



**AGENDA
PUBLIC ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION MEETING
CITY OF LEANDER, TEXAS**

Development Services - San Gabriel Conference Room
201 North Brushy Street - Leander, Texas
Wednesday, April 8, 2026
Regular Meeting at 6:00 PM



**Place 1 – Matt Pitcher
Place 2 – Keysha Bradford
Place 3 – Lisa Chmelar
Place 4 – Anna Yelaun
Place 5 – Reddy Yeduru
Place 6 – Sammy Panzarino**

**Place 7 – Steve Kuwitzky
Place 8 – Kyla Spady
Place 9 – Naruby Bollom
Council Liaison – Vacant
Staff Liaison – Greg Olmer, Deputy Director of
Parks and Recreation**

REGULAR MEETING

1. Open Meeting.
2. Roll Call.
3. Public comments on items not listed in the agenda.
Public comments on items listed in the agenda will be heard at the time each item is discussed.
[All comments are limited to no more than 3 minutes per individual.]
4. Staff Updates.
 - Budget: Financial report for Fund 10 and Fund 75 including funds spent in March 2026; and purchasing requirements for said funds.
5. Subcommittee Updates
 - Booth Events: March 28, 2026, Leander ISD Art Showcase Post Event Report
 - America 250th Anniversary: latest updates on the upcoming event and the process to create a community-led mosaic/mural to commemorate the anniversary.

CONSENT AGENDA: ACTION

6. Approval of the minutes for meeting held on March 11, 2026.

REGULAR AGENDA

7. Discuss and consider action on the election of a Quartermaster; a subcommittee position designated to oversee inventory management and logistical planning for events.
8. Discuss and consider action on the Senior Activity Center Sculpture project; specifically, determining the optimal site placement, required dimensions, and technical specifications necessary to finalize the Request for Proposal.

9. Discuss and consider action on the revised draft June 2025 Master Plan amended by Leander Public Art and Culture Commission members and city staff based on feedback provided by the City Council at their June 5, 2025 regular meeting.
10. Future Agenda Items.
11. Closing Statements.
12. Adjournment

CERTIFICATION

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Greg Olmer, Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
4/8/2026

AGENDA SUBJECT:

Approval of the minutes for meeting held on March 11, 2026.

BACKGROUND:

Attached are the meeting minutes for the meeting held on March 11, 2026.

HISTORY/TIMELINE:

APPLICANT/AGENT:

RECOMMENDATION:

PRESENTER:

Fiscal Impact

Attachments:

1. March 11, 2026 Meeting Minutes



**MINUTES
PUBLIC ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION MEETING
CITY OF LEANDER, TEXAS**

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Wednesday, March 11, 2026
Regular Meeting at 6:00 PM



**Place 1 – Matt Pitcher
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**Place 7 – Steve Kuwitzky
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Place 9 - Naruby Bollom
Council Liaison — Vacant
Staff Liaison — Greg Olmer, Deputy
Director of Parks and Recreation**

REGULAR MEETING

1. Open Meeting.

Called to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. Roll Call.

All Board members were present except for Board Member Spady.

3. Public comments on items not listed in the agenda.

Public comments on items listed in the agenda will be heard at the time each item is discussed.

[All comments are limited to no more than 3 minutes per individual.]

No public comments.

4. City Council Update.

- Update on actions taken at recent City Council meetings.

No update.

5. Staff Updates.

- Budget: Financial report for Fund 10 and Fund 75 including funds spent in February 2026.

Staff Liaison Olmer gave an update that \$150.00 had been spent on entertainment for the MLK Day March and Parade special event. Fund 10 was also credited \$6.00 from a donation received through the donation option found on utility bills.

CONSENT AGENDA: ACTION

Motion: Approve the consent agenda.

By: Board Member Yeduru

Seconded: Board Member Bradford

Vote: 8 - 0

6. Approval of the minutes for meeting held on February 25, 2026.

REGULAR AGENDA

7. Discuss and consider action on a recommendation of participation in a mosaic mural project commemorating America's 250th anniversary, including opportunities for community participation in painting of the tiles, displaying the completed piece at the Libertyfest Special Event on July 3rd at Devine Lake Park, followed by permanent installation at Pat Bryson Municipal Hall in the Council Chambers.

Following a discussion, a motion was made to approve the board's participation in a mosaic mural project commemorating America's 250th anniversary, including opportunities for community participation in painting of the tiles, displaying the completed piece at the Libertyfest Special Event on July 3rd at Devine Lake Park, followed by permanent installation at Pat Bryson Municipal Hall in the Council Chambers.

