



**Duncanville Arts Commission
Regular Meeting Agenda**

City Hall Annex
103 E. Wheatland Road
Duncanville, TX 75166

**Tuesday, May 26, 2026
6:30 PM**

City of Duncanville Arts Commission meetings are available to all persons regardless of disability. The Duncanville City Hall is accessible to people with disabilities. If you need assistance in participating in this meeting due to a disability as defined under the ADA, please call (972) 780-5000 or email city.secretary@duncanvilletx.gov at least three (3) business days prior to the scheduled meeting to request accommodation.

Persons may participate by live broadcast via YouTube. To view the live meeting or previous meetings, click on the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/@CityofDuncanvilletx>

1. Call to Order
2. Receive Public Comments, limit 2-minutes per individual speaker.

To submit a comment via email and for your comments to be read, the following information is required:

Submit a comment by 4:00 PM on Tuesday, May 26, 2026

Email alex.hamby@duncanvilletx.gov

Email title: Arts Commission Public Comment – May 26, 2026

First and Last Name; and address.

3. Commissioners Reports (limit to 2 minutes each)
4. The Arts Commission to Consider the Following Meeting Minutes:
 - A. Consider the May 12, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes
5. Event Discussions
 - A. The Commission to discuss the upcoming June *Arts & Business Mixer*.
 - B. Future Arts & Business Mixers discussion.
6. Items for Individual Consideration
 - A. The Arts Commission will consider the Duncanville Poet Laureate Policy and Application.
 - B. The Arts Commission to consider an invitation from the Duncanville Public Library to participate in the Summer Reading Club Kickoff.

7. Non-Action Items

- A. The Commission to receive the Ellafair post-event report.
- B. Podcast Analytics and Discussion
- C. BloomFest Debrief
- D. Temporary Art Activation Permit (TAAP) presented by Ron Thompson

8. Adjournment

I, the undersigned authority, do hereby certify that this Notice of Meeting was posted in accordance with the regulations of the Texas Open Meetings Act on the bulletin board located outside the entrance to the City of Duncanville City Hall, next to the entryway doors, a place convenient and readily accessible to the general public, as well as to the City's website www.duncanvilletx.gov and said Notice was posted **by** the following date and time: Wednesday, May 20, 2026, by 5:00 PM and remained posted for at least two hours after said meeting was convened

Alex Hamby
Communications and Marketing Administrator



SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

A meeting of the Duncanville Arts Commission was held on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, in the Briefing Room at City Hall (203 East Wheatland Road, Duncanville, Texas 75116) with a quorum to wit: Chair Angela Thorpe-Harris, Vice Chair Mac Browning, Linda Lydia, Amy Jackson, Mary Ann Taylor, Patricia Coleman, and Julio Avila. Luke Durmon arrived at approximately 6:37 PM.

Council Liaison, Mayor Pro Tem DeMonica Gooden, was absent.

Alex Hamby, Marketing and Communications Administrator, was present to serve as staff liaisons. Devon Handley, Event Planner, was absent.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

2. Receive Public Comments, limit 2-minutes per individual speaker.

Chair Thorpe-Harris read a card that was sent by Ron Thompson to the Commission.

3. The Arts Commission to consider the following Minutes:

A. Consider March 24, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes.

Amy Jackson made a motion to consider the March 24, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Mac Browning. All present voted in favor. None opposed. The motion passed.

3. Commissioners Reports (limit to 2 minutes each) During this time, members of the Arts Commission will present brief reports, each limited to two minutes.

Patricia Coleman shared that her 20-year-old women's ministry, Girlfriends P.A.C. Ministries, distributed Mother's Day gifts at various churches, organizations, and community groups.

Amy Jackson announced that the Duncanville Community Theatre is getting ready to premiere the final show of its 38th season. The show is *My Way*, a musical tribute to Frank Sinatra. The theatre also held a special Mother's Day event. She congratulated Chair

Angela Thorpe-Harris and the organizers of *Ellafair* for a successful event.

Linda Lydia attended the *African American Arts Festival*. She praised the works of the 60 artists from around the country who were showcased. She recounted her work on Capitol Hill doing advocacy work for the Susan G. Koman. Also, she and her non-profit held a candidates' forum. She attended *BloomFest* and participated in a local school event. She commended Mary Ann Taylor's work at the school event.

Mary Ann Taylor shared that she and Luke Durmon represented the Arts Commission at another school event. She praised Mr. Durmon for his efforts during the event. She spoke to working to arrange entertainment and catering for the *Ellafair* event. Speaking to the proposed Poet Laureate program, she found an opportunity to incorporate the culinary arts, visual arts, and spoken/written works. She also attended an event by the American Jewish Committee that featured Dan Jones, who she remarked was an incredible speaker.

Julio Avila, who recently welcomed a new baby, shared that his business has 30 shows booked currently. Those bookings go out through to the end of July. He is also partnering with the Mic Drop Comedy Club and the man behind the largest comedy festival in Paris, Texas. He was also featured in Texas Monthly. Lastly, he has been working on the Arts Commission's *D'ville Voices* podcast.

Luke Durmon reported that he participated in the school event. At BloomFest he had the opportunity to play violin. He also shared that he has been busy at work.

Mac Browning read the following poem:

So Speak

Speak,
Words that build,
As foundation,
Firm in truth,
Stable and Dependable.

Speak,
Words that free,
In flight to give,
That sing of hope
In morning light,
Irrepressible.

