

MPAC Board Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2025 — Darkhorse Room, Great Falls

Attendance

The meeting was attended by Emily Wolfram (Director), Tom Webster, Jim Peaco, Jill Dostert Wagner, Gary Fjelstad, Connie Jenkins, and Rob Kohler (Artist Representative).

Call to Order

President Tom Webster opened the meeting at 11:45 AM.

Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes from the previous meetings held via Zoom on September 29, 2025, and during the Summer Board meeting on June 13-14, 2025, were reviewed and approved. Tom Webster motioned for approval, and Rob Kohler seconded the motion.

Board Development

Emily Wolfram announced that she will provide additional Montana Nonprofit Association (MNA) assignments to support professional development for the board members.

Board Recruitment

The board considered several individuals who have expressed interest in joining, including Trish Rodrique (Polson), Matt Laughlin (Kalispell), Shelly May (Libby), Carl Donovan (GFCCA), and Becky Nielsen (GFCCA). Emily will reach out to these candidates, either through discussion or by email, to share information about board responsibilities. Formal voting on new board selections will take place at the upcoming summer board meeting.

2026 Conference Wrap-Up

Emily reported that while individual attendance was lower than in previous years, the conference welcomed three new presenting organizations: Whitefish, Baker, and Hamilton.

Artist Report

Rob Kohler provided feedback from the artists, noting that it was mostly positive. However, there was some confusion regarding the "Turn the Tables" event. Despite explanations in the program book, many artists felt hesitant to join presenters when others were present. The board discussed possible improvements, such as implementing time limits, using a stop clock, or introducing an ice breaker to make the event more accessible.

Silent Auction

Jill Dostert Wagner reported that the silent auction raised \$1,195.00 from the items offered.

Conference Feedback

Overall, feedback from this year's conference was highly positive. Participants and board members commended Emily Wolfram for her dedication and effort in organizing the event.

Financial Reports

Emily presented the current financial reports, noting that program revenue from registration and conference fees exceeded the budget. The checking account balance stands at \$51,568.00. Once all bills are paid, the board will have a more accurate figure for net revenue. Tom Webster motioned to approve the financial reports, which was seconded by Gary Fjelstad. The motion was approved.

The organization received a total of \$7,500 from Creative West, with \$5,000 designated for the conference and \$2,500 for general operations. Additionally, a \$1,000 donation from artist Keith Alessi was noted.

Emily's Schedule

Emily will be attending the following conferences:

October 16-18 Arts Northwest in Boise

NAPAMA in Tucson

Summer Board Retreat - Future Conference Planning

During the meeting, the board discussed the possibility of hosting the conference in Helena in 2026. As a result, it was agreed that the Summer Board Meeting will be held in Helena from June 12th to June 14th, 2026. This decision provides an opportunity for board members to evaluate Helena as a potential site for the next conference.

Emily will take the lead in assessing the feasibility of hosting the 2026 conference at the Helena Civic Center. Her evaluation will help determine whether the venue meets the organization's needs for future events.

Adjournment

President Tom adjourned the meeting at 1:20 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jill Dostert Wagner, Vice President/Secretary, MPAC.