Nashua Arts Commission
Meeting minutes
Dec. 9, 2025

In attendance:

Jennifer Annand
Judy Carlson
Tina Cassidy
Sara Ceaser
Chuck Emmons
Paula Lochhead
Faith Mandravelis
Jane Marquis
Lindsay Rinaldi
Carol Robey
Lauren Spira-Savet

Guests: Liz Hannum, Kathleen Palmer (City reps); Mary Kirkwood (Nashua Historical Society)

Call to Order: 8:05 am.

Roll Call of Members – FULL ATTENDANCE.

Motion to Approve: Nov. minutes – Motion to Approve was made by **Judy** and seconded by **Carol**, all in favor. Motion carried.

Old Business

Storywalk Project: Mary Kirkwood of Nashua Historical Society gave a presentation on the proposed project, to be executed by an Eagle Scout. They are seeking assistance of $3,000. **Chuck** made a motion to consider this project for the $10k non-grant monies; **Carol** seconded. This was tabled, however, as it was suggested that NHS should apply for a grant, instead of considering taking this from the non-grant allocation. Therefore, no further conversation could occur regarding the project at this time if they were going to apply for a grant.

Grants Update: **Jenn** clarified the sub-com members (**Paula** has bowed out, in case NHS submits for a grant) as now being, her, **Judy, Lauren, Faith** and **Jane**. Kathleen had City IT set up the "from the Commission" email mask; however, as a City employee, she will have to be the one to send out and receive any emails associated with it. The sub-committee should be ready with grant decisions so they can present to the Board of Aldermen at their Feb. 24 meeting.

Keefe Commission Update: Liz provided in advance a list of needs to keep the Keefe auditorium open as a standalone entity. She also gave a general overview update of where the City is at within talks with architects and the proposed options for the structure.

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New Business

NAC FY26 Project Adoption Discussion: Liz provided a Mural-app brainstorming map of ideas for City-impacting projects that could be considered for the $10k non-grant monies. **Lindsay** listed three action items:

1. **Lindsay** will create a criteria framework for grants vs. City projects;
2. The commission is asked to review the brainstorming map details and choose one or more options of projects that the member would be willing to work on, and that they think can be accomplished within a six-month timeframe; and
3. If the members have new ideas not on the brainstorming map, they are to email **Lindsay** by the end of December, for addition to the January agenda.

Open Discussion for Commissioners

Carol noted a reception at the Cleary Gallery today from 4-6 pm.

Chuck noted the Actorsingers will perform Company at the Nashua Center for the Arts in January.

Misc: February meeting has been moved a week earlier, to Feb. 3rd.

Motion to Adjourn: 9:19 am, made by **Chuck**, seconded by **Lauren**, all in favor. Motion carried.

Next Meeting: 8 am Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2026

Attachments: brainstorming map, City projects; Storywalk proposal

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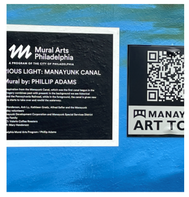
Arts Commission Project Brainstorm



Do new projects alone or with partners

- Performance Art
  - Concert Series
  - Mural or Dance Festival
- Visual Art
  - Rail Trail Mural Refresh
  - Mural QR Codes
  - Art Walk
  - Saturday Arts Market (during another event)
  - Pop-up Art Installations
  - Art on Utility Boxes
- Marketing
  - Publications
  - Billboard
  - Mural Passports
  - Partnerships with local businesses to display artwork
  - Wayfinding Kiosks
  - Distrix App Mural Walking Tours

Other Ideas

- StoryWalk
- Bus stop art

TOPIC

How might we build more visibility for the Arts Commission while producing more public art?

Grant Funding

- Visibility of Arts Commission involvement
  - Grantees recap for BOA
  - Require Arts Commission branding (eg, image in event program; shout-out in ads)
  - Blog Post for City Website
  - Earned News media

This performance made possible in part by a generous grant from

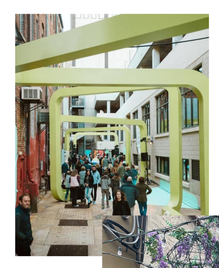
NASHUA ARTS COMMISSION

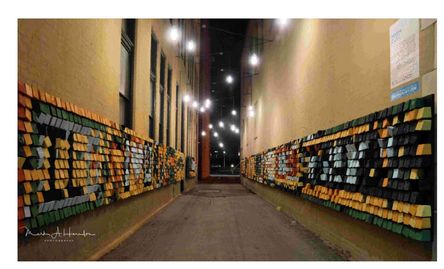
scan for more information

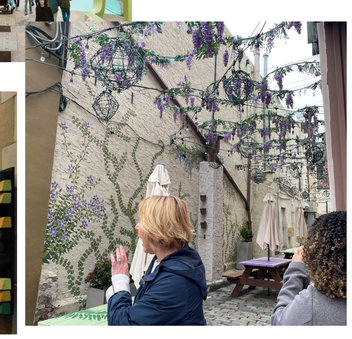
https://www.nashuanh.gov/346/Arts-Commission