Speak,
Words that heal,
Gather around
The brokenhearted,
Comfort offered,
Restorable.

So speak.

Angela Thorpe-Harris attended a cabaret at the Sammons Center for the Arts at the invitation of Ron Thompson, which featured a performance by Denise Lee, Dallas based award winning actress and singer. She also worked with Luke Durmon for a Duncanville family math night. She commended Patricia Coleman for being recognized at the 8th Annual Living Legends Gala hosted by Ron Bivins. She also promoted Vice Chair Mac Browning's book of poetry, *Facing the Storm*. She also updated the commission on grant

recipient's upcoming show, *He That Finds a Wife ... Find Me!* She also shared an updated regarding another grant recipient's project, *Pieces of Us* community mosaic.

She also attended *Ellafair*. Due to the regular meeting of the Arts Commission meeting being canceled, she was unable to present to the body an item that would have awarded the *People's Choice* selection with a \$400 award. She, along with others who helped by donating money, raised the \$400 during the event and was still able to present the monetary prize. During the *BloomFest*, they collaborated with the Community Engagement Advisory Board.

5. Arts Commission Events

A. 2026 Arts and Business Mixer.

The Mixer, which will be held at the Olden Year Museum (1050 N Duncanville Rd, Duncanville, TX 75116) in June. Patricia Coleman and Linda Lydia volunteered to serve as a subcommittee to coordinate the event. Odom's Bar-B-Que was discussed as a possible caterer for the event.

6. Items for Individual Consideration

A. The Arts Commission to consider a grant request for the project titled "Art Exhibit."

Linda Lydia made a motion to recommending approval of the grant request in the amended amount of \$1,500 stipulating a need for new dates for this event. The motion was seconded by Mac Browning. Angela Thorpe-Harris, Patricia Coleman, Luke Durmon, Linda Lydia, and Julio Avila voted for. Mary Ann Taylor, Mac Browning, and Amy Jackson voted against. The motion passed.

B. The Arts Commission to consider a grant request for the project titled "Midsummer Music Festival."

Julio Avila made a motion to recommend approval of the grant request in the amount of \$3,000. Linda Lydia seconded the motion. All present voted in-favor. The motion passed.

C. The Arts Commission to consider a grant request for the project titled "Museum of Art Building Mural Project."

Mac Browning made a motion to recommend approval of the grant in the amended amount of \$3,500. Linda Lydia seconded the motion. Patricia Coleman, Mac Browning, Angela Thorpe-Harris, Mary Ann Taylor, and Luke Durmon voted in favor. Amy Jackson and Julio Avila voted against. The motion passed.

D. The Arts Commission to consider a grant request for the project titled "Rebloom Creative Reuse Pop-Ups."

Mary Ann Taylor made a motion to recommend approval of the grant in the amount of \$3,500. Julio Avila seconded. Julio Avila voted in favor. Patricia Coleman, Amy Jackson, Mac Browning, Angela Thorpe-Harris, Mary Ann Taylor, Linda Lydia, and Luke Durmon voted against. The motion did not pass.

7. Non-Action Items

A. Temporary Art Activation Permit (TAAP) presented by Ron Thompson

The item was tabled.

B. D'ville Voices, the Duncanville Arts Commission Podcast

The Commission discussed the new D'ville Voices podcast and learned how to subscribe to catch upcoming episodes.

C. Review the report submitted by Kalen McGuire regarding his "Beacons of Light: Where Champions Rise" mural located at 1944 S. Main St., Duncanville, TX 75137.

The commission revised the report by Kalen McGuire.

Angela Thorpe - Harris,
Arts Commission Chair

Alex Hamby,
Staff Liaison



STAFF REPORT

MEETING: - May 26, 2026

TITLE:

The Commission to discuss the upcoming June *Arts & Business Mixer*.

Vision Statement:

“Duncanville, a City of Champions, is a safe, vibrant, diverse community committed to excellence in education, business, and good governance.”

Pillar:

Healthy, Active, Creative Communities and Resilient Economic Development & Community Development.

STAFF RESPONSIBLE:

Alex Hamby, Communications and Marketing Administrator

BACKGROUND/HISTORY:

Since soon after its founding, the Duncanville Arts Commission has promoted arts and business with its signature Arts & Business Mixers, which began with the December 7, 2023, Holiday Mixer held at Smokey D'Z BBQ and Day Drink Wine and Cocktail Lounge. This inaugural event collected toy and food donations for the Duncanville Police Department's Santa Cop program and the Duncanville Public Library's former Little Pantry.

The upcoming Arts & Business Mixer, co-hosted by the Duncanville Arts Commission and Duncanville Community and Economic Development Corporation (DCEDC), is planned for June at the Olden Year Museum (1050 N. Duncanville Rd., Duncanville, TX 75116).

POLICY EXPLANATION:

FUNDING SOURCE:

ACTION ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve.
2. Disapprove
3. Other actions as directed by Council.

ATTACHMENTS:

None



STAFF REPORT

MEETING: - May 26, 2026

TITLE:

The Arts Commission will consider the Duncanville Poet Laureate Policy and Application.

Vision Statement:

“Duncanville, a City of Champions, is a safe, vibrant, diverse community committed to excellence in education, business, and good governance.”

