NOTICE OF MEETING
ARTS DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF GALVESTON
FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2026 - 1:30 PM
CITY HALL - ROOM 204
823 ROSENBERG, GALVESTON, TX 77550
TELEPHONE: (409) 797 -3510

1. Call Meeting to Order and Establish a Quorum
2. Roll Call
3. Consider Approval Of Meeting Minutes

   3.A Draft Minutes - July 9, 2026
4. Public Comment
   Members of the public may address the Committee. Speakers will be limited to three minutes.
5. Conflict of Interest
6. Discuss and Consider Panelist Applicants for each call
7. Arts Activation Pilot Program Update Discussion
8. Bernardo de Galvez projects Update and Discussion
9. Update on Artist Exchange Program Discussion
10. SMU DataArts Update
11. Discuss current understanding of timeline for all ADC projects and funding
12. Discuss and consider Application for Art in Public Places, Z Krewe
13. Discuss the potential creation of two focus groups, data oversight and Historic Preservation funding
14. Future Agenda Items
15. Adjournment

I certify that the above Notice of Meeting was posted in a place convenient to the public in compliance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code on 08/10/2026 at 9:30 PM.

Martha Alvarez

Executive Assistant to City Secretary

Please Note: Members of the City Council may be attending and participating in the discussion.
One or more members of the Arts Development Commission may attend the meeting by videoconference. A quorum of the members of the Commission will be physically present at the meeting location.

Draft - Pending Approval

MINUTES OF THE ARTS DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GALVESTON

MEETING AGENDA - JULY 9, 2026

7/9/2026 - Arts Development Commission Minutes

1. Call Meeting to Order and Establish a Quorum

Meeting was called to order by Chair Trey Click at 1:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: Nellie Cornette (left at 2:43 pm), Brita Blesi, Tony Lyle, Russ Mullins, Trey Click, Sherrill Hilton, Sandra Tetley, Jonathan Crummett, Lacey White, Alex Porretto (City Council)

3. Consider Approval Of Meeting Minutes

Sherrill Hilton made a motion to approve the May 14, 2026, and June 11, 2026, draft meeting minutes, with Brita Blesi seconding. Unanimously approved.

   3.A Draft Minutes - May 14, 2026 & June 11, 2026

4. Public Comment

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

N/A

5. Conflict of Interest

Nellie Cornett: Item 12, discussion of micro-grants; she is currently the executive director and will probably apply for a grant. She will recuse herself when the discussion arises.

6. Reminder of the Attendance Rules per the City Ordinance and Open Meeting Act

Martha, the Executive Assistant to the City Secretary, reminds all members of the 75% in-person attendance requirement established under Ordinance 24-017. While virtual participation is permitted, it is limited and must be supported by a valid excuse. Please note that virtual attendance does not count toward the required 75% in-person attendance.
Failure to meet this requirement may result in removal from the commission and could jeopardize eligibility for reappointment. Martha conducts roll call and tracks attendance for every meeting, and this information is provided to the Mayor and City Council during the reappointment review process. Any member wishing to attend virtually must notify Antoinette and copy Martha as soon as possible so that the meeting link can be arranged in a timely manner.

7. Update on all projects Bernardo de Galvez : Malaga Mural Update and Jon Espinosa to present on Sculpture and Opera and recap ship visit (10 mins all updates)

Bernardo de Galvez Projects: Representatives of the Order of Galvez provided updates on *ongoing efforts related to the Bernardo de Galvez opera and monument. Appreciation was expressed to City staff for assistance during the recent visit of the Juan Sebastian Elcano. The group outlined continued efforts to educate the public regarding Spain's role in the American Revolution.*

The presenters reported that the chamber opera about Bernardo de Galvez is complete, including orchestration, and they are seeking a production company or university partner for a showcase and eventual premiere. They expressed interest in hosting the premiere in Galveston and welcomed assistance with contacts within performing arts organizations. The clay model for the Bernardo de Galvez monument is complete and located in Houston. The monument was previously approved for installation at Menard Park, and planning is ongoing. The project team is working with the Sons of the American Revolution and seeking major donors to support casting the sculpture in bronze. Cost estimates are approximately $300,000 if cast in the United States. Efforts are underway to explore cost-efficient casting options abroad.

Malaga Mural: Staff reported that the mural team has submitted additional requests, and the City is awaiting clarification. The artists are considering a September timeline.

Next Steps: Staff will continue coordination and provide updates as information becomes available.

7.A Attachment/s

8. Creative Placemaking Arts Activation Pilot Program

Ladybird presented a busking pamphlet outlining local regulations for musicians performing on the Strand. Antoinette provided context on related arts-activation efforts and noted that current approvals in the cultural arts district require reviews by Landmark, Planning, and ACDC. She introduced a potential pilot program to pre-approve specific locations using CAD layouts for various artistic uses, with no ordinance changes proposed.

