

International Festival 2026

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

Minutes

Regular Meeting

International Festival Committee

June 2, 2026 – 5:00PM

Carnegie Library Town Hall



Dory Thomas
(Chair)

Dinah Lazarte
(Vice Chair)

Nancy Alandzes
Rosalind Asetamy
Alicia Brierton
Reggie Brown
Fano Canton
Robert De Shade
Evelynn Fullerton
Hannah Garner
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

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: 5:01pm

1. Action: Roll Call

PRESENT: Thomas, Lazarte, Brown, De Shade, Fullerton, Garner, Morita, Reynolds, Rogers, and Smith

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

STAFF: Poudrier, Morman, Phillips

GUEST: Grace Malt, RJ Rayos

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 May 5, 2026.

4. Approval of financials from May 2026.

Motion by Brown to approve the May 5, 2026 meeting minutes and the May 2026 financial report. Second by Garner. Lazarte, Brown, De Shade, Fullerton, Garner, Morita, Rogers, and Smith voted yes. Motion carried.

Chair Report

5. Thomas asked that the guests be introduced and Morita introduced RJ Rayos, the incoming president of the Filipino American Association of Lawton Fort Sill, and Poudrier introduced Grace Malt, the Arts and Humanities summer intern from Cameron University.
6. The committee reviewed the draft Lawton Has Talent Performer Application and there was concern over the missing application fee. The Arts and Humanities staff said that they would review the recording from the last months meeting and see what was decided regarding having an application fee. The committee decided that along with turning in a completed application form, applicants should also email a short video of their talent. It was also decided that Phillips will compile all the performer applicants information for the selection committee that will meet on October 3, 2026. The selected performers will receive an email and phone call congratulating them on their entry and the denied applicants will receive an email informing them of their rejection. Staff members should not serve on the selection committee.

The committee discussed moving the dates of the performer orientation and application deadline, but decided to keep the application deadline on September 30, 2026 and performer orientation on October 10, 2026 as all important dates will be made known to the performers when they pick up their applications.

The committee decided to sell both online tickets and physical tickets with the hopes of filling 1,000 seats. Phillips was instructed to create tickets selling packets like she did for the 2024 and 2025 Gala Fundraisers.

7. Bowling Tournament – No report

Vice Chair's Report:

8. Lazarte asked that Committee members share and vote for Garner's entry in KSWO's National Anthem contest. The link is accessible through the KSWO Facebook page. Lazarte also reported that the Filipino American Association will be celebrating their 50th anniversary on Saturday, June 6, at Apache Casino. At this event, they will be installing the new officers for the 26-27 year.

Committee Reports

9. Vendors

Phillips reported that the number of vendor applications received is over 30 and that includes several new vendors. She said that she is expecting more applications to come through and that she received the list of food vendors that attended the Arts For All festival and will be reaching out to them. The committee asked if Phillips could reach out to the artist booths and Phillips replied that she could ask the Arts For All Festival if they can share that list as well.

10. Sponsorships / Brochure Ads

Poudrier reported on the list that was created during the May 5, 2026 meeting and reminded the committee that if they agreed to reach out to a potential sponsor that they do so.

Poudrier reported that his office is working on applying for a Lawton Community Foundation grant and that he is working with Grace Malt to apply for more grants.

11. Marketing / Publicity / Social Media

Poudrier reported that his office is pushing out information on social media and reported that they can put out a press release on Lawton Has Talent as soon as a details are finalized and that as soon as a poster is selected, his office will start using the winning poster as the basis for festival branding.

Fullerton asked if someone could create the flyers for the Lawton Has Talent show and De Shade said that he would.

12. Parade of Nations / Opening Ceremony

Thonmas announced that this year there will not be a naturalization ceremony during the opening ceremony as there are no available federal judges to perform the ceremony.

13. Entertainment

De Shade asked about supplies needed for the Children's/Interactive area, estimating costs to be around \$500. It was mentioned that the event should focus on children's activities this year. Thomas inquired about rentable inflatables and if they would be too costly for the event.

Morman reported that the company that rented out the climbing wall for the 2025 International Festival is no longer renting out the climbing walls. She reported that she looking into another company and their rental price was about \$2000 for a climbing wall.

12. Volunteers – no report

13. Decorations

Thomas asked the committee to please be present to help decorate the festival site for the International Festival.

14. Beer Booth

Smith reported that he has three volunteers prepared but have not pushed for more at this time. He stated that this should not be a difficult task. Poudrier reported that he would take care of the tax licenses for the beer booth.

15. Drink Booths – no report

16. Information Booth

Thomas reported that they would not be purchasing more items for the Information Booth to sell.

Staff Reports:

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

Poudrier said that Morman has reached out to several required supporters for the event. He reported that tech support from Sasseen will be \$2000 less that expected, for a total of \$8600. Triangle security will cost around \$5000. He mentioned that tents and production costs will be less than previous years.

18. Poster Competition Updates

Phillips explained that posters #1 and #2 are in the adult category, 3 is in the high school category, and #4 is in the elementary category. She remarked that 26 submissions were entered last year but only 4 were entered this year. It was regarded that this was a result of one school submitting more than others last year.

19. Volunteer Performer application update

It was stated that there have only been five applications submitted for performers thus far. The Filipino American Association has not applied and is scheduled to headline on Friday night. The application for performers is due July 24, and they have been urged to apply as soon as possible. The possibility of them performing on Saturday night was also brought into the conversation.

Business Items:

20. Review draft “Lawton Has Talent” performer application and take action as necessary.

Discussed earlier.

21. Review deadlines for “Lawton Has Talent” and take action as necessary.

Discussed earlier.

22. Review received Poster Competition entries and take action as necessary.

The committee members submitted their votes for the poster competition by hand to Phillips. She tallied the votes, resulting in #3 being the overall winner, however, #1 and #2 tied for the adult category. Thomas remarked that #3 will be printed on shirts.

23. Consider Storage options for International Festival Materials and take action as necessary.

Poudrier said that the McMahon Auditorium should be a performing venue only, rather than a storage option. He suggests using trailers for storage and having staff and trustees move the materials. He mentions that heat sensitive festival materials can be something that is figured out later down the line. He proposed renting a storage unit if there is not enough room in the trailers and it is deemed necessary.

24. Discuss Marketing signs and take action as necessary.

Poudrier mentions that signs last year cost around \$500-\$1000 but they greatly increased the event turnout. He said that this year reusable signs have been purchased to be more cost efficient.

It was suggested that more signs could be placed for Lawton Has Talent including a committee member's phone number. De Shade proposed the idea of using an automated phone service for this, but it would require a paid subscription model to operate.

It was recommended that an application link for Lawton Has Talent should be added to the International Festival website.

Garner said the committee should put a QR code advertising the event pamphlet. Poudrier remarked that shirts should be created for the festival beforehand, but was not opposed to the idea.

Old Business: none

New Business: none

Announcements: none

Adjournment: 6:27pm