Alliance Liaison – Stacey Becker
    b. Waterfront Commission Liaison – Robin Jordan
    c. Program Grants Feedback – Stacey Becker
    d. Art in Every Place – Robin Jordan
VII. Annual Report *(Attachment 3)*
    a. Approval of Annual Report
VIII. City-Wide Murals Public Art Task Force *(Attachment 4)*
    a. Approval of Mural Roster
IX. Office of the Arts Staff Updates *(Attachment 5)*
    a. Outcomes from Grant Feedback Sessions – Cheryl Anne Colton
    b. Ramsay Rec Center Mural Campaign Update
X. New Business
XI. Good of the Order and Announcements
XII. Adjournment *(the meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm)*

Attachment 1

# ATTENDANCE SIGN-IN SHEET

ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

Meeting: Regular | Date: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 | Lee Center

| COMMISSION MEMBERS: | Present/Not Present |
|---|---|
| Brian Kelley, Chair | |
| Trena Raines, Vice Chair | |
| Catherine Dehoney, Secretary | |
| | |
| Scott Abeles | |
| Anila Angjeli | |
| Alvah Beander | |
| Stacey Becker | |
| Anne Evenhaugen | |
| Robin Jordan | |
| Chris Kurowski | |
| Jason Longfellow | |
| Lauren Miller | |
| Tia Norris | |
| Jillian Organek | |
| David Pritzker | |
| Dawn Rogala | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| **CITY STAFF** | |
| Hashim Taylor, Director, RPCA | |
| Diane Ruggiero, Deputy Dir., RPCA - Arts | |
| Cheryl Anne Colton, Program Director | |
| Meika Daus, Public Art Manager | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

Attachment 2

# Chair Report

## September 2026

### Introduction

Welcome back from our summer recess, everyone, and congratulations to Catherine Dehoney and Robin Jordan on their reappointment to the Commission!

### Annual Report

Our main business this month is to approve our annual report. I want to once again thank Stacey Becker for all of her work in drafting this report and for all who have contributed. Please take some time to read this final draft to make sure we did not miss anything, especially any major achievements. That noted, please take into account that Executive Committee wanted me to relay everyone to please focus on edits of substance, inaccuracy, typos, etc. We want to avoid copy edits at the point of the actual meeting. You are invited to send over suggested edits to me in advance of the meeting, but please send them no later than Monday evening.

### Murals, Murals, Murals

The City-Wide Murals Public Art Task Force will be presenting a finalized mural roster for approval. Also, we will be getting updates on the mural project at Ramsay Recreational Center.

### Grants Feedback

The Grants Task Force held feedback sessions over the summer. Cheryl Anne Colton will be presenting on key takeaways from the sessions.

As always, if you have any questions or comments, please feel free to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

Brian Kelley

Chair, Alexandria Commission for the Arts

**ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS**

REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

Lee Center – 7:00 pm

| Motion Made By: | Motion Seconded By: | Vote Count |
|---|---|---|
| Catherine | Trena | Yes: 12<br>No: Ø<br>Abstain: Ø |

**ACA Motion**

**Agenda Item #:**

**Motion:**

approve the ACA annual report with edits as discussed.

Attachment 3

ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS

**City of Alexandria**
**Alexandria Commission for the Arts**
**Annual Report**
**Fiscal Year 2026**
**July 2025 – June 2026**

The Alexandria Commission for the Arts is pleased to present its Annual Report for FY 2026. While our full scope of public art initiatives is detailed below, **the stand-out highlight of the year** was a remarkable increase in national interest in our public project announcements. Receiving increased submissions from artists across the country reinforces a clear message: Alexandria has become a compelling destination where creative professionals actively want to make their mark and be a part of our vibrant artistic community.

The Arts Commission provides leadership in developing a vibrant and sustainable arts community that engages audiences. It also encourages support and appreciation for the arts as a cornerstone of Alexandria's identity and cultural, social, and economic vitality.

The role of the Arts Commission is established by City ordinance (Article K, Sec. 2-4-91) and is as follows:

1. Advise Alexandria City Council with regard to policies that will strengthen the arts and further public access to the arts and cultural matters identified by the City Council;

2. Establish and periodically review criteria and standards for arts grant applications for city funds and accountability for the use of such funds;

3. Allocate from such funds to eligible organizations and activities as may be appropriated by the City Council for such purpose;

4. Review the public art annual work plan as developed by the office of the arts and a work plan task force and make recommendations to the city council as part of the budget process;

5. Review and approve public art project plans for specific public art projects, and to review and approve artist selection and concept development;

6. Create committees and task forces, as necessary, to focus on public art project development and artist selection;

7. Review proposals for donations of public art and commemorative art and make recommendations to the City Council;

8. Collaborate with the Alexandria Office of the Arts on public art project evaluations;

9. Support public communication and outreach as related to the arts; and,

10. Serve as citizen liaisons to City planning initiatives when public art is involved.

For FY 2026, the Arts Commission, which meets on the third Tuesday at 7 pm monthly, included the following members:

Scott Abeles, Public at Large/Arts Consumer
Anila Angjeli, Professional in Cityscape/Architecture
Alvah Beander, Expertise in Visual Arts
Anne Evenhaugen, Public at Large/Arts Consumer
Stacey Becker, Professional in Arts/Cultural Development
Robin Jordan, Expertise in Visual Arts
Marcee Craighill, Professional in Field/Arts Disciplines*
Catherine Dehoney, Professional in Field/Arts Disciplines
Brian Kelley, Expertise in Visual Arts
Chris (William) Kurowski, Professional in Arts/Cultural Development
Jason Longfellow, Professional in Field/Arts Disciplines
Jillian Organek, Student Member
Paul Painter, Public at Large/Arts Consumer*
David Pritzker, Professional in Field/Arts Disciplines
Trena Raines, Professional in Cityscape/Architecture
Dawn Rogala, Professional in Field/Arts Disciplines
Lauren Miller, Professional in Field/Arts Disciplines
Tia Norris, Public at Large/Arts Consumer

The Executive Committee of the Arts Commission consisted of:

Brian Kelley, Chair
Paul Painter, 1st Vice Chair**
Trena Raines, 2nd Vice Chair
Catherine Dehoney, Secretary

*Denotes a Commissioner whose term ended, or otherwise left the Arts Commission, during FY 2026.
** This position has remained open since Paul resigned in December 2025 and ultimately passed away January 16, 2026.

The Arts Commission also received support and assistance from Diane Ruggiero, Meika Daus, and Cheryl Anne Colton of the Alexandria Office of the Arts.

## Summary Of Accomplishments

In furtherance of its mission, the Arts Commission completed the following activities during FY 2026:

- Maintained a quorum for all meetings from August 2025 to June 2026.
- Held regular meetings of the Executive Committee to set meeting agendas and priorities.
- Held the annual Arts Commissioners' offsite retreat where members established an Evergreen Calendar and formed two new working committees: Outreach and Advocacy.
- Reviewed 31 applications for the City's Annual Arts Program Grants for FY 2027 and approved a funding scenario that awarded a total of $275,451. Thirty-one applicants received funding.
- Hosted the following speakers at regular Arts Commission meetings:
    - Mayor Alyia Gaskins, who presented her Initiative Art in Every Space
    - Josh Heit, President of the Alexandria Arts Alliance
    - Stuart Holt, ArtsFairfax President & CEO
    - Jill Ray, Chair, Alexandria Film Festival
    - Cristi Donoso, Alexandria Poet Laureate
- The Arts Commission, Alexandria Arts Alliance, and Alexandria's Office of the Arts together developed a robust space and venue database for Alexandria Artists.
- Attended and took part in arts and cultural activities and events throughout the city such as, the opening of Site See: Now or Never at Waterfront Park, the opening of 00:10:00 (The Declaration of Independence) by Sandy Williams IV for the Time and Place temporary installation celebrating the nation's semi-quincentennial, marched in the Scottish Walk Parade, approved the move of the City Hall Market Square statue entitled BRIO to Wythe Street Park in Old Town North, approved deaccession of "Dog Fountain" Hands to Artist Buster Simpson, created a city-wide call for mural artists to develop a roster envisioned to be a fast-acting artist selection and the ability to work on multiple sites within the city, and attended multiple arts events by arts organizations supported by city grants.
- Supported the Croatia Cultural and Soccer Festival at Waterfront Park, where Arts Commissioner Chair Brian Kelley provided opening remarks.
- Attended the official opening of the Alexandria Film Festival at the Atheneum where Arts Commissioner Chair Brian Kelley provided opening remarks. The Alexandria Film Festival is funded in part by the City Alexandria's Arts Program Grants
- Coordinated City Council coffee meetings between Arts Commissioners Brian Kelley and Anne Evenhaugen and Mayor Alyia Gaskins to discuss arts-related issues in the City.
- Arts Commissioner Chair Brian Kelley met with the Sister Cities Commission and the Alexandria Beautification Commission to explore cross-commission art initiatives and citywide collaboration projects.

## Alexandria Commission for the Arts Committees

The Arts Commission oversaw the activities of two committees that are under the guidance of the Arts Commission.

### City Council Committee

The City Council Committee helps members of the Arts Commission maintain regular communication with City Council on important arts topics in the City of Alexandria.

