

Town of Concord, MA
West Concord Cultural District Committee
Public Meeting Agenda

via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83716317835?pwd=VEtcu7vFzT6UoaBUKoQlyekKMisqOG.1>

Meeting ID: 837 1631 7835

Passcode: 800637

Topic: WCCDC Monthly Meeting

Time: March 3, 2026, 7:00-8:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Please check for a revised agenda prior to attending a meeting as changes to scheduled items could occur <http://www.concordma.gov>. Time scheduled agenda items will be taken up in the order shown and not before the times shown. The times scheduled do not represent any estimate of the time that may be necessary to discuss each item. Administrative business may be discussed at any time.

1. Approve Meeting Minutes for February 3, 2026 (see attached). A vote will be taken
2. Update on Phase 2 of Art Loop - Anne - 5 mins.
3. Junction Park Sculpture update - Sue B - 10 mins.
4. Review/discuss revisions to Committee Charge - Sue L/Sue G - 10 mins
5. June 6, 2026 Porchfest Planning - Jen - 5 Mins
6. Poetry event in April - Jen - 5 Mins.
7. Spring Into West Concord Day May 16 - Planning Mtg 3/9 - Sue L - 5 mins.
8. Committee member recruitment- Sue L - 5 mins
9. Date and location for next meeting March 3, 2026 - Sue L – 2 min.

Public Comment

Adjourn

Next Meeting: April 7, 2026 (time and location - TBD)

The Town of Concord endeavors to make public meetings accessible to all members of the community. To request a meeting accommodation or modification, please contact the ADA Coordinator, Jessica Porter at 978-318-3028 or jporter@concordma.gov, at least two (2) business days prior to the scheduled meeting.

Town of Concord, MA

West Concord Cultural District Committee

Public Meeting Agenda

Topic: WCCDC Monthly Meeting

via Zoom

Pursuant to notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, the West Concord Cultural District Committee convened online February 3, 2026, 7:01pm Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Call to Order

In attendance: Sue LaChance, Jen Hurley-Wales, Chris Randall, Sue Beck, Anne Mauk, Sue Gladstone, Maureen Goldin, Mimi Graney

Guests: Stewart Ikeda - consultant to Concord arts and cultural activities, Brigitte Steines, architect

Citizen Guests: Young, Alan Bogosian, Tooeey Rogers

Not in attendance:

Approve Meeting Minutes

Upon a motion made by Sue L, Sue B seconded and it was unanimously voted to approve the minutes of Jan 7, 2026.

Guitar Museum of New England

Stewart Ikeda presented designs and a sneak peak of the Guitar Museum. Jen and Will Schunemann want to be good partners to our Committee. The Guitar Museum is holding its first board meeting tomorrow night and presenting to the WC Advisory Committee next month. This Spring there will be pop up exhibitions May 9, 16, 23, and June 6 (Porchfest). Brigitte Steines, the architect for the museum presented the design concept. Designed for mixed use: cultural activities, retail businesses, offices, and performance spaces to bring people into W Concord. Maybe a visitor center one day. The designs included integrating the proposed Assabet bridge area, and the history of the railway and industrial businesses. The building incorporates a looking back and into the future. There will be 3 stories – 1st floor will include retail, ticketing for museum, maybe a visitor center for WC. 2nd floor will be the Guitar Museum; 3rd floor will have offices. The building will be 35 ft high. Roof top may have plantings, outdoor gathering space. They might move the front of the building back about 8 ft. to have more open space for gatherings. Parking behind the building is limited. Performance space will be for intimate, small concerts. Time frame: depending on town approvals.

Stewart added: a visitors center would be a fabulous gateway to the cultural district. Would like our committee's support for that. Stewart would like to follow up on the Guitar Museum's current outdoor space for the June Porchfest.

This would be the first and only fully dedicated guitar museum in the Americas.