Pillar:

STAFF RESPONSIBLE:

Alex Hamby, Communications and Marketing Administrator

BACKGROUND/HISTORY:

The Duncanville Poet Laureate program began as an idea to recognize poetry as part of the city’s growing creative identity. On December 27, 2025, the Duncanville Arts Commission submitted an arts grant request for \$3,500, describing the Poet Laureate concept as a way to honor a poet and highlight spoken arts throughout the community rather than create a traditional job position.

On February 12, 2026, the Arts Commission formally supported the proposal when Linda Lydia made a motion to recommend City Council approval of the Duncanville Poet Laureate grant request in the amount of \$3,500. Julio Avila seconded the motion, all members present voted in favor, Amy Jackson was absent, and the motion passed. On March 3, 2026, the Duncanville City Council approved the grant request, allowing the concept to move forward.

After Council approval, staff researched Poet Laureate programs in other cities and used that information to draft a more detailed policy for Duncanville. Staff also created an application (<https://form.jotform.com/261326506129050>) to accompany the policy, providing the program with a clear structure for eligibility, duties, selection, and public participation.

The proposed framework now returns to the Arts Commission for consideration and

adoption. Under the draft policy, the Poet Laureate would serve a term running from July 4 of each year through June 30 of the following year, helping promote poetry, literacy, and community connection in Duncanville.

POLICY EXPLANATION:

This agenda item presents for review and consideration a proposed Duncanville Poet Laureate Program Policy and the accompanying application materials for the City’s inaugural Poet Laureate process. The policy establishes the purpose of the program, confirms oversight by the Duncanville Arts Commission in coordination with the City’s Communications and Marketing Department, and outlines the term, eligibility, duties, honorarium, reporting expectations, standards of conduct, and selection process for the appointment.

The policy is intended to create a clear framework for recognizing a local poet who will serve as a creative ambassador for Duncanville by promoting poetry, literacy, storytelling, civic pride, and community connection. It also defines the responsibilities of the Poet Laureate, including appearances at City-related events, completion of at least one community-focused literary project, coordination with City staff on official communications, and submission of midyear and final activity reports.

The related application is designed to align with the policy while remaining simple and accessible for applicants. It collects the required items identified in the policy, including contact information, proof of Duncanville residency, a brief biography, an artist statement, a description of the applicant’s proposed community-focused poetry project or activities, a poetry sample, a resume or curriculum vitae, and applicant acknowledgments confirming eligibility and willingness to fulfill the role’s public-service expectations.

If approved, the policy and application will provide a consistent annual process for soliciting applications, reviewing qualified candidates, and recommending a Poet Laureate to the City Council for appointment.

FUNDING SOURCE:

ORG and Object Number

011011000-700450

Available Budget	Purchase Amount	After Encumber
\$3,500	\$3,500	\$0

ACTION ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve.
2. Disapprove
3. Other actions as directed by Council.

ATTACHMENTS:

Duncanville Poet Laureate Policy - To Present



Attachment A

Duncanville Poet Laureate Program Policy

City of Duncanville, Texas

I. Purpose

The Duncanville Poet Laureate Program honors a local poet and recognizes the role of poetry, storytelling, and literary arts in the cultural life of the City of Duncanville.

The Poet Laureate serves as a creative ambassador for the City by promoting poetry, literacy, civic pride, and community connection for residents of all ages.

II. Authority and Oversight

- The Poet Laureate position is established by action of the Duncanville City Council and is administered by the Duncanville Arts Commission in coordination with the City's Communications and Marketing Department.
- The Duncanville Arts Commission shall serve as the Poet Laureate Selection Panel and may include City staff support as needed for administration of the application and review process.
- The Arts Commission shall review eligible applications, identify finalists, and recommend one applicant to the City Council for appointment as Duncanville Poet Laureate.

III. Term of Service

- The Duncanville Poet Laureate shall serve a one-year term beginning July 1 and ending June 30 of the following year.
- The term may be renewed for one additional one-year term upon recommendation of the Arts Commission and approval by the City Council, based on program needs and satisfactory performance.
- If the Poet Laureate is unable to complete the term, the City Council may appoint another eligible poet to serve the remainder of the term upon recommendation of the Arts Commission.

IV. Eligibility and Qualifications

To be eligible for appointment as Duncanville Poet Laureate, an applicant must:

- Be at least 18 years of age.
- Reside within the City of Duncanville and have maintained residency within the city for at least one year prior to the application deadline and maintain residency throughout the term of service.
- Provide proof of residency based on a physical residential address; a post office box alone is not sufficient proof of residency.
- Demonstrate a record of engagement with poetry or spoken word, which may include publications, performances, workshops, teaching, or community-based literary activities.
- Demonstrate artistic excellence, a clear literary voice, and the ability to engage the public in a professional manner.
- Show a prior commitment to promoting awareness of poetry, literacy, or literary arts in community settings.
- Be willing and able to appear at City-sponsored events and participate in official program activities coordinated by the City.

V. Duties and Expectations

The Duncanville Poet Laureate shall:

- Serve as an ambassador for poetry and the literary arts in Duncanville, championing the written and spoken word at City-related events and through City-approved communications.
- Present original poems or selected works at City Council meetings, ceremonies, festivals, commemorations, or other public events as requested and scheduled in coordination with City staff.
- Participate in up to four official City or community events during the term, unless otherwise approved by the City.
- Develop and lead at least one community-focused poetry project, workshop, event, reading, or initiative during the term that is accessible to Duncanville residents.
- Encourage appreciation of poetry and creative expression among residents of all ages, including youth.
- Contribute ideas for City-sponsored literary programs, contests, festivals, or public-engagement opportunities that highlight poetry and storytelling.
- Maintain a calendar of official Poet Laureate appearances, programming, and related activities in a format accessible to designated City staff.

