

Kentucky Guild of Artists and Craftsmen

Board Meeting Minutes

Date: August 25, 2026

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom / Hybrid Meeting

Attendance

Board Members and Officers

- Teresa Webb – Secretary
- Chad Eames – Board Member
- David Napier – Board Member (Zoom)
- Pamela Cvetichin – Board Member
- Erica Chambers – Board Member
- Benjamin Maddox – Board Member
- Alvis Agee – Board Member
- Melissa Oesch – Board Member
- Julia Thamann – Treasurer
- Shawanna Southerland – Board Member
- Jeremy Taylor – Supporting Board Member

Members

- Kathy Conroy – Member (Zoom)
- Deb Chenault – Member
- Thomas R. Porter – Member (Zoom)
- Marianne Brown – Member (Zoom)

Call to Order

Secretary Teresa Webb called the meeting to order. Board members and Guild members introduced themselves.

Election of Chair Pro Tem

A motion was made to nominate Deb Chenault as Chair Pro Tem to facilitate the election process. The vote was unanimous.

Election of Interim President

Nominations were opened to fill the vacant President position.

Chad Eames was nominated. The vote was unanimous. Chad accepted the nomination. With no additional nominations, nominations were closed.

The Board voted unanimously to elect **Chad Eames as interim President** until the next official election.

Chad thanked the Board for its confidence and acknowledged the work of outgoing President Pamela and the foundation she established for the Guild.

Election of Interim Vice President

Benjamin Maddox was nominated for Vice President by Chad Eames and accepted the nomination.

The Board voted to elect **Benjamin Maddox as interim Vice President**.

President's Report

Chad Eames reported that Pamela and Shawwna will be leaving the Board at the end of the year. There are also currently two vacant Board positions, and Benjamin Maddox will be at the end of his first three-year term and will need to be renominated.

The Guild will begin seeking nominations for Board positions. Members from areas outside Berea and Lexington will be encouraged to participate to strengthen the Guild's statewide representation. Zoom participation makes service by members throughout Kentucky more practical.

Following the election of new Board members, the Board will elect officers for terms beginning in January.

Chad also stated that he plans to send a letter to the full membership to introduce himself and share Guild news.

Secretary's Report

Teresa Webb reported that minutes from previous regular and special meetings had been distributed by email for review.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as presented.

Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported:

- Total revenue: **\$4,405.11**
- Total expenditures: **\$3,073.74**
- Net gain: **\$1,331.37**
- Combined cash/CD assets reported: **\$224,743.98**

Discussion included completing previously outstanding Kentucky sales tax filings. Five quarters were filed, covering four quarters from the previous year and the first quarter of the current year. The filings included taxes related to booth fees, T-shirt sales, and exhibit sales.

The Treasurer reported that the Guild is now caught up and intends to remain current with future filings.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report.

Motion carried.

Membership Committee

Membership was reported at **149 members**, including three newly juried members who have paid their dues. Follow-up will be made with newly juried members who have not yet submitted payment.

A new-member orientation is scheduled for **September 15, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom**. Board members are encouraged to attend.

The orientation will introduce new members to the Board, explain Guild benefits, provide information about ways to become involved, and offer an opportunity for questions.

The orientation was developed in response to feedback from newer members who were enthusiastic about joining but were unsure how to become involved after acceptance.

Standards / Saint James

An email has been sent to the membership seeking volunteers for the Guild booth at the Saint James Art Fair.

Several volunteers have already responded. Additional information and the volunteer link will also be included in the newsletter.

Exhibits and Educational Programs

The committee discussed the possibility of continuing an apprenticeship collaboration involving Micah Wells and Cynthia Main.

The Guild's role would primarily be as a fiscal sponsor/pass-through nonprofit for approximately **\$14,000** in program funds.

Board members discussed the Guild's responsibility to maintain appropriate stewardship and documentation when serving as a fiscal sponsor. The possibility of charging a modest administrative/fiscal sponsorship fee was discussed.

Additional information regarding the program's requirements and the Guild's responsibilities will be circulated to Board members before a final decision is made.

The **In Good Hands** program has four remaining activities. Three are associated with the Maria Concert series. The program will also participate in the Fall Art Market.

The **America 250 traveling exhibit** is nearing completion. Teresa Webb will prepare the final project report after final attendance numbers and other information are collected. Pamela will assist with the report because of her involvement in the project.

Planning is also underway for the next mentor/mentee exhibit. The committee is exploring sponsorship opportunities for individual exhibitions.

Grants and Fundraising

The America 250 grant is approaching completion and will require a final report.

The Guild is also awaiting payment of the **\$1,500 Kentucky Arts Rising grant**, which provides relatively flexible operational funding.

Grant compliance requirements include acknowledging the Kentucky Arts Council, notifying the agency of leadership changes, and sending appropriate communications to state representatives.

Marketing Committee

Marketing work continues on an artist spotlight video.

Approximately **5,000 rack cards** have been produced and are being distributed.

The Board discussed the possibility of a future **Guild rebranding project**, including a new logo, color palette, fonts, and coordinated digital/marketing materials.

Ideas discussed included inviting Guild members with graphic design experience to participate, seeking proposals from professional designers, gathering member input while keeping the final

selection process manageable, and developing a complete cohesive brand rather than simply replacing the logo.

The Board generally agreed that the Guild would benefit from updated branding. Because a full rebranding is a significant project, further discussion and planning will be needed.

Fair Committee

Planning for the 2026 Fall Art Market is underway.

The Guild's billboard on I-75 is currently live. It is located northbound approximately one-half mile past the Kentucky Artisan Center exit.

The billboard will remain in place for approximately two months at a cost of **\$3,600**, providing twice the display time received for approximately the same expenditure the previous year.

Advertising contacts for television, radio, and billboard companies have changed, creating delays in coordinating this year's advertising.

Double-sided banners have been ordered for placement in Berea, and additional banners will be placed near the Kentucky Artisan Center.

The Saint James booth volunteer process is underway.

The T-shirt design contest has closed, and the selected design is in development.

The committee continues to work on parking and shuttle arrangements for the Fall Art Market.

The next Fair Committee meeting is scheduled for **September 1, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.**

New Business – Kentucky Artisan Center

The Board discussed concerns regarding provisions of **House Bill 500** and a study of the Kentucky Artisan Center.

The discussion centered on a study involving the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet, the Transportation Cabinet, the City of Berea, and potentially Berea College regarding the future ownership and/or use of the Artisan Center property.

Board members emphasized the importance of the Kentucky Artisan Center to Kentucky artists, tourism, wholesale opportunities, and the Berea community.

Because the study is still underway and its outcome is unknown, the Board has not adopted any formal action or position** at this time**.

Members discussed gathering additional information and data demonstrating the Artisan Center's economic and artistic impact. The Guild may also communicate with Kentuckians for the Arts and other stakeholders as more information becomes available.

The Board agreed that the issue should continue to be monitored so the Guild can respond appropriately if action becomes necessary.

Member Comments

Guild members attending the meeting were invited to offer comments, questions, or concerns to the Board.

The Board thanked members for attending and participating.

Adjournment

With no additional business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Webb

Secretary

Kentucky Guild of Artists and Craftsmen