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**TOWN OF APEX
CULTURE AND ARTS ADVISORY BOARD
MONTHLY MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2025
6:00 P.M.**

The Culture and Arts Advisory Board with the Town of Apex met on Monday, September 15, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Apex Town Hall, located at 73 Hunter Street in Apex, North Carolina.

This meeting was open to the public. Members of the public were able to attend this meeting in-person or watch online via the livestream on the Town's YouTube Channel. The recording of this meeting can be viewed here: [2025.09.15 Culture & Arts Advisory Board](#)

[ATTENDANCE]

Board Members - Present

Bethany Bryant, Board Member

Tom Colwell, Chair

Juliana Corsetti, Voting Youth Representative

Sean Durham, Vice Chair

Brad Erickson, Board Member

Ranjit Hota, Board Member

Susan Kirley, Board Member

Board Members - Absent

Lafayette Trawick, Board Member

Vacant Position, Board Member

Town Staff - Present

Taylor Wray, Cultural Arts Center Manager

[CALL TO ORDER]

Chair Colwell called the meeting to order at **6:01 p.m.**

[APPROVAL OF MINUTES]

A **motion** was made by **Member Bethany Bryant**, and seconded by **Member Susan Kirley** to approve June 16, 2025, minutes.

VOTE: (UNANIMOUS) (7-0) with Member Lafayette Trawick absent

A **motion** was made by **Member Brad Erickson**, and seconded by **Vice Chair Sean Durham** to approve August 18, 2025, minutes.

VOTE: (UNANIMOUS) (7-0) with Member Trawick absent

1 **[TOWN LIAISON REPORT]**

2
3 **Mrs. Taylor Wray**, Cultural Center Manager welcomed the new and returning Board
4 Members and she went over guidelines for the Cultural & Arts Advisory Board. She said that
5 there is one vacant board member position available and this recommendation was deferred
6 to the September 23rd Council meeting, with the Mayor not having a recommendation for the
7 vacancy.
8

9 **[CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT]**

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11 **Chair Tom Colwell** said there was no Chairperson's Report and thanked all that have
12 served and welcomed the new members.
13

14 **[PUBLIC COMMENT]**

15
16 3 members of the public present. No Public Comments.
17

18 **[PRESENTATION]**

19
20 **Chair Colwell** invited Sean Kernick to come up and speak about the mural that has
21 been completed at White Oak Creek Greenway.

22 **Sean Kernick** gave an update on the White Oak Creek Greenway mural and this
23 presentation:
24

[SLIDE 1]



1 [SLIDE 2]



Thank you for the opportunity to bring this mural to life, and for the chance to connect with the heart of the Apex community.”

-Sean Kernick

2
3 [SLIDE 3]

SEAN KERNICK CREATIVE

VISION & INSPIRATION

- ▶ Shine a light on the shared life of the Greenway: people, wildlife, and plant life together.
- ▶ Use scale and color to reveal the often-overlooked critters and natural details of Apex.
- ▶ Create a vibrant sense of place, energy, and community that reflects both nature and people.



4
5 [SLIDE 4]

SEAN KERNICK CREATIVE

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- ▶ Designs were shared and revised with input from community feedback, ensuring local voices shaped the concept.
- ▶ Direct engagement during painting: conversations, photos, kids watching, neighbors stopping by.
- ▶ Hundreds of residents connected with the project, building pride and ownership in the mural.



1 [SLIDE 5]

SEAN KERNICK CREATIVE

THE CREATIVE PROCESS

- ▶ Begin by defining the story and building a clear visual narrative through sketches, feedback, and refined color renderings.
- ▶ Transfer designs to the wall using a “scribble grid” and sketches, a step that often draws community interest.
- ▶ Execute the mural with detailed spray paint rendering, finishing with a protective clear coat for longevity.

A photograph showing a person in a blue shirt and a green cap painting a large mural of a fox's face on a wall. The fox is orange and white with large eyes. The person is standing on a grassy area next to the wall. There are some paint cans and a black stool nearby.

2
3 [SLIDE 6]

SEAN KERNICK CREATIVE

APEX CRITTERS INCLUDED

- ▶ **Aquatic & Amphibian Life:** crawfish, largemouth bass, eastern box turtle, green tree frog, pickerel weed, arrow arum, broadleaf arrowhead
- ▶ **Plants & Flowers:** native poppy, Virginia bluebells, butterfly weed, Carolina jasmine, coryopsis flower, trumpet creeper
- ▶ **Wildlife & Birds:** whitetail deer, eastern cottontail rabbit, red fox, barred owl, wood duck, red-bellied woodpecker, cardinal, hummingbird

A photograph of a mural depicting a large orange crayfish. The crayfish is the central focus, with its legs and claws clearly visible. The background is a mix of blue and green, suggesting water and vegetation. The mural is painted on a wall next to a metal fence.

4
5 [SLIDE 7]

SEAN KERNICK CREATIVE

IMPACT & VALUE

- ▶ Sparks pride, joy, and surprise – transforming a plain stone wall into a vibrant landmark along the trail.
- ▶ Promotes awareness and appreciation of Apex's native species and shared natural environment.
- ▶ Enhances Apex as a destination for residents and visitors, encouraging exploration and connection.

