

**Putnam Arts Council
Regular Meeting
Zoom Meeting
July 27, 2026
Minutes**

Present: Laura Moorehead, Chair, Anna Ionkin,
Carmine Angeloni, Julie Reid, Beth Johnston (arrived at 5:40pm)

Absent: Oliver Williamson, Elaine Turner, Vice Chair

Also Present: Mary Ann Chinatti, Director, Economic & Community Dev/Redev., Susan Ramos,
Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order: Chairman Moorehead called the meeting to order at 5:31PM
It was determined a quorum was present.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

(M/S/C Angeloni/Reid) to approve the minutes of June 22, 2026, as presented. Approved
unanimously.

3. Additions to the agenda: None

4. Finances:

l. Budget Report – The budget report was reviewed.

5. New Business:

l. Shonool Malik: Layalaya Global Arts Festival – Loos Center for the Arts

Shonool Malik introduced herself and gave a brief explanation of her organization, stating that Layalaya means wiggle and their organization means where the water finds rhythm. Then proceeded to introduce Bailey O'Donnell who is their Program and Operations Manager, unfortunately their Executive Director Sandeep Das was unable to attend due to travel. At this time Bailey presented a slideshow along with a brief showing of the music they play while Shonool explained the slides regarding their organization as they were presented. Shonool stated they have artists and speakers lined up, her goal today was to see how the Art Council would be able to help promote or include Layalaya Global Arts Festival with a town event. (Slide show will be distributed to members)

B. Johnston inquired about a venue.

Shanool replied, they did have a venue and hoped to build more partnerships with towns. The organization wants the town to feel like it is their event as opposed to just an event Layalaya is putting on. Shanool also stated they are not well on their way as far as financing goes and are hoping for more sponsorships.

Chairman Moorehead stated that the Council would definitely be willing to help with advertising and pop up artists would be great. Chairman Moorehead asked how far out they schedule the next dates for events?

Shanool stated the events would be outdoors and chose October, and at this time it would most likely stay the same.

Chairman Moorehead added that her interest in the dates would be because this area has a big Walktober event thru The Last Green Valley from September thru October, and stated thousands of people come thru the area and advertising thru The Last Green Valley would be great.

Shanool inquired about volunteers and then asked about using sponsorship and fundraising.

Chairman Moorehead stated that the Arts Council budget itself has to concentrate on Putnam centered events. Unsure if they would want to reach out to sponsors, they normally ask for Arts events.

Shanool restated the event at Loos is intended for the whole region. The goal is to grow every year and if any sponsors align with this that would be great. A poster will be sent to the Council, tickets go live August 1, 2026. All ideas are welcomed!

B. Johnston suggested connecting with the Bradley Playhouse for their events.

MA Chinatti asked where they are as far as fundraising and where do they need to be?

Shanool didn't have the latest numbers, but she believed they are at 40-50% and stated there are a couple grants that may or may not come to fruition in the pipeline. At this point they rely on grants and state and local funding.

B. Johnston asked if they had a pretty good idea what they would need for volunteers?

Shanool stated they had some idea; they didn't have the specifics but would send over that information. They don't want to take the fun away but would also need to be tight with what tasks they assign volunteers. Shanool asked what information was needed from them for the sponsorship?

Chairman Moorehead replied the easiest way would be to have the poster, different tiers of sponsorship, how to get in contact with someone for more information. Chairman Moorehead asked if donations can be made thru the website?

Shanool stated there are different ways to make donations.

Bailey added there are donations thru the website, credit card, bank transfers, they would be happy to assist with other ways to donate.

Chairman Moorehead asked if someone wanted to meet with a representative from their company would they be available to meet, to which **Shanool** replied absolutely, and she would

be the contact person. They want to meet with people. Please contact us with any questions. We would love to hear from people.

MA Chinatti asked Shanool to send any emails to her for distribution and she would pass it on to Chairman Moorehead for the members.

Shanool thanked everyone for their time.

6. Old Business

I. Poet Laureate

Chairman Moorehead handed the floor to C. Angeloni for the update.

C. Angeloni stated that Aubrey has been very busy. Her last event was the 4th of July presentation. We must have a spreadsheet of the work she has done. The information will be provided to people in hard copy. She will be working with Chairman Moorehead for Walktober.

Chairman Moorehead presented Aubrey's schedule:

July 28 Children's Poetry in the Putnam library.

September 5th Artist and Poet Day Retreat at Moorehead's House.

October 3rd Walktober poetry writing hike at Ross Cliff.

October 17th Women's wilderness weekend of Rhode Island poetry workshop there is a \$50.00 fee.

November 7th Poetry Publication workshop with Brad Davis location TBD.

November 14th Yoga and Poetry workshop at the garden.

