Nashua Arts Commission
Meeting minutes
Jan. 13, 2026

In attendance:

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

Guests: Liz Hannum, Kathleen Palmer (City reps); Alderwomen Klee and Morgan; commission nominee Stephanie Moll.

Absent: Jane Marquis, Carol Robey.

Call to Order: 8:04 am.

Roll Call of Members

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

Old Business

Grants Update: **Jenn** announced that there are 13 applications for the next grant cycle, with a total ask of $57,400 (the commission has allocated $30,000 to award). The sub-committee will meet to evaluate them on Jan. 20, and will present to the commission at the Feb. 3 meeting. They can then present to the Board of Aldermen at their Feb. 24 meeting. Alderwoman Klee suggested as many commission members attend and speak in support of that as possible; it was also suggested reaching out to the applicants to encourage them to come and talk about the impact as well.

Project Adoption Discussion (grants vs. non-grants): **Lindsay** was tasked with coming up with a strategy for grants vs. non-grants, to streamline that determination process. She presented a simple Y/N short evaluation form. Liz additionally presented a project scoring rubric that she had created. Lindsay's form determines grant vs. non-grant; Liz's form determines viability. It was noted that both are important to show reasons and methodology of using public funds.

Group discussion resulted in concurring that both were helpful in the commission's project evaluations. Liz will combine them into one editable Excel spreadsheet. First task to commission members will be to give feedback and edits.

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Secondly, members will use the Mindmap of project ideas to find one or more projects they'd like to personally be involved in executing, and ideally run it through the rubric to see if the rubric works and/or needs adjusting to the commission's needs.

Judy mentioned that the cities of Concord and Dover have good grant websites that they might be able to learn from.

Lindsay mentioned that the annual meeting with the Mayor was in the planning phase.

New Business

Garage Art Project: Liz stated that Beyond Walls has delivered a report and ideas for the two downtown garage façade beautifications. Eventually, commission/community input on design options will be sought. Not likely to occur for the next several months.

Misc: February meeting has been moved a week earlier, to Feb. 3rd. It was reiterated that 100% attendance is needed, due to voting on the grant applications and the commission applicant recusals.

Motion to Adjourn: 9:15 am, made by **Chuck**, seconded by **Judy**, all in favor. Motion carried.

Next Meeting: 8 am Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2026

Attachments: draft rubric Excel document

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NASHUA ARTS COMMISSION POTENTIAL PROJECTS SCORING RUBRIC

To continue, you must answer yes to the following questions:

1. Will the leader of this project be the Nashua Arts Commission or the city government?	Yes	No
2. Does the project result in the advancement of a top goal, action, or recommendation found in the current Arts & Culture Plan?	Yes	No
3. Is the requested amount less than or equal to the amount allocated to non-grant activities (adjusted annually)?	Yes	No

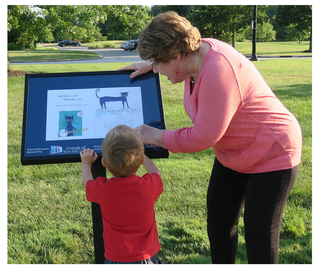
**If the project meets all 3 of the preceding qualifications, then it should be scored using the following criteria:

CRITERIA	POINT SCALE				
	0	2	5	7	10
Reinforcing City Identity	Not related to brand	A small tie in to brand	Some tie in to brand	Close alignment with brand	100% alignment with brand
Current Community Support	Lack of community support	Unknown whether the community will support	Unknown but anticipated support	Some known support	Known and consistent support
Current Stakeholder Support	Many stakeholders are against	Some stakeholders may be against	Stakeholder support is unknown	Many stakeholders support	Most stakeholders support
Opportunity for Community Engagement	No potential for community engagement	Potential to engage community in small portions of project	Some potential to engage community throughout the project	Potential to engage community throughout the project	Essential to engage community throughout the project
Public Visibility and Ability to Attribute Action to NAC	No visitors would see or notice action	Few visitors would see or notice action and would not attribute to NAC	Some visitors would see or notice action and most likely attribute it to NAC	Many visitors would see or notice action and may attribute to NAC	All visitors would see or notice action and attribute to NAC
Return on Previous or Existing Investment	Low level of return				High level of return

Threat of Inaction	May result in a threat to public safety or infrastructure beyond forseeable future (>10 years)	Could result in a threat to public safety or infrastructure in the foreseeable future (5-	Could result in a threat to public safety or infrastructure in the imminent future (3-5	Will result in a threat to public safety or infrastructure in the near future (1-3 years)	Will result in a threat to public safety or infrastructure in the immediate future (<1 year)
Anticipated Cost of Entire Project	> $10,000	$9,000-10,000	$7,000-9,000	$5,000-7,000	<$5,000
Staff/Commissioner/Volunteers Time Required	>300 hours	200-300 hours	100-200 hours	50-100 hours	0-50 hours
Timeline for Implementation					
Potential Funding Sources	No funding sources have been identified	Funding will come entirely from the NAC existing budget	50% of funding will come from outside sources	75% of funding will come from outside sources	100% of funding will come from outside sources, including overhead
Inclusivity of Diverse and/or Underserved Audiences	This project is inherently exclusive by design	Inclusivity is not applicable to this project	Inclusivity will be difficult to apply to this project	Has the potential to be inclusice and involve diverse populations	Has been viewed through a miltitude of lenses and includes input and action from diverse populations
Impacts on the Collective Business Community	Will have a negative impact during or following implementation	May have some negative impact during implementation	Do not anticipate any impact	Will bring new or repeat business	Guarantees to bring new and return business
Committee Judgment	0-20 points for otherwise unaccounted for benefits. May be applied if committee expertise determines that criteria should be more heavily weighted.				

Arts Commission Project Brainstorm

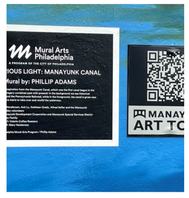






























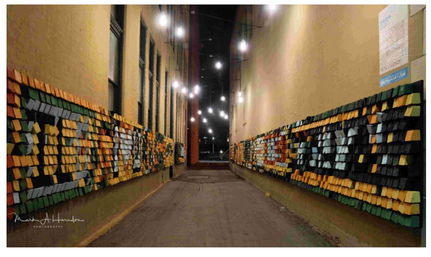












- Concert Series
- Mural or Dance Festival
- Performance Art
- Rail Trail Mural Refresh
- Mural QR Codes
- Art Walk
- Saturday Arts Market (during another event)
- Pop-up Art Installations
- Art on Utility Boxes
- Visual Art
- Publications
- Billboard
- Mural Passports
- Partnerships with local businesses to display artwork
- Wayfinding Kiosks
- Distrix App Mural Walking Tours
- Marketing
- **Do new projects alone or with partners**
- StoryWalk
- Bus stop art
- **Other Ideas**

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