By: Board Member Pitcher

Seconded: Board Member Chmelar

Vote: 6 - 2 (Bollom, Yelaun)

8. Discuss and consider action on the revised draft June 2025 Master Plan amended by Leander Public Art and Culture Commission members and city staff based on feedback provided by the City Council at their June 5, 2025 regular meeting.

Following a discussion, a motion was made to table this item to the next meeting on April 8th, 2026.

9. Discuss and consider action on hosting a booth at the March 28, 2026 LISD Art Showcase being held at Vista Ridge High School.

Following a discussion, a motion was made to approve the board to host a booth at the March 28, 2026, LISD Art Showcase being held at Vista Ridge High School.

By: Board Member Pitcher

Seconded: Board Member Kuwitzky

Vote: 8 - 0.

10. Future Agenda Items.

- Leander Frog Coloring Book
- Boards and Commissions Code and Ordinances

- City Management Presence at the next meeting
- Electing of a Quartermaster
- Senior Center Sculpture
- Subcommittee Updates

11. Closing Statements.
None.

12. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

APPROVED

CHAIR

ATTEST:

STAFF LIAISON



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
4/8/2026

AGENDA SUBJECT:

Discuss and consider action on the election of a Quartermaster; a subcommittee position designated to oversee inventory management and logistical planning for events.

BACKGROUND:

Discussion on the process to elect a Quartermaster subcommittee position that will be responsible for:

- Maintaining inventory of vendor booth needs
- Coordination of logistics necessary for upcoming events
- Maintenance and providing updates to the Commission members on any necessary repairs or replacement needs of current inventory
- Responsible for the coordination of acquiring equipment needs from local resources

Due to past events where booth set-up responsibility was unclear, this item designates a lead to ensure clear accountability for all necessary supplies and materials going forward.

HISTORY/TIMELINE:

APPLICANT/AGENT:

RECOMMENDATION:

PRESENTER:

Fiscal Impact

Attachments:



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
4/8/2026

AGENDA SUBJECT:

Discuss and consider action on the Senior Activity Center Sculpture project; specifically, determining the optimal site placement, required dimensions, and technical specifications necessary to finalize the Request for Proposal.

BACKGROUND:

Discussion on the latest updates for the Senior Activity Center Sculpture for an Request for Proposals to be released by the Purchasing Department. Discussion to take place on ideal placement location, dimensions, and additional details needed to finalize an RFP. The theme is "Pathways". The timeline is for the proposal to go out within the next 60 days.

HISTORY/TIMELINE:

APPLICANT/AGENT:

RECOMMENDATION:

PRESENTER:

Fiscal Impact

Attachments:



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
4/8/2026

AGENDA SUBJECT:

Discuss and consider action on the revised draft June 2025 Master Plan amended by Leander Public Art and Culture Commission members and city staff based on feedback provided by the City Council at their June 5, 2025 regular meeting.

BACKGROUND:

LPACC, with support from consultants, Designing Local, Ltd. presented a proposed five (5) year master plan to the City Council at their regular meeting held on June 5, 2025. Since that presentation, Designing Local has declined to make the requested updates without additional compensation. In an effort to keep the plan moving forward, the Master Plan subcommittee is recommending revising the plan based on the feedback received by the City Council internally and bringing it back to the commission for acceptance, then scheduling a workshop with the City Council.

HISTORY/TIMELINE:

APPLICANT/AGENT:

RECOMMENDATION:

PRESENTER:

Fiscal Impact

Attachments:

1. LPACC Master Plan Recommendations

VISION.

Leander is a "suburb with heart," in which meaningful experiences of art and culture invite endless possibilities, differentiate the city, and drive economic growth.

MISSION.

Leander works to cultivate its creative economy and offer meaningful experiences of art and culture by investing in local artists and cultural practitioners, arts education programs, dynamic places, and public art projects.

GOALS.

1. Increase the number of arts and culture experiences available in Leander.
2. Celebrate and unify Leander residents through the arts.

STRATEGIES.

1. Broaden the base of support for arts and culture initiatives among local creatives, developers, the business community, and residents.
2. Explore new funding opportunities and best practices in public arts and culture programs from other places.
3. Install more public and publicly accessible art throughout the city, with themes that celebrate and unify all residents.
4. Clarify the city's role in facilitating community events and introduce new elements that celebrate and unify all residents.
5. Offer family-focused arts and culture programming for residents of all ages.
6. Make places in Leander for people to gather and enjoy art and culture.

STRATEGY NO. 1. **RELATIONSHIPS + COMMUNICATION**

STRATEGY NO. 1. ACTIONS

Broaden the base of support for arts and culture initiatives among local creatives, developers, the business community, and residents.