Chairman Moorehead stated to C. Angeloni that one of them should check with Aubrey to see if she needs approval for the \$50.00 fee. C. Angeloni stated he would check with her and stated again she has been busy taking her position very seriously.

Chairman Moorehead moved onto to L. Colangelo with MuralFest.

L. Colangelo handed out papers to the Council prior to explanation and thanked everyone for their time. She stated the MuralFest was looking to fall under the umbrella of the Art Council. The first part of the packet is the structure they envision. The Art Council would oversee the MuralFest Putnam work group. The way they are set up now is a group of community minded citizens who want to bring this large art project to life. There has been great success over the past year with the people getting together, being able to utilize town resources. Now that the money is at a significant amount, they are now set up as an executive committee and have all the sub committees needed to produce the work. Most MuralFest communities don't do that. She stated that, in part, they will be presenting a gift to the community. They would remain committees following the more formal town structure and following the Town meeting rules. L. Colangelo states they are too far vested to say this project would be a no go.

Chairman Moorehead stated L. Colangelo had several questions that MA Chinatti had provided answers for.

L. Colangelo stated the only urgency they have started to have now that there is \$162,522.00 in the bank is the donors are asking for acknowledgement by the end of the year. In the handout a thank you letter to the donors was included. The sole reason for meeting with MA Chinatti, E. Sistaire and M. Benway was to explore different options. It did not make sense for MuralFest to become a 501c3; they are not an organization, they are an event. The larger thing will be the community taking the gift that was left for them. They want to make sure at that point there are funds for maintenance, paints, trolley tours of the events. The murals should last between 50 – 80 years. L. Colangelo stated they have slowed down with the fundraising aspect, there are 3 more major sponsors that have been spoken to and they are waiting for answers. After returning from Menomonie Wisconsin, it was realized that logistics is the next step - housing, food, all of these things coming up. L. Colangelo stated she was nervous seeing the Walldogs welcoming event. There were 500 people in WI. Where can Putnam fit 500 people? She is willing to speak to the Military Center on Pomfret St.

Chairman Moorehead started reading the questions along with the answers provided in the Agenda Packet. Some questions are still waiting for the attorney's response.

Questions presented from the members:

B. Johnston asked if all sub committees need to be under the Arts Council? MA. Chinatti replied yes, everything associated with the MuralFest needs to come under the umbrella of the Putnam Art Council umbrella.

B. Johnston asked if there any people in those workgroups they don't want to lose?

L. Colangelo answered, fortunately most of the people are Putnam people. Ameda Roller is the Walldogs coordinator, who lives in GA, and this event does not go off without her. If there is a sticking point about residency than they will hire Amida.

MA. Chinatti stated that she does get a stipend, so she is a paid consultant.

L. Colangelo explained that the reason the paperwork is worded in that way regarding meetings is as they enter the last year before MuralFest they will be meeting numerous times a week with all different planning groups and even more so as the weeks get closer to the date.

MA Chinatti suggested a list of meeting dates sent to Chairman Moorehead and continued to explain to L. Colangelo what would be considered an "emergency" meeting. MA Chinatti explained the scenario to the Council and reiterated that they are waiting for attorney response.

B. Johnston stated her concern would be due to email restrictions they may not be able to do their job. She suggested sub committees.

L. Colangelo stated if the attorney replies that the answer to these critical questions is a no, then they won't be a good fit working under the Art Council umbrella.

MA Chinatti said if they needed to, they can fill out the thank you donor letters and send it to the Economic Development office to be mailed out.

Chairman Moorehead asked, after reading these responses what do you feel would be a stumbling block if the attorney does say no to some of the questions? Can MA Chinatti reply with what can be done?

L. Colangelo explained that this is an effort with an extraordinary amount of planning. If it doesn't align with the productivity of what needs to be done, it could be a deal breaker. Having something come back that is so restricted would be a PR nightmare. Would they have to go back to the Town or the Board of Selectman and say they are just remaining MuralFest Putnam as an event for the town would it be any different?

She then thanked the Council for their time.

7. Corridor Gallery

Chairman Moorehead asked everyone to mark their calendars, for August 6 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. For the artist's reception.

8. Correspondence

Chairman Moorehead acknowledged that the Council received a nice letter from the Art Guild that was included in the agenda packet thanking the Art Council for the grant provided. Silver Circle had a reception from July 18 – July 31st.

9. Public Participation - None

B. Johnston added an explanation of what she will be emailing out to the Council regarding the Art Festival Summary.

Chairman Moorehead asked that Other Business be added to the end of agendas starting with the next month's meeting.

10. Adjournment* (**M/S/C Johnston Moorehead**) to adjourn at 7:10pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Ramos, Economic Development Coordinator

Vote Required*