



International Festival 2026

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



Minutes

Regular Meeting

International Festival Committee

May 5, 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: 5:11pm

1. Action: Roll Call

PRESENT: Thomas, Lazarte, Bacani, Brown, Fullerton, Morita, Rogers, and Smith.

ABSENT: Alandzes, Asetamy, Brierton, Canton, Colburn, De Shade, Hastings, McManus, Nededog, Nigh, Reynolds, Jerson Romero, Myrna Romero, Sasseen, Saufoi, Betty Veu, Iafeta Veu, and Wyatt

STAFF: Poudrier, Morman, Phillips

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 April 7, 2026.

4. Approval of financials from April 2026.

Morman reported on the financial report and explained that due to the invoices being sent to the wrong address, there were a couple invoices from the 2025 International Festival that have now been paid.

Motion by Smith to approve the April 7, 2026 meeting minutes and the April financial report. Second by Rogers. All in favor, motion carried.

Chair Report

5. Announcements – none

6. Fullerton reported on the progress she and Lazarte have made regarding the “Lawton Has Talent” talent show and asked the International Festival Committee for direction for certain aspects of the event. The committee discussed the event and decided that the logo that Fullerton designed is fantastic, the performance will be on November 7, 2026 at McMahon Memorial Auditorium. Fullerton reported that in order for this event to run smoothly, she and Lazarte will need the help of the committee. They decided on several categories of acts.

The deadlines are as follows: Marketing for the show and announcements that applications are open will start as soon as everything is fully approved and set after the June meeting. Ticket selling will begin in August. Auditions must be received by September 30, 2026. All acts must attend an orientation on October 10, at the McMahon Memorial Auditorium. Any act or committee member selling physical tickets must turn in their money and unsold tickets by 5pm on Thursday, October 29.

Tickets for the event will be both VIP/reserved seating and general admission, with the ticket prices starting at \$25 for general admission and \$75 for VIP/Reserved seating, with no discounts. They discussed possible sponsorship packages for VIP/reserved seats and possible VIP lanyards. Poudrier reported that if the committee were to sell tickets through Etix, then they will not need to print a lot of special tickets to sell as Etix utilizes a ticket printer and patron could also purchase online and have their tickets on their phone. Performers can also sell tickets and whichever act sells the most tickets will win the award for "Most Spirited."

Auditioners can fill out an application either in person or online and they will send in a video of their talent. Phillips will update the audition form and create an online form and have the drafts ready at the June International Festival meeting. Applicants must meet all requirements, submit an audition form, and submit an audition video in order to be considered. There was discussion about including an application fee, but they decided to not have an application fee for 2026 Lawton Has Talent show and revisit the idea for future shows. There will be rehearsals at the auditorium November 3-6, and the performance will be on November 7. The Arts and Humanities division will see if the City of Lawton Legal department has any guidance on waivers for the applicants to sign, Fullerton added that she has a waiver that may also work.

The committee decided to have 15-20 acts chosen by the Arts and Humanities Committee. Chosen acts must attend an orientation that will take place on October 10, at the McMahon Auditorium Authority. There was discussion, but no consensus on how the applicants will be notified that they were chosen.

Fullerton reported that there must be an odd number of judges so that there will always be a tie breaker. There will be prizes for the acts that win 1st place, 2nd place, 3rd place, and the act that sells the most tickets. There was discussion about bringing in talent agents to boost the number of applications received and discussion about the points system and potential judges and MCs. Poudrier reported that he may know of a great MC and reported that he would try to reach out to him.

7. Thomas reported that the Bowling fundraiser is going well and that she has received prize donations from Casey's in the form of gift cards.

Vice Chair's Report:

8. Lazarte reported that the Filipino Association of Lawton Fort Sill will be hosting an Pista sa Nayon 50th year celebration on June 6th at Apache Casino. She reported that tickets are being sold at the Filipino restaurant and by board members and encouraged everyone to come out and celebrate.

Committee Reports

9. Vendors

Phillips reported on the vendor applications received for the 2026 International Festival. She reported that she has received a total of 20 vendor applications and that they consist of 3 display vendor applications, 9 food vendor applications, and 8 sales vendor applications. She reported that she is also in communication with more vendors who want to apply and that she is expecting more applications to come through. Thomas asked if Arts for All might share their vendor list and Poudrier said that they could reach out and see. Thomas said that she would email Rhonda Norrell and see.

10. Sponsorships / Brochure Ads

Poudrier reported that Phillips compiled a list of past sponsors dating all the way back to 2018 and he and the committee went through the list and assigned committee members to contact each sponsor. Lazarte asked if Phillips could send the sponsorship letter and levels out to the committee,

and Phillips agreed to send the sponsor packet. Morman said that Reynolds usually contacts Comanche Home Center. Thomas was unsure if Dr. Tony Layton would sponsor the International Festival or the Bowling Tournament.