Arts Commissioner Dawn Rogala currently chairs the Committee. The City Council Committee keeps commissioners updated on the Alexandria City Council meeting calendar, assists commissioners with questions about City Council meeting attendance and individual letter writing, and communicates with commissioners regarding advocacy opportunities that align with the city's annual budget, grant, and small plan development schedule.

### Nominating Committee

Arts Commissioners Jason Longfellow and Scott Abeles served on the Nominating Committee. This committee contacted commissioners regarding serving on the Executive Committee and presented a slate of candidates for the Executive Committee during the May regular meeting. The election for the Executive Committee was held in the June regular meeting. Upon announcing the slate, the Nominating Committee was disbanded and will be reformed next year. New Executive Officers for FY 2027 have been selected.

## Alexandria Commission for the Arts Task Forces

The Arts Commission appointed members to oversee the activities of one task force that is under the guidance of the Arts Commission.

### Grants Task Force

Arts Commissioners Stacey Becker and Anila Angjeli served on the FY 2027 Annual Arts Program Grants Task force along with three other administrators from outside the Arts Commission. The Grants Task Force reviewed and provided detailed commentary for 31 applications for FY 2027 grants and held a public meeting where each application was reviewed and discussed in detail. A total of $275,451 was awarded to 31 applicants. Each year, applicants are welcome to request a meeting to receive feedback on their application. The following organizations received funding for FY 2027:

Alexandria A Cappella Collective (Alexandria Harmonizers)
Alexandria Children's Chorus
Alexandria Choral Society
Alexandria Citizens Band
Alexandria Film Festival
Alexandria Singers
Alexandria Symphony Orchestra
Armed Services Arts Partnership
Campagna Center

Chamber Dance Project
Del Ray Artisans
Eclipse Chamber Orchestra
Encore Creativity for Older Adults
Encore Stage and Studio
Ethiopian Community Support and Advocacy
Heard
Little Theatre of Alexandria
MetroStage
Momentum Collective, Inc.
Monumental Theatre Company
Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association
QuinTango
Sound Impact
Symphony Orchestra of Northern Virginia
The Art League
The Thirteen Choir
UpCycle Creative Reuse Center
Virginia Opera
Washington Men's Camerata
Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Orchestra
Young Playwrights Theater

## City of Alexandria Public Art Task Forces

To support public art in Alexandria, Arts Commissioners served on numerous public arts task forces along with community members and stakeholders. The purpose of the public art task forces is to help set goals for the project, support community engagement, recommend an artist, and review and approve concept designs. In FY 2026, Arts Commissioners served on the following task forces:

Ewald Park Task Force

Arts Commission Members: Brian Kelley, Trena Raines
Community Members: Natalie Brown, Asa Orrin-Brown, Judy Lo, and Qiaojue Wu.
Project Scope: Commission permanent and temporary public art to be integrated into the planned renovations.
Current Status: Artist UrbanRock Design has been selected and next step is developing and approving the contract.

Market Square/City Hall Task Force

Arts Commission Members: Alvah Beander, Scott Abeles
Community Members: Jenine Kotob, Laurie Axelrod, Candace Edgerley, and representative from Leo A. Daley
Project Scope: Commission new, permanent public art to be integrated into the newly designed Market Square and City Hall in Old Town.
Current Status: The task force has interviewed their selected artist from the developing artist pool and will bring their recommendation to the Arts Commission in July starting the 2027 FY.

North Circle Park Task Force

Arts Commission Members: Dawn Rogala, Stacey Becker
Community Members: Tristann Wright, Robert Arzola, Ana Vicinanzo
Project Scope: Commission an artist to join the park design team and design public art for North Circle Park (Eisenhower Avenue).
Current Status: Artist DeWitt Godfrey concept design has been completed and approved. Staff working with appropriate departments and divisions to determine when the site is refurbished to allow for the artwork to be installed.

North Potomac Yard Park Task Force

Arts Commission Members: Stacey Becker, David Pritzker
Community Members: Ben Knapp, Sarah Pascual, Carly Snyder, Christopher Potter, Daniel Unkel
Project Scope: Commission permanent public art for the new park in Alexandria's section of National Landing adjacent to Virginia Tech's Innovation Campus.
Current Status: Artists Jim Benedict & Lily Kuonen have been selected. In process of approving the contract.

Powhatan Park Task Force

Arts Commission Members: Catherine Dehoney, Alvah Beander
Community Members: Sara Kohn, Debi Steinbacher, and Daniel Unkel
Project Scope: Commission permanent public art to be integrated into the park.
Current Status: Artist David Prete selected and is in process of developing and approving contract.

Site/See (Public Art at the Waterfront) Task Force for 2027

Arts Commission Members: Chris Kurowski and Dawn Rogala
Community Members: Claire Mouledoux, Clint Mansell, Jack Browand, Nicole McGrew
Project Scope: Commission new, temporary, site-specific public art for Waterfront Park at the foot of King Street for 2027.
Current Status: Artist selection to be determined and presented to Arts Commission July FY 2027.

West End Transitway Public Art Task Force

Arts Commission Members: Brian Kelley and Trena Raines
Community Members: Gus Ardura, Donna Fossum, Reginald Arno, Christopher Zeimann
Project Scope: Work with Alexandria Transportation & Environmental Services to integrate new public art into the West End Transitway stations.
Current Status: The selected artists Matthew Geller, Cara Lynch, Nancy O'Neil, Shahin Talishkhan and Robert Tully continue to work with the staff and design team to complete their final designs.

Wilkes Street Park Public Art Task Force

Arts Commission Members: Chris Kurowski and Marcee Craighill.
Community Members: Ana Vicinanzo, Sydney Strickland, Tanya Quinteros
Project Scope: Commission permanent public art for the redesigned park.
Current Status: Artist Eto Otitigbe has been selected and is developing the concept proposal. Construction has begun on the site, and staff has met with Planning and Zoning to learn more about the construction schedule.

City-wide Murals

Arts Commission Members: David Pritsker and Brian Kelley
Community Members: Saya Behnam, Dereth Bush, Allison Nance
Project Scope: Develop a roster of mural artists to be considered for various projects over the next three years.
Current Status: The task force is reviewing the submitted applications and will bring their recommendations to the Commission in September FY 2027.

Ramsey Rec Center Mural

Arts Commission Members: Tia Norris—Towler and Lauren Miller
Community Members: Lucresha Murphy-Tate, Laura Durham, Dan Altman, Shawnta Driver, Ismenia Molina
Project Scope: Create and install a new mural at the Ramsey Recreation Center..
Current Status: The task force reviewed the submitted concepts by the selected artists and will bring their recommendation to the Arts Commission July FY 2027.

Del Pepper Community Resource Center Task Force

Arts Commission Members: Brian Kelley, Chris Kurowski
Project Scope: Commission an original work of public art for the main lobby and adjoining wings of the Center.
Current Status: This project is on hold temporarily while staff work to review the scope of the project.

## Completed Task Force & Other Projects

Site/See (Public Art at the Waterfront) - The Site See 2026 "Now or Never" by artist Alicia Eggert was **completed** in FY 2026.
Art Commission Members: Marcee Craighill, Paul Painter
Community Members: Clint Mansel, Claire Mouledoux, Jack Browand, Nicole McGrew

Time & Place America's 250th Commemoration titled "For Time and Place 2026"

Arts Commission Members: Jason Longfellow and Robin Jordan
Community Members: Katherine Glennon, Turner Houston, Linda Powell, Melanie Gonzalez, and Michele Longo
Project Scope: Commission public art projects that foster exploration and dialogue about our region's history and its continued reverberations within our community today specifically tied to the nation's 250th anniversary in 2026.
Current Status: **Completed.** Artist Sandy Williams IV selected and artist concept approved. The opening celebration was April 25th.

See Public Art in Alexandria | City of Alexandria, VA for the most up to date information on all public arts projects.

## Alexandria Commission for the Arts Liaisons to Other Commissions and Organization

Alexandria Waterfront Commission

Arts Commissioner Robin Jordan served as the Arts Commission's liaison to the Alexandria Waterfront Commission. She regularly attended the Waterfront Commission's meetings and advocated for arts-related issues and provided detailed reports of the Waterfront Commission's meetings to the Arts Commission.

Alexandria Arts Alliance

Arts Commissioner Stacey Becker served as liaison to the Alexandria Arts Alliance, a nonprofit coalition of arts organizations that works to advance the Arts in Alexandria. The Arts Commission and the Alliance joined forces to march in the FY 2026 Scottish Walk Parade. The event showcased the magnitude and important role the arts play in the city, as Alliance member organizations partnered with current and former Arts Commissioners – all wearing holiday themed garb, wearing their purple berets in unison and displaying arts organization banners.

## Conclusion

The Arts Commission looks forward to continuing its work to support a vibrant arts community in Alexandria in FY 2027.

## Attachments

1. Photos FY 2026.
2. Notable Letters to City Council
3. Arts Commission Meeting Attendance for FY 2026

**Attachment 1**
**Photographs FY 2026**








Arts Commissioners participate in the December 2025 (FY 2026) Scottish Walk Parade, walking in step with the Alexandria Arts Alliance and the Alexandria Citizens Band.



The Arts Commission December meeting in City Hall ahead of upcoming building renovations.





