



Public Art Commission
December 15, 2025
Borough Hall, Room 240
401 E. Gay St. West Chester, PA 19380
6pm
Minutes

Members in attendance: Greg Radford, John Baker, Jo Anne Durako, Kendra Beitzel, Leigh Green, James Breen, Michael Hartman, Ray Ott

Members not in attendance: Timlyn Vaughan, Molly Dwyer, Sahara Widmayer

Others in attendance: None

1) Public Comments Regarding Items Not on the Agenda.

None.

2) Discuss the status of the America250 Mural Project.

a) Call for Art was a success

Over a dozen submissions came in. Jimmer has initiated the next phase of the project.

b) Time to focus on fundraising

PAC is now accepting donations. Anyone can donate by writing a check to the borough with Public Arts in the memo. Donors will receive a receipt and the donation is 100% tax deductible. The PAC discussed a potential grant: CCCCF250.org America250 Let Freedom Ring Mini Grants. Michael to look into it and inquire about if the American Legion should be the primary applicant.

i) Restaurant night

Michael spoke with Bierhaul about a Dine & Donate as early as January. Perhaps a mid-week day and a percentage goes to PAC. Michael will solidify a date and percentage. PAC would need to publicize it and possibly get assistance from BID, Bierhaul and the Chester County Community Foundation.

ii) Submissions for promotion

The group has decided to not use mural submissions for promotional purposes.

c) Organizing for judging session

i) Submitters to be notified by end of January

There will be a small panel of blind judges including PAC members, the Mayor, a representative from American Legion, an outside artist and Jimmer as moderator. Judging should take place in the first half of January.



3) Review draft agreement for the PAC to use the plaza at 44 West as an event space in lieu of them fulfilling their requirement of installing public art.

Greg has been in talks with Adam Loew and Eli Kahn about use of the plaza, and has created a draft agreement that includes input from PAC.

PAC has one week (12/15 - 12/22) to provide Greg with any follow-up revision requests before moving the process to the next steps. The idea will need to be presented to the Borough (Building & Housing, Borough Council), and the agreement will need to be reviewed by the Borough's solicitor. Greg and Jimmer will look into next steps.

Members of PAC discussed launching a series featuring local, historic notables. Possibly there could be a pop-up concert in May 2026 featuring WCASD musicians and maybe WCUPA musicians performing the works of Samuel Barber.

4) Discuss the ideas brought forth by Michael Hartman

a) Utilize Phippen Park as an Art Park

Doing this would create interest/education about the park's namesake (Horace Phippen), as well as attract more attention to this underutilized Borough park. Ideas include installing a mural/banner on the existing batting cage.

b) Incorporate/encourage all arts through the PAC (e.g., music, dance, etc.)

Another historic influence is Samuel Barber, which could be highlighted through his music. Potentially showcase at 44 West or on the block of his home with a pop-up concert. The WCASD strings program is already performing his "Adagio for Strings" for America250 in the spring, so perhaps we could work with them.

c) Highlight local artists through PAC social media.

Feature local artists - "get to know." This idea was well received by the PAC.

5) Approval of the Minutes (October 2025).

John/Kendra

Approved unanimously.

6) Other Business.

Kendra is retiring from her position on PAC and will be missed. Her efforts and energy over these past years is greatly appreciated.

Adjourn: Kendra/Michael