Poudrier said he and his staff will contact Arts for All, City of Lawton, Curiosity Avenue, Fisher 59, Goodyear, LATS, Lawton Fort Sill Chamber of Commerce, Lawton Philharmonic, Lawton Public Schools, Lawton Info, Bar-S, past media sponsors, Magic 95, McMahon Foundation, Mid-America Arts Alliance, Oklahoma Arts Council, Sams, Walmart grants, Southwest Chemical, The Breeze, Townsquare Media.

Phillips said she has contacted BluePeak, and that she would contact Fort Sill Federal Credit Union for an ATM.

Morman said she would contact Sonic for lunches when it gets closer to festival time.

Thomas said she would contact Nissan of Lawton, Arvest Bank, Paul Ellwanger for City National Bank, Myrna Romero for DJ Cleaners, IBC Bank, Liberty National Bank for a water donation, Pigment of your Imagination, Molly Buckley for Sky Roofing.

Lazarte said she would contact BancFirst.

Bacani said she would contact Fort Sill Federal Credit Union for a sponsorship.

Poudrier asked that if the committee knows any other sponsors, to please let us know so that we don't have multiple people asking the same sponsors.

11. Marketing / Publicity / Social Media

No report.

12. Parade of Nations / Opening Ceremony

Thomas reported that there may not be a naturalization ceremony due to not having a federal judge available.

13. Entertainment

Thomas reported that De Shade is ready for the Children's and Interactive area.

Morman reported that the Filipino American Association of Lawton Fort Sill will be the Friday Night headliner on the South stage and they are also interested in performing on Saturday afternoon as well. Bacani received a paper volunteer performers application and Phillips said that she would also send a link to the online performers application as well. Morman reported that Thomas has also reached out to the Oklahoma City Thunder Girls for a possible Saturday performance. She went on to report that she is also looking at exotic farms and family magicians for the Sunday headliners. She also reported that the sooner they receive volunteer performer applications, the sooner they can start scheduling performances on the stages.

Morman reported that the company that rents out the climbing wall has retired the climbing wall and are no longer renting that feature. She went on to report that another company has a rental climbing wall and she is reaching out for a quote and hopes to have one by the next meeting.

Morita reported on a dance group out of Oklahoma City called Clips and Hips. She supposed that they might be a good headliner and that they have performed at the International Festival in the past. Morman asked for them to send the Arts and Humanities office their information and they can look into having them either this year or next year.

12. Volunteers

Bacani reported that there is a new director for International Student Affairs at Cameron University and that she is aware that the international students volunteered in previous years. Bacani also reported that the new director is still working on building relationships with the international students and is not sure how many would be interested or available to volunteer.

13. Decorations

Thomas reported that all committee members should be available to assist with decorating the festival site.

14. Beer Booth

Thomas reported that the Knights of Columbus will be manning the beer booth.

15. Drink Booths – No report.

16. Information Booth – No report.

Staff Reports:

17. Poster Competition Updates

Phillips reported that they have not received any poster competition entries and that she has sent the competition guidelines to all Lawton Public Schools, Elgin Public Schools, Cache Public Schools, Tipton Public Schools, Geronimo Public Schools, Bishop Public Schools, Duncan Public Schools, Walters Public Schools, Trinity Christian Academy, and Lawton Academy of Arts and Sciences.

18. Volunteer Performer application update

Morita reported on a dance group out of Oklahoma City called Clips and Hips. She supposed that they might be a good headliner and that they have performed at the International Festival in the past. Morman asked for them to send the Arts and Humanities office their information and they can look into having them either this year or next year.

19. A&H Director: City of Lawton Collaboration and Assistance

Poudrier reported that he is working on getting the tax information squared away for the festival.

Business Items:

20. Consider request from Anika Safi to officially extend an invitation to Health and Mission International in order for the organization to obtain visas for their delegates to come to the US.

Thomas introduced this item. She shared her reservations against extending an invitation to Health and Mission International and asked the committee their thoughts. Discussion ensued on whether they align with the International Festival mission and what would happen to the committee if they misrepresented why they were coming.

Motion by Fullerton to deny the request to officially extend an invitation to Health and Mission International in order for the organization to obtain visas for their delegates to come to the US. Second by Morita. All in favor, motion carried.

Old Business: none

New Business: none

Announcements:

Fullerton announced that Tommy Sims is hosting a free dinner on Saturday May 30 at the Great Plains Colosseum in the Crystal Creek Room. She announced this is a free event and a way to come out and learn about Tommy Sims, his vision for Comanche county, Stephens county, Cotton county, and Jefferson county, and to share your concerns. Fullerton added that you don't even need to vote for him and can come just for the free dinner.

Adjournment: 7:04pm