Arts Commissioners attended the opening of the Site See: “Now or Never”
by artist Alicia Eggert (standing in middle) at Waterfront Park




Commissioner Chair Brian Kelley (left) “It was a pleasure to MC the Flavors & Sounds of Croatia concert today at Waterfront Park, Alexandria. We had Muska Klapa Podvorje and Kola Club Marian, with special guests Croatian ambassador Pjer Simunovic, as well as City Manager Jim Parajon, Vice Mayor Sarah Bagley, and Councilmember Canek Aguirre. Go Team Croatia!"



Arts Commissioners attended the joint concert American Voices with the Alexandria Choral Society and the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial March 8, 2026, celebrating American musical storytelling ahead of the nation's 250th anniversary. This event is funded in part by Alexandria Program Grants. Photo by Stacey Becker.






Arts Commissioner Chair Brian Kelley delivered remarks at the opening reception of the Alexandria Film Festival. Several Commissioners were in attendance. The Alexandria Film Festival is funded in part by the Alexandria Program Grants.



Commissioners brainstorming at Annual Retreat in FY 2026.
Mount Vernon Recreation Center




Time & Place 250 opening celebration April 25th.

## Attachment 2
## Notable Letters to City Council from the Arts Commission for the Arts for FY 2026

Alexandria Commission for the Arts
Brian Kelley, Chair
Alexandria, Virginia

October 31, 2025

Mayor Alyia Gaskins and City Council
Re: Budget Recommendations

Dear Mayor Gaskins and City Council,

The Commission for the Arts would first like to thank Council for their continued support of the arts. As you will recall from our Annual Report last month, we are working continually with new commissions and grants for public art installations, concerts, and events that contribute to the collective well-being of a more vital and inclusive Alexandria. For FY 2026, we awarded a total of $233,295 to 27 organizations for Program Grants. These organizations serve all of Alexandria. Some grantees, such as the Armed Services Arts Partnership, Encore Creativity for Older Adults, Heard, Helping Hearts Through the Arts, and The Campagna Center have programming that focuses on groups that otherwise might have significantly less access to the arts.

We are also proud of our work on commissioned artworks. This includes Nekisha Durrett's "Break Water" for Site See 2025 in Waterfront Park, Dee Dwyer's Time & Place 275 at Market Square, Chalk Riot's Warwick Village Street Mural; all recent works. In the upcoming year, we look forward to a new work by Alicia Eggert ("Now or Never") for Site See 2026 and Sandy Williams IV for Time & Place 250th. We have additional projects ongoing at the Ewald Park, Market Square/City Hall, North Circle Park, North Potomac Yard Park, Powhatan Park, the West End Transitway, Wilkes Street Park, and the Del Pepper Community Resources Center. It is a very exciting time for public art in Alexandria, and these works are truly going to all corners of the city.

Public art creates a sense of community and belonging. I was reminded of this while at the Alexandria Beautification's 2025 Awards Ceremony this month. In some cases, even an extremely narrow strip of a resident's Old Town garden was enough to bring neighbors together. In other cases, it was murals such as those at the Linder Academy or our Torpedo Factory Art Center Loading Door Mural. Of course, not every Alexandrian has a residence in which they can garden, and privately commissioned murals may not always be designed for everyone. This is our responsibility. Our responsibility as the Alexandria government with taxpayer funds to ensure that the arts, its enrichment and rewards, are made for all Alexandrians.

[continued on next page]

We realize that the Office of the Arts is currently being asked to reduce its budget by 1% and that money is tight. As I write, we are also in a federal government shutdown, and the larger Alexandria workforce of government employees are experiencing financial and professional stress. The arts share a similar predicament today. As you make the tough choices of this budget, I ask that you consider the value of funding the arts.

Sincerely,



Brian Kelley, Chair
Alexandria Commission for the Arts

cc: Alexandria Commission for the Arts members
Emily Baker, Deputy City Manager
Hashim Taylor, Director, Recreation Parks & Culture Activities
Diane Ruggerio, Deputy Director, Office of the Arts

**To:** City of Alexandria Mayor and City Council Members

**Quarterly Memo from the Alexandria Commission for the Arts (ACA) — 2026 Q2**

In order to uphold the functions, powers, and duties of the ACA as designated by the City of Alexandria, the ACA Executive Committee respectfully presents this memo to assist us in keeping Councilmembers informed of significant ACA achievements, needs, and interests.

**Points of Interest for 2026 Q2:**

Achievements:

1. The May 19, 2026 regular Commission meeting was primarily devoted to reviewing and approving a recommended funding scenario for the Fiscal Year 2027 Annual Arts Program grants. The Grant Task Force Public Meeting to discuss individual application was held on May 11. The City of Alexandria Office of the Arts received 31 eligible applications for FY2027 with requests totaling $338,064. The baseline grant funding for FY2027 was $245,000 ($4,500 of this is from the Virginia Commission for the Arts Creative Community Partnership Grant) and with an additional $30,000 funding included during the City's Add/Delete process, the total was increased to $275,000. This increase allowed the Commission to vote in favor of a funding scenario that allowed distribution of some level of funding to all 31 grant applicants. As in previous years, this year's applicant pool remained strongly focused on ALX organizations and ALX artists, with programs that remained focused on serving ALX residents. (26 organizations were awarded funding in FY2026 from a pool of $245,000; 27 grant applicants received funding in FY2025 from a pool of $245,000.)
2. This spring, artists Alicia Eggert (Site See 2026, Waterfront Park) and Sandy Williams IV (Time and Place 250) installed and debuted works of public art in Old Town. At the April 21, 2026 meeting, the Commission approved a task force recommendation of Matthew Mazzotta as the artist for Site See to coincide with Waterfront flood mitigation construction. At the June 16, 2026 meeting, the Commission approved a task force recommendation of Davide Crete of Tacoma Park, MD as the artist for the public art project at Powhatan Park, and the Commission approved a task force recommendation of UrbanRockDesign (Jeanine Centouri and Russell Rock) as the artist team for the public art project at Ewald Park.
3. There are currently six active public art projects in the City in various stages of completion; four additional planned projects. At the April 21, 2026 meeting, the Commission formed the Citywide Public Murals Task Force, which is creating the City's first pre-qualified artists list. The open call for interested artists is open until June 30th and it is anticipated that the initial pool of artists will be tapped for a short list of potential candidates for the Mayor's requested expedited mural project at William Ramsay Recreation Center.

Appreciation:

1. The Alexandria Commission for the Arts would like to express our sincere appreciation for the City Council's response for our calls for additional grant funds, including the first cost-of-living increase in 11 years obtained for FY2025. Thank you for advocating and championing this funding increase. Thank you for helping to close the gap between funding requests from our arts organizations and what we are able to provide to the City's arts community through the Annual Arts Program grants.
2. The Commission would like thank and acknowledge the Office of the Arts staff for all the work they do to make this public art and grants possible. Their expertise and dedication allow Alexandrians to have access to taxpayer-funded art and culture.
    a. Several present and recent public artists in Alexandria have been recognized in the *CODAreview 2025: The Power of Public Art*. DeWitt Godfrey, who we commissioned for South and North Circle

Park is #24/50 in the Top 50 Public Art Stars List. Matthew Mazzotta (Site See artist) was also featured in this issue.

3. The City of Alexandria Office of the Arts has been selected by Bloomberg and Data Arts as one of the 10 city arts agencies in the country to participate in a multi-year program that supports city arts agencies in enhancing their grant-making data practices to maximize impact. Arts data can serve as a valuable resource for city arts agencies, helping them respond to evolving cultural conditions, informing strategies to enhance equitable access, and advocating for increased investment.
4. The Commission plans on producing quarterly memos for Council, as well as continuing Council Coffees.

A reminder of ACA functions as laid out by the City of Alexandria:

1. to advise City Council with regard to policies that will strengthen the arts and further public access to the arts and cultural matters identified by the City Council;
2. to establish and periodically review criteria and standards for arts grant applications for city funds and accountability for the use of such funds; the allocation from such funds to eligible organizations and activities as may be appropriated by the city council for such purpose;
3. to review the public art annual work plan as developed by the office of the arts and a work plan task force and make recommendations to the City Council as part of the budget process;
4. to review and approve public art project plans for specific public art projects, and to review and approve artist selection and concept development;
5. to create committees and task forces, as necessary, to focus on public art project development and artist selection;
6. to review proposals for donations of public art and commemorative art and make recommendations to the City Council;
7. to collaborate with the office of the arts on public art project evaluations; and
8. to support public communication and outreach as related to the arts and;
9. to serve as citizen liaisons to city planning initiatives when public art is involved.

