

ERIE COUNTY ARTS IN PUBLIC PLACES

General Committee Meeting
Monday, May 12, 2025

Meeting Minutes

The Arts in Public Places General Committee Meeting was held on Monday, May 12th, 2025 in the Eat Off Art Studio, Tri-Main Building, 2495 Main St. Ste. 441, Buffalo NY 14214 and by video conference, in accordance with NYS Open Meetings Law. A quorum was present as indicated:

Members:

Alexa Wajed
Don Siuta
Edreys Wajed
Susan O'Connor Baird

Bernice Radle (excused)

Ex-Officio Members:

William Geary (Commissioner of the Department of Public Works)
David Bojanowski (County Executive's Office)

Other Attendees:

Thomas E. Baines (Deputy Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development)
Monica Boutin (Project Coordinator)
Tracy Cichocki (Deputy Commissioner Buildings and Grounds)

1. Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum:

- The Arts in Public Places Committee was called to order by Chairwoman Wajed at 12:14 PM, roll call was taken by Monica Boutin and a quorum was declared present.

2. Approval of Draft Minutes:

- Upon motion by Ms. O'Connor Baird and seconded by Mr. Wajed, the Draft Minutes were unanimously approved.

3. General Update

- Ms. Boutin provided an update on the Legislature-approved Master Public Art Plan including site planning meetings held throughout March and April 2025

with each of the three selected artists, Chairwoman Wajed, Deputy Commissioner Thomas Baines, and representatives from Erie County DPW. Ms. Boutin noted that artist contracts were sent out May 2, 2025 and the artists were in the process of submitting their supporting documents and discussing terms.

- Mr. Cichocki noted that the existing lights at the Convention Center would be removed prior to mural installation, but the new lighting may be installed after the mural project is complete.

4. Small Works: (Review of DRAFT Call for Art)

a. Timeline

- The Committee discussed the appropriate length of time to leave the Call for Art open and agreed 2 full months were not needed. The Call for Art could be announced June 1st with submissions open through July 15th. This would leave about a month for the selection process before the intended legislature resolution submission date of August 22, 2025.

b. Location

- The Committee discussed three main locations proposed by Erie County's Department of Public Works to house the Small Works Exhibit and decided to move forward with the Convention Center and Old County Hall. The locations would be finalized post meeting.

c. Themes / Dimensions

- The Committee agreed this Call for Art would have no theme. After a discussion of potential size limitations, the Committee agreed to set no minimum or maximum dimensions to allow a variety of Work in a variety of mediums to be considered. (The Works would only be limited by the dimensions of available exhibit space)

d. Budget

- The Committee agreed that the maximum purchase price per Work would be \$2,000
- The Committee agreed to aside (at least) \$20,000 for the Small Works program from the 2024/2025 Public Art Fund allocations. The Committee intends to set aside \$20,000 for the Small Works program on an ongoing basis in future years as well.

e. Eligibility

- The Committee discussed eligibility requirements and determined that artists already completing a 2025 Arts in Public Places project would be considered ineligible for this Call for Art.

f. Submissions Requirements

- The Committee made a series of edits to the draft Submission Requirements including changing the number of photos required in

the application, updating language around installation readiness and originality of Work, and adding in UV filtration requirements for certain Works. The Committee also elected to add a requirement for an Artist Bio / Resume.

g. Selection Criteria

- The Committee determined the following Scoring Criteria:
 - Artist Background (10 pts)
 - Originality, creativity, craftsmanship, and skill of artwork (40pts)
 - Ready to install (10pts)
 - Overall quality of submission (40pts)

h. Copyright

- Chairwoman Wajed noted the word “reproduce” should be changed to “use” in the copyright section of the Call for Art.

5. Upcoming Officer Elections

6. Resolutions - none

7. Unfinished Business

8. New Business

9. Adjournment

- Upon motion by Ms. O'Connor Baird, and seconded by Mr. Siuta, the meeting was adjourned at 1:51 PM.