01

Though the Parks & Recreation Department is a key force behind Leander’s arts and cultural offerings, LPACC is the only entity in the city fully tasked with advancing its arts and culture projects and initiatives. LPACC is an advisory body responsible for guiding the city’s arts and culture investments, but its members have also taken on event coordination, fundraising, marketing, public art implementation, and other tasks. This group of nine community members – however dedicated they are to this work – are volunteers with term limits; most are not artists. To expand what is possible beyond their limited capabilities, others in Leander should be enlisted to contribute. However, Leander’s arts and culture community is scattered, residents claim not to know about LPACC or local opportunities for arts and culture, and the business community has not been engaged to the extent that it could be. Much of the work of the next five years will therefore be to cultivate the community – through convenings, communication, and targeted outreach – and help people understand how they can, too, can help Leander be a creative, artful place.



- 01 **Establish a Communications subcommittee** on LPACC that is responsible for cultivating an arts and culture email list and sharing information relevant to Leander’s creative community, including programs and events, news, artist calls, and volunteer opportunities. **Explore the viability of digital bulletin boards** to further provide this information at sites throughout the city (alongside other city news).
- 02 **Convene local artists regularly** through opportunities for education, professional development, and networking. **Host a conversation series** on this plan and creating a healthy arts ecosystem in Leander.
- 03 **Create a Developer’s Guide to Supporting the Arts in Leander** that encourages private developers to factor arts and culture into their developments and educates them on how to do so.
- 04 **Develop a Business Owner’s Guide to Supporting the Arts in Leander**, in partnership with the Leander Chamber of Commerce, that outlines how the arts fosters economic development and how businesses can capitalize on arts-related investments.
- 05 **Expand Art Fest** to provide an annual occasion for local arts and culture communities to showcase their offerings and engage community members.



STRATEGY NO. 2. **INFRASTRUCTURE & FUNDING**

STRATEGY NO. 2. ACTIONS

Explore new funding opportunities and best practices in public arts and culture programs from other places.

02

With its rapid residential growth and increased demand for basic services, coupled with the lag in developing a commercial tax base and water shortages, Leander has understandably focused on addressing residents' critical needs. As the city now turns attention to other important aspects of community life, including its atmosphere and culture, key pieces of cultural infrastructure will require investment as well.

Leander already specifies funding mechanisms for public art, including a portion of its hotel-motel tax, and the city has committed general funds to art and cultural events since 2022. The total amount Leander devotes to art and culture has therefore increased over time. Ideally, the city will develop new funding streams to continue growing their art and culture program; a long-term goal could be to hire staff for an office of art and culture within the Parks and Recreation Department. LPACC can support this effort by doing preliminary research into best practices and possible revenue streams.



- 01 **Work with the Texas Commission on the Arts** to access grants and other resources to help grow Leander's arts and culture offerings.
- 02 **Engage the business community in funding the arts**, as referenced in Strategy 1.4.
- 03 **Request guided tours of the nearby communities** of Georgetown, Round Rock, Fredericksburg, and Cedar Park to learn from them what has worked in the areas of arts promotion, community building, and funding.



STRATEGY NO. 3. PUBLIC ART INSTALLATIONS

STRATEGY NO. 3. ACTIONS

Install more public and publicly accessible art throughout the city, with themes that celebrate and unify all residents.

03

In recent years, LPACC has successfully implemented a new mural at Robin Bledsoe Park, an eagle sculpture for Veterans Park, and a sculpture garden at Lakewood Park. Now the goal is for art to become even more prevalent throughout Leander, in both public and private spaces, with a range of artforms and themes that celebrate Leander’s people. The growth of Leander’s public art collection will likely be incremental as background work is done to solicit funding and fortify the local arts ecosystem, but small, cost-effective projects will demonstrate ongoing momentum for more the ambitious pieces to come.



- 01 **Commission artists** to create small pieces, such as utility box and banner art.
- 02 **Aim to install** one significant, permanent public artwork per year.
- 03 **Continue to refresh the Sculpture Garden** through art-on-loan submissions that create a constantly evolving experience for visitors.
- 04 **Partner with the school district and other organizations** to create participatory public art projects, such as a mural, fairy houses along a trail, or a tiled sculpture or wall, with the guidance of local artists.
- 05 **Install public art that features themes celebrating the heritage** of those who have long lived in Leander, their ancestors, and Indigenous populations, as well as those newer to the city – in particular ranching, rodeo, and cowboys of all races; prehistoric times; Indigenous culture; trains; native flora and fauna; newer residents’ heritage; values that transcend all cultures, such as family and education; and diverse global communities coming together as one.



