

Board of Directors Meeting
Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture, Inc.
Date/Time: July 9, 2025, 7:00 PM
Location: Zoom

In Attendance: Mona Kishore (*Chair*), Meryl Bloomrosen, Heather Hanson-Rivas, Ronda Keys, Jason Light, Barbara Martin, Theresa Nielson, Chhandasi Pandya Patel, Samir Paul, Lafe Solomon, Tisha Thompson, Warren Hansen (*for Andrew Friedson (ex-officio)*), Ken Hartman Espada (*ex-officio*)

Absent: Philip Bay, Dia Costello, Sharon Freeman, Chris Fromboluti, Swati Gupta, Mike Zangwill

Guest: Greg Grant

Staff: Katey Boerner, Jenni Cloud, Kathleen Duffy, Ama Mills-Robertson, Emily Rogers

Board President Mona Kishore called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm and welcomed the newly appointed board members Chhandasi Pandya Patel and Jason Light.

1. Approval of Minutes (Hanson-Rivas)
 - **The Board voted unanimously to approve the June 11, 2025 minutes as written.**
(*Minutes 2025-06-11*)
 2. Finance Committee (Paul)
 - FY25 numbers are being finalized and there will be a year end report at the next meeting.
 3. President's Report (Kishore)
 - FY26 Work and Priorities - The Executive Committee reviewed the end of year board survey results and will incorporate the input into the FY26 goals which will include advocacy at all levels of government, fundraising & development, and recruitment and education of the board.
 - Committees - Discussions regarding committee chairs and membership have started and will be completed before the end of summer.
 - Annual Board Forms - Mona reminded the board to complete the forms if they have not done so.
 4. Board Governance (Kishore for Neilson)
 - Election of New Board Members – The committee recommended adding Michael Belisle as an at-large board member effective July 10, 2025 for 2 year terms.
The board unanimously approved electing the proposed new board member.
(*Board Governance Report 2025-07-09*)
 - County Appointment Update - Applicants were interviewed last month and recommendations have been forwarded to the County Executive.
 5. CEO & Staff Reports (Boerner)
 - Facade - A portion of the facade below the art deco sign came down last Sunday. The structure is a replica of the 1950's sign installed in 2003. Its function is primarily cosmetic. Assessment and plans to repair the sign are underway with the County and NPS.
 - Spanish Ballroom - To move the project forward the NPS deferred maintenance (approximately \$2M) will likely be decoupled from the project. Assuming there is funding, this will allow the County to lead the remainder of the project which has been slowed due to federal cuts.
 - Clara Barton Historic Site - The design work is complete but there is no construction start date.
 - Katey thanked the County for filling potholes on Road A.
 - Burglaries - A theft occurred during gallery hours and in a separate incident a purse was stolen from the Arcade building. The US Park Police are following up.
 - Ama Mills-Robertson shared highlights of the June 28 Heritage Days event and summer camps. She also reviewed upcoming events including the Labor Day Art Show:
 6. Old Business/New Business - None
- Meeting adjourned 7:52 pm

Next Meeting: September 10, 2025, 7pm (Arcade Building)

Upcoming Events: Art Walk - Friday, Aug 1, 6pm
Summer Concerts - Thursdays through Aug 21, 7pm
Labor Day Art Show Opening - Fri, Aug 29, 6-9pm
Labor Day Art Show - Sat-Mon, Aug 30-Sep 1, 12-6pm

Board of Directors Meeting
Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture, Inc.
Date/Time: September 10, 2025, 7:00 PM
Location: Arcade Building & Zoom

In Attendance: Mona Kishore (*Chair*), Meryl Bloomrosen, Dia Costello, Sharon Freeman, Laytona Graham, Swati Gupta, Heather Hanson-Rivas, Ronda Keys, Jason Light, Barbara Martin, Chhandasi Pandya Patel, Samir Paul, Lafe Solomon, Tisha Thompson, Mike Zangwill, Warren Hansen (*for Andrew Friedson (ex-officio)*)

Absent: Philip Bay, Michael Belisle, Chris Fromboluti, Theresa Nielson, Ken Hartman Espada (*ex-officio*)

Guest: Greg Grant

Staff: Katey Boerner, Jenni Cloud, Kathleen Duffy, Jilna Kothary, Ama Mills-Robertson, Emily Rogers

Board President Mona Kishore called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm with an icebreaker and welcomed Latonya Graham, the new County appointed board member.