A photograph of a mural depicting a cardinal bird. The cardinal is the central focus, with its bright red feathers and black mask clearly visible. The mural is painted on a wall next to a metal fence. The background is a mix of green and brown, suggesting a natural setting.

1 [SLIDE 8]

SEAN KERNICK CREATIVE

GRATITUDE & ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- ▶ Thank you to Taylor Wray & the entire Apex Arts Council for your trust and collaboration
- ▶ Thanks to the Apex community for your ideas and support
- ▶ Special thanks to all who helped bring it to life and to you all for inviting me to share today



2
3 [SLIDE 9]



4
5 [SLIDE 10]



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3 **[OLD BUSINESS]**
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5 **Mrs. Wray** gave updates on the following:
6 the Budget Review which included a breakdown of the budget which is also on the Town of
7 Apex website.
8

- 9
- 10 • **FY 2025-2026 Budget Review:** Budget available on the Town of Apex website.
 - 11 ○ Murals - Three planned, including a council-driven mural at the Nature Park Amphitheater
 - 12 ○ Sculpture Purchase Proposal - Sculpture purchases must be approved by Council
 - 13 ○ Sculpture Walk - Artist receives an honorarium which increased from \$1,500 to \$1,800. Two awards will be given, People's Choice and the Best in Show, \$1500 will be awarded for the appraiser. Otocast is a location-based app used for the Sculpture Walk. Sculpture Walk Reception money will be kept in the budget in case there is a reception.
 - 14 ○ Public Art Master Plan - Approved by Council this current year as a major project.
 - 15 ○ Window Painting and Community Projects - Includes window paintings and other small-scale projects.
 - 16 ○ Conclusion - FY 2025-2026 began July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026; Start looking at requests for FY Budget 2026-2027 and having discussions in the coming months.
 - 17 • **Crosswalk Art with Salem Street** - Currently under NCDOT review and the timeline for process is four plus weeks. Different options being discussed are utilizing thermoplastics or a hand painted and sealed mural. Using thermoplastics would provide a harder surface vs a hand painted and sealed mural. The painting can be done within 2 weeks but would require traffic management companies to be hired and roads to be closed. This design will go to Council once review process is approved with NCDOT.
 - 18 • **Video Projection** - Potential new locations under review for underground utility conflicts. This will go to Planning for review as well. Report with options for October meeting. Reason for moving it from Halle was the angle of how the structure would block a large amount of the final mural on the wall as well a parking sign. Also considering a mobile installation for use at multiple town locations/events.

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39 **Chair Colwell** gave an update on the Apex Sculpture Walk for a motion to approve the purchase and proposed placement. He said that typically there is a recommendation for the Apex Sculpture Walk for purchase of one piece using the People's Choice award as a recommendation unless there was a purchase from that artist in the past, then there may be another selection made for variety. He said that this year's People's Choice Award Winner was the Prismatic Cyclone and the location being proposed is at Pleasant Park. He said the price is within the budget.
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47 **[SLIDE 1]**



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Chair Colwell asked if there was any discussion or motion.
Vice Chair Durham suggested a location in Pleasant Park where it could be seen at entering the park.

Chair Colwell said that in the nature area there had been a bench placed from a donor.

A **motion** was made by **Vice Chair Durham** and seconded by **Member Bryant** to approve the purchase and location of the Prismatic Cycle.

VOTE: (UNANIMOUS) (7-0) with Member Trawick absent

Member Kirley gave an update on Apex Public Art Guide. She said that there is a draft layout that is passport size. It will include murals, sculptures and bus stop art broken down into three areas: downtown, central Apex and outer Apex with coordinating map with locations listed on the map. She gave an overview of what the guide would contain and a timeline for October completion once development and editing were complete.

Member Erickson gave an update on the Artist in Residence Program. He said that there are questions to follow up from Mrs. Wray and next steps are to set up a meeting with the Cary Arts Department to get information on how they are set up and then revise the proposal to build into the FY 2026-2027 budget.

[NEW BUSINESS]

Member Bryant gave updates on the **Downtown Window Painting**. The event will be December 1st, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Rain date is December 2. The location options have been narrowed down to The Halle and the Fire Department. **Chair Colwell** encouraged team members to come and join in the fun!

Mrs. Wray gave an update on the **Public Art Masterplan**. She said that it is one of the biggest projects of the year and RFQ write ups are complete and going through review. If it is

1 approved, then it will be sent to Purchasing to open the RFQ which will be open for roughly
2 30 days, and Purchasing will assist staff in possible option.
3

4 **Chair Colwell** gave updates on the budget for **Murals** for the current fiscal year. He
5 asked for input from the Board in identifying locations and themes in the next week or so.

6 **Member Bryant** asked if West Street Park is currently being worked on. **Chair Colwell**
7 said that he would reach out to find out.

8 **Vice Chair Durham** asked about the rail bridge on West William Street as a possible
9 mural location. **Chair Colwell** said that it is CSX's and it may be challenging for that

10 location. **Member Hota** said that a lot of people spend a lot of time at that bridge
11 location.

