



International Festival 2026

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



Minutes

Regular Meeting

International Festival Committee

March 3, 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
Iafeta 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

Darwin McHenry
Arts and Humanities
Maintenance Tech

Call Meeting to Order: 5:02pm

1. Action: Roll Call

PRESENT: Thomas, Lazarte, Bacani, Brierton, De Shade, Morita, Rogers, Jerson Romero, Myrna Romero

ABSENT: Alandzes, Asetamy, Canton, Colburn, Fullerton, Hastings, McManus, Nededog, Nigh, Reynolds, Sasseen, Saufoi, Smith, Betty Veu, Iafeta Veu, and Wyatt

STAFF: Poudrier, Phillips

Verify positing 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 February 3, 2026.
4. Approval of financials from February 2026.

Motion by Brierton to approve the February 3, 2026 meeting minutes. Second by Jerson Romero. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Bacani to accept the financial report from February 2026. Second by Rogers. All in favor. Motion Carried.

Chair Report

5. Thomas and Poudrier updated the committee on the status of booking Henry Cho for a benefit concert with proceeds going towards the International Festival Committee. There was discussion about how the tickets prices would be set and the dates that Cho is available.
6. Thomas reported on the progress of the 2026 bowling tournament fundraiser. She reported that she has received interest from a couple teams and that she has a contract with Twin Oaks Bowling center on Fort Sill. Poudrier added that the registration is available online as well and clarified that you do not need to be active duty or a veteran to take part.

Vice Chair's Report:

7. No report.

Committee Reports

8. Vendors

Phillips reported that vendor applications and a press release have gone out and she has heard back from a few interested vendors already. She also reported that a post will be going out on social media announcing that the vendor application window is now open. Phillips reported that the changes made to this year's application is updating the dates and updating the language around the electrical requests and fire safety requirements as requested by the building maintenance division and fire department, respectively.

9. Sponsorships / Brochure Ads

Poudrier reported that if the committee would like to stay with the same sponsorship levels, his office can send sponsorship requests to past sponsors. He encouraged the committee members to reach out to potential sponsors in the community. He suggested that Phillips can send the current sponsorship levels to the committee members prior to the April 7, 2026 meeting.

10. Marketing / Publicity / Social Media

No report

11. Parade of Nations / Opening Ceremony

Thomas and Poudrier reported that Rosario has spoken to the Hilton Garden Inn about holding the naturalization reception there.

12. Entertainment

De Shade reported that he is working on activities for the Children's/Interactive Area and asked if anyone had ideas.

Thomas expressed the need for the performer sub committee to set up another meeting to discuss potential headline performers.

12. Volunteers

No report.

13. Decorations

Thomas requested the help of all the committee members to decorate the festival site.

14. Beer Booth

Thomas reported that the Knights of Columbus will be manning the beer booth and that the beer booth will be in a new location due to construction in Elmer Thomas Park.

15. Drink Booths

Thomas reported that Rogers will man a drink booth and that her husband will watch the drink booth so that Rogers can attend the opening ceremony.

16. Information Booth

No report.

Staff Reports:**17. A&H Director: City of Lawton Collaboration and Assistance**

Poudrier reported that he is currently working on the Arts and Humanities budget for fiscal year 27 and he will be keeping the current totals for the International Festival the same. He reported that the Arts and Humanities staff will assist with whatever the committee needs.

Business Items:**18. Discuss stage configuration and location and take action as necessary.**

Thomas and Poudrier introduced this item. Discussion ensued about whether or not a large stage could be set up on the grass on the northside of the festival site, how many vendors could be accommodated, where the drink and beer booths will probably be located, and how best performers can reach the north stage.

Motion by Brierton to approve the set up for the International Festival 2026 as provided with a smaller stage located on the northside of the festival site. Second by Jerson Romero.

All in favor. Motion carried.

19. Discuss poster competition and guidelines and take action as necessary.

Thomas introduced this item. She reported that a bit of the language was updated. Brierton suggested that the guidelines be sent to Charlotte Oates to send out to the schools. Thomas asked the committee to please share the guidelines with their friends and family.

Motion by Brierton to approved the poster competition guidelines. Second by Myrna Romero.

All in favor. Motion carried.

20. Discuss and consider Headline Performers for IF 2026 and take action as necessary.

Thomas Introduced this item. Poudrier and Thomas confirmed that Mariachi Las Altenas will perform on the South stage on the evening of Saturday, September 26, 2026. Discussion ensued about possible local groups being headliners.

Motion by Bacani to approve Mariachi Las Altenas. Second by Brierton.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Old Business: none**New Business: none****Announcements:**

Poudrier announced that Friday, March 6, 2026, there will be a ground breaking for the new Animal Welfare Clinic building on 17th St and Lee Blvd. He also announced that the Community Enrichment Department will be holding an open house workshop on Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at the Owens Recreation Center. Poudrier also announced that the following week, there will be a ground breaking for the new indoor sports complex at the Eastside Park on the East side by MacArthur High School.

Myrna Romero announced that she will be retiring and her last day will be March 31, 2026.

Bacani announced that she will be getting married on Monday, April 20, 2026, and she invited the committee to attend.

Thomas announced that the Friends of the Museum of the Great plains will be holding a special event to celebrate the United States of America's 250th year. She announced that this event will take place on April 25, 2026, at the Museum of the Great Plains and she invited the committee to attend.

Adjournment: 5:50pm