- Submit a midyear activity update and a final written report summarizing official appearances, community programming, project progress, outreach activities, and works created in the Poet Laureate role.
- Coordinate with the City's Communications and Marketing Department before participating in media interviews, issuing official public statements, or releasing promotional materials related to the Poet Laureate role.

The Poet Laureate is an honorary appointed position and is not a City employee, officer, or policymaker.

VI. Honorarium and Disbursement

- The Duncanville Poet Laureate shall receive a total honorarium of \$3,500 for the one-year term of service.
- The honorarium is intended to recognize the Poet Laureate's service and offset time, travel, materials, and incidental expenses associated with official Poet Laureate duties; it is not a salary and does not create an employment relationship.
- The honorarium shall be disbursed in three installments as follows:
 1. \$1,000 upon City Council appointment and formal acceptance of the Poet Laureate role.
 2. \$1,000 upon submission and approval of a midyear activity update, due on or about the January Regular Meeting of the Duncanville Arts Commission, summarizing appearances, programming, and progress on the Poet Laureate's community-focused literary project.
 3. \$1,500 upon submission and approval of a final report, due on or about June 30, summarizing completed activities, project outcomes, community impact, and official work produced during the term.
- Payment of each installment is contingent upon satisfactory completion of the applicable service period and submission of required updates or reports, as determined by the City.
- Subject to budget availability and prior approval, the City may provide limited in-kind support such as use of City facilities, printing, or basic program materials separate from the honorarium.

VII. Selection Process and Annual Timeline

The City shall follow an annual selection process aligned with the July-to-June term:

- March: The City issues a call for applications and promotes the opportunity through official City communication channels.
- April: The application period closes, and City staff reviews all submissions for completeness and eligibility.

- Applications must be complete when submitted. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- May: The Arts Commission reviews qualified applications, identifies finalists, and may conduct interviews, sample readings, or both.
- June: The Arts Commission recommends a finalist to the City Council, and the City Council considers appointment of the Duncanville Poet Laureate.
- July 4: The Poet Laureate term begins with a public introduction to the community at the annual Independence Day Celebration.
- Early July: The newly appointed Poet Laureate is publicly announced and recognized as part of the City's Independence Day celebration, when feasible, subject to the official event schedule and City communications planning.

All applicants shall be notified of the outcome of the selection process following Council action.

VIII. Application Requirements

Applicants shall be required to submit the following:

- A completed application form provided by the City of Duncanville.
- Contact information, including name, physical address, telephone number, and email address.
- Proof of Duncanville residency based on the applicant's physical residential address.
- A brief biography not to exceed one page.
- A brief artist statement describing the applicant's work, approach to poetry, and interest in serving as Duncanville Poet Laureate.
- A short description of no more than one page outlining the applicant's ideas for a community-focused poetry project or activities to be completed during the term.
- A poetry sample of up to 10 pages total, which may include page-based work, spoken-word text, or performance scripts.
- A resume or curriculum vitae, not to exceed three pages, highlighting publication history, performances, teaching, public speaking, workshops, and community engagement.

IX. Standards of Conduct

- The Poet Laureate shall conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on the City of Duncanville, the Duncanville Arts Commission, and the public purpose of the program.
- The Poet Laureate shall comply with all applicable City policies and procedures while participating in City-sponsored events, communications, and programs.
- The Poet Laureate shall respond to official City communications related to the program in a timely manner.
- Failure to perform program duties, failure to submit required reports, violation of applicable City policies, or conduct that materially undermines the integrity or reputation of the program may constitute grounds for early termination of the appointment, as determined by the City Council.

X. Ceremonial Recognition

- The Duncanville Poet Laureate shall be publicly announced and recognized in connection with the City's annual Independence Day celebration, when feasible, as the official public introduction of the Poet Laureate for the new term.
- Additional ceremonial appearances may be scheduled at City Council meetings or other City events at the discretion of the Mayor, City Council, City Manager, or designated staff.

XI. Intellectual Property and Use of Work

- The Poet Laureate retains copyright to original work created before and during the term.
- By accepting the appointment, the Poet Laureate grants the City of Duncanville a non-exclusive, royalty-free license to reproduce, publish, display, record, and distribute original work created for City events or official Poet Laureate activities for non-commercial civic, educational, archival, and promotional purposes, with appropriate credit to the Poet Laureate.



STAFF REPORT

MEETING: - May 26, 2026

TITLE:

The Arts Commission to consider an invitation from the Duncanville Public Library to participate in the Summer Reading Club Kickoff.

Vision Statement:

“Duncanville, a City of Champions, is a safe, vibrant, diverse community committed to excellence in education, business, and good governance.”

Pillar:

Healthy, Active, and Creative Communities

STAFF RESPONSIBLE:

Alex Hamby, Communications and Marketing Administrator

BACKGROUND/HISTORY:

Duncanville Public Library Director Hannah Olsen has invited the Arts Commission to participate in the Summer Reading Club Kickoff on Saturday, June 6, 2026, from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM. A table will be provided.

POLICY EXPLANATION:

FUNDING SOURCE:

ACTION ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve.
2. Disapprove
3. Other actions as directed by Council.

