

Bloomington Urban Enterprise Association Meeting

AGENDA for August 12, 2026, at 12 p.m.

This meeting will be held in person in the **McCloskey Conference Room (Suite 150, City Hall, 401 N. Morton St)** and may also be accessed via Zoom at the following link:

<https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/84576005312?pwd=SERpaXRLenV0U0J6dXlCNTVGVmNPUT09>

Meeting ID: 845 7600 5312

Passcode: 953182

Bloomington Urban Enterprise Association meetings can be watched on CATS TV, available here:

<https://catstv.net/>.

Materials for this meeting can be found on the Bloomington Urban Enterprise Association's website, which is located at the following address: <https://bloomington.in.gov/business/buea/meetings>

1. Roll Call

- Approval of Minutes - July 2026

2. Financial Report -

- Q1& Q2 Financials

3. Director's Report

- Grants - Budget vs Balance

4. New Business - Voting Items

- Approval of funding for BAC slate of grant awardees (Paige Sharp - AD of the Arts)
- Arts Incubator Update

5. Old Business

6. General discussion

7. Adjournment

Board Membership

Pursuant to applicable law and policy, and in compliance with Indiana Code 5-14-9-6, the following details are provided regarding the officers serving on this committee:

Name	Appointed By	Term
Heather Robinson, Chair	Mayor	2/1/2024 - 1/31/2028
Felisa Spinelli, Vice Chair	Common Council	2/1/2023 - 1/31/2027
Kate Rosenberger	Common Council	2/1/2025 - 1/31/2029
Katarina Koch	Common Council	2/1/2026 - 1/31/2030
Virginia Githiri	Mayor	2/1/2024 - 1/31/2028
Jane Kupersmith	Mayor	2/1/2024 - 1/31/2028
Michael Hover	Mayor	2/1/2024 - 1/31/2028
Brad Wisler	Mayor	2/1/2024 - 1/31/2028

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City Of Bloomington - Bloomington Urban Enterprise Association Meeting Minutes

Meeting Information

Date: Wednesday, July 15, 2026

Time: 12:11 pm

Location: City Hall, Bloomington, Indiana

Notice: The meeting was appropriately posted and noticed.

Additional Notes or Summary: Hybrid meeting (in-person and video conference). Felisa Spinelli participated remotely. The meeting was originally scheduled to take place in the Kelley Conference Room, but was moved to the McCloskey Conference Room to accommodate attendance. The room change was posted at the Kelley Conference Room, and the meeting agenda was posted outside of the McCloskey Conference Room

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:11 p.m. by Chair Heather Robinson. Quorum was initially delayed by a connectivity issue affecting a board member's remote connection; the meeting proceeded once quorum was confirmed.

Board Members Present:

- Virginia Githiri
- Felisa Spinelli (remote)
- Katarina Koch
- Heather Robinson
- Jane Kupersmith
- Kate Rosenberger (remote)

Staff present:

- De la Rosa, Executive Director.

Guests present:

- Toby Foster & Ryan Woods (Friendly Beast)
- Kate Crum & Josh Brewer (Cicada Cinema)

2. Approval of Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes of the June 2026 regular meeting. A correction was noted to the spelling of Board Member Koch's first name in the prior minutes.

Roll call:

- Virginia Githiri – Approved
- Heather Robinson – Approved
- Jane Kupersmith – Approved (second)
- Felisa Spinelli – Approved
- Kate Rosenbarger – Approved.

- Katarina Koch - Approved (motioned)

Result: Motion carried 6-0.

3. Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director reported that online banking access for the Association's primary account is pending; regular statements will be available once access is granted.

Budget update: the Association has disbursed \$3,710 to date this fiscal year, with a remaining balance of \$6,290 in the affected budget line following a \$510 Business Enhancement Scholarship disbursement.

Strategic planning update: the Executive Director will meet in August with Michelle King of PhoneBox to plan next steps for the Association's mission, vision, and strategic planning work, tentatively convening a facilitated session in late September. The session will be conducted as training rather than as an official board meeting.

4. Banking Authorization – Third Signatory

The Board considered designating the Secretary as an additional (third) signatory on the Association's bank accounts, to enable the Executive Director to obtain financial-institution approval by letter and meeting minutes. The Executive Director recommended the Secretary, Michael Hover, in his capacity as an officer of the Board.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted to add the Secretary as a third signatory on the Association's bank accounts.

