



International Festival 2026

A project of the City of Lawton and the McMahon Memorial Auditorium



Minutes

Regular Meeting

International Festival Committee

January 6, 2026 – 5:00PM

Carnegie Library Town Hall

Dory Thomas
(Chair)

Dinah Lazarte
(Vice Chair)

Nancy Alandzes
Rosalind Asetamy
Hannah Bacani
Alicia Brierton
Reggie Brown
Fano Canton
Racquel Colburn
Robert De Shade
Evelynn Fullerton
Sonia Hastings
Mylene McManus
Winnie Morita
Ben Nededog
Sann Nigh
Pat Reynolds
Kathy Rogers
Jerson Romero
Myrna Romero
Max Sasseen
Alisha Saufoi
Page Smith
Betty Veu
lafeta Veu
Daisy Wyatt

Jason Poudrier
Arts & Humanities
Director

Andrea Morman
Arts & Humanities
Deputy Administrator

Michell Rosario
Arts & Humanities
Community Events
& Outreach Coordinator

Haley Moore
Arts & Humanities
Digital Media Specialist

Reagan Phillips
Arts & Humanities
Administrative Assistant

Terry Gresham
Arts and Humanities
Maintenance Tech

Call Meeting to Order: 5:05pm

1. Action: Roll Call

PRESENT: Thomas, Lazarte*, Asetamy, Bacani, Brierton, De Shade, McManus, Morita, Reynolds, Rogers, Jerson Romero, and Myrna Romero

ABSENT: Alandzes, Brown, Canton, Fullerton, Hastings, Nededog, Nigh, Sasseen, Saufoi, Smith, Betty Veu, and lafeta Veu.

STAFF: Poudrier, Morman, Phillips

GUESTS: Racquel Colburn and Daisy Wyatt

Verify posting of meeting:

2. Action: Verification of posting time, place, and date.

Consent Agenda: The following items are considered to be routine by the International Festival Committee and will be enacted with one motion. Should discussion be desired on an item, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda prior to action and considered separately.

3. Approval of past meeting minutes from October 7, 2025.
4. Approval of financials from October, November, and December 2025.

Motion by Brierton to approve the October 7, 2025 meeting minutes and to accept the financial report from October, November, and December 2025. Second by Jerson Romero.

All in favor. Motion Carried.

Chair Report

5. Thomas welcomed back the committee members for the 47th Annual International Festival.

Thomas Introduced Racquel Colburn and Daisy Wyatt. She reported that they were interested in joining the committee and have been members in the past.

*Lazarte entered.

Vice Chair's Report:

6. No report.

Committee Reports

7. **Vendors**

Thomas asked if there was a subcommittee for the vendors. Morman replied that Phillips is the person who mainly works with the vendors. Phillips reported that she doesn't have a draft of the vendor application ready yet but she can have a draft

ready for the February 3rd meeting. She reported that a few things may need to be updated, as in the location and booth fees, but she can bring a draft that the committee can look over and discuss.

8. Sponsorships / Brochure Ads

No report.

9. Marketing / Publicity / Social Media

No report.

10. Parade of Nations / Opening Ceremony

No report.

11. Entertainment

Thomas established the following entertainment assignments: Dinah Lazarte as the South Stage manager, Sann Nigh and Evelyn Fullerton as the North Stage managers, and Robert De Shade as the Children's Area/Interactive Area manager.

12. Volunteers

No report.

13. Decorations

No report.

14. Beer Booth

Thomas reported that the Knights of Columbus will man the beer booth again.

15. Drink Booths

Thomas reported that Rogers will man one of the drink booths and that she is looking for another person to man the other drink booth.

16. Information Booth

No report.

Staff Reports:

17. A&H Administrator: City of Lawton Collaboration and Assistance

Poudrier reported that the Arts and Humanities office is happy to assist again.

Business Items:

18. Consider approving Chair and Vice Chair for 2026.

Motion by Jerson Romero to approve Dory Thomas as the 2026 Festival Chair and Dinah Lazarte as the 2026 Festival Vice Chair. Second by McManus.

All in favor. Motion Carried.

19. Consider and approve IF 2026 Committee Members.

Thomas introduced this item. She presented a list of committee members from the 2025 International Festival with the exclusion of the members who decided to leave.

Motion by Rogers to approve the list of 2026 IF Committee members with the addition of Daisy Wyatt and Racquel Colburn. Second by Myrna Romero.

All in favor. Motion Carried.

20. Establish and approve dates and times for IF 2026 as September 25, 26, 27 2026.

Motion by McManus to approve the 2026 International Festival dates as September 25, 26, and 27, 2026. Second by Asetamy.

All in favor. Motion Carried.

21. Discuss location of 2026 Festival.

Morman and Poudrier introduced this item. Poudrier reported that due to the construction that is planned in Elmer Thomas Park, the 2026 International Festival will need to change locations. There was discussion about moving to the Library plaza, Shepler Park, FISTA, and the Great Plains Coliseum. The committee established a location subcommittee to discuss possible locations and report back to the committee.

22. Discuss booth fees for IF 2026.

Poudrier reported on this item and asked the Committee to review the booth fees from last year. Discussion ensued if booth fees would go up, would vendors still want to participate or would they back out due to not possibly making as much money as they have in the past. There was also discussion about depending on the location, the committee may not be able to accept as many vendors as they have in the past.

23. Discuss and Consider proposed budget for IF 2026.

This item was tabled due to the budget needing to be updated to account for a new location.

24. Discuss Poster Competition and guidelines and take action as necessary.

Poudrier introduced this item. He explained the history of the poster competition and that it was suggested to make incorporation of the Festival Child logo optional on the artwork and then it can be incorporated in other ways on the shirts and publications. Thomas asked to table any action on this item so that the committee members can read the guidelines and bring their opinions to the February 3rd meeting.

25. Discuss 2026 Fundraiser theme and date.

Thomas introduced this item. She talked about how in the past the committee has put together a fundraising gala event. Thomas and Poudrier shared the idea of bringing in a performer and holding a fundraiser event at the McMahan Memorial Auditorium during the summer months. She asked the committee to think about possible performers. Thomas shared that she would still like the Silent auction to take place as well. Discussion ensued about different acts to bring, how much to sell tickets for, and other fundraising opportunities.

Motion by Asetamy to pursue the possibility of hiring Henry Cho to come to McMahan Memorial Auditorium and perform a benefit comedy show. Second by Brierton.

All in favor. Motion Carried.

26. Discuss entertainment budget for IF2026 and consider selecting 2 headliners for Friday, 2 for Saturday, and family friendly entertainment for Sunday or discuss changes to entertainment schedule.

The committee decided to create a performer selection subcommittee that will meet outside the regular International Festival Committee meetings and bring recommendations for possible headliners to the February 3rd committee meeting.

Old Business: none

New Business: none

Announcements:

None

Adjournment: 6:05pm