ATTACHMENTS:

None



STAFF REPORT

MEETING: - May 26, 2026

TITLE:

The Commission to receive the Ellafair post-event report.

Vision Statement:

“Duncanville, a City of Champions, is a safe, vibrant, diverse community committed to excellence in education, business, and good governance.”

Pillar:

Healthy, Active, and Creative Communities

STAFF RESPONSIBLE:

Alex Hamby, Communications and Marketing Administrator

BACKGROUND/HISTORY:

The Duncanville Arts Commission recommended funding Ellafair, which was described as is a two-day community arts event launched in 2024 by Duncanville residents Gale Sliger and Sue

Clark to support the newly formed Duncanville Arts Commission through public awareness and grassroots fundraising. Organized in just four weeks, the inaugural event drew approximately 200 attendees and artists from across the region, raised \$400 for the Duncanville Arts Fund, and received local media coverage—laying the foundation for an expanded 2025 event focused on visibility, revenue, and long-term opportunity for the city’s creative community.

The commission recommended funding the event in the amount of \$3,000 at its July 16, 2025, meeting, and the City Council ultimately approved funding Ellafair.

The event was delayed to coincide with the 2026 BloomFest community event.

POLICY EXPLANATION:

From the Arts Funding and Grant Guidelines:

Grantee Responsibilities

Grant recipients are required to submit a final report **within 45 days of completing their project or event**, based on the completion date provided in the original application. This report helps demonstrate how funds were used, the impact of the project, and supports future funding efforts. Failure to submit a timely report may affect future eligibility

Include documentation of:

Project outcomes

Financial details

Attendance and public engagement

Tourism or hotel impact (if applicable)

Failure to report will result in ineligibility for four (4) grant cycles

FUNDING SOURCE:

ACTION ALTERNATIVES:

ATTACHMENTS:

Ellafair-2026-Post-Event-Report, Ellafair - Application

Ellafair 2026

Featured Fine Arts Exhibition of BloomFest Music and Arts Festival

Date:

May 12, 2026

Subject:

Post-Event Report to the Duncanville Arts Commission

Submitted by:

Ron Thompson
Founding Executive Director
Duncanville Arts Foundation
202 W. Center Street, Suite 101
Duncanville, Texas 75116
(972) 435-9842
ron@duncanvillearts.org

Executive Summary

Ellafair 2026 was presented, under estimated budget, by the Duncanville Arts Foundation in coordinated partnership with the Duncanville Arts Commission and the City of Duncanville Special Events Office, and was promoted by the City as the featured fine arts exhibition of BloomFest weekend. The program opened with a Welcome Reception on Friday, May 8, at the D.L. Hopkins Jr. Senior Center, 206 James Collins Boulevard, and continued on Saturday, May 9, with the public exhibition running alongside BloomFest at Armstrong Park.

Fifteen juried artists presented original work spanning watercolor, oil, acrylic, drawing, textile, sculpture in metal, wood, polymer clay, and found objects, and a projected retrospective of editorial photography by former Dallas Times Herald photographer Mark Graham. Every exhibiting artist holds a personal connection to Duncanville, whether as a current resident, an educator in Duncanville schools, a Duncanville High School alumnus, or a working artist whose practice has been shaped by the city's people, parks, and preserves.

Guests attended across the two days, including Duncanville residents, regional collectors, and BloomFest visitors drawn into the gallery by shared signage and cross-venue programming.

Cristi Frye, a Burleson sculptor and Duncanville High School graduate working in polymer clay and found objects, swept both honors: Best of Show, presented by the Foundation, and People's Choice, presented by the Commission with a \$400 cash prize funded by private donations. Best of Show was judged by Brad Pritchett, Chief Experience Officer at the Dallas Museum of Art and a 1998 graduate of Duncanville High School.

Event Schedule

Friday, May 8: Welcome Reception

5:00 PM to 7:30 PM | D.L. Hopkins Jr. Senior Center, 206 James Collins Boulevard

- Live classical violin by Miranda Porras
- Hors d'oeuvres by Xela Bistro of Duncanville
- Artist introductions, exhibition preview, and informal public reception

Saturday, May 9: Public Exhibition

4:00 PM to 8:00 PM | D.L. Hopkins Jr. Senior Center

- Open to the public concurrent with BloomFest Music & Arts Festival at Armstrong Park
- People's Choice voting via QR code through 7:50 PM, tabulated by the City of Duncanville Special Events Office

Awards

Best of Show, presented by the Duncanville Arts Foundation

Best of Show was judged by Brad Pritchett, Chief Experience Officer at the Dallas Museum of Art and a 1998 graduate of Duncanville High School. A Tony Award-winning marketing, branding, and communications executive, Pritchett oversees all marketing, brand activation, public relations, advertising, and earned revenue strategies at the DMA. He brings more than twenty years of mission-driven arts marketing experience, including integrated campaigns for the Dallas Theater Center and the American Heart Association, and has built a reputation as one of the region's most accomplished arts advocates.

Featured in D Magazine, D CEO, CultureMap, and Passport Magazine, Pritchett has been named to the D CEO Top 500 three times, was nominated as CMO of the Year by the American Marketing Association in 2023, and is the 2025 recipient of the Unleashed LGBTQ Arts and Culture Influencer of the Year award.

