



International Festival 2025

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



Minutes

Regular Meeting

International Festival Committee

August 5, 2025 – 4:30PM

Carnegie Library Town Hall

Dory Thomas
(Chair)

Dinah Lazarte
(Vice Chair)

Nancy Alandzes
Rosalind Asetamy
Hannah Bacani
Alicia Brierton
Reggie Brown
Molly Buckley
Fano Canton
Evelynn Fullerton
Sonia Hastings
Angel Howell
Mike Howell
Mylene McManus
Winnie Morita
Ben Nededog
Sann Nigh
Pat Reynolds
Kathy Rogers
Jerson Romero
Myrna Romero
Max Sasseen
Kathy Sauders
Alisha Saufoi
Page Smith
Betty Veu
lafeta Veu

Jason Poudrier
Arts & Humanities
Administrator

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: 4:30pm

1. Action: Roll Call

PRESENT: Thomas, Lazarte*, Bacani, Brierton, Buckley, Canton, Morita, Nededog, Nigh, Reynolds, Jerson Romero, Myrna Romero, Smith

ABSENT: Alandzes, Asetamy, Brown, Fullerton, Hastings, Angel Howell, Mike Howell, McManus, Rogers, Sasseen, Sauders

STAFF: Poudrier, Morman, Phillips

GUESTS: Ilalio Saufoi, Alisha Saufoi, Sonny Poletasi, Betty Veu, lafeta Veu, Robert De Shade

2. Betty Veu introduced herself and the other representatives from the Samoan American Association of Oklahoma. She expressed the association’s interest in working with the International Festival Committee. Robert De Shade introduced himself and expressed his interest in learning about the International Festival.

Verify positing of meeting:

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

Guest Introduction: Hannah Bacani introduced herself and expressed her interest in joining the International Festival Committee and bringing back the International Group to the festival.

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.

4. Approval of past meeting minutes from May 13, 2025, June 3, 2025, and July 1, 2025.

5. Approval of financials from July 2025.

Motion by Buckley to approve the May 13, 2025, June 3, 2025, and July 1, 2025 meeting minutes and to accept the financial report from July 2025. Second by Jerson Romero.

All in favor. Motion Carried.

Chair Report

6. Thomas reported on the bowling tournament that occurred on July 19, 2025. She thanked the members that came out and volunteered their time.

Vice Chair’s Report:

7. No report.

Committee Reports:

8. Vendors

Phillips reported on the vendor applications received since the July 1 2025 Meeting.

9. Sponsorships / Brochure Ads

Poudrier reported that the Lawton Fort Sill Chamber of Commerce have confirmed their sponsorship of \$5,000. He reported that this is the same amount they sponsored for the 2024 International Festival. Thomas reported that she has gone to four different businesses asking about sponsorships for the 2025 International Festival. He reported that if any committee member wanted to sell brochure ads or recruit sponsors, to please reach out to his office and they can get the paperwork together.

10. Marketing / Publicity / Social Media

Poudrier reported that they are working on digitizing the winning poster to put on the posters and update the social media accounts. Poudrier reported on the International Festival signs. He said that his office is looking into purchasing stickers to go over the outdated information on the old signs. He explained that this year, they are looking at getting red signs to go with the red shirts the committee voted for. Discussion ensued about whether to continue with the yellow signs like last years festival or to go with the new red signs.

11. Parade of Nations / Opening Ceremony

Morman reported that Keali'i has been confirmed to coordinate the parade of nations. Thomas reported that she tried contacting the International Student's office at Cameron University, but their offices have not opened yet for the semester.

12. Entertainment

Thomas reported that Lazarte will be the South Stage stage manager and that Fullerton and Nigh will be the North Stage stage managers.

Poudrier and Morman reported on the volunteer performer applications received.

13. Volunteers

Thomas reported that she has a group that is ready to volunteer. She also asked if the Arts and Humanities could send out the volunteer recruitment information to the local schools after the school year starts.

14. Decorations

Thomas invited the committee to come to the festival decorating day on Tuesday, September 23, 2025, at 5:30pm. Thomas also asked the committee to help donate meals for the workers and volunteers that will be preparing the festival site.

15. Beer Booth

Smith reported that several members from his groups have signed up to man the beer booth, but he's hoping for more to sign up in early September.

16. Drink Booths

Thomas reported that Rogers may not be available to man the Drink booths and that she is looking for someone to takes Rogers place for the festival.

17. Information Booth

Thomas reported that she does not want to purchase more items to sell at the Information booth because in the past several years, not a lot of items have been sold.

Staff Reports:

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

Poudrier reported that he wants to schedule a time where members of the committee come and help take an inventory of what items are at the auditorium and the national guard armory. He also

reported that his office is working with the vendors, the marketing and press releases, and the performer schedules.

Business Items:

19. Discuss opening Ceremony and inclusion and scheduling of AVA Ceremony and Take Action as necessary.

Thomas introduced this item. Discussion ensued about the timeline for the opening ceremony and how best to include the Ava ceremony while still giving the Ava ceremony respect and honoring the Samoan culture. *Lazarte entered

Motion by Smith for the Opening Ceremony to proceed as follows: Welcome, invocation, Parade of Nations, Naturalization Ceremony, and then a brief Ava ceremony. Second by Buckley. All in favor. Motion Carried.

20. Review shirt design and available t-shirt quotes and take action as necessary.

Thomas introduced this item and Poudrier reported that we are waiting on quotes from another company that is doing a rendering.

Motion by Jerson Romero to accept the general design, with a different font and to include the festival child on the sleeve and a QR code, to approve a budget of up to \$2,000, and to direct executive committee and COL staff to make final decisions. Second by Nigh. All in favor. Motion Carried.

21. Recommend extending final deadline for vendors for Monday August 11th in order to appear on layout and the map and approve Exec Committee and COL Staff to make final acceptance decisions on late vendors.

Thomas introduced this item. She reported that she was happy with the amount of vendors received and that she knows there are a few more vendors wanting to apply.

Motion by Jerson Romero to extend the final deadline for vendors for Monday August 11th to appear on layout and the map and approve Exec Committee and COL Staff to make final acceptance decisions on late vendors. Second by Nigh. All in favor. Motion Carried.

22. Consider approving booking of Magician Joe Coover for a performance on Sunday, September 28th and take action as necessary.

Morman introduced this item. She explained the history of Joe Coover and the International Festival.

Motion by Smith to approve the booking of Magician Joe Coover for a performance on Sunday, September 28, 2025. Second by Jerson Romero. All in favor. Motion Carried.

23. Consider purchase and distribution of campaign signs and take action as necessary.

Thomas introduced this item.

Motion by Smith to purchase more campaign signs for the International Festival and to order stickers to update the signs from the 2024 International Festival with the correct dates and stay with the gold color. Second by Myrna Romero. All in favor. Motion Carried.

24. Explore recognition at festival of time of service for committee members and take action as necessary.

Thomas introduced this item and expressed her wanting to recognize the committee members that have been long-term members at the opening ceremony.

Motion by Smith to recognize the long-serving members of the IFC at the Opening Ceremony. Second by Jerson Romero. All in favor. Motion Carried.

Old Business: none

New Business:

Thomas invited the guests to join the IFC and asked them to give Phillips their contact information.

Announcements:

Betty Veu invited the IFC members to the official Inauguration of the Samoan American Association of Oklahoma on Sunday, August 25, 2025.

Adjournment: 6:05pm