

The Arts Council, Inc. (d.b.a. MartinArts)

Board Meeting Agenda

Thursday, January 29 @ 5:30 PM

Location: Court House Cultural Center Gallery

Board Members: Andrew Hammond, Suzy Hutcheson, Chandler Josie, Leslie Judd, Marie Jureit-Beamish, Nerissa Okiye, Nicki van Vonna

Ex-Officio Members: Laura Giobbi, Nancy Johnson, Stacey Hetherington, Ed Ciampi, Amy Pritchett, (Foundation Rep, TBD)

1. Welcome & Attendance Okiye
2. Approve Minutes from October 2025 (enc. p 3)
3. New Business
 - a. Presentation of Quarterly Metrics Report Staff
 - b. Review of Recommendations for Improvement related to Gallery Installation Incident (enc. 4-7) Turrell
4. Financial Report Hammond
5. Committee & Partner Reports
 - a. Court House Cultural Center Gallery Hearn
 - b. Arts Education Updates Turrell
6. Executive Director's & Staff Updates Turrell
 - a. Grants Update
 - b. Membership Outreach Hill
 - c. Foundation News & Updates
 - i. Stuart High School Update
 - ii. ArtsFest (Feb 7 & 8) Hearn
 1. Art of Food & Wine
 2. Volunteer Needs
 3. Programming Details – Help Build Excitement!
 7. Chairman's Comments & Updates Okiye
 - a. Review Events & Meetings Dates (page 8)
 - b. Board Self Evaluation & CEO Evaluation
 8. Comments from the Public
 9. Adjourn

Event & Meeting Dates

Board Meetings	January 29, 2026	April 23, 2026	July 23, 2026	October 22, 2026
Event Calendar				
Exhibit Opening	Fr., Mar 13 5:30-7PM	Everglow, by the Florida Artists Group (FLAG)		
Marvin S. Cone High School Juried Art Show	April 28 - June 20, 2026	Since 1987, this annual exhibition has featured the exceptional artwork of student artists from our five local high schools.		
Recurring Events				
Sunset Concert at the Gallery (2nd Tues., 5:30PM)	Feb 13	Mar 10	April 14	May 12
Art Talks (4-6 x / year)	March 31, 2026 Author Sonja Mongar	May 2026 TBD – Historic Preservation Month		

The Arts Council, Inc. (d.b.a. MartinArts)

Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 23 @ 5:30 PM

Location: Court House Cultural Center Gallery

Present: Laura Giobbi, Andrew Hammond, Chandler Josie, Leslie Judd, Marie Jureit-Beamish, Nerissa Okiye, Nicki van Vonna

Absent: Suzy Hutcheson, Nancy Johnson, Stacey Hetherington, Ed Ciampi, Amy Pritchett

Staff: Jennifer Hearn, Tori Hill, Nancy Turrell

1. Welcome & Attendance – Nicki van Vonna called the meeting to order at 5:30PM. A quorum was established.
2. Approve Minutes from July 2025 – Nerissa Okiye motioned to approve the previous meeting's minutes, and Chandler Josie seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
3. New Business
 - a. Election of Officers – Marie Jureit-Beamish motioned to approve the slate of 2025-2026 officers as follows: Nerissa Okiye, Chair, Chandler Josie, Vice Chair, Andrew Hammond, Treasurer, Leslie Judd, Secretary. Nicki van Vonna seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
 - b. Presentation of Quarterly Metrics Report – Nancy Turrell presented the quarterly metrics report.
 - c. Request for Letter of Support / State Grant Funds – Chandler Josie motioned to approve the drafted letter of support for the Division of Arts and Culture grant. Marie Jureit-Beamish seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
4. Financial Report – Andrew Hammond updated the board on the Council's financials and expressed a positive outlook.
5. Executive Director's & Staff Updates
 - a. Foundation News & Updates
 - i. MartinArts Awards – Jennifer Hearn reported that the committee is encouraging ticket sales for the November 2 event.
 - ii. ArtsFest – Jennifer Hearn reported that the committee was in the process of launching ticket sales for the Art of Food & Wine component of ArtsFest 2026.
6. Chairman's Comments & Updates
 - a. Review Events & Meetings Dates – The board reviewed the calendar of events and meeting dates.
7. Comments from the Public – N/A
8. Adjourn – Andrew Hammond motioned to adjourn the meeting and Chandler Josie seconded. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:30PM.

Memorandum

To: Board Members
Fr: Nancy K. Turrell
Re: Improvements in policies and procedures
Dt: January 14, 2026

In response to the attached email from artist and gallery committee member, Jennifer Sky, the following areas of improvement are suggested for the Board's input, discussion and possible updates to current policies and procedures.

As noted in the email, but I feel it is worthy of repeating, we have a strong statement which is intended to guide all volunteers, staff and board members in our actions and behaviors. It reads as follows:

MartinArts values and celebrates the unique qualities of persons with diverse backgrounds and cultures. It is believed that inclusiveness adds to organizational excellence when tapping the skills, talents, and resources of people of diversity. MartinArts will actively promote respect for persons of different races, creeds, color, religion, age, national origin, gender, disability, sexual orientation, education, economic position, and ancestry. MartinArts will uphold the fundamental directives of equality and access to the arts for all.