1. Approval of Minutes (Hanson-Rivas)
 - **The Board voted to unanimously approve the July 9, 2025 minutes as written.** (*Minutes 2025-007-09*)
2. Finance Committee (Paul)
 - FY25 Financials - The Partnership finished the year in a good position. The details of the statements were discussed. Closing and adjusting entries, including those to restricted funds for the ballroom and playground, are in process. Preliminary results show a loss of \$21k.
 - The audit is starting in October and should be complete by the end of December. Adeptus, the same company as last year, is conducting the audit
3. Executive Committee & President's Report (Kishore)
 - Election of New Board Member – The committee recommended adding Jonathan Sterlin as an at-large board member effective September 10, 2025 for a 2-year term ending June 30, 2027. **The board unanimously approved electing Jonathan Sterlin to a two year term.** (Board of Directors Nomination 2025-09-10)
 - FY26 Strategic and Committee Priorities - Mona reviewed the key priorities and committee tasks. For the Board, “evergreen” responsibilities are Board member engagement, supporting enhanced fundraising, acting as ambassadors for the Park and developing an advocacy effort to ensure funding and connections to key political and government leaders. She also reviewed how the duties of staff and the Board interrelate and explained the waterfall approach which led to the draft committee goals. Board members were asked to review the committee level tasks which were distributed with their committee chairs.
 - The committee membership assignments were also reviewed.
4. Fundraising (Kothary for Nielson)
 - FY26 Fundraising Goals - This year's total budget for income from fundraising categories that the board can impact is \$580k raised from individuals (\$225k), foundations (\$100k), corporations (\$25k), and the gala (\$230k gross).
 - Year End Appeal - The campaign kicks off on Giving Tuesday (Dec 2) with a goal of \$140k, approximately \$20k above FY25. Jilna shared how board members can actively participate in the campaign. This includes securing matches (board, corporate, individual) to help incentivize giving and sharing the campaign with family/friends/neighbors.
 - Gala - The Gala is scheduled for May 16th and has a target net revenue of \$121k (\$230k gross income). The subcommittee will meet later this month to discuss potential chair(s), potential honorees, and the budget. Sponsorship packets will be available shortly and table renewal requests will be sent later this calendar year. Concerns were raised about the proposed budget given rising costs and the type of donors we are trying to cultivate. Sharon Freeman suggested incorporating the flavor of the Park into the program. A shared document for brainstorming will be sent to the board.

5. CEO & Staff Reports (Boerner)

- Spanish Ballroom - During the quarterly meeting with NPS and the County at the end of the month NPS will provide a status report on their value analysis (which must take place before any planned improvements can begin even if funded).
- Environmental Assessment - Work remains ongoing. A second public meeting is anticipated towards the end of the year after the report is written.
- Clara Barton Parkway - NPS is evaluating the parkway's deteriorating cantilever as well as the Glen Echo Overpass. The environmental assessment is in the initial comment period.
- Glen Echo Park Sign Facade - NPS gave approval to the pylon repair plans. The Partnership will pay the estimated \$60k from a major repair fund and the County will supervise the work-
- Arcade Classrooms - Renovation is in process and includes accessible sinks, electrical work, cabinetry, and soundproofing. A County grant is paying for a portion of the project.
- Labor Day Art Show - The show, now at capacity, outperformed last year in attendance (7,000), size (457 artists), and sales with approximately 40% of the 1,045 pieces on display selling. Gross sales were \$70k with the Partnership earning 30%. The event had great media coverage. Saturday's Music FREE-for-All attracted approximately 1,000 attendees.
- A new partnership with DC Veterans Affairs featured a series of 4 art workshops.

6. Old Business/New Business - None

Meeting adjourned 9:28 pm

Next Meeting: November 12, 2025, 7pm (Zoom)

Board Event: Happy Hour TBD

Upcoming Events: Echo Arts - Sun, Sep 28, 12-5pm
Fall Frolic - Sat, Oct 25, 1-4pm

Board of Directors Meeting

Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture, Inc.

Date/Time: November 19, 2025, 7:00 PM

Location: Zoom

In Attendance: Mona Kishore (Chair), Michael Belisle, Meryl Bloomrosen, Dia Costello, Laytona Graham, Swati Gupta, Heather Hanson-Rivas, Ronda Keys, Jason Light, Theresa Nielson, Chhandasi Pandya Patel, Samir Paul, Lafe Solomon, Mike Zangwill, Warren Hansen (for Andrew Friedson (ex-officio))

Absent: Philip Bay, Barbara Martin, Tisha Thompson, Jonathan Sterlin, Ken Hartman Espada (ex-officio)

Guest: Greg Grant

Staff: Katey Boerner, Jenni Cloud, Kathleen Duffy, Jilna Kothary, Ama Mills-Robertson, Emily Rogers

Board President Mona Kishore called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. She recognized Katey Boerner for receiving the Empowerment Champion award from Community Bridges. Mona thanked Ronda Keys and Swati Gupta for laying the relationship groundwork with the Potomac Community Foundation and Michael Belisle for giving his professional expertise on the pylon and roof repairs

1. Approval of Minutes (Hanson-Rivas)

- **The Board voted to unanimously approve the September 10, 2025 minutes as written.** (Minutes 2025-09-10)