Members discussed potential locations, coordination with nearby businesses, historic-district considerations, and how information should be shared with artists and visitors. Visit Galveston could promote approved sites, while the City would manage permitting and sign-ups. Members expressed support for streamlining processes while maintaining necessary protections for the historic district. Staff will return next month with a more detailed pilot-program outline. Members will also receive examples of busking programs from other cities.

8.A Attachment/s

9. Previously deferred SMU DataArts Update and timeline for implementation

Staff reported that SMU DataArts has extended its pilot program, and Galveston's implementation will begin in the new fiscal year, with the goal of onboarding all funded organizations before October 1. SMU DataArts requested the current list of funded organizations to begin initial outreach and education. Staff also noted that a grant (pending Council approval) includes funding for strategic planning and support for DataArts implementation. This will allow the City to subcontract assistance for organizations needing help with reporting and onboarding, including potential dedicated support hours or onsite assistance.

10. Discussion of an international artist exchange program

Staff presented initial research on artist exchange programs used by other cities. Approaches

vary—some use sister city partnerships, others use grant programs or external cultural organizations. Staff requested committee guidance on program scope, funding, selection process, and whether administration should be outsourced due to added workload. Members supported starting with cities experienced in artist exchanges and agreed that outsourcing program administration may be practical. The committee noted the value of learning from the upcoming micro-grant outsourcing process before launching a new program.
- *Committee members will send individual input to staff.*
- *Staff will compile feedback and return with refined recommendations.*

10.A Attachment/s

11. Discussion of recommended spends for the Surplus funding (this is approx. 3M dollars and council is seeking the recommendations of the ADC on its use)

Staff reported that the City has roughly $3 million in surplus HOT funds and Council is requesting ADC recommendations. Staff emphasized this is a one-time fund, with only about $75,000 in annual interest growth. Multiple major projects (strategic planning, public art assessment, marketing RFPs) will soon return with one-time implementation costs and smaller recurring expenses. Staff suggested considering future obligations and possibly reserving a portion for disaster recovery or major public art repairs. Members noted that meaningful recommendations require clearer cost estimates from the ongoing planning efforts. Concerns were raised that $3 million could be quickly depleted, especially if disaster recovery or large monument repairs are needed. Members requested more data before making decisions.
- *Staff will advance RFPs and return with cost estimates.*
- *Committee will revisit surplus-funding recommendations once more information is available.*

11.A Attachment/s

12. Discuss and consider FY26 Calls to Artists, Organizations, Panelists, and Rubrics to include call language, timeline, amounts, panel recommendations and rubric recommendations to be included in and unique to each of the 3 approved grants.

Staff presented three proposed FY26 calls totaling $150,000:
- *Call 1: Micro-grant administration (70–80K).*
- *Call 2: Artist-driven tourism projects (75K).*
- *Call 3: Emerging artist opportunities (25K).*

The committee discussed the rubric structure and agreed that the tourism benefit must be weighted more heavily due to HOT-fund requirements.
Motion made to approve by Tony Lyle to approve all calls and panel qualifications as presented; Calls 2 and 3: Remove "Project Merit"; increase Tourism Benefit and Community Impact to 25 points each; Call 1: Replace the rubric table with a revised rubric including a tourism reference. Seconded by Brita Blesi. Unanimously approved.
- *Nelly Cornett recused herself due to conflict.*

12.A Attachment/s

13. Discuss and consider formal recommendations to City Council for funding of amounts previously discussed:

Commissioners agreed to consider Items A–E as a block unless an item was requested for separate discussion.
Item A – Kempner Fountain Assessment: Staff reported that an RFP is not required due to the project's cost. Two of the three required quotes have been received, both above $1,500. The item will return once all quotes are collected.
Item B – Strategic Marketing Plan for the Arts: Staff summarized that the plan includes outreach to arts organizations, businesses, and artists, followed by coordination with Parks Development, Visit Galveston, and Tempest to determine feasible website improvements and associated costs. SMU arts data integration is anticipated.No additional questions were raised regarding Items C, D, or E.
Sherrill Hilton noted her opposition to the Bernardo de Gálvez Málaga mural. Staff clarified City Council has already approved the mural itself; the Commission is only considering the $1,200 lift rental.
Brita Blesi made a motion to approve the funding recommendations for Items 13A–13E, seconded by Russ Mullins, and the motion passed unanimously.
Staff reiterated that the separate mural vote pertains solely to lift rental costs, as the mural has already received Council approval.

13.A RFP for City-Owned portion of Arts Asset Assessment at $100,000

13.B RFP for Strategic Marketing Plan for the Arts $150,000

13.C Kempner Fountain Assessment $1500

13.D Bernardo de Galvez Malaga Mural Project lift $1200

13.E RFP for Grant Application Software and Startup Costs $50,000

14. Future Agenda Items

The Chair asked if any Commissioners wished to propose items for future agendas.
A Commissioner requested a discussion regarding potential support for the Order of Galvez, specifically related to bronzing the statue and the opera project. The Commission agreed to place this item on a future agenda. No additional items were requested.

15. Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned by Chair Trey Click at 3:02 pm.

Martha Alvarez

Executive Assistant to City Secretary
Date Approved: