



City Council Meeting Agenda

Our Vision: A well-planned lakeside community of quality neighborhoods, distinctive amenities, diverse employment, and cultural charm. Rowlett: THE place to live, work and play.

Monday, April 20, 2026

6:00 PM

Municipal Building – 4000 Main

Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.127, on a regular, non-emergency basis, members may attend and participate in the meeting remotely by video conference. Should that occur, a quorum of the members, including the presiding officer, will be physically present at the location noted above on this Agenda.

As authorized by Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code, this meeting may be convened into closed Executive Session for the purpose of seeking confidential legal advice from the City Attorney on any agenda item herein.

The City of Rowlett reserves the right to reconvene, recess or realign the Regular Session or called Executive Session or order of business at any time prior to adjournment.

Process for Public Input: If you are not able to attend in person, you may complete the [Public Input Form](#) on the City's website by 3:30 p.m. the day of the meeting. All forms will be forwarded to the City Council prior to the start of the meeting.

For in-person comments, request to speak forms/instructions are available inside the door of the City Council Chambers.

1. Call to Order

2. Citizens' Input

At this time, comments will be taken from the audience on any topic. No action can be taken by the Council during Citizens' Input.

3. Work Session

3.A. Receive and discuss recommendations for award recipients of the Cultural Arts Grant and the Gary Alexander Arts in Education Grant.

3.B. Receive and discuss a proposed Public Art Policy.

3.C. Receive an update regarding DART funding agreements & potential Projects.

4. Executive Session

4.A. The City Council shall convene into closed, executive session pursuant to Texas Government Code, §551.071 (Consultation with City Attorney) to receive legal advice regarding ORD-10-25 Amending the Code of Ordinances Chapter 77-908 Illegal Nonconformity to provide a limited exception for certain accessory structures.

4.B. The City Council shall convene into closed, executive session pursuant to Texas Government Code, §551.072 (Deliberation regarding Real Property) to deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property located within the city limits of Rowlett, Texas.

- 4.C. The City Council shall convene into closed, executive session pursuant to Texas Government Code, §551.074 (Personnel Matters) to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee, to wit: Interim City Manager.
5. **Reconvene Into Open Session and Take Any Necessary or Appropriate Action on Closed/Executive Session Matters**
6. **Discuss Consent Agenda Items for April 21, 2026, City Council Meeting**
7. **Adjournment**

Deborah Sorensen

Deborah Sorensen, TRMC, MMC, City Secretary

I certify that the above notice of meeting was posted on the bulletin boards located inside and outside the doors of the Municipal Center, 4000 Main Street, Rowlett, Texas, as well as on the [City's website](#) on April 14, 2026, by 5:30 p.m.

City of Rowlett City Council meetings are available to all persons regardless of disability. If you require special assistance, contact the City Secretary at 972-412-6109 or write 4000 Main St., Rowlett, Texas, 75088, at least 48 hours in advance of meeting.

City of Rowlett ~ 4000 Main Street, Rowlett TX 75088 ~ www.rowlett.com

Meeting Date: 4/20/2026

Agenda Item: 3.A.

Title

Receive and discuss recommendations for award recipients of the Cultural Arts Grant and the Gary Alexander Arts in Education Grant.


Staff Representative

Laura Tschoerner, Library Director

Executive Summary

Each year the Arts and Humanities Commission awards grants to local cultural arts groups in addition to public and private schools in the City of Rowlett. The Commission is seeking approval on a recommendation to award \$5,000 for the Gary Alexander Arts in Education Grant and \$3,000 for the Cultural Arts Grant.

Strategic Priority and Goal(s)

Strategic Priority	Strategic Goal
 <p>ENHANCE QUALITY OF LIFE</p>	<p>4.4 Create spaces, activities, and events for the arts, cultural enrichment, and community celebrations.</p>

Background Information

The Arts & Humanities Commission is charged with encouraging the development of, appreciation for and participation in the arts and humanities in the City of Rowlett. The commission also advises and makes recommendations to the City Council on the award of City grants related to the arts.