Support existing City Projects

- Riverfront
  - Grand Reopening: Art Seek and Find/ Giveaway
  - Art Series, 3-4 month passive activations
  - Garage to Riverwalk Activation
  - Art on Utility Boxes
- Alley Activations
  - Martha's Alley
  - La Rose Alley
- Neighborhood Activations
  - Basketball Court Murals
  - Lighting Projects
  - Asphalt Art
  - Murals
  - Artistic Street toppers







Story Walk

Good Morning to all of the members of the Nashua Arts Commission,

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my proposal for my Eagle Scout Project, and I apologize that I cannot be at this meeting in person. The project that I am outlining in this presentation is a Story Stroll to be placed around the property of the Nashua Historical Society and the Abbot-Spaulding property. This would be a series of wooden stands, each of which would hold one or two laminated pages from a children's story book provided by the Nashua Public Library. A separate sheet with the necessary materials and projected costs will be included with this proposal.

The purpose of this Story Stroll is to provide an opportunity for collaboration between several organizations in Nashua, and more importantly to give children visiting the society a chance to experience different styles of art and writing while still learning about different aspects of history in a more open, free space than the interior of the society itself. It gives them the opportunity and freedom to run around outside, reading about history, or maybe just looking at the pictures, all at their own volition. The current plan is for the book in the stands to be inserted in the stands and for it to be in place for the celebrations of Rev 250, the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution.

Once all the specifics have been determined, such as funding, sources for materials, and a basic plan for installation are in place, I will reach out to some nearby schools and other childcare organizations to see if there is any interest in having a group attend a sort of opening ceremony, where there would be several scouts, those being me and any others that are available and helped with my project, to introduce them to the concept of the story stroll. From then on, the Story Stroll posts would be a permanent fixture, with some extras in case of damage, or maybe for a more handicap accessible alternative, whichever works best at the moment. The actual story within the Story Stroll will be changed several times throughout the year to keep it new and to provide some variety for any who may visit regularly.

This project will serve to build connections between the Nashua Historical Society, the Nashua Public Library, the local chapter of Scouting America, Troop 19, and hopefully the Nashua Arts Commission. Each organization is contributing to this project, and each will hopefully see benefits from it as well, aside from just the connections made, which may serve to help in the future as well with different events and ideas being put forward. The Historical Society is providing the land and overall idea of this project, and will ultimately be the main beneficiary, receiving increased interest in history, as well as increased traffic

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on the property. The Nashua Public Library will be providing the story books from which the pages will be copied, and should receive a greater interest in reading from younger generations.

The Arts Commission, should you choose to help with this project, will hopefully contribute both funding for the actual project and ideas for how this project should progress. Maybe there could be different art pieces and information about them in the stands at times. That is a conversation for after they have been installed, to be had between the Arts Commission and Historical Society, but these stands should prove to increase interest in different art forms and writing styles that will be found in all of the different books that will be displayed.

As for Troop 19, we are contributing the time and effort required to make this plan a reality. All assistance with the actual building and installation will come from inside the troop, through a combination of scouts and parents as needed. The benefits that we will receive as a troop are getting more of our members to participate in these activities, to get kids the service hours that are required for them to move upwards in the ranks. Also, this project will serve as my Eagle Scout Project. This will be my last step towards achieving one of the highest honors in scouting, something that will not only provide me with more opportunities as I continue through life, but also prove to the younger scouts that such a feat is attainable, that, if they work towards it, they can achieve the exact same thing.

As you will see, we have the plans all laid out, and we have the people willing and able to help with tasks as needed, from all associated organizations. Now we are asking for your help to be able to make this project a reality, be it through donations, some form of funding, an official grant, an application for which has been submitted through the Nashua Arts Commission website, or even just through different connections that you can provide us with to help. This project will be a bit of an undertaking, with many different materials needed to make it a success, and while it may not be particularly expensive compared to other projects that are being completed, ultimately the cost is simply too high just for fundraising. We will look for help wherever we can, but nothing can be guaranteed at this time. This project is supposed to serve as a way to give the Nashua community, specifically children, a new way to experience history, through different works of writing and art, and I hope that you will decide to help contribute to this project and help make this outcome possible.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Aidan Graham

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