STRATEGY NO.4. CULTURAL EVENTS

STRATEGY NO. 4 ACTIONS

Clarify the city’s role in facilitating community events and introduce new elements that celebrate and unify all residents.

04

Leander’ Parks and Recreation Department offers many popular annual events, including Mason Heritage Day, Kite Festival, Juneteenth Block Party (LPACC-coordinated), Liberty Fest, Bluegrass & Folk Festival, Art Fest (LPACC-coordinated), Tricks and Treats Spooktacular, Veterans Day, Old Town Christmas Festival, MLK Day March and Celebration (LPACC-coordinated). Other events, such as the city’s annual Diwali Festival, are delivered by community groups with support from the city. By ordinance, these groups may petition the city to officially adopt their events after successfully implementing them two years in a row. Of concern, however, is that the city does not have the capacity to adopt additional events, and there are some cultural events the city is poorly positioned to deliver. However, the review criteria are so vague that the city opens itself to charges of favoritism and bias regarding which events get adopted, regardless of how reasoned its determinations. A better path is for local groups and nonprofit organizations to implement their own major cultural events with the city’s financial and in-kind support. This arrangement would allow local organizations to retain control of planning efforts and offer events their constituents find meaningful; provide the city with a way to support but not lead events; and better balance the resources and responsibilities associated with event implementation. In parallel, the city can incorporate cultural elements into its current suite of events to expand their appeal and better celebrate all city residents.



- 01 ■ **Strike the code** regarding city event adoption. Instead, **develop packages outlining various levels at which the city will support community-led cultural events** of all sizes, to include possible funding and in-kind services, and create a *Guide to Offering Events in Leander* that outlines these offerings, as well as event logistics, available spaces, permitting requirements, and other elements to make event planning more accessible.
- 02 ■ **Define a set list of annual holiday events the city will offer**, with the following recommended: MLK Day, Memorial Day, Juneteenth, 4th of July, Halloween, Veteran’s Day, and Christmas/Hanukkah.
- 03 ■ **Offer programs on Texas and Leander history** in partnership with the library and the Historical Preservation Commission.
- 04 ■ **Offer community events that are not explicitly cultural, but that invite cultural expression by their nature** (e.g., ArtFest, chili cook-offs, dance showcases, food and beverage festivals, etc.).
- 05 ■ **Add multi-cultural elements to the Old Town Christmas Festival**, such as trees sponsored and decorated by local nationality groups, and to other city events.



STRATEGY NO. 5. ARTS & CULTURAL PROGRAMMING

STRATEGY NO. 5. ACTIONS

Offer family-focused arts and culture programming for residents of all ages.

05

Leander’s Parks & Recreation Department currently offers limited arts and culture programming at its Senior Center and Activity Center, including art workshops and a full-day, arts-focused youth summer camp. Community members say that more such offerings, exploring a broader range of artistic media, would be welcome. With relatively modest investment in teaching artists, supplies, and equipment, the city can expand its arts and culture programming and enrich its people.



- 01 Offer artist- and cultural practitioner-led arts and culture programs for all ages at the city’s activity centers and use artworks produced during these classes in rotating exhibits to enhance the spaces.
- 02 Equip the activity centers with permanent artmaking equipment to support classes in ceramics, screen printing, photography, 3D printing, and/or other media.



STRATEGY NO. 6. CREATIVE SPACES

STRATEGY NO. 6. ACTIONS

Make places in Leander for people to gather and enjoy art and culture.

06

There is a high demand among Leander residents for places to gather and be in community with one another. The city has limited public space, and most of its land has already been developed, challenging its ability to secure new spaces for arts and culture activities. The library is overextended, and most private businesses do not have enough capacity to accommodate larger groups. Residents therefore drive elsewhere for cultural experiences. Keeping people in the city will ultimately require new multi-use spaces, such as those now being constructed at the Northline development, and the adaptation of current spaces for more productive community use. In the meantime, and especially now that the new Senior Center is open, the focus should be to more intentionally utilize what is already available for arts exhibitions, performances, and programs.

- 01 **Host visual and performing arts experiences in any and all of Leander’s public spaces** – including its parks, library, senior center, city administration buildings, etc.
- 02 **Include a section within the master plans and designs** for all public buildings on how they will incorporate art and culture.
- 03 **Invest in placemaking interventions for Old Town** and other current or potential public gathering spaces.
- 04 **Work to create additional public spaces for art, culture, and entertainment in Leander**, for example by constructing a new library branch or a city-owned activity center.
- 05 **Support businesses in offering opportunities for art and culture** through how-to content within the *Business Owner’s Guide to Supporting the Arts in Leander* recommended in Strategy 1.4.