The Best of Show prize includes a solo exhibit by the winning artist at the Foundation's gallery space, 202 W. Center Street, Duncanville.

People’s Choice, presented by the Duncanville Arts Commission

Attendees cast votes through a QR code system distributed throughout the gallery, with tabulation performed by the City of Duncanville Special Events Office. The Commission presented a \$400 cash prize, funded entirely by private donations.

Both Honors: Cristi Frye

Cristi Frye of Burleson, working in polymer clay and found objects, won both Best of Show and People’s Choice, the first single-artist sweep in Ellafair’s history. Frye spent her childhood in Duncanville, graduated from Duncanville High School, and still has family in the city. Her submitted works were Big Shoes to Fill, Delightful, and Old Flame.

In her artist statement, Frye describes her practice: *“My work explores the imperfections and quiet commonalities that bind us as human beings. Through figurative sculpture, I aim to capture fleeting moments such as an expression, a posture, or a mood. These subtle details invite the viewer to recognize something familiar and perhaps imagine a story of their own. I work primarily with polymer clay and found objects, materials that feel both humble and deeply expressive.”*

Exhibiting Artists

Fifteen artists exhibited at Ellafair 2026..

Artist	Medium	Connection to Duncanville
Rhonda Allen	Drawing	Duncanville Arts Foundation Board Member
Jerry Bair	Sculpture (wood)	Duncanville resident
Rolanda Beasley	Acrylic	Educator with strong ties to the Duncanville community and family with Duncanville school history
Jesus Cancel	Sculpture	Sculptor inspired by Duncanville’s parks and natural landscape
Curtis Ferguson	Acrylic	Duncanville ISD art teacher for ten years; community muralist in Duncanville
Cristi Frye	Sculpture (polymer clay and found objects)	Duncanville native; Duncanville High School graduate; family in Duncanville

Artist	Medium	Connection to Duncanville
Mark Graham	Photography (projected retrospective)	Duncanville resident
Sarah Graham	Watercolor	Duncanville resident
Terry Hays	Acrylic	Duncanville resident
Vincent Jackson	Sculpture (metal and wood)	Duncanville resident
Colin Johnson	Oil	Founder of Cloak Collective; drawn to Duncanville's arts community
Bob Nachtrieb	Watercolor	Duncanville resident
Robbie Robbins	Oil and drawing	Naturalist and conservation artist working at Duncanville's Charles F. Ladd Preserve
Kathy Robinson Hays	Textile	Duncanville resident
Elaine Schneider	Watercolor and pastel	Duncanville resident; co-founder of the Duncanville Regional Arts Association

Marketing and Media Reach

Ellafair 2026 was promoted through a layered, multi-channel campaign:

- Shared marketing and event planning with BloomFest, including coordinated signage, event guides, and cross-promotion on the City of Duncanville's official channels
- Foundation and Commission social media campaigns across Facebook and Instagram, with content directing traffic to the Foundation's Ellafair 2026 event page
- A bilingual radio interview with Ron Thompson, Founding Executive Director of the Duncanville Arts Foundation, on KRQP-LP (NV Radio 95.5), a bilingual Christian station serving the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex from its Duncanville studio
- Open-call outreach to North Texas artist networks, which produced submissions from Burleson, Dallas, Arlington, Cedar Hill, and Duncanville

Operational Innovations

The Foundation developed two custom digital systems for Ellafair 2026, both designed for reuse across future Foundation programming and available to the Commission for other Arts Fund-supported events:

- A customized online submission process for artists, integrating Formsprees-based entry intake with image upload and structured artist statement capture, which accelerated review and produced a clean, auditable record of every submission
- A custom judge's scoring form that automated review, tabulation, and final ranking, giving the juror a structured interface and producing scoring records suitable for archive and audit

The People's Choice QR code voting system, implemented in partnership with the City of Duncanville Special Events Office, lets attendees cast their vote from anywhere in the gallery using their phones. The Special Events Office handled tabulation, keeping the count independent of Foundation staff.

Compliance with Texas Tax Code §351.101

Ellafair 2026 satisfies both prongs of the Texas "Two-Step" test that governs every Duncanville Hotel Occupancy Tax expenditure and that the Duncanville Arts Commission incorporates into its Arts Funding Policy and Grant Guidelines, with explicit reference to Texas Attorney General Opinions GA-0124 and KP-0131.

Step One: directly enhances and promotes tourism and the convention and hotel industry

Ellafair 2026 was timed to coincide with BloomFest, the City of Duncanville's spring music and arts festival at Armstrong Park, and was promoted by the City as the featured fine arts exhibition of BloomFest weekend. Shared signage, joint marketing, and coordinated programming with the Special Events Office moved foot traffic between the two venues. Bilingual promotion through KRQP-LP (NV Radio 95.5) extended the audience across the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. The open call drew artists from outside Duncanville, including Burleson (the eventual Best of Show and People's Choice winner), Dallas, Arlington, and Cedar Hill, each of whom brought collectors, family, and supporters into the city for the exhibition weekend.

Step Two: fits within one of the nine statutorily authorized categories

Ellafair falls squarely within Texas Tax Code §351.101(a)(4), which authorizes Hotel Occupancy Tax expenditures for the "encouragement, promotion, improvement, and application of the arts, including instrumental and vocal music, dance, drama, folk art, creative writing, architecture, design, painting, sculpture, photography, graphic and craft arts, motion pictures, radio, television, tape and sound recording, and other arts related to the presentation, performance,

execution, and exhibition of these major art forms.” Ellafair 2026 presented original work in painting (watercolor, oil, and acrylic), drawing, textile, sculpture, and editorial photography, judged by a senior museum executive, and offered to the public free of charge.