The Freedom's Way National Heritage Area

Stewart Ikeda presented: Concord and 44 other towns are members of Freedom's Way. They are holding a Heritage Area Hidden Treasures Festival - featuring nature, culture and history sites in May - free to the public. Do we want to include any of our events, activities in their festival? We can get support from their mini-grant program for up to \$350. Spring into West Concord? Events will be promoted on the website, way finding signs, print, inter-town community campaigns, will be provided in a partner kit. Sign up by April 1. [Attachment](#)

Black Heritage Trail Markers

Mimi G presented Black History Trail Markers for the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. A town wide initiative, making lives that have been invisible, visible. She has a grant to do 8 to 10 markers. Mimi is shopping around to community members. [Black Heritage Trail Markers Project](#)

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Markers

Mimi is also working on BFRT wayfinding signage, as presented previously. The project has grown more expensive. Extra funding was given from BFRT. Looking at two styles of signs: 1) a small directory under glass - can be updated and changed. Wants 3 of them: Gerow Park, Nashoba Brook/Poetry Phone area (wants this committee to help on that directory) and Rifle Range area. 2) smaller poll and arrow signs - 6 of those. Asking various committees to give feedback on signs' exact location. April - May installation. Mimi asked Chris to collaborate on the Nashobra Brook sign and the cultural map. [Wayfinding Signage for the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail](#)

Junction Park Sculpture

Sue B presented the final draft of the call for sculpture - diversity and inclusivity statement was updated to everyone's satisfaction. The budget is \$5,000 for the artist, including the artist installation expenses. Sue B moves to approve \$5K, Sue L 2nds, passed unanimously.

We are all encouraged to let artists know about the opportunity. The Call will be posted broadly. It was recommended that we turn this into a story that we can pitch to the Bridge, create a press release. Thanks to Sue B for her hard work on the project. Sue B will be forming a committee for judging the submitted pieces. [Attachment](#)

MCC Contract Fully Executed

Mimi gave an update on our contract with MCC for FY26 - it has been approved and the funds are in the bank. MCC has come to realize that maintaining the status quo this year and next for new cultural district guidelines is wise. FY28 will be the new timeframe for revised guidelines. Mimi

shared her feedback with MCC on how to make those guidelines work better for communities. MCC is in transition right now - looking for a new Exec Dir.

June 6, 2026 Porchfest

Jen HW said there was little to report at the moment. There was discussion about tents - should we buy them or rent them. Chris wondered if we should buy our own tent with our own branding and showed us a Maynard tent for performances. Storage and the putting up and taking down of tents (which requires a lot of people) is problematic for the Jens given past experience assembling enough volunteers. We will be investigating rental options. Mimi warns that tents that are 20x20 or larger require a special permit. To be continued.

A question was raised about the Porchfest budget this year. Jen asked Mimi to see a full accounting for last year's expenses from the town. Last year our budget was 1500 - and we gave some of that back to the committee. This year, if we rent tents, we may need all of those dollars.

Sue L moves that Porchfest be budgeted for \$1500, Chris 2nds, unanimously supported.

Poetry event in April

Jen HW has no new news on this event idea yet. Waiting to hear about Margot Kimball's talk with Kristin Canty.

A question was raised about the Poetry Phone budget needs for this year. Mimi reminded us that the committee approved borrowing from an old gift account for the Poetry Phones FY26 budget needs of \$1,150. The plan is to not use the gift account funds, but to allocate those funds from our MCC grant this year. Sue L moved that we approve, Sue B 2nd and it was unanimously supported.

Phase 2 of the Art Loop

Anne has updated her materials. The submission form will be shared with us for feedback. Anne and Mimi are going before the Select Board again and showing them the good response, photos, etc. This year Anne will ask the artist for permission to use the decals in various venues. Anne plans to display the pieces after they are removed in November. Concord Public School teachers didn't respond to the art loop invitation last year. Private schools did. Now that people understand the project, she is hoping there will be a bigger response. Timeline - before Spring into W Concord day. Budget need: w/installation (Billy Crosby for 2 days work) and contingency, under \$4,600.

