

Cultural Arts Commission Minutes

October 8, 2026

The Cultural Arts Commission met on Thursday, October 8, 2026, at 6 p.m. at Richardson City Hall, located at 2360 Campbell Creek Blvd., Ste 525, Richardson, Texas 75082.

Members Present:

- Ted Kollaja, Chair
- Amy Taylor, Vice Chair
- John Wesley Gibson
- Melanie Guthrie Sanders
- Cynthia Roldan
- Amy Taylor
- Councilmember Curtis Dorian, Council Liaison

Members Not Present:

- Brian Bently
- Lela Shook

City Staff Present:

- Michaela Dollar, Assistant City Manager
- Shayla Lee, Director of Strategic Initiatives

Minutes:

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Kollaja called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. Public Comments

There were no members of the public present.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the September 10, 2026, meeting

Commissioner Gibson made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, with a second by Commissioner Guthrie-Sanders. The motion passed unanimously.

4. FY27 Cultural Arts Grant Process Debrief

Assistant City Manager Dollar said the changes to the grant process this year, particularly the shortening of the application and narrative questions, was well-received from the applicants. The transition to the application platform is also going well.

She also asked for feedback from the commissioners for any changes to the grant process for next year. Requests for next year included:

- Include historical info for grant amounts received for reference on the Saturday of interviews; include charts with actuals and rolling averages
- Add the number of program participants (i.e. dancers, performers, artists) to the application
- Include the previous year award on the allocation worksheet, for reference

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5. 2027 Liaison Assignments

The 2026 liaison assignments were distributed in the packet. The commission discussed the 2027 liaison assignments and made no changes. Liaison assignments are:

Arts Organization	2027 Liaison
Accolade Community Theatre	Lela Shook
Chamber Music International	Lela Shook
Chamberlain Ballet	Melanie Guthrie-Sanders
Classics Theatre Project	Lela Shook
Contemporary Chorale	Ted Kollaja
Core Theatre	John Gibson
DAAYO	Ted Kollaja
DCCC	Brian Bentley
Lone Star Wind Orchestra	John Gibson
Outloud Dallas	Ted Kollaja
Repertory Company Theatre (RCT)	Cynthia Roldan
Rich-Tone Chorus	Amy Taylor
Richardson Civic Art Society	Cynthia Roldan
Richardson Community Band	John Gibson
Richardson Community Chorale	Cynthia Roldan
Richardson Reads One Book	Brian Bentley
Richardson Symphony Orchestra	Amy Taylor
Richardson Theatre Centre, Inc.	Melanie Guthrie-Sanders
Texins Jazz Band	Melanie Guthrie-Sanders
Texas Winds Musical Outreach	Amy Taylor
Town North Concert Band	Ted Kollaja
Tuzer Ballet	Brian Bentley

6. Public Art Update

Assistant City Manager Dollar provided a status update and pictures of current public art pieces including the Library interior artwork, the Library exterior artwork, and the City Hall artwork.

7. Commission Calendar

The 2027 Draft Commission Calendar and the Master Arts Organizations Event calendars were distributed to the commission. No changes were made.

8. Report on Items of Community Interest

Commissioners reported on items including:

- CORE Theatre performance
- Sherlock Holmes at Repertory Theatre
- RSO Season Opener

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- Richardson Community Band “Heroes” event with Accolade Theatre
- Cottonwood Art Festival

9. Adjournment

There being no other business, the commission adjourned at 6:35 p.m.