Marketing acknowledgment

Per Commission policy, the City of Duncanville and Duncanville Arts Commission names and/or logos appeared on all event marketing, including the open-call materials, event signage, social media graphics, and the printed program.

Public purpose and Duncanville city limits

Ellafair 2026 took place entirely within Duncanville city limits, at the D.L. Hopkins Jr. Senior Center. Admission was free at both the Welcome Reception and the public exhibition. The exhibition served the public purpose of presenting original work by Texas artists to a regional audience, with particular attention to honoring Duncanville-based and Duncanville-connected artists.

Records Retention

Consistent with Texas Tax Code §351.101(d), §351.108, and Duncanville’s HOT Award Administration Policy, the Foundation will retain all relevant event records, including the artist roster and signed releases, the Best of Show judging materials, voting tallies, and complete marketing collateral, for at least three years. These records will be made available to the Commission, the City, or other authorized reviewers upon request.

Acknowledgments

The Duncanville Arts Foundation gratefully acknowledges:

- The Duncanville Arts Commission, for its partnership and presentation of the People’s Choice award
- The City of Duncanville, the Special Events Office, the Marketing & Communications Office, and the D.L. Hopkins Jr. Senior Center staff
- Brad Pritchett, Chief Experience Officer of the Dallas Museum of Art, for serving as Best of Show juror
- Miranda Porras, for live classical violin at the Welcome Reception
- Xela Bistro of Duncanville, for hors d’oeuvres at the Welcome Reception
- KRQP-LP (NV Radio 95.5), for the bilingual on-air interview
- The private donors who funded the \$400 People’s Choice cash prize

- Mac Browning for the display of *Living Constant* poem and wood triptych
 - The fifteen exhibiting artists, whose work made Ellafair 2026 possible
-

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ron Thompson
Founding Executive Director
Duncanville Arts Foundation
202 W. Center Street, Suite 101
Duncanville, Texas 75116
(972) 435-9842
ron@duncanvillearts.org

Monday, June 30, 2025



Arts Grant Application

Section 1: General Information

Applicant Name (Individual or Organization)	Duncanville Arts Commission
Project Lead (if different)	Ron Thompson
Mailing Address	203 E Wheatland Rd Duncanville, Texas, 75116
Phone Number	(469) 579-6118
Email	arts.ronthompson@gmail.com
How do you prefer to be contacted?	<input type="button" value="Call"/>
Are you a first-time applicant?	<input type="button" value="Yes"/>

Section 2: Eligibility

Check all that apply:	<input type="button" value="Duncanville Arts Commission"/>
Do you live or operate a business/studio within Duncanville, TX city limits?	<input type="button" value="Yes"/>

Section 3: Grant Type

Select the grant category for which you are applying (select one):	<input type="button" value="Single Project Support Grant"/>
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Section 4: Project Information

Project/Event Title Ellafair 2025

Brief Project Summary (2-3 sentences)

Ellafair is a two-day community arts event launched in 2024 by Duncanville residents Gale Sliger and Sue Clark to support the newly formed Duncanville Arts Commission through public awareness and grassroots fundraising. Organized in just four weeks, the inaugural event drew approximately 200 attendees and artists from across the region, raised \$400 for the Duncanville Arts Fund, and received local media coverage—laying the foundation for an expanded 2025 event focused on visibility, revenue, and long-term opportunity for the city’s creative community.

Project Start Date Friday, November 7, 2025

Project End Date Saturday, November 8, 2025

Location(s)

D.L. Hopkins Jr. Senior Center
206 James Collins Blvd.
Duncanville, TX 75116

(Reservation confirmed.)

Is this project open to the public?

Yes

Admission Fee (if any)

\$0

Section 5: Narrative

Please answer the following questions in no more than 250 words each.

Describe the purpose and artistic vision of the proposed project.

Ellafair 2025 is a two-day community arts event designed to elevate Duncanville's creative community through exhibition, engagement, and economic opportunity. Originally created in 2024 by local residents Gale Sliger and Sue Clark, the event raised awareness for the newly formed Duncanville Arts Commission through grassroots participation and public support. Ellafair 2025 builds on that foundation while preserving its core purpose: connecting artists, audiences, and supporters through accessible, high-quality cultural experiences.

Held at the Hopkins Senior Center, the event includes an invitation-only Preview Night for collectors and sponsors, followed by a public exhibition day featuring artists with ties to Duncanville. The artistic vision centers on making creativity visible and accessible—lifting up local voices, connecting artists to audiences, and fostering a culture where art is both celebrated and economically viable.

New components for 2025 include a curated Speaker Roundtable and a youth mentorship program that offers high school students behind-the-scenes access to working artists and arts professionals.

Ellafair affirms that the arts belong to everyone. By providing a welcoming platform for artists and fostering public participation, connecting collectors and admirers, it supports new cultural infrastructure while encouraging tourism, economic growth, and civic pride. Funds raised benefit the Duncanville Arts Fund and help advance future arts initiatives.

Through exhibitions, dialogue, mentorship, and follow-up engagement, Ellafair 2025 seeks to embed the arts more deeply into the fabric of Duncanville's public life—and to position the city as a place where creativity is visible, valued, and supported.