Submitted with our continued thanks for the work of the Mayor and City Council members to keep the arts thriving in our city,

Brian Kelley

Brian Kelley, June 29, 2026
Chair, Commission for the Arts

**Attachment 3**

## Alexandria Commission for the Arts

Attendance Roster: FY26 (July, 2025 – June, 2026)

The Commission for the Arts did not meet in July, 2025.

| Commissioner | 7/15/25 | 8/19/25 | 9/16/25 | 10/21/25 | 11/18/25 | 12/16/25 | 1/20/26 | 2/17/26 | 3/17/26 | 4/21/26 | 5/19/26 | 6/16/26 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Scott Abeles | | P | EA | P | P | P | P | P | EA | P | P | P |
| Anila Angjeli | | EA | P | P | P | P | P | P | P | P | P | P |
| Alvah Beander | | P | P | P | P | P | P | P | P | P | EA | P |
| Stacey Becker | | P | P | P | P | P | P | P | P | P | P | P |
| Marcee Craighill | | P | P | P | P | V | EA | A | | | | |
| Catherine Dehoney | | P | P | P | P | P | P | P | P | P | P | V |
| Anne Evenhaugen | | | | | | | | P | P | P | P | EA |
| Robin Jordan | | P | P | P | P | P | P | P | A | P | P | P |
| Brian Kelley | | P | P | P | P | P | P | P | P | P | P | P |
| William Kurowski | | EA | EA | V | P | P | EA | P | EA | P | P | EA |
| Jason Longfellow | | P | P | P | P | V | P | P | P | P | EA | P |
| Lauren Miller | | | | | | | | | | | P | P |
| Tia Norris-Towler | | | | P | P | P | V | P | P | P | EA | P |
| Jillian Organek | | EA | P | P | P | EA | P | P | P | P | P | EA |
| Paul Painter | | P | P | P | P | | | | | | | |
| David Pritzker | | P | P | P | P | EA | P | P | P | EA | P | P |
| Trena Raines | | P | V | EA | P | P | V | P | P | P | P | P |
| Dawn Rogala | | EA | P | V | P | P | A | P | P | P | EA | P |

P = Present
A = Absent
EA = Excused Absence
V = Present – Attended Virtually

**ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS**

REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

Lee Center – 7:00 pm

| Motion Made By: | Motion Seconded By: | Vote Count |
|---|---|---|
| David | Dawn | Yes: 12<br>No: ~~0~~<br>Abstain: ~~0~~ |

**ACA Motion**

**Agenda Item #:**

**Motion:**

approve the mural roster as presented in the staff memo and recommended by the task force.

Attachment 4

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** SEPTEMBER 15, 2026
**TO:** ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS
**FROM:** MEIKA DAUS, PUBLIC ART SENIOR MANAGER, OFFICE OF THE ARTS MD
**RE:** MURAL ARTIST ROSTER: ARTIST LIST

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**Request:** The City of Alexandria Public Art Program is requesting approval of the task force's recommendations for the City's first pre-qualified artist list for murals or Mural Artist Roster.

**Background**

The Public Art Program anticipates having multiple mural opportunities over the next three years and believes a prequalified list could appropriately streamline the City's artist selection process for commissioning murals.

As outlined in the Public Art Implementation Plan, the Office of the Arts can establish a pre-qualified artist list for City projects. The list can include national, regional and/or local artists. An ad hoc Task Force should be organized to review the call and criteria for artist selection, review artist submissions and make recommendations as to which artists should be added to the pre-qualified list. Once selected, artists should be kept on the eligibility list for three years before they need to re-apply.

In April 2026, the Arts Commission approved the Task Force that would support the development of the pre-qualified artist list for murals. The Task Force includes David Pritzker, Brian Kelley, Saya Behnam, Dereth Bush, and Allison Nance.

In May 2026, the Arts Commission approved a framework for the pre-qualified artist list. This list is being created to:

- Help strengthen the sense of community and enrich the quality of life of all Alexandrians by facilitating high quality and varied mural projects across the city.
- Support public art and placemaking initiatives across the City of Alexandria.
- Streamline the process and timelines for artist selections, which will benefit artists, agencies, and partners working on mural projects across the city.
- Foster opportunities for local creative talent.

Muralists are being sought to complete projects in the following general areas:

- Developing murals at a variety of project scales and methods that are reflective of a neighborhood's identity and celebrates the culture, spirit and/or history of the area.
- Using asphalt art to elevate the importance of transportation safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists.
- Integrating ground murals on sport courts, paving, or hardscape during scheduled park renovations or maintenance projects.
- Improving the appearance outside or inside city facilities, including recreational centers.
- Working with community groups and/or youth to develop and/or implement mural concepts.
- Working with developers to integrate wall murals into new projects, including multi-story development proposals.

In June 2026, a regional artist call was posted on an online application system (CaFE – callforentry.org) for artists interested in joining the roster. The artist call was open to all artists/muralists living in Virginia, Maryland, Washington D.C., West Virginia, or Pennsylvania. Experienced and emerging muralists living in the City of Alexandria were especially encouraged to apply. Thirty-eight (38) applications were submitted in response to the call. Those applications were reviewed and scored individually by each public art task force member. Follow-up meetings were held on September 3rd to build consensus around the selections. The Task Force recommends 22 artists for the roster.

The artists included in the Task Force recommendation include professional muralists as well as emerging muralists. The listed artists work at a variety of scales and budgets. Some artists submitted applications on behalf of their team or professional studio. The list as a whole is intended to respond to a variety of mural opportunities in the City, including interior murals, street and sport court murals, and potentially large-developer commissioned projects, among others.

**Task Force Recommended Mural Artist Roster**

1. **Amy Ahrens** (Middletown, MD)
2. **Brandon Hill** (Washington, DC)
3. **Breana Field** (Charlottesville, VA)
4. **Brianna Camp** (Fairfax, VA)
5. **Bryane Broadie** (Glenarden, MD)
6. **Camila Leao Lopes** (Baltimore, MD)\
7. **Chelsea Ritter-Soronen** (Washington, DC)
8. **David Barr** (Falls Church, VA)
9. **Eric B Ricks** (Montgomery Village, MD)
10. **Eric Dolgas** (Fairfax, VA)
11. **Graham Coreil-Allen** (Baltimore, MD)
12. **Jessie Unterhalter** (Baltimore, MD)
13. **Joel Bergner** (Washington DC)
14. **Keir Johnston** (Philadelphia, PA)
15. **Marcella Verchio** (Washington, DC)
16. **Patrick Kirwin** (Arlington, VA)
17. **Paul Santoleri** (Philadelphia, PA)
18. **Rose Jaffe** (Hyattsville, MD)
19. **Tammy Barnes** (Washington, DC)
20. **Tyler Kauffman** (Keezletown, VA)
21. **Veronica Barker-Barzel*** (Alexandria, VA)
22. **Wesley Clark** (Hyattsville, MD)

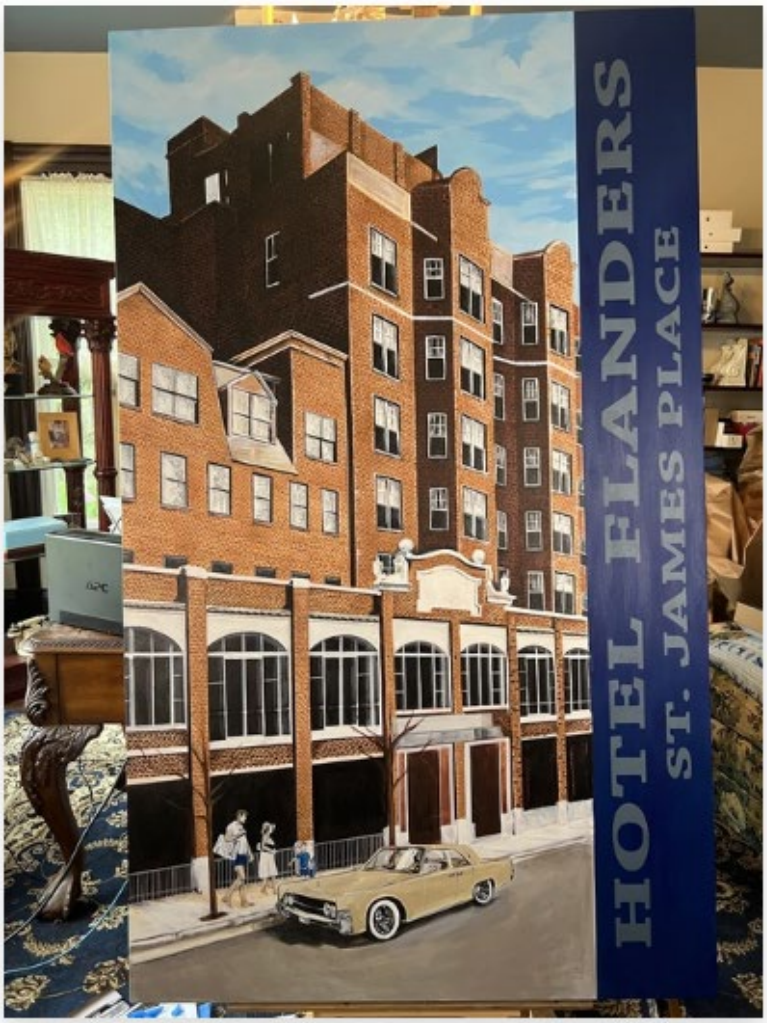
**Self-identified as an emerging muralist.*

**Staff Recommendation:** Approval of the Task Force recommended Mural Artist Roster.

**Attachments**
Work Samples (All Images Courtesy of the Artists)
Approved Framework for Pre-Qualified Artist List for Murals

**Amy Ahrens** (Middletown, MD)

https://ahrensgraphicdesign.com




**Atlantic City 60's Childhood Memories - (Left Panel 1 of 3)**

Acrylic on Canvas

6' x 43" x 2.5"

