

ERIE COUNTY ARTS IN PUBLIC PLACES

General Committee Meeting
Wednesday June 11, 2025

Meeting Minutes

The Arts in Public Places General Committee Meeting was held on Wednesday June 11, 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
Edreys Wajed
Susan O'Connor Baird

Don Siuta (excused)
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 12:18 PM, roll call was taken by Monica Boutin and a quorum was declared present.

2. Approval of Draft Minutes:

- Ms. O'Connor Baird requested that Committee members who were not present for a meeting be included in the minutes of said meeting with the notation of "excused" next to their name. Upon motion by Mr. Wajed and seconded by Ms. O'Connor Baird, Draft Minutes for the May 12th Meeting were approved as amended.

3. 2025 Large Works Update

- Ms. Boutin provided a brief update on each of the public art projects included in the 2025 Master Public Art Plan (*the Large Works*).
- Convention Center: Erie County's contract with the artist has been fully executed and the first payment is expected promptly. Mr. Cichocki noted that DPW is on track to provide 2 scissor lifts, remove exterior lighting fixtures, repair walls, submit paperwork with the city for sidewalk closure, and power wash the site by June 30, 2025, allowing the artists to start their work on schedule.
- Health Mall: The contract has been signed by the artist and is in the process of being finalized. Once the contract is executed by County officials, the payment will be released. Mr. Cichocki noted that DPW is working on the lift rental, and is looking for a storage solution.
- Ellicott Creek Park Sculpture: The Artist and the County Attorney's office could not come to an agreement on the proposed contract. The parties are at an impasse and the project will not be moving forward.

4. 2025 Small Works Update

- Ms. Boutin provided an update on the Small Works program. The Call was announced June 2, and applications will be accepted through July 15th at 12pm noon. 30 applications have been submitted thus far. Ms. Boutin gave an overview of the project scoring sheet that Committee Members will use to score the submissions as well as an overview of the general project timeline. The Committee confirmed July 29th at 12pm noon for the Selection Committee Meeting.
- Ms. Wajed noted that selected artists will provide their names, and if interested, a QR code to their website/social media for a plaque next to their work. Mr. Wajed noted that QR codes should go to general pages, not shopping carts as these works will not be for sale once they are purchased by Erie County.
- Ms. Wajed noted that Erie County could look into Call for Art software/services (like Café) that simplify and streamline the Call for Art submission and review process.

5. Officer Nominations

- **Chairperson:**
Ms. O'Connor Baird nominated Alexa Wajed to be Chairperson, seconded by Mr. Wajed. Ms. Wajed accepted the nomination.
- **Vice Chairperson:**
Ms. O'Connor Baird nominated Don Siuta to be Vice Chairperson, seconded by Mr. Wajed.

6. 2026 Call for Art

- Mr. Baines and Ms. Boutin discussed the interest expressed by the Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Gardens in being a location for an AIPP public art project, potentially in 2026. Mr. Geary noted the Gardens staff would be willing to host an AIPP meeting. Ms. Wajed suggested the Committee have a General Committee Meeting on July 16th at 12pm at the Botanical Gardens where Gardens staff would be able to meet Committee members and discuss a potential collaboration. Ms. Boutin will follow up and confirm availability with Gardens staff.

7. Unfinished Business

8. New Business

9. Public Comment

- No public comments.

10. Adjournment

- Upon motion by Ms. O'Connor Baird, and seconded by Mr. Wajed, the meeting was adjourned at 1:16 PM.