Roll call:

- Virginia Githiri– Approved (second)
- Heather Robinson – Approved
- Jane Kupersmith – Approved
- Felisa Spinelli – Approved
- Kate Rosenbarger – Approved
- Katarina Koch - Approved (motioned)

Result: Motion carried 6-0.

5. Banking Authorization – Online Account Access

The Board considered approving online banking access (view access, draft-payment creation, and payment release authority) for the ESD Director to facilitate ACH and wire transfers, subject to a \$20 monthly subscription fee to be funded from the Subscriptions and Dues budget line (current balance approximately \$2,800) for f1RSTNAVIGATOR™ Online Banking. Additionally, the Board considered read-only and draft payment online account access for the Executive Director.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted to approve additional full and read-only online account access as described, together with the associated monthly fee.

Roll call:

- Virginia Githiri–Approved (second)
- Heather Robinson –Approved
- Jane Kupersmith –Approved
- Felisa Spinelli –Approved
- Kate Rosenbarger –Approved
- Katarina Koch - Approved (motioned)

Result: Motion carried 6-0.

6. Grant Application – 812 Labs, "Builders Room" AI Training Program

The Executive Director presented a request from 812 Labs for \$7,000 from the Business Enhancement Scholarship account to reserve ten seats (five per cohort) in the Builders Room program for businesses located within the Bloomington Urban Enterprise Zone, at approximately \$700 per participant. The program is a hands-on AI implementation training initiative held at The Mill, developed in partnership with Amplify Bloomington and the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce, with 812 Labs serving as lead program designer and facilitator, and is principally funded through the IEDC Community Collaboration Fund. The Board discussed ensuring the program's benefit reaches businesses outside The Mill's existing membership base and directed that eligibility for Association-funded seats be limited to non-technology businesses not located at 642 N. Madison Street.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted to approve \$7,000 from the Business Enhancement Scholarship account for the Builders Room program, funding ten Enterprise Zone participants at approximately \$700 each, with a focus on non-technology businesses outside The Mill.

Roll call:

- Virginia Githiri–Approved (Motion)
- Heather Robinson –Approved
- Jane Kupersmith –Approved
- Felisa Spinelli –Approved
- Kate Rosenbarger –Approved
- Katarina Koch - Approved (second)

Result: Motion carried 6-0.

7. Grant Applications – Friendly Beast (Accessibility; Safety and Security)

The Executive Director presented two related grant requests from Friendly Beast in connection with its relocation, necessitated by displacement from its current location for the Convention Center host hotel development.

Accessibility Grant: total project cost \$12,998, including construction of an ADA-compliant restroom, replacement of entry doors, an ADA-compliant ordering countertop, and a rear-exit landing to serve as a refuge point. Friendly Beast's proposed match was \$3,249.50 (25%); the amount requested from the Association was \$9,749.

Safety and Security Grant: total project cost \$6,460, including a two-hour fire-rated barrier wall between tenant spaces, associated code review and architectural drawings, a panic bar and updated locks, and hard-wired exit signage and security lighting. Friendly Beast's proposed match was \$1,615; the amount requested from the Association was \$4,845.

The Board discussed waiving the local match requirement for both grants on the basis that Friendly Beast's landlord is not contributing to the cost of improvements to a leased space, and elected to fund each project at its full eligible cost: \$10,000 for the Accessibility Grant (the program maximum) and \$6,460 for the Safety and Security Grant, for a combined total of \$16,460.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted to approve grant funding for Friendly Beast for the Safety and Security and Accessibility grants at full eligible project cost, waiving the local match requirement.

Roll call:

- Virginia Githiri–Approved
- Heather Robinson –Approved
- Jane Kupersmith –Approved (Motion)
- Felisa Spinelli –Approved
- Kate Rosenbarger –Approved
- Katarina Koch - Approved (second)

Result: Motion carried 6-0.

Board member Kate Rosenbarger offered remarks recognizing Friendly Beast's role in activating the B-Line Trail corridor and expressed regret over the business's displacement due to the host hotel redevelopment.