Artwork for Sale: No

$0.00

2026

Painting

Art in Public Places: No

*To be COMPLETED JULY 2026. Currently in progress artwork. Final will be posted upon completion. This is the left panel of a 3 part mural commission on canvas. Left Panel 1 of 3. When Completed the 3 panels will be installed on wall in Frederick, MD and will total 15 ft wide x 6 ft height.*

**Brandon Hill** (Washington, DC)

https://brandon-hill.art



**FloraFlora**

Aerosol, Acrylic on Brick Wall

250’ x 25’ x .05"

Artwork for Sale: Yes

$102,000.00

2026

Mural

Art in Public Places: Yes

Location: Pike and Rose area ( Bethesda )

Public Art Program: NA - Private Commision

**Breana Field** (Charlottesville, VA)

https://www.bravecollaborative.com




**Hope**
house paint
10' x 14' x 0"
Artwork for Sale: No
$5,000.00
2023
Mural
Art in Public Places: Yes
Location: Skyline High School, Front Royal, Virginia
Public Art Program:
*This piece was donated to Skyline high school in honor of mental health awareness, following multiple teen suicides. I ran the project , orchestrating other artists and affected teens to complete the mural, with added community support for meals and uplifting morale.*

**Brianna Camp** (Fairfax, VA)

https://briannacamp.com




**Viam (Detail)**

Exterior masonry paint and acrylic on brick

12' x 40' x 0'

Artwork for Sale: No

$0.00

2022

Mural

Art in Public Places: Yes

Location: Laurel Ridge Elementary School - Fairfax, VA

Public Art Program:

*This mural was a collaboration with the sixth-grade class at Laurel Ridge Elementary School in Fairfax, VA, created in the school's courtyard, near the pollinator garden. The project was created in memory of Viam, a student from their graduating class.*

**Bryane Broadie** (Glenarden, MD)

https://www.bbroadie.com



**Spiritual Alignment Mural**
Painted Mural
72' x 65' x 1"
Artwork for Sale: No
$0.00
2023
Mural
Art in Public Places: Yes
Location: Takoma Park, MD
Public Art Program:
*Mural wall in Tacoma Park, MD*

**Camila Leao Lopes** (Baltimore, MD)

https://camilaleao.art




**Wild Wonders Mural**

Brick Wall

12.5' x 46' x 0'

Artwork for Sale: No

$0.00

2024

Public Art

Art in Public Places: Yes

Location: The Alley Center. Ponca City, OK,

Public Art Program: Sunny Dayz Mural Festival

*Mural designed & painted with Ayesha Rana at The Alley, as an initiative for Sunny Dayz Mural Festival. The first-of-its-kind in Oklahoma, Sunny Dayz Mural Festival exists to empower, elevate, and celebrate women and gender minority artists through the creation and advocacy of public art.*

**Chelsea Ritter-Soronen** (Washington, DC)

www.groundshift.studio




**Alma's Corner**
Paving paint on asphalt
8' x 60' x 0'
Artwork for Sale: No
$9,000.00
2021
Mural
Art in Public Places: Yes
Location: Washington DC
Public Art Program: Color the Curb from DDOT
*Diagonally across the street from this curb extension sits the lifelong home of venerable DC artist Alma Thomas. This design honors her career and life's work while helping to slow traffic. Part of a pilot program.*

**David Barr** (Falls Church, VA)

https://www.barrart.com




**Nova Labs**

vinyl installation

20' x 58' x 0"

Artwork for Sale: No

$0.00

2024

Art in Public Places: No

*The Nova Labs Makers Mural features tools and concepts reflective of the makers who are part of the Nova Labs community and the joy of making. Playing to the rhythmic sequence of the building panels, this graphic concept uses pops of bold color layered with silhouetted maker-inspired illustrations t*

**Eric B Ricks** (Montgomery Village, MD)

https://www.phoenixart.design.com



**Nourishing and flourishing with delight**

Acrylic

37' x 58' x 0"

Artwork for Sale: Yes

$17,000.00

2019

Mural

Art in Public Places: Yes

Location: The Maya Angelou learning center

Public Art Program: Murals DC

*This project pays homage to the school namesake a matriarch that feeds the mind.*

**Eric Dolgas** (Fairfax, VA)

https://www.emoneyoriginals.com/mural-portfolio




**E$ Was Here District Fray Cover**

Exterior Paint & Primer

10' x 84' x 0"

Artwork for Sale: No

$0.00

2022

Mural

Art in Public Places: Yes

Location: Alethia Tanner Park DC

Public Art Program: DC Walls

*Mural completed for DC Walls in 2022.*

**Graham Coreil-Allen** (Baltimore, MD)

https://grahamprojects.com



**Remingtopo**

StreetBond 150 pavement coating

8' x 150' x 140'

Artwork for Sale: No

$0.00

2022

Public Art

Art in Public Places: Yes

Location: 27th Street and Remington Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21211

Public Art Program: Greater Remington Improvement Association

*Remingtopo is a topographically-inspired traffic calming pavement art project enhancing pedestrian safety and creating outdoor space for community gatherings and small business events in the Remington Neighborhood of Baltimore, Maryland.*

**Jessie Unterhalter** (Baltimore, MD)

https://jessieandkatey.com



**Chromatic Portal**
Latex Paint
25’ x 80’ x 5’
Artwork for Sale: No
$50,000.00
2023
Mural
Art in Public Places: Yes
Location: Atlanta, GA
Public Art Program: Living Walls
*This mural was designed to seamlessly integrate with its surroundings, incorporating an oversized bench that the artwork extends over and spills onto the floor, creating an immersive, dynamic experience.*

**Joel Bergner** (Washington DC)

https://joelartista.com



**Our Dreams Take Flight**
Acrylic and aerosol
70' x 16' x 0"
Artwork for Sale: No
$55,000.00
2025
Mural
Art in Public Places: Yes
Location: Silver Spring, Maryland
Public Art Program: WxIIspace, Enterprise Community Development
*Diverse community members mingle with plant life, and a boy opens a book to unleash hot air balloons that rise up, interacting with the characters. These balloons were painted offsite on Polytab cloth by local 5th graders working with Joel, who then glued them onto the mural.*

**Keir Johnston** (Philadelphia, PA)

https://amberartanddesign.com



**Tanner G Duckrey Schoolyard**

Asphalt Mural Paint and Acrylic Paints, Metal Paints

84' x 50' x 0'

Artwork for Sale: No

$106,000.00

2025

Public Art

Art in Public Places: Yes

Location: Tanner G Duckrey Schoolyard, Philadelphia, PA

Public Art Program: Big Sandbox

*Painted basketball courts and shipping containers as part of the schoolyard beautification process. 9200sq feet across 2 Basketball Courts (50' x 84' per court) and 2 shipping container Snack Bars (each 20' x 8' x 8')*

**Marcella Verchio** (Washington, DC)

https://marcellaverchio.com



**DC Walls Mural Festival**

Exterior Paint and Spray Paint on Exterior Wall

20' x 45' x 0"

Artwork for Sale: No

$0.00

2024

Mural

Art in Public Places: Yes

Location: Washington, DC

Public Art Program: DC Walls Mural Festival

*DCWalls is a week-long mural festival that invites artists internationally and locally to transform walls in the city. This year's collaborator was NASA. "The cosmos is within us. We are made of star-stuff. We are a way for the universe to know itself" a quote by Carl Sagan inspired this desig*

**Patrick Kirwin** (Arlington, VA)

https://patrickkirwin.com



**2 Waves**
Sher Cryl on masonry
24' x 0' x 48'
Artwork for Sale: No
$12,000.00
2022
Painting
Art in Public Places: Yes
Location: 13th Place and Constitution Avenue, NE, W., DC.
Public Art Program: none
*Client wanted the "Great Wave" painted on their house. There was enough room to put two waves on and to add something reasonable to make it different from the original.*

**Paul Santoleri** (Philadelphia, PA)

https://www.paulsantoleri.com



THE WATCHER

acrylic on polyethylene on wall and iron stairs

25' x 40' x 6'

Artwork for Sale: Yes

$20,000.00

2019

Mural

Art in Public Places: Yes

Location: Summit, NJ

Public Art Program: SUMMIT PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

*three story mural on varying wall height and width on the back of a bank in Summit NJ, visible upon entering the city by train, one stop away from manhattan by rail, the Heron sits calmly on a nest of chaos and looks on, an image based on my recently deceased father in the midst of a changing world*

**Rose Jaffe** (Hyattsville, MD)

https://www.rosejaffe.com



**Community Uplift**
Acrylic paint
25' x 45' x 0"
Artwork for Sale: No
$14,000.00
2024
Mural
Art in Public Places: Yes
Location: Lincoln Park Community Center in Rockville, MD
Public Art Program: VisArts

**Tammy Barnes** (Washington, DC)

https://www.tbarnescreates.com




**Biophilic DC**

Latex exterior paint on siding

14.5' x 213' x 0'

Artwork for Sale: No

$16,000.00

2025

Public Art

Art in Public Places: Yes

Location: 623 Howard Rd SE, Washington, DC

Public Art Program: Bridge District c/o Indie Walls

*A large-scale, 3-sided exterior mural that beautifies the construction management company trailer of a new neighborhood development called Bridge District. The design reflects how humans interact with biophilic architectural design, featuring native plants, insects, and wildlife; plus, corp. logo.*

