

ERIE COUNTY ARTS IN PUBLIC PLACES

General Committee Meeting
Thursday, January 8, 2026

Draft Meeting Minutes

The Art in Public Places General Committee Meeting was held on Thursday, January 8, 2026 at Richardson Complex, Architecture Center 444 Forest Avenue, Buffalo, NY, and by video conference, in accordance with NYS Open Meetings Law. A quorum was present as indicated:

Members:

Susan O'Connor Baird
Bernice Radle
Don Siuta, Acting Chair

Alexa Wajed (excused)
Edreys Wajed (excused)

Ex-Officio Members:

William Geary (Commissioner of the Department of Public Works)
David Bojanowski (County Executive's Office)
Tina Shortt (County Legislature's Community Enrichment Committee)

Other Attendees:

Colette Balisteri (Assistant Project Coordinator)
Monica Boutin (Project Coordinator)
Tracy Cichocki (Deputy Commissioner Buildings and Grounds)
Zaque Evans (Deputy Commissioner and Chief Economic Development Officer)

1. Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum

- The Art in Public Places Committee was called to order by Acting Chair Suita at 12:05 PM. Roll call was taken by Monica Boutin, and a quorum was declared present.

2. Approval of Draft Minutes

- Due to the absence of a quorum of members who attended the December 10, 2025 General Meeting, approval of the December 10, 2025 meeting minutes was deferred.

3. Master Public Art Plan Review

- Committee members reviewed the 2026 Draft Master Plan. Mr. Suita recommended amending the Plan to include language allowing the Committee to explore the option of forming a sub-committee, or equivalent, focused on conservation, restoration, and inventory of the artwork owned by Erie County. Upon motion by Ms. O'Connor Baird and seconded by Mr. Suita, the vote to accept the Draft Master Plan as amended carried.

4. Resolutions

- 2026 – 1 Resolution of the Art in Public Places Committee approving the Draft Language of the Annual Public Art Master Plan
 - i. **Resolution of the Arts in Public Places Committee Approving the Draft Language of the Annual Public Art Master Plan:** Upon motion by Ms. O'Connor Baird, and second by Mr. Suita, the resolution was unanimously passed by the Committee

5. Public Hearing

- The Public Hearing for the 2026 Draft Master Plan will be held on January 27, 2026 at 4PM-5PM in the Burchfield Penney second floor reception space (1300 Elmwood Ave, Buffalo, NY 14222)

6. Unfinished Business

- Annual Schedule
 - i. Committee members reviewed the 2026 meeting schedule with project milestone dates. Mr. Geary proposed adding a meeting date in March/April for members to visit possible locations to showcase the 2026 small works collection.

7. New Business - none

8. Public Comment - none

9. Adjournment

- Upon motion by Ms. O'Connor Baird and seconded by Mr. Suita, the meeting was adjourned at 1:05 PM.