8. Grant Application – Cicada Cinema (ADA Compliance)

Kate Crum and a representative of Cicada Cinema presented a request regarding the renovation of a former warehouse into a community movie theater adjacent to Friendly Beast's new location. The renovation triggers Assembly Group A-1 occupancy classification under the Indiana building code, requiring construction of a second ADA-compliant restroom, modification of the existing restroom to ADA standards, and construction of a vestibule to block light and sound from the lobby into the auditorium.

Total project cost is \$10,619. Cicada Cinema's confirmed committed funding is \$2,654.95; the amount requested from the Association is \$7,965.

The Board discussed waiving the match requirement on the same basis applied to the Friendly Beast grants (the tenant, not the landlord, bears the cost of required improvements), and, exercising the Board's discretion to fund above the standard program maximum, elected to fund the full project cost of \$10,619.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted to approve \$10,619 in grant funding for Cicada Cinema's ADA compliance project, waiving the local match requirement.

Roll call:

- Virginia Githiri–Approved (Motion)
- Heather Robinson –Approved
- Jane Kupersmith –Approved
- Felisa Spinelli –Approved
- Kate Rosenbarger –Approved
- Katarina Koch - Approved (second)

Result: Motion carried 6-0.

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9. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Grants - Education:	2025 Budget	2025 disbursed	2025 Balance	2026 Budget	Disbursed/ Committed in 2026	Balance	Description
School Grants (MCCSC Foundation)	\$ 50,000.00	\$ (50,000.00)	\$ -	\$ 75,000.00	\$ (75,000.00)	\$ -	Annual commitment - 25k increase for 2026
Resident Economic Independence Scholarships	\$ 15,000.00	\$ (1,790.00)	\$ 13,210.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ (750.00)	\$ 14,250.00	a scholarship to attend post-secondary classes to further their economic independence
Lemonade Day	\$ 2,500.00	\$ (2,500.00)	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00	\$ (2,500.00)	\$ -	Annual Commitment to the Boys & Girls Club supporting youth entrepreneurship
Sub-Total	\$ 67,500.00	\$ (54,290.00)	\$ 13,210.00	\$ 92,500.00	\$ (78,250.00)	\$ 14,250.00	

Grants - Entrepreneurship:	2025 Budget	2025 disbursed	2025 Balance	2026 Budget	Disbursed/ Committed in 2026	Balance	Description
Ivy Tech/SBDC/Cook Center	\$ 45,000.00	\$ (90,000.00)	\$ (45,000.00)	\$ 45,000.00	\$ (45,000.00)	\$ -	Annual grant agreement
Business Economic Enhancement Scholarship	\$ 10,000.00	\$ (2,400.00)	\$ 7,600.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ (10,710.00)	\$ (710.00)	Used to pay for economic development classes, business workshops, professional organization membership dues, or conference
Dimension Mill Zone day passes	\$ 1,000.00	\$ (1,000.00)	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	1-day pass per to work at the Mill
Uncategorized grants	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Moved to BBIG
Unbudgeted Grants	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Moved to BBIG as funds have not been utilized multiple years
Sub-Total	\$ 76,000.00	\$ (93,400.00)	\$ (17,400.00)	\$ 56,000.00	\$ (55,710.00)	\$ 290.00	

Grants - Arts and Culture:	2025 Budget	2025 disbursed	2025 Balance	2026 Budget	Disbursed/ Committed in 2026	Balance	Description
Arts Incubator	\$ 100,000.00	\$ -	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ -	\$ 100,000.00	ADA-accessible construction costs & professional development program for resident artists
Bloomington Arts Commission Arts Project and Operations grants	\$ 50,000.00	\$ (27,982.00)	\$ 22,018.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ (25,000.00)	\$ 25,000.00	Discretionary spending on City-led arts initiatives, including \$25,000 to Waldron Arts Center operating expenses
City Arts Programming	\$ 40,000.00	\$ (40,000.00)	\$ -	\$ 40,000.00	\$ (5,000.00)	\$ 35,000.00	Bloomington Arts Commission Arts Project and Operations grants
Unbudgeted grants	\$ 20,000.00	\$ (14,620.00)	\$ 5,380.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -	\$ 20,000.00	Assistance for the O.T. 987 installation in the Trades District
Total	\$ 210,000.00	\$ (82,602.00)	\$ 292,602.00	\$ 210,000.00	\$ (30,000.00)	\$ 180,000.00	