**Tyler Kauffman** (Keezletown, VA)

https://tylerkauffman.art



**Billy Jack's Mural Full Image**

Montana Black Spray paint & 100 acrylic house paint

32' x 45' x .1"

Artwork for Sale: No

$40,000.00

2024

Mural

Art in Public Places: No

*"Space Cowboy", a mural painted in Harrisonburg, Virginia for Billy Jack's Wing Shack. Painted on a textured brick wall, including conduit and junction boxes. Inspired by objects decorating the inside of the restaurant. I used those objects and created a narrative for the exterior of the building.*

**Veronica Barker-Barzel** (Alexandria, VA)

https://torpedofactory.org/profile/barker-barzel_v



**Looking for "Home"**
Oil, mix media
30.5" x 22.5" x 1"
Artwork for Sale: Yes
$1,787.00
2025
Painting
Art in Public Places: No

**Wesley Clark** (Hyattsville, MD)

https://wesleyclarkart.com




**MacFarland Mural**
Acrylic paint, foam, epoxy
26' x 9' x 3"
Artwork for Sale: No
$50,000.00
2018
Public Art
Art in Public Places: Yes
Location: MacFarland Middle School, Washington, DC
Public Art Program: The Department of General Services
*The focus of this work is that hands are an integral part of the work for visual artists. The background is a page of a sketchbook, as a base for the work to connect the idea that many artists start with a plan and the limitless possibilities of what can be created.*

# PRE-QUALIFIED ARTIST LIST

## MURALS

Approved: May 19, 2026

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# I. Introduction

The City of Alexandria's Public Art Implementation Plan sets out a process for the commissioning of new public art. As outlined in the Public Art Implementation Plan, the Office of the Arts can establish a pre-qualified artist list for City projects. An ad hoc Task Force should be organized to review the call and criteria for artist selection, review artist submissions and make recommendations as to which artists should be added to the pre-qualified list.

The Office of the Arts Public Art Program anticipates having multiple mural opportunities over the next three years and a prequalified list will appropriately streamline the City's artist selection process for commissioning murals. The list will be used for interior and exterior wall murals and ground murals. Additionally, the list may be used for murals on private property, in instances when developers or business owners reach out to staff for recommended muralists.

# II. Purpose

The Alexandria Public Art Program is establishing a pre-qualified artist list for murals. This list is being created to:

- Help strengthen the sense of community and enrich the quality of life of all Alexandrians by facilitating high quality and varied mural projects across the city.
- Support public art and placemaking initiatives across the City of Alexandria.
- Streamline the process and timelines for artist selections, which will benefit artists, agencies, and partners working on mural projects across the city.
- Foster opportunities for local creative talent.

# III. Mural Project Types

Muralists are being sought to complete projects in the following general areas:

- Developing murals at a variety of project scales and methods that are reflective of a neighborhood's identity and celebrates the culture, spirit and/or history of the area.
- Using asphalt art to elevate the importance of transportation safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists.
- Integrating ground murals on sport courts, paving, or hardscape during scheduled park renovations or maintenance projects.
- Improving the appearance outside or inside city facilities, including recreational centers.
- Working with community groups and/or youth to develop and/or implement mural concepts.
- Working with developers to integrate wall murals in new projects, including multi-story development proposals.

# IV. How the List Will be Used

In accordance with the Public Art Implementation Plan, once selected, muralists will be kept on the eligibility list for three years before they need to re-apply. *The specific timeframe for the eligibility will be based on the date of the approval of the eligibility list by the Alexandria Commission for the Arts.*

Once an artist is selected for a project within the three-year term, they will be removed from the eligibility list for future city-commissioned projects in the same term.

The pre-qualified artist list will be used as a primary resource for the selection of muralists for City-commissioned projects. Inclusion on the list does not guarantee that an artist will be selected for a project.

## V. Eligibility

This pre-qualified artist list for muralists is open to: Independent Artists, and Artist-led teams, studios, or collectives. This is an opportunity for regional artists to submit their qualifications.

Eligible applicants:

- Must reside in Virginia, Maryland, Washington D.C., West Virginia, or Pennsylvania.
- Must produce or present unique and original artwork
- Must be the lead artist whose original work is included in the application.
- Must be 18 years of age or older and able to enter a contract with the City of Alexandria. Artists younger than 18 may be included in an artist team application.

## VI. Selection Process

An open call process will be used. This is a regional call open to all artists/muralists living in Virginia, Maryland, Washington D.C., West Virginia, or Pennsylvania. This call will be issued via an online application system (CaFE – callforentry.org) and applications will be accepted over a one-month period with exact dates to be determined between May and June 2026. Interested artists/artist teams are requested to complete an application and submit a letter indicating their project approach, qualifications, and work samples. Experienced and emerging muralists living in the City of Alexandria are especially encouraged to apply.

Applications must be submitted on CaFE to be considered by the posted deadline.

### Public Art Mural Task Force

A Public Art Task Force has been formed to help develop this pre-qualified artist list for muralists, as follows:

The two Commission for the Arts representatives on the Task Force are:

- David Pritzker
- Brian Kelley

The Community Stakeholders for the Task Force include:

- Dereth Bush
- Allison Nance

Project Stakeholders for the Task Force include:

- Saya Behnam

The Task Force will review the submitted applications, and make a recommendation to the Alexandria Commission for the Arts regarding the muralists that should be included on the pre-qualified list. The Alexandria Commission for the Arts will approve the artist selections for the pre-qualified list. Once approved, the list will remain valid for three years.

### Relationship to Future Public Art Task Forces for Murals

For each new City-commissioned mural project approved in the Public Art Annual Work Plan, the Commission for the Arts appoints a unique Public Art Project Task Force to advise on the entire project development process. The staff and the Public Art Project Task Force develop a Public Art Project Plan that sets out the project goals, artist selection process, budget, timeline, and communications strategy. Through the creation of the pre-qualified artist list, future public art task forces will have the ability to recommend direct selections or requests for proposals to streamline the artist selection process by the Arts Commission. In the event requests for proposals are desired prior to the selection of an artist for a specific project, Public Art Program staff may require or recommend that artists be paid a stipend for their design work.

The above-mentioned Mural Task Force members working on the pre-qualified artist list may have the opportunity to work on future task forces implementing individual mural projects.

## VII.Mural Project Scopes

The individual mural project scopes will vary based on the specific project being pursued. Selected artists will be provided specific scope and budget details as opportunities become available. Generally, the following will apply to most projects based on the City's established public art process:

- Murals should be painted on or applied to the wall or ground surface by the selected artist, or artist team. Community involvement in installation may be appropriate in some instances, when this is consistent with an artist's practice and aligns with the specific project goals.
- The design of the mural should be appropriate for and inspire all audiences.
- Artists will be required to apply an anti-graffiti coating to any painted exterior wall murals.
- Artists will be required to use durable materials and mediums that can withstand indoor or outdoor conditions, including weather, dust, and sunlight exposure; and provide information regarding the expected durability and maintenance requirements.
- Selected artists will be required to meet with the community prior to beginning mural installation, and the conversations may inform the final design.

## VIII. Application

The open call application should contain the following components. Specific language used in the online application is subject to modification by staff:

### Residency

This is a regional muralist call that has residency requirements. Additionally, the call will ask whether a muralist is a resident of the City of Alexandria, since there may be opportunities that target local or neighborhood artists.

### Biographical Statement (250-word limit)

Artists will be asked to: Describe your mural experience, especially with commissioned projects. Include your experience with community-based projects. Include any other information you would like to be considered. If no experience, enter None.

### Describe Your Practice/ Share what kinds of art you create and why you make these choices [Artist Statement] (250-word limit)

Artists will be asked to: Share what you make and why you make it. Describe the focus of your mural practice. You can share the materials you like to work with and the concepts, ideas, or experiences that inform your process in creating art.

### Artwork Samples

Applications will be required to submit a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 8 images.

### Budget

Artists will be asked if they have a minimum budget requirement. Staff anticipates that the individual project budgets will range from $10,000 to $75,000 for outdoor wall murals; $5,000-$15,000 for indoor wall murals, and $20,000-$75,000 for ground and street murals. Individual project budgets are based on project complexity, scope, and materials.

### Community Engagement

Artists will be asked to: Describe your experience leading community engagement activities in past public art projects; and how that community input informed the design. Please provide at least one specific example of activities or events you have facilitated. If no experience, enter None.

Additionally, artists may be asked to select community engagement methods they have used in the past from a provided list.

Staff is also interested in identifying artists who have or can conduct engagement in Spanish, Arabic, or Amharic.

### Familiarity with Alexandria (optional)

This is an optional response question asking artists to share any familiarity they have with Alexandria, its neighborhoods, history, or communities.

## IX. Panelist Review Criteria

The Mural Task Force will be asked to qualify artists in the following **general categories**:

Emerging
Professional
Community-Based Practices
Ground and Street
Multistory
Youth Engagement

The following eligibility criteria will be to evaluate applications:

- Artistic Excellence.
- Technical Expertise.
- Ability to achieve stated project goals.
- Connection to Alexandria, or a showing of the ability to connect to the community.

