



DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Friday, July 17, 2026 – 9:00 am
Rath Building 10th floor Conference Room
95 Franklin Street, Buffalo NY 14202

The Erie Arts and Cultural Advisory Board Meeting was held on Friday, July 17, 2026 at the Rath Building 10th floor Conference Room, 95 Franklin Street, Buffalo NY 14202, and by video conference, in accordance with NYS Open Meetings Law.

Voting Members Present:

Lila Balali	Patricia Johnson
Matthew Clohessy	Patrick Long
Jennifer Colwell	Beth McPartland
Russel Davidson	Carolyn Morris-Hunt
Michael de Freitas	

Quorum present

Ex-Officio Members Present:

DEP Staff
Colette Balisteri
Hailey Whitney
Zaque Evans

Voting Members Absent:

Mary Craig
Jason Daniels
Kathryn Franco
Susan Kirkpatrick
Gina O'Neill

1. Call to Order – meeting commenced at 9:00 AM
2. Roll Call / Determination of Quorum – Quorum present
3. Approval of Draft Minutes: May 8, 2026
Upon motion by Ms. Morris-Hunt and seconded by Mr. de Freitas, the draft May 8, 2026 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.
4. 2027 Funding Review:
 - a. Review of Applicant Eligibility
Two organizations flagged by reviewers for concerns over eligibility were discussed by the Board and determined ineligible for 2027 Cultural Operating Support Grant funding.
 - b. Scores and Recommendations:
 - i. Vote to approved method to determine funding recommendations

The Board reviewed two methodologies to determine EACAB funding recommendations for 2027 applicants. Upon motion by Mr. Clohessy and seconded by Ms. Morris-Hunt, the Board unanimously approved a methodology based on score-based percent increases/decreases and increasing returning applicants that had been historically restricted as new applicants.

5. Comments on 2027 process and/or documents

Board members were asked to submit feedback on the applicant/review process via email to Ms. Balisteri.

6. Board Updates

The Board discussed recent resignations, terms ending in December 2026, and a plan for upcoming Board Member recruitment. Additionally, the Board discussed a new method of providing applicant's with feedback on their applications.

7. Next Meeting

Date to be determined.

8. Public Comment

No public comment

9. Adjournment – meeting adjourned at 10:31 AM

