

Nashua Arts Commission
Meeting minutes
Feb. 3, 2026

In attendance:

Jennifer Annand
Judy Carlson
Sara Ceaser
Chuck Emmons
Paula Lochhead

Faith Mandravelis
Jane Marquis
Lindsay Rinaldi
Carol Robey
Lauren Spira-Savet

Guests: Liz Hannum, Kathleen Palmer (City reps).

Absent: Tina Cassidy.

Call to Order: 8:04 am.

Roll Call of Members

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

Old Business

*Before the first old business topic discussion began, **Chuck** and **Paula** recused themselves from the room, due to their affiliation with grant applicants. An 8-person quorum remained.*

Grants Subcom Recommendations: **Jenn** announced the sub-committee's recommendations for awarding partial grants to 11 of the 13 applications -- \$30,000 of the total ask of \$57,400. The sub-com's evaluation rubric and reasoning on denials are attached to these Minutes.

A Motion to Accept the recommendations of the grant sub-committee was made by **Judy**, seconded by **Carol**, and a roll call vote (sans **Chuck** and **Paula**) was unanimous. The grant recommendations will be presented to the BOA on Feb. 24.

Riverwalk Mural Project Update: **Lauren** synopsisized the recent BOA discussion of the Water Street ramp mural, including the questions and objections of some of the aldermen. The project is moving forward this spring. **Jane**, **Judy** and **Lauren** all suggested and encouraged publicity of the work and the eventual reveal.

--MORE--

Project Adoption Discussion: The committee began to discuss their preferred/chosen projects from the Mind Map, as was their “homework.” **Jane** proposed a student art show for young artists, a family event that should only be a small outlay of funds. **Judy** would like to bring back the ArtWalk. **Paula** and **Lauren** had similar ideas of an historical walking tour, eg, Nashua’s historic sites, art and architecture. **Sara** would like a partnering of art with local businesses, eg, written word/poetry type displays, and/or bus stop art. **Jenn** thinks an easy adopt off the Mind Map would be the “thanks to NAC” requirement of publicity of grant receipt in recipients’ event programs, and to require grantees to speak at a BOA meeting to explain their success and how it was made possible by the NAC. **Faith** would like to be involved in music-related events, eg, Great American Downtown’s proposed Summer Music Series, and had many ideas for promotion and growth.

Time ran out and the remaining committee members will have to present at a future meeting. A **Motion** to table remaining input and agenda items was made by **Carol**, seconded by **Jenn**.

Motion to Adjourn: 9:09 am, made by **Carol**, seconded by **Jenn**, all in favor. Motion carried.

Next Meeting: **8 am Tuesday, March 10, 2026**

Attachments: grant rubric, grant recommendations, Mind Map

2026 – 2027 Grant Cycle Review Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the 2025-26 Grants Review panel was called to order at 10:00 am on Tuesday, January 20th at the Hunt Building. Present by roll call were Commissioners Jennifer Annand, Judith Carlson, Laurie Spira Savett, and Faith Mandravelis. Absent was Jane Marquis due to schedule conflicts.

The panel discussed all the applications at length and the reasoning for their rankings. Based on the information below, the panel voted unanimously by roll call to recommend the following for consideration at the next Arts Commission meeting:

<u>Organization</u>	Jenn	Laurie	Judy	Faith	Jane	AVERAGE
Sculpture Symposium	49	38	50	48	22	41
Upbeat NH	47	49	41	38	29	41
Symphony NH	36	44	47	49	22	40
NAArtists Association	46	41	43	44	22	39
Nashua Theatre Guild	40	46	32	35	36	38
Actorsingers	35	44	40	29	38	37
Positive Street Art	38	43	28	48	27	37
Nashua Spartans	38	38	37	48	21	36
Choral Society	40	42	37	38	20	35
Peacock Players	33	29	46	36	26	34
Merrimack Flute Choir	26	38	36	20	27	29

*Nashua Chamber Orchestra disqualified because event is happening in March- funds will not be distributed in time for items needed within budget prior to performance

*Great American Downtown was not funded because their program was based on charging artists to perform rather than paying them for their work.

Organizations	Proposed Allocation
Nashua International Sculpture Symposium	\$4,300
Upbeat NH	\$4,300
Symphony New Hampshire	\$4,400
Nashua Area Artists Association	\$3,500
Actorsingers	\$3,500
Nashua Theatre Guild	\$3,100
Nashua Choral Society	\$3,100
Nashua Spartans	\$1,500
Peacock Players (\$2,000 ask)	\$1,000
Positive Street Art	\$1,000
Merrimack Valley Flute Choir (\$400 ask)	\$300

The total monies allocated comes to \$30,000 which is what the commission has budgeted for this grant cycle.

There were 13 applications received which is high (lowest year saw 8, highest year saw 13).

The meeting adjourned at 1:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Annand, Chair, Grants Committee, Nashua Arts Commission

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 foreseeable 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 inclusive and involve diverse populations	Has been viewed through a multitude 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