## X. Marketing and Communications

The open call will be placed on the City of Alexandria website and promoted on social media. All applications will be directed to CaFE(callforentry.org).

Community engagement, marketing, and communications should build upon the existing stakeholder base for art and tourism in Alexandria and include additional stakeholders. Additionally, specific communication about the mural call should go out to:

- Alexandria Arts Alliance
- Torpedo Factory Art Center
- Arts Fairfax
- Arlington Arts
- Art Business and Galleries
- Visit Alexandria

# OFFICE OF THE ARTS DIVISION SUMMARY

This summary is a brief narrative of activities and actions that have been taken since the previous Division Update. The Office of the Arts ACA Update is also shared with other Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities commissions and staff and becomes part of the monthly minutes for the Arts Commission. If you have any questions or require additional information/clarification, please review the following section(s) of this report or contact the appropriate staff in the Office of the Arts.

**Highlights**

- Everyone is invited to the "Where You Belong" launch party on Friday, September 18th at the William Ramsay Recreation Center (5650 Sanger Avenue) from 6:30pm – 8:00pm and meet artist Tammy Barnes whose mural is a signature element of the center's revitalization. Remarks will begin at 7pm.
- The new-ish electric Mobile Art Lab got a new wrap last week and it looks amazing! The Lab will be out a events starting next week but will have its official wrap unveiling at the 10th Annual Tons of Trucks on Saturday, September 26 at Chinquapin Park 10am – 2pm.

**Public Art At–A–Glance:**

| Public Art Project | Status |
|---|---|
| North Potomac Yard Park | Community Engagement |
| City Hall | Approving the Contract |
| Ewald Park | Community Engagement |
| Powhatan Park | Community Engagement |
| City-wide Murals | Developing the Artist Pool |
| Ramsey Rec Center Mural | Fabrication |
| Site See 202? | Approving the Contract |
| Market Square | Setting Project Goals & Parameters |
| North Circle Park | On Hold (artist concept completed) |
| West End Transitway | On Hold (artist concepts completed) |
| Wilkes Street Park | On Hold |
| Del Pepper Community Resource Center | On Hold |

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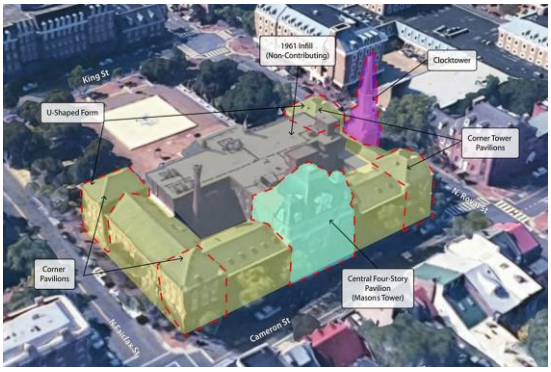
# PUBLIC ART PROJECTS

## North Potomac Yard Park



**Lead Agency**
Office of the Arts
**Artist**
Jim Benedict & Lily Kuonen
**Project Scope**
Commission permanent public art for the new park in Alexandria's section of National Landing adjacent to Virginia Tech's Innovation Campus
**Task Force Members**
Stacey Becker, David Pritzker, Ben Knapp, Sarah Pascual, Carly Snyder, Christopher Potter, and Daniel Unkel
**Current Status (per project development process)**
Community Engagement
**Next Steps**
The contract has been signed and the artists are working with staff to plan upcoming community engagements.
**Anticipated Completion**
TBD

## City Hall (interior)




**Lead Agency**
Department of General Services (DGS)
**Artist**
Benjamin Ball
**Project Scope**
Commission new, permanent public art to be integrated into the newly designed City Hall interior in Old Town.
**Task Force Members**
Alvah Beander, Scott Abeles, Jenine Kotob, Laurie Axelrod, Candace Edgerley, and a representative from Leo A Daley
**Current Status (per project development process)**
Developing the Artist Pool
**Next Steps**
Staff is working with the artist on developing the contract.
**Anticipated Completion**
2028

# PUBLIC ART PROJECTS, cont'd

## Ewald Park




**Lead Agency**
Office of the Arts
**Artist**
UrbanRock Design
**Project Scope**
Commission new, permanent and temporary public art to be integrated into the planned renovations of Ewald Park.
**Task Force Members**
Trena Raines, Brian Kelley, Natalie Brown, Asa Orrin-Brown, Judy Lo, and Qiaojue Wu
**Current Status (per project development process)**
Community Engagement
**Next Steps**
The contract has been signed and the artists are working with staff to plan upcoming community engagements.
**Anticipated Completion**
TBD

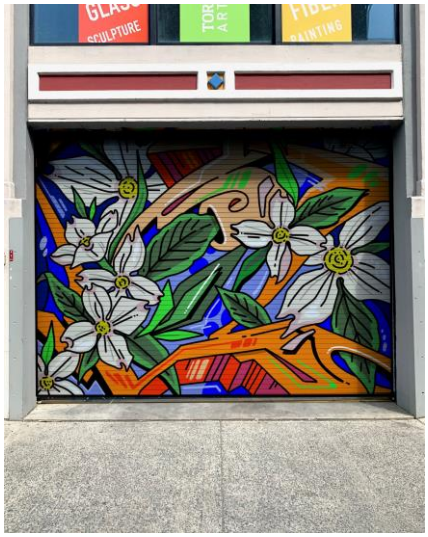
## Powhatan Park




**Lead Agency**
Office of the Arts
**Artist**
Davide Prete
**Project Scope**
Commission new, permanent public art to be integrated into the park improvements.
**Task Force Members**
Catherine Dehoney, Alvah Beander, Sara Kohn, Debi Steinbacher, and Daniel Unkel
**Current Status (per project development process)**
Community Engagement
**Next Steps**
The contract has been signed and the artists are working with staff to plan upcoming community engagements.
**Anticipated Completion**
TBD

# PUBLIC ART PROJECTS, cont'd

## City-wide Murals



**Lead Agency**
Office of the Arts
**Artist**
multiple
**Project Scope**
Develop a roster of mural artists to be considered for various projects over the next three years.
**Task Force Members**
David Pritzker, Brian Kelley, Saya Behnam, Dereth Bush, and Allison Nance
**Current Status (per project development process)**
Setting Project Goals and Parameters
**Next Steps**
The task force has reviewed the submitted applications and will bring their recommendation to the Commission in September.
**Anticipated Completion**
Fall, 2026

## Ramsey Rec Center Mural

**Lead Agency**
Office of the Arts
**Artist**
Tammy Barnes
**Project Scope**
Create and install a new mural at the Ramsey Recreation Center.
**Task Force Members**
Tia Norris, Lauren Miller, Lucresha Murphy-Tate, Laura Durham, Dan Altman, Shawnta Driver, and Ismenia Molina
**Current Status (per project development process)**
fabrication
**Next Steps**
The artist will complete the mural in the main interior space by the launch date and will complete the mural in the dance studio throughout the month of September.
**Anticipated Completion**
September, 2026

# PUBLIC ART PROJECTS, cont'd

## Site/See: New Views in Old Town 202?

**Lead Agency**
Office of the Arts
**Artist**
Matthew Mazzotta
**Project Scope**
Commission new, temporary, site-specific public art for Waterfront Park at the foot of King Street for a future date to be determined by the flood mitigation construction schedule.
**Task Force Members**
Claire Mouledoux, Clint Mansell, Jack Browand, Chris Kurowski, Nicole McGrew, and Dawn Rogala
**Current Status (per project development process)**
Approving the Contract
**Next Steps**
Staff is working with Matthew Mazzotta on his contract and routing it for signature. The artists concept design is scheduled to come to the Commission in November.
**Anticipated Completion**
TBD

## North Circle Park



**Lead Agency**
Office of the Arts
**Artist**
DeWitt Godfrey
**Project Scope**
Commission an artist to develop a concept design for public art at North Circle Park.
**Task Force Members**
Dawn Rogala, Stacey Becker, Tristan Wright, Robert Arzola, and Ana Vicinanzo
**Current Status (per project development process)**
Developing the Concept Proposal
**Next Steps**
The concept design has been completed and approved. Staff will work with departments and divisions to determine when the site will be refurbished so the artwork can be installed.
**Anticipated Completion**
tbd

# PUBLIC ART PROJECTS, cont'd

## Wilkes Street Park

**Lead Agency**
Office of the Arts
**Artist**
Eto Otitigbe
**Project Scope**
Commission permanent public art for the redesigned park
**Task Force Members**
Chris Kurowski, Marcee Craighill, Ana Vicinanzo, Sydney Strickland, and Tanya Quinteros
**Current Status (per project development process)**
Developing the Concept Proposal
**Next Steps**
Construction has begun on the site and staff has met with Planning and Zoning to learn more about the construction schedule. The public art process will resume in early 2026.
**Anticipated Completion**
TBD

## West End Transit Corridor




**Lead Agency**
Transportation & Environmental Services (T&ES)
**Artist(s)**
Cara Lynch, Nancy O'Neil, Matthew Geller, Robert Tulley, and Shahin Talishkhan
**Project Scope**
Work with T&ES to integrate new public art into the 18 bus shelters along the transitway
**Task Force Members**
Brian Kelley, Trena Raines, Gus Ardura, Donna Fossum, Reginald Arno, Christopher Zeimann
**Current Status (per project development process)**
On Hold
**Next Steps**
The artists continue to work with the staff and design team to complete their final designs. Staff continues to work with the necessary departments to develop a timeline for installation.
**Anticipated Completion**
Varied (2026-2028)

# PUBLIC ART PROJECTS, cont'd

## Del Pepper Community Resource Center

**Lead Agency**
Office of the Arts
**Artist**
TBD
**Project Scope**
Commission an original work of public art for the main lobby and adjoining wings of the Center.
**Task Force Members**
Brian Kelley, Chris Kurowski
**Current Status (per project development process)**
On Hold
**Next Steps**
This project is on hold temporarily while staff work to review the scope of the project.
**Anticipated Completion**
TBD

## Active Public Art Task Forces

**Public Art Project Task Forces**

Per the Public Art Implementation Plan: "The Commission for the Arts will form an ad hoc Public Art Project Task Force for each project that the Program undertakes. The ad hoc Task Force will convene on an as needed basis to advise on the development of each project. The Task Force will: Advise Office of the Arts staff on the development of Public Art Project Plans and recommend the Plan to the full Commission; Review artist portfolios and recommend selection of an artist to the full Commission; Report to the Commission on its activities on a monthly basis, and; Review artist concepts and recommend approval of concepts to the full Commission." Below is a list of currently active task forces:

**North Potomac Yard Park**

1. Stacey Becker*
2. David Pritzker*
3. Daniel Unkel (proj. stakeholder)
4. Ben Knapp (proj. stakeholder)
5. Carly Snyder (proj. stakeholder)
6. Christopher Potter (comm. stakeholder)
7. Sarah Pascual (comm. stakeholder)

**Site/See: New Views in Old Town Task Force**

1. Dawn Rogala*
2. Chris Kurowski*
3. Jack Browand (proj. stakeholder)
4. Claire Mouledoux (proj. stakeholder)
5. Clint Mansell (comm. stakeholder)
6. Nicole McGrew (comm. stakeholder)

**City-wide Murals Task Force**

1. Brian Kelley*
2. David Pritzker*
3. Saya Behnam (proj. stakeholder)
4. Dereth Bush (comm. stakeholder)
5. Allison Nance (comm. stakeholder)

**Market Square/City Hall Task Force**

1. Alvah Beander*
2. Scott Abeles*
3. Jenine Kotob (proj. stakeholder)
4. Leo A Daley Representative (proj. stakeholder)
5. Laurie Axelrod (comm. stakeholder)
6. Candace Edgerley (comm. stakeholder)

**Ewald Park Task Force**

1. Brian Kelley*
2. Trena Raines*
3. Judy Lo (proj. stakeholder)
4. Qiaojue Wu (proj. stakeholder)
4. Natalie Brown (comm. stakeholder)
5. Asa Orrin-Brown (comm. stakeholder)

**Powhatan Park Task Force**

1. Catherine Dehoney*
2. Alvah Beander*
3. Daniel Unkle (proj. stakeholder)
4. Sara Kohn (comm. stakeholder)
5. Debi Steinbacher (comm. stakeholder)

**Ramsey Rec Center Mural Task Force**

1. Tia Norris*
2. Lauren Miller*
3. Lucresha Murphy-Tate (proj. stakeholder)
4. Laura Durham (proj. stakeholder)
5. Dan Altman (comm. Stakeholder)
6. Shawnta Driver (comm. stakeholder)
7. Ismenia Molina (comm. stakeholder)

*Arts Commissioner

# Public Art Planning & Project Development Process

| | DESCRIPTION |
|---|---|
| **Identifying the Project in the Annual Plan** | • Projects are identified in the Public Art Workplan, a document developed annually by the Office of the Arts with input from the Workplan Task Force. The Public Art Workplan is approved by the Arts Commission and by City Council. |
| **Setting Project Goals and Parameters** | • Once a project has been initiated, the Arts Commission establishes a Public Art Project Task Force specifically for that project.<br>• Office of the Arts staff, with input from the Project Task Force, develops a Public Art Project Plan. This plan includes goals, location, timeline and budget; the artist selection process and community engagement process; and a list of internal and external stakeholders for the project.<br>• The Project Plan is approved by the Arts Commission. |
| **Developing the Artist Pool** | • Based upon the approved Project Plan, the Office of the Arts develops a pool of artists and collects qualifications for the Project Task Force to review.<br>• The pool of artists can be collected through an open competition, pre-qualified artist list, curatorial process or invitational.<br>• Artist qualifications generally include a cover letter from the artist expressing their interest in the project, a resume, and examples from the artist's portfolio with a corresponding description of each project. |
| **Selecting the Finalists** | • The Project Task Force reviews artist qualifications based on criteria outlined in the approved Project Plan.<br>• Depending on the process in the approved Project Plan, the Project Task Force can select a single artist based upon qualifications, or a small number of finalists (generally three to five). |
| **Selecting the Artist** | • If finalists are selected, they may be:<br>  • Paid a stipend to develop a concept proposal and present that proposal to the Project Task Force.<br>  • Interviewed by the Project Task Force.<br>  • A combination of the above.<br>• The Project Task Force recommends selection of an artist to the Arts Commission based upon the Concept Proposal and/or interview. |
| **Approving the Contract** | • The Office of the Arts develops a contract agreement with the artist.<br>• The agreement is approved by the City Manager or City Council, depending on the size of the contract. |
| **Approving the Concept Proposal** | • The selected artist develops a Concept Proposal, if that was not a part of the artist selection phase.<br>• The Office of the Arts facilitates community engagement conducted by the artist as part of their process of developing a Concept Proposal.<br>• The Project Task Force reviews the Concept Proposal and recommends it to the Arts Commission for approval. |
| **Approving Final Design** | • The Office of Arts conducts a review of the final design documentation provided by the artist for both technical considerations and to ensure it is in conformity with the approved concept proposal.<br>• The Office of the Arts facilitates technical reviews by other City staff as required.<br>• The Office of the Arts signs off on the Final Design. |
| **Fabrication** | • In most cases, the artist is responsible for fabrication. The Office of the Arts monitors fabrication to ensure it is on schedule and in conformity with the approved design.<br>• In some cases, the Office of the Arts will play a more direct role in overseeing the fabrication of artwork, with the artist acting in an advisory role. |
| **Installation** | • The Office of the Arts works with the artist, relevant City Departments, and other stakeholders to schedule and facilitate installation. |

**ARTICLE K - Alexandria Commission for the Arts**[1]

- **Sec. 2-4-90 - Creation, composition and organization.**

(a) There is hereby established a standing commission known as the Alexandria Commission for the Arts.

(b) The commission shall consist of 16 members to be appointed by the city council. The composition of the commission shall be as follows:

(1) four members shall have expertise in the arts, including, but not limited to, arts educators, professional practitioners of various art disciplines and professional administrators working in the arts;

(2) three members shall have specific expertise in visual arts either as professional practitioners of visual art, curators of visual art, or as professional arts administrators currently working in the field;

(3) three members shall represent the public at large, as arts consumers or participants;

(4) three members shall be professionals in fields relevant to arts and cultural development, including cultural planning, marketing, finance, funding, tourism, promotion, non profit organizational development, and real estate development;

(5) two members shall be professionals in the field related to the visual appearance of the cityscape, such as architecture, environmental design, landscape architecture or urban design; and

(6) one member shall be a student who resides in the city and attends a high school located in the City of Alexandria.

(c) Members of the commission shall be appointed in the manner prescribed by article A of this chapter. The members shall serve for a term of three years, except in the case of an appointment to fill the unexpired portion of a term. (Ord. No. 3782, 2/25/95, Sec. 1; Ord. No. 4482, 5/12/07, Sec. 1; Ord. No. 4920, 1/24/15, Sec. 1)

- **Sec. 2-4-91 - Function; powers; duties.**

(a) The functions of the commission shall be as follows:

(1) to advise city council with regard to policies that will strengthen the arts and further public access to the arts and cultural matters identified by the city council;

(2) to establish and periodically review criteria and standards for arts grant applications for city funds and accountability for the use of such funds; the allocation from such funds to eligible organizations and activities as may be appropriated by the city council for such purpose;

(3) to review the public art annual work plan as developed by the office of the arts and a work plan task force and make recommendations to the city council as part of the budget process;

(4) to review and approve public art project plans for specific public art projects, and to review and approve artist selection and concept development;

(5) to create committees and task forces, as necessary, to focus on public art project development and artist selection;

(6) to review proposals for donations of public art and commemorative art and make recommendations to the city council;

(7) to collaborate with the office of the art on public art project evaluations; and

(8) to support public communication and outreach as related to the arts and;

(9) to serve as citizen liaisons to city planning initiatives when public art is involved.

(b) The commission is empowered to adopt rules and regulations in regard to procedure and other matters so long as the same are not inconsistent with the city code, including, but not limited to, the establishment of committees, through which to carry on its functions and purpose.

(c) A commission chair, vice-chair and secretary shall be elected annually by the commission members at the organization meeting designated in the commission's bylaws. (Ord. No. 3782, 2/25/95, Sec. 1; Ord. No. 4482, 5/12/07, Sec. 1; Ord. No. 4920, 1/24/15, Sec. 1)