Discussion

The Commission received 8 requests from local non-profit organizations for the Cultural Arts Grant.

Applicant	Amount Requested	Reason
A Heart for Patriots – Quilts of Valor Foundation	\$ 500	Supplies to sew Quilts of Valor for comfort and healing to those touched by war
Artist 'Round Texas	\$ 850	4 Visual Arts Programs at the Rowlett Community Centre

Briana Brown	\$2,000	Startup to register a sole proprietorship art business
Kids Who Rock	\$3,000	Offer 3 scholarships for classes
Neslie Fudge	\$ 930	Display 50 photos for 12 months throughout the City of Rowlett
Rockwall Summer Musicals	\$1,000	Support mainstage production and theater educational programs
Rowlett Quilters Guild	\$2,000	Funds to rent space for a quilting demonstration, hardware, and publicity
Rowlett Summer Musicals	\$2,000	Production expenses for set construction such as costumes and projections.

The Commission is recommending the \$3,000.00 allocated to the Cultural Arts grant be awarded as follows:

Applicant	Amount Recommended
A Heart for Patriots – Quilts of Valor Foundation	\$ 150
Artists 'Round Texas	\$ 150
Rowlett Quilters Guild	\$ 700
Rowlett Summer Musicals	\$2,000

The Commission received 4 requests from local schools for the Gary Alexander Arts in Education Grant.

Applicant	Amount Requested	Reason
Rowlett High School, Art Department	\$2,188	Purchase of color printer and extra ink for student artwork
Rowlett High School, Theatre Department	\$5,000	Provide financial support to present a production of <i>Come from Away</i>
Stephens Elementary, Music Department	\$3,514	Microphone equipment, recorders, and hand chimes for the elementary music program
Stephens Elementary, Art Department	\$1,358	20 Li'l Davinci Art Cabinets to create a professional grade exhibition space

The Commission is recommending the \$5,000.00 allocated to the Gary Alexander Arts In Education grant be awarded as follows:

Applicant	Amount Recommended
Rowlett High School, Art Department	\$1,142
Rowlett High School, Theatre Department	\$ 500
Stephens Elementary, Music Department	\$2,000
Stephens Elementary, Art Department	\$1,358

Financial/Budget Implications

Budget Account Number and/or Project Code	Account or Project Title	FY2026 Budget	Available Funding	Utilized Amount	Remaining Balance
1015530-6696	Boards & Commissions	\$27,436	\$22,842	\$8,000	\$14,842
Total		\$27,436	\$22,842	\$8,000	\$14,842

Recommended Action

Provide direction regarding the recommendations of grant recipients provided by the Arts and Humanities Commission.

Attachments

None

Meeting Date: 4/20/2026

Agenda Item: 3.B.

Title

Receive and discuss a proposed Public Art Policy.


Staff Representative

Laura Tschoerner, Library Director

Executive Summary

This agenda item is to discuss the adoption of a Public Art Policy to assist the Arts and Humanities Commission with the further development of public art in the City of Rowlett.

Strategic Priority and Goal(s)

Strategic Priority	Strategic Goal
 <p>ENHANCE QUALITY OF LIFE</p>	<p>4.4 Create spaces, activities, and events for the arts, cultural enrichment, and community celebrations.</p>

Background Information

Since the Arts and Humanities Commission first presented the public art concept in 2015, the City of Rowlett has built a meaningful collection of public art. Supported by consistent Council funding since FY2016—now totaling \$127,528—the City has successfully installed landmark pieces including *Spirit of Rowlett* and *The Best of Us Are Taken by Surprise*. The collection has grown further through generous private donations like *Sparkle* and *Steady*, and installations such as *Responder*, *Synergy* and *Through the Darkest Valley, Goodness and Mercy Will Follow*. While these individual successes demonstrate the value of public art, the Commission currently lacks a formalized policy to guide future growth. Establishing a clear framework will move the program from a project-by-project basis to a strategic, sustainable vision for the City.

