

SAGINAW ARTS & ENRICHMENT COMMISSION
120 Ezra Rust Dr
989.759.1362
April 15, 2026
Minutes



Call to Order/Roll Call:

Chair Thor Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

Present: Sonia Burklund, Bob Gilmour, Bill Keys, Theresa Lister, Thor Rasmussen, Karly Salesky, Pat Shelley, Joe Turner

Excused: Craig Bell, Ben Champagne, Stephanie Domina, William Ewald, Sarge Harvey, Vee Murugan, Thelma Ruffin

Absent: Kathy Couillard, Kristin Karwat

Staff Present: Marsha Braun, Demetrios Scott

Financial Report and Minutes

March and April minutes, along with the March and April treasurer's report will be presented for approval at the May 20, 2026 commission meeting.

Artreach Grant

Fifteen great applications were received for 2026-2027 programming. The committee met April 2 to review and make award recommendations. Awards will be announced at the May 6th All Area Arts Awards.

All Area Arts Awards

Save the Date for May 6th at the Dow Event Center and plan to attend this year's event. Sponsorships have picked up and we should reach our goal. Eleven nominations were received; they have been reviewed and the 2026 winners selected. Meeting with the Dow Event center next week to review and select menu.

Scott J. Seeburger Young Artist Award

Seven applications were received this year, the winner will be selected by the committee this week. Janet Martineau will do a story on the winner shortly after selection and will post on ArtsSaginaw. Check will be presented at the All Area Arts Awards.

Arts Roundtable

Michigan Arts & Culture Council Chair Amy Spadafore, will present an Advocacy Update on April 21, 9:30 a.m. at Miles Market.

Saginaw Celebrates Summer

Work on the summer events calendar continues, promotional activities are being planned, and working on securing media partners. Calendars are scheduled to deliver before Memorial Day.

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Art @ the Andersen

CTRL + ALT + Create! The artwork of Karly Schmidt's junior and senior design students from the Saginaw Career Complex is on display through April 29. A Passion for Peonies by Anita McKeith opens on May 11.

Chair Report

With summer approaching, Chair Rasmussen encouraged commissioners to explore arts and culture in cities they visit, taking note of how it is woven into their public spaces. By observing how other communities integrate art, we can gather inspiration for our own community.

Directors Report

FY26 MACC grant funds have been distributed, will look at capital purchases and programming needs in coming weeks.

Announcements

Saginaw Art Museum has an exciting new exhibition opening on May 20, Warhol and the Image Machine. Saginaw Choral Society has a concert celebrating their 90th anniversary on April 25, 3 pm at the Temple Theatre and the Saginaw Bay Symphony "Beethoven" concert will be held May 9, 7:30 pm at the Temple. If in Bay City, check out the Bay City Historical Museum. The museum is a hidden gem, very nice and fun for adults and kids. Demetrios will be the guest bartender at Old Town Distillery by Wonder on June 5 from 6-9 pm. Proceeds from event will benefit SAEC community enrichment.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Recorded by:
Marsha Braun, Director