

ERIE COUNTY ARTS IN PUBLIC PLACES

General Committee Meeting
Wednesday, February 11, 2026

Meeting Minutes

The Art in Public Places General Committee Meeting was held on Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at the Artists Gallery Group, 1 Linwood Avenue, Buffalo, NY, and by video conference, in accordance with NYS Open Meetings Law. A quorum was present as indicated:

Members:

Don Siuta
Alexa Wajed
Edreys Wajed

Susan O'Connor Baird (virtual)

Bernice Radle (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)
Tracy Cichocki (Deputy Commissioner Buildings and Grounds)
Joanna Panasiewicz (Chief Environmental Compliance Specialist)
Nicole Ruberto (Deputy Commissioner of Recreation)
Anna Gillette (Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens)
Amanda Johnston (Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens)
Olivia Rondon (Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens)

1. Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum

- The Art in Public Places Committee was called to order by Chairperson Wajed at 12:04 PM. Roll call was taken by Ms. Balisteri, and a quorum was declared present.

2. Approval of Draft Minutes
 - Upon motion by Mr. Siuta and seconded by Mr. Wajed, the draft December 10, 2025 and January 8, 2026 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.
3. Master Public Art Plan Update
 - Ms. Balisteri provided an update on the legislative approval process for the 2026 Master Public Art Plan. Following the public hearing held on January 27, 2026, the final plan was submitted to the Erie County Legislature for consideration at the March 5, 2026 Community Enrichment Committee meeting and subsequently on the March 12, 2026 Erie County Legislature agenda.
4. Review Draft Calls for Artists
 - The Art in Public Places Committee reviewed the draft Calls for Artists for both the Isle View Park and Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens 2026 Major Works locations. General edits included the addition of a \$75,000 maximum budget proposal for each location.
 - Upon motion by Mr. Siuta and seconded by Mr. Wajed, the provision requiring previously contracted artists to observe a five-year hiatus following their initial contract before submitting a proposal for another Art in Public Places public art project was unanimously approved.

Isle View Park

- Ms. Balisteri will incorporate additional edits to the Isle View Park Call for Artists, including adding an additional location to the list of preferred locations in Schedule A; incorporating the \$10,000 in Submerse NY grant funding into the maximum budget amount; and removing the education and outreach components.
- Upon motion by Mr. Wajed and seconded by Mr. Siuta, the Call for Artists for Isle View Park was unanimously approved, contingent upon incorporation of the edits discussed at the meeting.

Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens

- Upon motion by Mr. Siuta and seconded by Mr. Wajed, the Call for Artists for the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens was unanimously approved, contingent upon incorporation of the edits discussed at the meeting.

5. Funding allocations for Major Work Projects
 - During the review of Draft Calls for Artists, the Committee unanimously approved the funding allocation of \$75,000 for each 2026 Major Works Project.
6. Unfinished Business
 - Alternative program titles for “Small Works Acquisition Program”

- i. The Committee discussed possible revisions to the “Small Works Acquisition Program” title. This item was tabled until the next meeting.

7. New Business

- Ms. O’Connor Baird proposed the Committee explore ways to feature the completed, contracted public artwork digitally.

8. Public Comment

- None

9. Adjournment

- Upon motion by Mr. Wajed and seconded by Mr. Siuta, and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 1:09 PM.