Sue L made a motion to fund up to \$4700 for the Art Loop. Sue B 2nds, unanimously supported.

Kiosk Banner

Chris R is going to install the banner when the weather is warmer.

Spring Into West Concord Day May 16

Sue L reported on a meeting coming up with local businesses in February. Trying to come up with a theme as popular as Flamingo Bingo. Sue will share ideas at the next meeting. She wants to make sure we are well connected to the Hidden Treasures Festival.

2026 Goals and Succession Planning

More than half of us have expiring terms 2026 – Sue B, Sue L, Chris R – if you are planning to renew your term, you need to be formally renewed. Contact Laurie Austin in the town office. Chris R will be completing his 2nd term and required to take a year off. Sue L suggests that we could use more performance arts people. Chair and clerk roles currently assigned may continue for another year if desired.

Sue L would like to update our committee's charter. Sue Gladstone offered to help.

Other Business

Sue L explained that tomorrow night at 7:30 is the WC Advisory Committee meeting - regarding location of cell tower - maybe in Rideout Park. And Feb 11 - 5:30 - 7:00 will be the After Hours Chamber of Commerce meeting at Art for All - anyone want to represent our committee?

Date and location for our next meeting March 3, 2026, 7:00pm on zoom.

No Public Comment

Sue L moves to adjourn the meeting at 8:23, Sue B 2nds and it was unanimously agreed.

Attachments:

Freedom's Way Festival



**Become a Hidden Treasures Partner!
2026 Call for Event Submissions**

Freedom's Way National Heritage Area invites partners throughout the region to join in this year's **Hidden Treasures Festival of Nature, Culture, & History**, a month-long celebration of the remarkable people, places, objects and stories related to the Heritage Area's 45 communities.

Why participate?

- It's **FREE**, fun and easy!
- Featured in regional calendars, maps, newsletters and our mobile app
- Reach new audiences and increase visibility
- Offset up to **\$350** in qualified expenses with a mini grant

Offer an event or activity that:

- Highlights a natural, cultural or historical treasure connected to your community and/or the Heritage Area's interpretive themes ([see examples](#))
- Occurs in May on a day/time of your choice, or is self-guided
- Takes place within the Heritage Area, or virtually ([see map](#))
- Is free and open to the public (attendance limits/registration are okay)

Visit [FreedomWay.org/HTPartner](https://freedomsway.org/HTPartner) and sign up by April 1st!
We're here to help: HiddenTreasures@FreedomWay.org

SCULPT THIS SPACE

CALL FOR ART GUIDELINES

Sponsor:

West Concord Cultural District Committee of the Town of Concord, Massachusetts

Background:

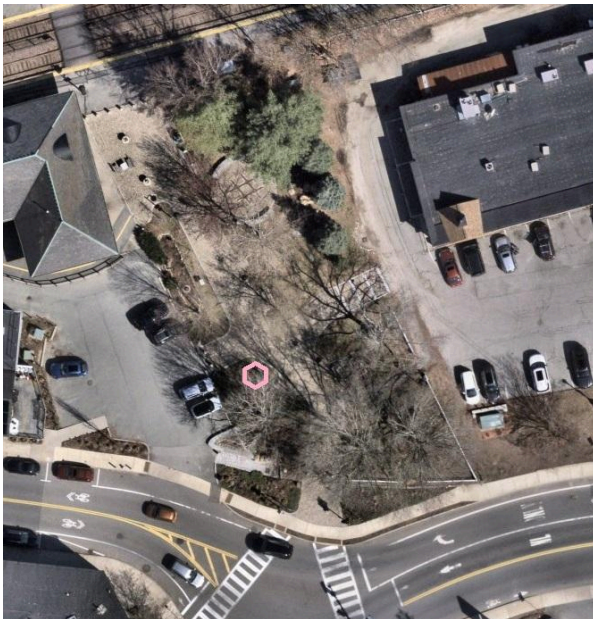
The West Concord Cultural District Committee (WCCDC) seeks a temporary installation of a sculpture that will celebrate nature and the peace it brings while inviting visitors to enjoy the gardens of Junction Park. The artwork is proposed as a one-year loan, with the potential for renewal of the term of installation.