Areas for Improvement (proposed):

1. Expand annual Sunshine Law Review with committee members to include an acknowledgment of the above values statement, with a pledge to uphold both the letter and spirit of the statement in all dealings with fellow committee members, visitors, artists, volunteers, staff, and the public.
2. Review of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and related best practices, with the goal of identifying and implementing reasonable improvements to our programming, communications, volunteer roles, and physical tasks to better address accessibility, accommodation, and inclusion.
3. Clarify committee role expectations and physical task requirements, ensuring that no committee member or volunteer is implicitly or explicitly expected to perform physical labor (such as lifting heavy items) as a condition of participation unless such tasks are clearly defined, optional, and supported by appropriate assistance or equipment.
4. Establish clear accommodation protocols, including:
 - a. How a committee member, artist, or volunteer may request reasonable accommodations
 - b. Who receives and responds to such requests

- c. How accommodations are documented and implemented respectfully and confidentially
5. Provide inclusion and sensitivity guidance for committee chairs, staff liaisons, and volunteer leads, with an emphasis on:
 - a. Avoiding assumptions about physical ability
 - b. Using inclusive language
 - c. Redirecting tasks when safety, ability, or comfort is a concern
6. Create a clear reporting and response pathway for committee members or volunteers who experience or observe behavior that feels exclusionary, discriminatory, or inconsistent with MartinArts' stated values, including guidance on how concerns are reviewed and addressed.

Next Steps:

Staff recommends that the Board review these proposed areas of improvement, provide input and direction, and determine which actions should be incorporated into updated policies, committee guidelines, and materials. The goal is to ensure that all individuals engaged with MartinArts, regardless of ability, can participate fully, safely, and with dignity, consistent with our mission and values.

From: [Nancy Turrell](#)
To: ["Jennifer Sky"](#); [Jennifer Hearn](#)
Bcc: _____
Subject: RE: CHCC Gallery - Upcoming Take In & Gallery Committee Meeting
Date: Wednesday, January 7, 2026 1:32:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good afternoon. I have been tied up today with our state grant panel hearing and unable to formally respond until now.

As several members of those who were copied on this email are subject to the Sunshine Law per the Arts Council status as the local arts agency and an appointed member of the gallery committee, I caution everyone to NOT reply to all. You may however, reply to both Jennifer Hearn and myself, so I have moved all "cc" to bcc to receive this message from me.

I have conferred with the Council Board Chair and we will be sharing this message from Jennifer Sky with the Council Board at their next meeting, January 29, 5:30PM at the Court House Cultural Center, alongside recommendations for improvements in policies and procedures. All board meetings are open to the public and you are welcome to attend.

We have a strong statement which is intended to guide all volunteers, staff and board members in our actions and behaviors. It reads as follows: MartinArts values and celebrates the unique qualities of persons with diverse backgrounds and cultures. It is believed that inclusiveness adds to the organizational excellence when tapping the skills, talents, and resources of people of diversity. MartinArts will actively promote respect for persons of different race, creed, color, religion, age, national origin, gender, disability, sexual orientation, education, economic position, and ancestry. MartinArts will uphold the fundamental directives of equality and access to the arts for all.

I am deeply concerned and sorry for the situation that transpired yesterday. It does not represent the culture that I believe we have tried to build around our arts community, which is one where we can all participate to the best of our individual abilities and talents. We all have something to contribute and the diversity of our talents elevates the overall outcomes for the benefit of our whole community.

Nancy

Support the Arts. Strengthen Our Community.
[Donate Today.](#)



Nancy K. Turrell
Executive Director / CEO
772-287-6676 (x4)
772-530-5437 (mobile)
nturrell@martinarts.org
nancy.turrell@martinartsfoundation.org

80 SE Ocean Blvd, Stuart, Florida 34994 • [MartinArts.org](#)

Good morning:

Yesterday, I was subject to discrimination by several in the gallery committee during the volunteer session to hang the "All Florida Show." As many in the our community know, I am severely disabled. Yet I took time out of my day to volunteer for a community group I feel passionately about. In fact, I'm so disabled that my mother came along with me to make sure I didn't pick up anything too heavy or do any activity that was too strenuous. This resulted in several members that were present questioning my disability asking me "What is wrong with you?" "What IS your disability?" Then once I left, several members continued to criticize my disability and question my character in front of my mother. This made not only my mom cry but I have cried several times.

Art is a space for kindness and respect of ALL people.

Art is the one of the only things that brings me joy and helps me carry the weight of a terminal health condition. The burden of my dire health condition is also carried by my family. This incident has soured not only my feeling about this organization but my parents who have volunteered for MartinArts for years.

To be clear, speaking about anyone with a disability in the manor that several felt they were free to do so is not only morally corrupt but it's highly illegal. I would like this incident to be formally reviewed by the board. Additionally, I suggest this committee closely review the American's with Disabilities Act. Discrimination, gossip, harassment and bullying a person with disability is illegal in the United States and has no place in a community funded arts group.

I await a formal apology in writing to not only myself but my deeply generous mother.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Sky