Discussion

To facilitate a strategic approach to public art in the City of Rowlett, staff developed a draft of a Public Art Policy that was presented to the Arts and Humanities Commission at their February meeting and was discussed at their March meeting. The policy defines the program’s vision, purpose, and scope as well as identifying different types of public art projects and the steps involved in acquiring public art. Lastly, the policy

discusses donations, maintenance, and deaccession of public art.

The Public Art Policy details the workflow process for acquiring additional public art which is initiated with a project proposal from City staff, the Arts and Humanities Commission, or a citizen who brings their plan to the Arts and Humanities Commission.

This project proposal would include a description of the art and its setting, goals of the project, a budget and schedule, as well as identifying project stakeholders and anticipated maintenance needs.

"Upon project approval, a designated Project Manager will oversee the initiative, beginning with the assembly of an Artist Selection Panel. Depending on the project's scope, the City may utilize various procurement methods, including open calls, invitational competitions, or direct purchases. The Panel evaluates all submissions and provides a recommendation to the Arts and Humanities Commission, which then seeks final authorization from City Council. Once approved, the Project Manager executes the contract for production. Projects exempt from this process include temporary art installations, sidewalk art, light pole banners, wayfinding signs for trails and parks, and decorative wraps on utility boxes or dumpsters.

Finally, the Public Art Policy integrates a streamlined version of Resolution RES-049-17, formalizing the City's protocols for art donations and de-accession. Under this policy, all donations must be formally accepted through the Arts and Humanities Commission to become official City property. Furthermore, the deaccession process ensures that any removal of artwork is based on an impartial evaluation—triggering only if a piece is irreparably damaged, creates excessive maintenance costs, or if the site becomes unsuitable. Final disposition methods include artist buy-backs, public auctions, or, as a last resort, responsible disposal.

Financial/Budget Implications

None at this time

Recommended Action

Provide direction regarding the Public Art Policy draft.

Attachments

1. Public Art Policy - Draft

CITY OF ROWLETT PUBLIC ART POLICY

1. Vision

To coalesce art into the City of Rowlett's public spaces, creating a vibrant environment that revitalizes our community and fosters a deep sense of place. We strive to transform the public realm into a catalyst that not only inspires civic pride and creativity but also drives economic growth, celebrates our cultural heritage, and promotes active public engagement.

2. Purpose

The City of Rowlett's public art program seeks to build an art collection that engages artists and the community, supports local creativity, enhances public spaces and neighborhood identity, promotes cultural tourism and economic growth, fosters appreciation and dialogue around art, and creates a lasting cultural legacy for future generations.

3. Public Art Defined / Policy Scope

Public Art consists of artworks or installations created by individual artists, groups of artists, or collaborations between artists and design professionals for public spaces or purposes. These works are conceived specifically for a public context and, through a community-engaged process, aim to enhance or meaningfully influence the character and experience of that space.

3.1 Public Art - Publicly/Privatey Funded or located on Public Property

This process applies to artworks that are purchased or commissioned with City funds installed on public property. It does not apply to the temporary display of artworks not owned by the City.

3.2 Excluded Public Art - Privately Funded and located on Private Property

The City of Rowlett supports and encourages private developers' commitment to public art. Private businesses and property owners who contribute to the community's visual and cultural landscape are valued partners in enhancing the City's character. While the City welcomes these contributions, it has limited authority over the content of privately funded artwork installed on private property, except as governed by neutral and uniformly applied regulations such as obscenity laws and sign ordinances.

4. Project Development and Public Art Project Types

The Rowlett Public Art process coordinates the following related types of public art projects:

Capital:

Projects where public art is intentionally incorporated into new infrastructure projects.

Neighborhood:

Projects in which public art is created specifically to highlight, celebrate, or commemorate a neighborhood or community.