2. Board President Report (Kishore)

- Committees Update - Work continues on the forming 1) an advisory group to support staff regarding Park attendance data, and 2) a community outreach group.
- Holiday Open House - Board members are invited to the December 10th Park Holiday Party Open House along with members of the Park community and staff.
- Thanks was extended to Chris Fromboluti who resigned from the board due to relocation.
- Board Outreach/Networking - Katey and several past board members attended the Montgomery County Business Hall of Fame Awards luncheon. Mona recently attended several political events where multiple members of the D16 delegation and County Councilmembers were in attendance. It was noted that the Partnership is apolitical and does not support candidates. Board networking with candidates and current legislators is encouraged.
- Opportunities for Board Involvement - The Committee for Montgomery breakfast is at Strathmore on December 5. The event discusses issues impacting our County at the State level. Ronda is attending and representing the arts and our organization.

Financial Reports (Paul)

- Audit Update - The auditors were on site in October and work continues.
- Financial Reports September 2025 - The Partnership is switching the class registration fees account from Sandy Spring/Atlantic Union to Ocean First. Receivables are primarily Puppet Co who will make a rent payment when they receive grant payments. Rental Deposits and Tuition Paid are both higher than last year. Dance, Non Resident, Art Sales, Rentals, and Class Registration income are all higher than last year.

3. Development (Nielson)

- Year End Appeal - This year's goal is \$200k (\$140k general operations and \$60k for the neon sign repair) with \$23k for general operations raised to date. Board donations are needed to reach the \$5k goal (\$1,750 confirmed) for the Board Match days on Giving Tuesday (12/2) and December 31. Board help is also needed sourcing corporate connections for sponsorship/corporate match days. In addition to the special appeals on Tuesdays, the neighborhood campaign competition returns. Donors will receive one of three gifts (magnet, mug, ornament) based on their donation level.
 - Winter's Eve/Donor Meet and Greet - On December 6 (3-6pm), during the Winter's Eve festival, donors will be welcomed as they pick up their donation gifts.
 - Gala Planning Update - Chevy Chase Acura will be the lead sponsor for the gala.
4. CEO & Staff Reports (Boerner & Staff)
- FY25 Organization Highlights - Katey presented highlights from the past fiscal year. Attendance is up 12% over FY24 and is approaching prepandemic levels. (see presentation for additional details)
 - Key Updates Regarding Partner Organizations - Partners are doing well overall, but a few need some support. The Puppet Co is more stable and is putting on their annual Nutcracker show. Organization changes include hiring a studio manager at Glen Echo Pottery and a new Executive Director at Photoworks.
 - Program Highlights - To date, we have 3k class enrollments, a 16% increase over LY. The Holiday Art show had a strong opening last week and runs through January 4. FY26 Dance income is up 7% for the year. On October 19, 2,500 attendees came to the scaled back return of the Folk Festival.
 - Facilities Projects - Carousel is undergoing its annual paint touchup while the motor is offsite for a tune up. Work continues on the pylon and roof repairs.
 - Marketing Highlights - A new civil rights brochure is now available thanks to a Heritage Montgomery mini grant. A new rentals brochure is being created that features corporate events and birthdays in addition to weddings;
 - Staff Updates - We have advertised for a Donor Relations Manager and new Registration Assistant.
5. Old Business/New Business
6. Executive Session - CEO Compensation
- The Board convened an Executive Session starting at 8:22pm to discuss compensation of the CEO. The Executive Session concluded at 9:01pm. **The Board voted to approve the CEO's compensation (11 in favor, 2 abstaining).**

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at 7 pm (Zoom)

Board Event: Holiday Party Open House - Dec 10, 5:30-7:30pm

Upcoming Event: Winter's Eve/Toast to You - Dec 6, 2025, 3pm - 6pm

Board of Directors Meeting

Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture, Inc.

Date/Time: January 14, 2026, 7:00 PM

Location: Zoom

In Attendance: Mona Kishore (Chair), Michael Belisle, Laytona Graham, Heather Hanson-Rivas, Ronda Keys, Jason Light, Barbara Martin, Theresa Nielson, Chhandasi Pandya Patel, Lafe Solomon, Jonathan Sterlin, Mike Zangwill, Warren Hansen (for Andrew Friedson (ex-officio)), Ken Hartman Espada (ex-officio)

Absent: Meryl Bloomrosen, Dia Costello, Swati Gupta, Samir Paul, Tisha Thompson

Guest: Gregory Grant

Staff: Katey Boerner, Jenni Cloud, Kathleen Duffy, Susan Gerstenzang Jilna Kothary, Ama Mills-Robertson, Emily Rogers

Board President Mona Kishore called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. She recognized Barbara Martin for raising \$3k by hosting a Mahjong event; Theresa Neilson for lending her interns to assist with Year End Appeal; Ronda Keys, Lafe Solomon, and Dia Costello for giving Councilmember Will Jawando a Park tour; Lafe for advocating with her to State and County officials at Governor Moore's Hanukkah brunch; and Mike Zangwill for inviting her to speak to the Bannockburn Civic Association.

