

Approved
**MINUTES OF THE ARTS DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF GALVESTON
MEETING AGENDA - MARCH 12, 2026**

3/12/2026 - Arts Development Commission Minutes

1. Call Meeting to Order and Establish a Quorum

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Nellie Cornett at 1:34 PM

2. Roll Call

Present: Nellie Cornett, Brita Blesi, Tony Lyle, Russ Mullins, Sherrill Hilton (arrived at 1:43 pm), Sandra Tetley, Jonathan Crummett, Lacey White

Absent: Trey Click, Alex Porretto (City Council)

3. Consider Approval Of Meeting Minutes

3.A Draft Minutes - February 12, 2026

Brita Blesi made a motion to approve the February 12, 2026, meeting minutes, seconded by Russ Mullins. Unanimously approved by those present, with 1 abstention.

4. Public Comment

Members of the public may address the Committee. Speakers will be limited to three minutes.

None

5. Conflict of Interest

None

6. Update on ADC Financials (City Staff): Noting and explaining the amount available for Public Art, amount encumbered for A&HPAB organizational support, CAC Public Art Allocations, etc., Amount in "surplus", amount in maintenance and marketing

Antoinette provided a preliminary overview of ADC financials, including an estimated \$401,250 in projected public art funding from HOT collections and approximately \$150,000 in carryover funds, for a rough total of \$440,000 available for public art, pending confirmation from Finance. Marketing and maintenance allocations were noted as separate under the HOT formula. Commissioners identified discrepancies in the financial report and requested clarification. Staff will provide updated figures once confirmed with Finance.

7. Discussion on RFP v. RFQ for Arts Asset Mapping and Assessment (Michael Caruso, Purchasing Manager, City of Galveston)

Vice Chair Sherrill Hilton continued the meeting. Upon her arrival, Alternate Lacey White had to step down as a voting member, who remained present and participated in the discussions. Mike Caruso (Purchasing Manager) explained the difference between:

RFQ (Request for Qualifications): Used for professional services based on qualifications.
RFP (Request for Proposals): Used when a defined scope of work is required, and price proposals are evaluated.

Discussion focused on commissioning an art asset mapping project to identify city-owned artistic and cultural assets. The Commission concluded that an RFP would be the appropriate procurement method for this project.

8. Discuss and consider advising staff to draft either an RFP or RFQ for the Arts Asset Mapping and Assessment to bring back to the ADC for approval to take to council

The Commission formally directed staff to work with Purchasing to develop the scope of work, evaluation criteria, and pricing matrix for the RFP related to arts asset mapping. Tony Lyle made a motion to approve, seconded by Nellie Cornett. Unanimously approved by those present.

9. Discuss and consider public art calls including parameters and guidelines, amounts, locations, frequency, and scope

Commissioners discussed a long-term strategy for distributing public art funding. Key topics included:

- *Establishing a structured framework for funding programs rather than issuing ad-hoc calls.*
- *Considering models used by other cities, particularly the Houston Arts Alliance framework.*
- *Determining priorities such as: Types of art supported, Funding amounts, Frequency of calls, Geographic focus, Support for local, national, or international artists*
- *The importance of ensuring projects support tourism, consistent with HOT funding requirements.*

The Commission expressed interest in using an existing model as a foundation and customizing it for Galveston.

Tony Lyle made a motion to approve and directed staff to develop a customized funding framework based on the Houston Arts Alliance model, adapted for Galveston, seconded Brita Blesi. Unanimously approved by those present.

10. Discuss and consider calls for panelists including size of panel, timeline, and rubric

Agenda Item regarding panelist selection (panel size, timeline, and scoring rubric) was deferred until the Commission establishes the broader funding framework

11. Future Agenda Items

Suggested items for future meetings included:

- *Presentation of tourism and arts data to inform decision-making.*
- *Collaboration with Visit Galveston / Park Board regarding tourism metrics.*
- *Continued development of the public art funding framework.*
- *Review of financial projections from Finance.*

- *Development of evaluation criteria and program guidelines.*

Members were reminded by the Asst. City Attorney, Mehran, to avoid discussions outside of meetings that could violate the Texas Open Meetings Act, including “walking quorums” when sending emails to all commissioners. Any information they wish to provide to all commissioners, they must send it to their liaison, Antoinette, for distribution.

City Secretary's Executive Asst. Martha shared guidance from the City Secretary recommending that the Commission avoid separate workshops and instead address discussion items during regular meetings. Commissioners agreed it may be more practical to extend meeting times when necessary rather than schedule additional meetings. Commissioners will be notified in advance if a meeting is expected to run longer. The next meeting will be held on April 9th in Room 100.

12. Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned by Vice - Chair Sherrill Hilton at 3:04 pm

Martha Alvarez

Executive Assistant to City Secretary

Date Approved: 05/14/2026