West Concord is home to artisan shops, cafés, restaurants, artists, performing-art centers, and a rich array of natural and historical landmarks. The WCCDC leverages these local resources to strengthen the Village's identity and increase visitation. Since its founding in 2016, in partnership with the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the WCCDC has provided financial and organizational support for community celebrations and public art.

Site:

The proposed site is within a grassy area of Junction Park near the corner of Main Street and Commonwealth Avenue in West Concord. This lively pocket park is steps away from the West Concord MBTA commuter rail stop, beside the path of the regional Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, and is within our business district. It is a frequent gathering place for neighbors, visitors and commuters and has attractive gardens well-tended by the team of volunteers of the West Concord Green Thumbs.

Junction Park is modest in size, with flower plantings and tree cover. The selected artwork will be of an appropriate scale. It is anticipated that the artwork will rest upon a concrete base approximately 3 feet square.



Specifications

The materials and fabrication should be suitable for long-term, outdoor exposure, assembled and installed in a viewer-safe manner.

Artwork should not be intended to be climbed upon or require much physical interaction.

Artwork should be inspired by nature and the peace it brings and should harmonize with its surroundings.

Sculpture shall have a maximum height of 8 feet and width of no more than 5 feet.

A concrete pad of up to 3' x 3' will be provided. A gravel or woodchip base is an alternative option.

Artwork is to be delivered and installed by the artist. Sculptures shall be installed in a manner that is sensitive to its environment.

Artists will be responsible for any maintenance required during the exhibition.

It should be understood that this is a town-sponsored exhibit, so the work should be thought of in terms of a small-town center rather than an art museum.

A plaque with identifying information will be displayed nearby by the Town.

Other Information:

- **Deadline:** Applications close April 3, 2026.
- **Eligibility:** Artists, aged 18 and over, working individually or in teams, in any phase of their career are encouraged to apply.
- **Creative Approach:** Preference will be given to designs that creatively respond to the proposed site.
- **Honorarium:** The artist/creative team selected for installation will receive \$4000 for a one-year loan of their artwork and maintenance.
- **Installation:** The art installation will be a temporary installation for a period of one year. The intended display period is August 2026 through September 2027. Specific dates and installation period shall be determined in dialogue with the selected artist(s) with an eye to how the artwork is best suited to engage the public in meaningful ways.
- **Project Assistance:** The Town will facilitate any necessary local permits and collaboration with municipal departments.
- **Insurance:** Artwork will be insured by the Town of Concord for the duration of the loan, excluding general liability for installation, de-installation and maintenance which shall be provided by the artist.

- [APPLICATION LINK](#)

Selection Information:

- Only original artworks will be accepted.
- If an artwork is accepted, artists may not substitute other works.
- Application materials submitted as part of the application process (excluding personal contact information) may be displayed on the Town of Concord website and other town sponsored digital and print media.

SELECTION PROCESS

Submissions will be reviewed by the West Concord Cultural District Committee with additional community representatives. A finalist will be presented to the Concord Select Board for final approval. If approved, a contract is expected to be awarded in June 2026 for installation in the late summer of 2026. As part of municipal contracting requirements, proof of general liability insurance is required for installation and deinstallation of the artwork.

Selection Criteria:

The WCCDC is committed to fostering an inclusive environment that welcomes diverse perspectives and does not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation, gender, race or any other protected characteristic.

Preference will be given to Massachusetts-based artists.

Applications will be evaluated including, but not limited to, the following criteria:

- Artistic merit of artwork.
- Strong site-responsive design.
- Potential for artist's work to engage passersby in an accessible way.
- Completeness of application.

PROJECT TIMELINE

Applications Due: April 3, 2026

Finalist Announced: May

Contract Drafted with Artist: June

Select Board approval: June

Installation: August-September

Community Celebration: October

De-installation: September 2027