1. Approval of Minutes (Hanson-Rivas)
 - **The Board voted to unanimously approve the November 19, 2025 minutes as written.** (Minutes 2025-11-19)
2. Board President Report (Kishore)
 - Mona reviewed progress on committee priorities and tasks.
3. Financial Reports (Boerner for Paul)
 - Financial Reports November 2025 - As of November 30th we are on track with the budget and had a break-even profit and loss statement. Total checking and savings is down slightly compared to last year due to receiving grant funds late. Both Dance Events and Art Sales income are exceptionally strong and are generating a positive net after the associated higher expenses. Rentals and Contributions income are also doing well.
 - Audit Update - The auditors are in their final review for the FY25 audit.
 - Box Office Update - Several dance groups and the Aquarium are being onboarded to the ticketing system allowing the Park to capture more user data and improve the overall patron experience. The next phase includes evaluating and selecting a new ticketing system/CRM and hiring a box office manager. The project will operate at a loss for the next two years and be financed by the SBA loan. Board members suggested including language in cooperator/presenter agreements pertaining to data and utilizing the box office systems.
4. Board Governance Report (Hanson-Rivas)
 - Revised Give \ Get Policy - **The board voted to approve the revised policy as presented (Revised Board Giving Policy).** The adopted policy, last revised in 2013, increases the Give/Get for at-large members to \$4k.
 - FY26 Nominating Priorities and Nominations Timeline - The committee has set a goal of recruiting 3 new board members, including one County representative. The nominating

priorities and timeline were reviewed. Board members are asked to recommend possible nominees to the committee for consideration. Ideally, the committee would like to develop a pipeline of board candidates who have familiarity and connection to the Park.

- Heather asked board buddies to have a check in during this quarter.

5. Development Report (Nielson)

- Year End Appeal - Theresa thanked all of the neighborhood captains for their work. This year's campaign raised \$162,500 (+\$32k from LY) from 550 donors, including 103 new donors and a 55% donor renewal rate. The campaign leveraged the needed pylon repair and Bethesda Magazine partnership to achieve this outcome. Other strategies included increased zip code cultivation, higher board and foundation matches (\$18k), and a new \$50 incentive. The neighborhood battle was instrumental in reaching new donors. Bannockburn and the Town of Glen Echo won the contest and will share a community day at the Park.
- Gala Planning Update - Sam Weaver from Chevy Chase Acura and his wife, Linda, are the event chairs for the May 16 event. The working theme is "Glen Echo Park in Bloom." Board members are asked to help secure sponsorships, ads, and auction items as well as to sell/buy tables. The sponsorship packet was reviewed.

6. CEO & Staff Reports (Boerner & Staff)

- Key Updates Regarding Partner Organizations - Things are progressing well. Puppet Co has stabilized, but their revenue has flattened out. Under their new agreement the Partnership will rent their space outside of their normal hours to generate revenue from the space.
- Staff Updates: The Park's donor relation manager, Susan Gerstenzang, was introduced. She will be assisting with the Gala. Jilna Kothary is leaving the Partnership at the end of the month. Mona and Katey thanked Jilna for her service.
- Facilities Projects - The Environmental Assessment was reviewed and edits were offered to NPS in December. NPS will hold a public comment period on the selected option. NPS is moving forward with the value methodology study for the Spanish Ballroom. The County and GEP Partnership are working together to pursue additional State funds. After reviewing potential impacts to the Park, comments were given to NPS on the Clara Barton Parkway Cantilever project since the Park abuts the Parkway. NPS is in the planning & design phase for repaving both parking lots and adding accessible parking. Michael Belisle and Dan Hanlon are reviewing the repair quote for the neon sign repairs. Emily and Michael are also working to move the South Arcade Roof replacement project forward.
- Program Highlights - Registration for fall/winter is doing well (3,677 students) and total enrollment is anticipated to surpass last year. Staff are finalizing the Spring/Summer and Camp catalogs. The Holiday Art Show featuring 90 artists grossed the highest revenue in Park history (\$44,250). New shows will open this weekend in all galleries. The free Parkinson's dance program launched this month.
- Marketing Highlights - Jenni provided a recap of recent media coverage and thanked board members for voting to help the Park to win Best of Bethesda in five categories. She also shared highlights from the new rentals brochure.
- Old Business/New Business - Mike Zangwill invited all to attend the March 1st panel at the Bannockburn Town Hall featuring all candidates for the Montgomery County D1 seat.

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at 7 pm (in-person)