12 **Member Erickson** asked when the Kelly Road Park would be renovated. **Mrs.**
13 **Wray** said that she could check to see where that project was and the timeline.

14 **Member Erickson** said that there was a large wooden wall, and he thought that it may
15 be torn down as part of the renovation and possibly there could be something there in the
16 future.

17 **Chair Colwell** said that in any future capital projects there is an allowance for art that
18 is included in all park projects.

19 **Member Bryant** asked if there could be something incorporated at Hunter Street Park
20 for bikers. **Chair Colwell** said it was a possibility.

21 **Vice Chair Durham** asked about the Fire Station renovation. **Chair Colwell** said
22 he had not heard of any updates on the Fire Station renovation lately. He said the new
23 parking lot has retaining walls that are big and plain retaining walls and could be a possible
24 location for a mural.

25 **Member Corsetti** asked if there were any projects that are being done throughout the
26 whole year that involve all establishments located in downtown Apex. **Member Colwell**
27 said many years ago the Window Painting project was included in that type of project, but it
28 became a broader type of project and then it became too large, so they had to scale back. He
29 said that he didn't know any other projects. **Member Bryant** said it became
30 challenging to do all of the businesses; it was time consuming.

31 **Member Colwell** said that there were businesses included on the Crosswalk Art
32 project.

33 **Member Corsetti** said that if there was time to incorporate all business that the
34 residents would enjoy seeing decoration with window painting throughout all of the
35 businesses. She said there could be competition, for instance the holidays and donations
36 could be made and that money could go to the Apex Culture and Arts.

37 **Member Bryant** said that they did window decoration and there is a town led
38 "Snowman Stroll" in downtown during December and possibly it could be done on window
39 painting. She said that some shop owners might be a little bit hesitant just because of getting
40 paint near the edges but a lot of them do it.

41 **Chair Colwell** asked Member Bryant and Member Corsetti to connect to explore this
42 idea.

43 **Member Hota** suggested the Tobacco Trail under 64 for a mural site.
44

45 **Chair Colwell** gave an update on a **Music Festival**. He said that he has explored ways
46 to expand on the festival and asked the Board for other ideas.
47

1 **Member Hota** gave an update on **Music Moments**. He suggested having local
2 performers and with collaboration of local businesses, local areas, schools and senior centers
3 to have live music. He suggested having a variety of music to give the opportunity to learn
4 and a platform to perform. He said this didn't have to be something elaborate and could be
5 short, maybe an hour.

6 **Chair Colwell** said that it was a great idea and possibly start in schools or senior
7 centers.

8 **Vice Chair Durham** asked if it would be a performance and then people can ask
9 questions.

10 **Member Hota** said that it could be up to the artist how they would want to use their
11 time and that times could possibly set up in 15-to-30-minute slots.

12 **Member Bryant** said the Tunstall House may be in a good location. She asked if it
13 would be in the same location or start with a few locations and then grow it.

14 **Chair Colwell** said that it could start at the same location and day per week to start
15 with so that people will know that is what is happening and become a thing. He said maybe
16 think about starting with the Senior Center and it could be indoor or outdoor to see if it gets
17 any traction. He asked Member Hota if he wanted to pursue the Senior Center.

18 **Member Corsetti** said that adding food trucks is a great way to attract people.

19 **Member Hota** asked if there was a specific Christmas event and if there could be a
20 choir.

21 **Mrs. Wray** said that there is a big event around the tree lighting and that they have
22 live music and choirs for that show. She offered to help Member Hota connect with the Senior
23 Center Manager to see available times.

24 **Member Hota** said that he would ask a music teacher that he know to send their best
25 students to the Senior Center and this would encourage the next generation to perform.

26
27 **Member Bryant** gave an update on the **Poetry in plain sight**. She said that this was
28 to branch out other groups of people in the arts. She said there was a group that does poetry
29 in plain sight and they bring poems every month and put them in windows downtown and
30 the thought is that possibly it would expand it to digital boards around downtown or other
31 local areas or possible banners or posters that could be changed out.

32 **Member Kirley** said that the library sometimes does this along the greenways.

33 **Member Bryant** said that she would reach out to the Poetry in plain sight to see if
34 there was a program already like this. There were some discussions about other ideas.

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36 **Member Bryant** gave an update on the **Art in plein air**. She talked about locations for
37 this and explained that this is where artists come on site and set up their easels and start a
38 painting and usually complete it during that weekend and then there is a judging and an
39 award. She said timing wise weather would be a consideration.

40 **Chair Colwell** asked for Member Bryant to put together a project plan.

41 **Member Hota** spoke about Art for Diwali which is coming soon. He said the
42 subcontinent families put together a colorful Rangoli that is set up on the floor, and it can be
43 small or smaller, and it can bring in a lot of people and would be a visual masterpiece for a
44 couple of weeks.

45 **Chair Colwell** asked Member Hota if he knew anyone local that would do this.

46 **Member Hota** suggested making it open for people to come in and collaborate. He
47 said this is called Rangoli.

