

SAGINAW ARTS & ENRICHMENT COMMISSION
120 Ezra Rust Dr
989.759.1362
May 20, 2026
Minutes



Call to Order/Roll Call:

Chair Thor Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Craig Bell, Kathy Couillard, Bob Gilmour, Sarge Harvey, Bill Keys, Theresa Lister, Vee Murugan, Thor Rasmussen, Thelma Ruffin, Pat Shelley, Joe Turner

Excused: Sonia Burklund, Ben Champagne, Stephanie Domina, William Ewald, Kristin Karwat

Absent: Karly Salesky

Staff Present: Marsha Braun, Demetrios Scott

Approval of Minutes

Craig Bell moved to approve the March 18, 2026 and April 15, 2026 minutes. Kathy Couillard seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Craig Bell reviewed treasurer's reports noting that income and expenses were tracking as expected as we approach the end of our fiscal year. Sarge Harvey moved to approve the March 18, 2026 and April 15, 2026 treasurer's reports, seconded by Bob Gilmour. Motion passed.

Artreach Grant

The Artreach Grant committee met on April 2nd and recommended the funding of fifteen grant applications for the 2026-2027 program year, a total of \$30,220. Joe Turner moved to support grant funding as recommended by Artreach Grant committee, Pat Shelley seconded, motion passed.

All Area Arts Awards

Thank you to all sponsored, volunteered and attended the 36th Annual All Area Arts Awards, it was wonderful evening of music, good food, fellowship and recognition. Still waiting on a few expenses, however, event proceeds have exceeded our expectations. Thor Rasmussen thanked commission staff for all their hard work in a effort to make the event a big success.

Saginaw Celebrates Summer

Summer event calendar is scheduled to deliver by Memorial Day weekend, promotional activities are being planned, and media partners have been secured. WNEM TV5 morning show event updates begin June 5.

Art @ the Andersen

A Passion for Peonies a breathtaking photography exhibition by Anita McKeith is on display through July1, 2026.



Arts Roundtable

Michigan Arts & Culture Council Chair Amy Spadafore presented an advocacy update on April 21 at Miles Market, offering valuable information and engaging conversation. Amy will be at the Red Eye Coffee House on Friday, May 22, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with pre-addressed advocacy postcards for key elected officials. Stop by and write a note to our legislators expressing the value and importance of MACC funding in FY27.

Michigan Arts & Culture Council

FY26 MACC grant funds have been distributed, we have begun making capital purchases and continue to review and update program needs. Discussion pursued regarding the potential for no MACC funding in FY27 and how the commission would address the budget shortfall, including the need for tracking and ideas to fill the gap.

Directors Report

Art & Garden Festival will be held on Wednesday, June 10, 10 am – 3 pm. We are looking for volunteers to man the commission info/raffle table, please let Marsha know if you can assist.

Due to scheduling conflict, the next meeting Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 24, 4 p.m. at Andersen Enrichment Center

Marketing Manager Report

Demetrios will be guest bartender at Old Town Distillery by Wonder on Friday, June 5 from 6 – 9 p.m. The commission will receive a portion of the evening's proceeds, save the date and come visit with us. Food truck will also be available.

New Business

Kudos to the entire Saginaw Art Museum staff for hosting a wonderful opening celebration for the *Warhol and the Imagine Machine* exhibition. Commissioners who attended the opening wanted to especially recognize Ben Champagne for his work in planning and executing the exhibition, in addition to his presentation that evening which was articulate and extremely engaging. Open through September 19, 2026.

Announcements

Check summer calendar, GoGreat.com and other resources for what's going on this summer, there is plenty to see and do in our own backyard!

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Recorded by:
Marsha Braun, Director