Signature:

Projects with a citywide focus

Development:

Projects that are part of a public/private development or revitalization project

Parks And Recreation Assets:

Projects offering tactile experiences, inviting interaction or participation, establishing resting places or focal points, or responding to natural elements or landscape features of site.

The City has the responsibility to identify a Project Manager to evaluate the operational appropriateness of each Project Proposal and, if approved, manage the Public Art Workflow.

5. Project Proposal

The Project Proposal details the work involved with the project and helps establish buy-in for the project before the commissioning process begins. All public art proposals must have a City of Rowlett sponsoring department.

The Project Proposal includes:

- Description of the project's location
- Information regarding the proposed setting
- Project goals and how project relates to the overall vision for public art in Rowlett
- Projected budget and funding sources
- Schedule outline
- Project stakeholders
- Anticipated conservation and maintenance needs

6. Artist Selection Panel

For each project, an Artist Selection Panel is formed to recommend the selection of an artist or artwork.

The Artist Selection Panel is responsible for:

- Reviewing artist qualifications and proposals, and interviewing artists
- Reviewing community feedback on proposals (if applicable)
- Making final recommendations to the Rowlett Arts and Humanities Commission (“AHC”)

The composition of each Artist Selection Panel will depend on the nature of and site of installation and will be composed of Artist Selection Pool members with knowledge of the medium in question and others as identified below. Artist Selection Panels should be limited to a total of five members as follows:

- A representative of the Sponsoring Department,
- A member of the Rowlett AHC,
- Individuals from the Artist Selection Pool established by the AHC consisting of:

- arts professionals, artists, architects (building or landscape), interior designers, graphic designers, urban design and planning professionals.
- An additional panelist or two may be added as representatives from community if the placement is specific to an HOA, development, or neighborhood park.

7. City of Rowlett Public Art Workflow

1. Project Proposal may be generated by:
 - 1.1 The AHC based on their own initiative or in response to a request from an external entity
 - 1.2 The City
2. Project Proposals are submitted to the appropriate Project Manager
3. The City accepts or rejects the Project Proposal
4. If the Project is accepted, then the Project Manager assembles the Artist Selection Panel
5. Artist Selection Panel reviews Proposals and provides input for “Call for Artists” or “Call for Entries” (RFP/RFQ)
6. “Call” is finalized, and the City publishes and distributes
7. Artist Selection Panel reviews submissions and selects finalist(s)
8. The AHC reviews Panel recommendations and recommends an Artist and final Proposal to the City Council
9. The City Council considers the recommended Artist and Proposal
10. If approved by the City Council, then Project Manager administers the contract with Artist
11. Artist fulfills contract – produces work

8. Artist Selection Approaches

The City of Rowlett engages in an artist selection process tailored to each project’s specific goals and requirements, maximizing the opportunity to identify the most suitable and qualified artist.

8.1 Open Competition

In an Open Competition, any artist may submit their qualifications or proposal, subject to the requirements established by the Artist Selection Panel. Requests for Qualifications (RFQs) and Requests for Proposals (RFPs) should provide sufficient detail to enable artists to portray the vision of the proposal and determine whether their work is appropriate for the community. This process encourages the broadest range of artistic possibilities for a site and provides opportunities for new, emerging, and previously unrecognized artists to participate.

8.2 Limited or Invitational Competition

In a Limited Competition, or Invitational process, a select group of pre-qualified artists is invited by the Artist Selection Panel to submit their qualifications and/or proposals. This approach is appropriate when the AHC seeks a focused pool of experienced artists, when project timelines are limited, or when the project’s specialized requirements restrict

eligibility to a small number of qualified candidates. Invited artists may be drawn from an established pre-qualified list.

8.3 Direct Selection

On occasion, artists may be chosen directly by the Artist Selection Panel. Direct selection may be useful on projects where an urgent timeline, limited budget, or very specific project requirements exist. It is possible that this artist would come from a pre-qualified list.