Grants - Zone Improvement:	2025 Budget	2025 disbursed	2025 Balance	2026 Budget	Disbursed/ Committed in 2026	Balance as of May 2026	
Direct Assistance Small Business (BUEA Minor Repair Grant) & Community Support	\$ 25,000.00	\$ (2,000.00)	\$ 23,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ (2,820.00)	\$ 7,180.00	New funding- physical improvements, emergency assistance, and financial aid.
SEEL Energy Efficiency Grant Program	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -	\$ 20,000.00	Administered by Sustainability (ESD)
Historic Façade Grant	\$ 50,000.00	\$ (30,000.00)	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 90,000.00	\$ (40,000.00)	\$ 50,000.00	Historic building improvements
Small Business Safety & Security	\$ 35,000.00	\$ (22,996.25)	\$ 12,003.75	\$ 30,000.00	\$ (11,460.00)	\$ 18,540.00	To Improve the general security of businesses
Business Building improvement	\$ 30,000.00	\$ (45,557.77)	\$ (15,557.77)	\$ 40,000.00	\$ (10,644.16)	\$ 29,355.84	To assist small business owners in updating and improving internal and external structures
Business Accessibility Modification	\$ 25,000.00	\$ (7,276.50)	\$ 17,723.50	\$ 20,000.00	\$ (20,619.00)	\$ (619.00)	To help business owners complete ADA modifications to meet requirements
Total	\$ 185,000.00	\$ (107,830.52)	\$ 77,169.48	\$ 210,000.00	\$ (85,543.16)	\$ 124,456.84	

Grants Include:

Bobbi Boos, Bloomington Farm Stop
Collective - BMRG

\$820.00

Sarah Cheney,
Bloomington Athletic
Massage - BEE \$1,200.00

Eric Weingold, GM - World Foods Market -
BMRG

\$1,000.00

Kaytee Lorentzen,
The Greater
Bloomington
Chamber of
Commerce- BEE \$1,200.00

WonderLab Museum of Science, Health &
Technology (Lydia Potter) - BBIG

\$4,094.16

Adnan Javeed, STEP
Inc - BEE \$800.00

Lisa Keplinger -That's the Rub, LLC- BBIG \$6,550.00

First Christian Church of Bloomington (DOC \$40,000.00

Cicada Cinema Inc. (accessibility) \$10,619.00

Friendly Beasts Cider LLC (accessibility) \$10,000.00

Friendly Beasts Cider LLC - SAFETY & SECU \$6,460.00

812 Labs (John Skolak) - BEE \$7,000.00

Katie Sensabaugh - BEE \$510.00

Royale Hair Parlor - Minor Repair \$1,000.00

Kallista DeHart - REI \$750.00

Justin Fox - Fox
Capital 415 LLC -
S&S \$5,000

Memorandum on BUEA Zone Arts Grants

To: Andrea de la Rosa, Executive Director, Bloomington Urban Enterprise Association

From: Paige Sharp, Assistant Director for the Arts

Date: 07/30/2026

Subject: Bloomington Arts Commission recommendations for BUEA 2026 Zone Arts Grants

Summary

This year, the BUEA allocated \$50,000 for Zone Arts Grants, which the Bloomington Arts Commission (BAC) has been entrusted to allot as part of its annual Arts Project Support (APS) Grant Cycle. BUEA Zone Arts Grants support arts activities within the Bloomington Urban Enterprise Zone, and funded projects must do one or more of the following for Zone residents and businesses:

- Facilitate involvement in arts and cultural activities
- Provide an opportunity to participate in the creative process
- Advance the quality and availability of the arts in the Zone
- Celebrate or enhance the identity of the Zone

A record 78 applications were submitted to the BAC 2026 APS grant program each of which was evaluated by a conflict free panel of qualified reviewers. Applications were measured by how well they met the following overarching criteria: Community Impact & Engagement, and Implementation.