How will the project serve the Duncanville community and promote public access?

Ellafair 2025 serves the Duncanville community by providing free, public access to high-quality cultural experiences in a welcoming, intergenerational setting. It showcases local and regional artists—many with personal ties to Duncanville—creating visibility for creative talent and reinforcing community pride. By offering hands-on engagement, live demonstrations, a public art exhibition, and a youth mentorship program, Ellafair creates multiple entry points for residents to participate in the arts regardless of age, background, or experience.

Held in a centrally located public facility, the event is designed to be physically and financially accessible. It encourages community gathering, fosters cultural exchange, and stimulates the local economy by attracting visitors, supporting artists, and reinvesting in the Duncanville Arts Fund. In doing so, Ellafair promotes long-term public access to the arts and supports the broader goal of building a more vibrant and inclusive cultural landscape for Duncanville.

How will your project promote tourism or economic development within Duncanville?

Ellafair 2025 promotes tourism and economic development by attracting visitors to Duncanville for a two-day cultural event that highlights the city's creative assets. The event features a VIP Preview Night for collectors and sponsors, followed by a public exhibition showcasing regional artists, performers, and makers—many with direct ties to Duncanville. This draws both local and out-of-town attendees, increasing foot traffic to nearby businesses and generating hotel stays through targeted tourism packages.

The event supports the local creative economy by providing direct sales opportunities for artists, commissioning services from vendors, and offering a platform for cultural entrepreneurship. By reinvesting proceeds into the Duncanville Arts Fund and promoting Duncanville as a creative destination, Ellafair strengthens the city's brand identity, stimulates spending, and lays the groundwork for ongoing arts-led economic activity.

List the individuals and organizations involved in planning or executing the project.

Ron Thompson
Gale Sliger
Sue Clark

~12 participating artists

Briefly describe your marketing plan.

The marketing plan for Ellafair 2025 combines grassroots outreach with regional visibility, leveraging the personal networks of organizers, artists, and cultural stakeholders to maximize impact. Printed flyers, posters, and banners will be placed in high-traffic areas throughout Duncanville and surrounding cities. A coordinated email campaign and active social media presence will feature artist spotlights, event updates, and behind-the-scenes content to generate local buzz and sustained interest.

Organizers Gale Sliger and Sue Clark—lifelong Duncanville residents—will engage their extensive community networks to build awareness. Participating artists, many with local ties and others traveling in from across North Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas, will promote the event through their own channels, broadening Ellafair's geographic reach.

Printed invitations will be mailed to art buyers, gallery owners, and community leaders for the invitation-only Preview Night. Custom sponsor packages—including VIP access, hospitality perks, and visibility opportunities—will be shared with local businesses, civic partners, and regional foundations.

Ellafair's curated Roundtable participants, which include cultural leaders and policymakers, will be encouraged to promote the event through their institutional and professional networks. These connections—combined with the promotional efforts of participating artists and out-of-town guests—are expected to generate tourism, media coverage, and post-event visibility for Duncanville's growing arts community.

Overall, the campaign will emphasize Ellafair's strong local roots, its inclusive and high-quality programming, and its role in positioning Duncanville as a destination for arts, culture, and creative exchange.

Press from Ellafair 2024:

<https://www.focusdailynews.com/ellafair-celebrates-art-legacy-female-creativity-in-duncanville/>

How will you evaluate the success and impact of your project?

Ellafair 2025 will be evaluated using a combination of quantitative metrics and qualitative feedback to assess its success and impact. Key performance indicators will include total attendance (tracked across both event days), number of participating artists and vendors, volume of art sales, sponsor engagement, and funds raised for the Duncanville Arts Fund.

Surveys will be distributed to attendees, artists, and sponsors to gather feedback on event quality, accessibility, and perceived community value. Specific attention will be paid to the success of new components such as the youth mentorship program and Speaker Roundtable, with follow-up interviews and testimonials used to assess educational and professional impact.

We will also track media coverage, social media engagement, and geographic reach—particularly noting out-of-town visitors and artist connections—to gauge tourism and economic development outcomes. Lessons learned will inform future iterations of the event and help shape long-term strategies for arts engagement and infrastructure in Duncanville.


Section 6: Budget

Total Project Budget \$16,550

Amount requested from the Duncanville Arts Commission/City Council \$4,950

Matching Funds (cash/in-kind) \$11,600

Please attach a detailed budget


Ellafair AC grant app.pdf

Section 7: Required Documents

Document Checklist

- Completed application form
- Narrative responses (Section 5)
- Detailed project budget (Section 6)
- Proof of Duncanville residency or business operation

Section 8: Acknowledgements

By signing below, I affirm that all information provided is accurate and complete.

Signature



Name

Ron Thompson

Property Owner Authorization (Required for Public Art Installations on Private Property)

I, the undersigned property owner or authorized representative, grant permission for the proposed public art installation to be placed at the property listed below. I understand that this project is part of the Duncanville Arts Commission grant program and agree to allow public access for viewing and participation as described in the applicant's proposal.

TITLE	Arts Grant Application
DOCUMENT ID	251800965961059
DOCUMENT PAGES	5
STATUS	COMPLETED
TIME ZONE	America/Chicago

DOCUMENT HISTORY

 Signed	Jun 30, 2025 01:40 AM	Signed IP: 2603:8080:6a00:3240:74d6:fb31:
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