8.4 Direct Purchase

Some projects require the purchase of a specific artwork due to the exacting nature of the project or a very limited project timeline. In this case, the work must not be mass-produced. It is possible that this artwork would come from an artist on a pre-qualified list.

8.5 Artist Registry

The Rowlett AHC is charged with the responsibility of developing a roster of artists eligible to participate in potential public art initiatives.

9. Criteria for Selection of Artists or Artworks

- Artistic Excellence: Accepted artworks shall be original creations of exceptional quality and lasting value, reflecting artistic, social, and/or historical significance.
- Appropriateness to Site: Each artwork shall be evaluated for its relationship to the site, considering the social, cultural, historical, and physical context—whether existing or planned.
- Maintenance: Consideration shall be given to the artwork’s structural and material integrity, durability, and resistance to theft, vandalism, and weathering, as well as anticipated maintenance and repair requirements.
- Elements of Design: In addition to meeting aesthetic standards, public art should contribute to the visual environment by establishing focal points, enhancing or defining spaces, terminating vistas, or reinforcing community identity.
- Safety: Artworks must be designed and installed to ensure public safety and eliminate potential hazards.
- Artistic Diversity: The City of Rowlett’s Public Art Program seeks diversity in style, scale, media, and artistic representation.

10. Exemptions

The City of Rowlett’s Public Art Process recognizes the importance of community engagement and beautification projects. The following public art initiatives and/or displays are exempt from this process.

- Repairs to existing Public Art
- Temporary engagement projects
- Decoration or beautification projects
- Sidewalk art that is temporary in nature

- Temporary street murals
- Light pole banners
- Wayfinding signs for trails and public parks
- Decorations or wraps not of a commercial nature on utility boxes or dumpsters
- Existing artwork on or in public property

11. Maintenance

The City will be responsible for the maintenance and repair of Public Art.

12. Donations

The City of Rowlett (herein "City") encourages donations and loans of works of art for public places or as art specifically created for art exhibitions. When gifts or donations of major artworks are proposed for placement with any City agency or department, the Proposal shall follow the process outlined in Section 7 hereof skipping steps 5 – 7 and moving directly to the review of the proposal by the AHC. This procedure shall also apply to works of art proposed for long-term loan to the City.

12.1 Requirements for accepted permanent donations by the City of Rowlett

- The donation must include a sworn statement of no liens, claims or other encumbrances associated with the artwork and a written assignment conveying all rights, including copyrights and waiver of all rights under the Visual Artist's Rights Act of 1990 and its amendments.
- In general, gifts shall be accepted without restrictions as to future use or disposition.
- The proposal must include a conveyance of title to the City for permanent donations and identify an insurance value for donated artwork(s).

12.2 Requirements for accepted temporary donations by the City of Rowlett

- The loan shall include an executed letter of intent for display of artwork between the donor and the City to specifically include the duration of the donation and the exit-plan associated with removal of the piece.
- Written instructions for the care, maintenance, preservation, and handling of the artwork during the period of display.

12.3 Exceptions to the review process

- Conflict of interest - Gifts will be accepted by the City of Rowlett as a municipality. No individual within the City can accept gifts on behalf of the City. Consideration is given to the context in which the gift is offered to ensure that the gift is not being given to influence or reward City elected officials, employees, or citizen board members. In the event of a potential conflict of interest, the AHC shall seek City legal counsel.
- Gifts of State - Artwork presented to the City of Rowlett by foreign governments (municipal, state, or national) may be accepted by the Mayor or the City Manager on behalf of the City of Rowlett. Appropriate recognition and publicity shall be provided by and be the responsibility of the City.

13. Deaccessioning

Deaccessioning is the formal process of removing artwork from the City of Rowlett's collection. This process acknowledges that, over time, there may be valid reasons for removing certain works.

Deaccession occurs only after a careful and impartial evaluation of the artwork within the context of the overall collection. At the outset, the City makes reasonable efforts to notify any living artist whose work is being considered for deaccession. Decisions regarding deaccession are made by the City Council with a recommendation from the AHC in accordance with these guidelines.