Of the 47 Arts Project Support recommended for funding (totalling \$76,000), **the Bloomington Arts Commission recommends the BUEA fund the following 15 Zone Arts Grants for a total of \$31,000.**

Grantee		Project Title	Award
1.	Blockhouse Bar LLC	Bloomerang! Music Festival	\$1,000
2.	Cicada Cinema Inc	Cicada Kids - Children's Film Series	\$3,000
3.	Daniel Cueto	Ecos Sudamericanos: Contemporary Chamber Music performance	\$1,500
4.	Devin Silvers (Bloomington Buffy)	Buffy Prom Bloomington 2027	\$2,500
5.	FAR LLC (FAR Center for Contemporary Arts)	Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration	\$1,000

6.	H.C. Brenner	Bloomington Blues & Boogie Woogie Piano Festival	\$3,000
7.	Madison Young	From Kiln to Community: Expanding Public Access to Ceramics program	\$3,000
8.	Maureen Langley	Bloomington Art Club	\$1,000
9.	Nicholas Gomez (Nicholas Daniel Najera)	Hecho en America recording	\$1,500
10.	Off Night Productions Company	Presents Five Times production	\$2,500
11.	Redbud Books	The Redbud Books Community Play Reading Series	\$3,000
12.	Reimagining Opera for Kids	Ana y su sombra opera	\$3,000
13.	The Bloomington Project School	Learning Garden & Community Green Space Art Panels	\$1,000
14.	Tony Brewer (Urban Deer Record Co.)	Urban Deer Performance Series	\$2,500
15.	YOUUnique Studio	Always a Little Bit Topsy - a new musical	\$1,500

TOTAL

\$31,000

Memorandum on Arts Incubator

To: Andrea de la Rosa, Executive Director, Bloomington Urban Enterprise Association

From: Paige Sharp, Assistant Director for the Arts

Date: 0/31/2026

Subject: ESD Arts Incubator funding update

Requested Action

ESD requests BUEA approval to modify the existing \$100,000 “arts incubator” allocation as follows: \$80,000 toward construction of arts incubator studios at a new, better-suited site within the BUEZ (an increase of \$5,000 from the original \$75,000 ADA/infrastructure line), and \$20,000 toward professional development programming (a decrease of \$5,000 from the original \$25,000). The total allocation does not change. ESD also requests approval to revise the expenditure deadline from 2026 to 2027.

The purpose of these dollars remains unchanged: to invest in expanding Arts and Culture Initiatives in the Bloomington Urban Enterprise Zone.

Background and Timeline

- November 2024: BUEA approved a \$100,000 allocation — \$75,000 for ADA infrastructure and \$25,000 for professional development programming — for an arts incubator planned to open in the Urban Enterprise Zone in March 2025.
- Summer 2025: The pilot incubator opened and is currently operating at 300 W. Hillside Drive. Allocated funds remained unspent.
- December 2025: BUEA recommitted the allocation for use in 2026.
- March-July 2026:
 - The city determined funding was not available to address the full scope of ADA and HVAC infrastructure needed for the 300 W Hillside location.
 - A new, better-suited opportunity was identified at the Trades District's Showers Administration building.

New Site: Trades District, Showers Administration Building

In its new iteration, the arts incubator — 12 affordable artist studios, consistent with the original project scope — will be constructed in the Trades District's Showers Administration building on Morton Street, as part of a \$3 million READI 2.0 Arts & Culture Initiative grant from the Indiana Economic Development Corporation.

For this grant, the City partnered with IU Research (the READI grantee) and six additional organizations on an economic development initiative that centers the arts as its engine. As part

of that initiative, the studios will anchor a three-story hub that also includes creative-industry office space and an 800-capacity event venue.

Studio rental will be kept affordable for 10 years under an agreement with building owner Euron Properties. The site places studio participants within the broader Trades District entrepreneurial ecosystem, offering greater opportunities for collaboration and connection than the Hillside location allowed. The construction timeline is currently slated to conclude in March 2027. READI-funded construction needs include ADA compliance (elevator, ramps, etc.), fire suppression, and storage.

Status of the Hillside Drive Site

The pilot incubator will continue to operate in parallel with the Morton Street studio construction and conclude on 12/31/2026, at the end of the sub-lease terms for the current 6 artist occupants.

Professional Development

The City will partner with Amplify and other relevant stakeholder organizations to develop and provide professional development opportunities for creative entrepreneurs in 2027. Paige Sharp, the new Assistant Director for the Arts, has over a decade of experience developing and implementing professional development programs for creative entrepreneurs, including the award-winning On-Ramp program, which she co-created during her tenure as Deputy Director of Programs with the Indiana Arts Commission.