The AHC may, from time to time, determine that deaccessioning objects is necessary to strengthen or improve the collection. In all such cases, the AHC must act as a responsible steward, keeping in mind its role as trustee of the public collection.

Artworks are generally acquired for perpetuity and not with the expectation of removal. Works should be retained if they continue to serve the purposes of the AHC, contribute to the integrity of the collection, and can be properly stored, preserved, displayed, and utilized.

13.1 Criteria for Deaccessioning

Objects may be deaccessioned when conditions require or when such action would improve or refine the collection.

Reasons for deaccessioning may include but are not limited to situations where:

- The use of the site has changed, the artwork is no longer appropriate, and the artwork cannot be reasonably protected or maintained.
- The artwork's annual maintenance cost is deemed excessive.
- The artwork has been damaged beyond reasonable repair.
- The artwork requires extensive conservation or restoration that is cost prohibitive.
- The artwork is deemed inappropriate or requires removal because of new developments in the direction of the collection.
- The artwork was commissioned or accepted with the provision or understanding that it was to have a limited lifecycle or installation period.

13.2 Procedure for Deaccessioning

Deaccession of any object from the collection is based on a written recommendation of the Department Director housing the art. The recommendation must specify reasons for the deaccession. This recommendation is then presented to the AHC for a recommendation to the City Council.

14. Manner of Disposition

The disposition of deaccessioned artwork shall be conducted in the best interest of the City of Rowlett and the public. Disposition may occur as follows:

- Sale: Unless the AHC determines an alternative method, artworks shall be sold, with the primary objective of achieving the best possible price. Sales may occur through public auction.
- Site-Specific Works: Artworks commissioned or accepted as site-specific may be decommissioned; that is, removed and destroyed, if relocation or sale is not appropriate. Site-specific works are created for a particular location and generally are not suitable for reinstallation elsewhere.
- Reinstallation: In rare instances, the City may authorize reinstallation of artwork if its integrity and original intent can be preserved. Reinstallation should occur, when possible, under the supervision or cooperation of the artist or the artist's estate. Didactic signage should be installed at the new site, explaining that the work has been re-sited and providing information about its original site, commission, and purpose.
- Transfer to Another Institution: Deaccessioned artworks may be placed with another institution where they can serve a purpose similar to that for which they were originally acquired.
- Right of First Refusal: For artworks created by a living artist or originally donated to the City, the artist and/or donor shall be offered the right of first refusal. In appropriate cases, exchanges may be considered.
- Restrictions on Purchasers: Except where mandatory donor restrictions apply, City employees, members of the AHC, and their immediate family members or household members, as well as entities under their control, may not purchase or otherwise receive deaccessioned artworks.



**City of Rowlett
City Council Agenda Item**

Meeting Date: 4/20/2026

Agenda Item: 3.C.

Title

Receive an update regarding DART funding agreements & potential Projects.

Staff Representative

Kristoff Bauer, Interim City Manager

Executive Summary

The City has executed two separate interlocal agreements with DART to access funding for mobility projects. This is an update regarding the status of those agreements and options for use of those funds.

Strategic Priority and Goal(s)

Background Information

Council considered and approved an interlocal agreement ("ILA") with Dallas Area Rapid Transit ("DART") on March 17, 2026, to participate in the General Mobility Program ("GMP"). As discussed at that time, the DART GMP makes the City eligible for a share of sales tax generated over the next six years. A total of \$4.7 million is estimated to be available through this program. The City has a previous ILA with DART relating to the improvement of Industrial St. and the intersection of Martin and HWY 66. There is significant funding available under that ILA that needs to be obligated quickly. Staff will provide an update on funding availability and obtain feedback regarding potential projects to be supported thereby.

Discussion

Staff will provide a presentation.

Financial/Budget Implications

NA

Recommended Action

Discussion only

Attachments

None