



**Georgia Council for the Arts  
October 28, 2026  
Brenau University**

Council Members in Attendance: Chairman Colt Chambers, Bryan Brooks, Madia Cooper-Ashirifi, Michele Arwood, Linda Nicholson, and Kelly Layton

GCA Staff in Attendance: Tina Lilly, Allen Bell, Tyrone Webb, Emily Yewell Volin, Delilah Johnson, Kenny Oaster, and Olivia Byers

11:00 Meeting called to order by Chairman Colt Chambers

Motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting was made by Bryan Brooks and seconded by Kelly Layton. Approval was unanimous.

11:03 Introduction of new council member Kelly Layton.

**11:06 Grants Update**

Director of Grants and Research Allen Bell discussed FY26 grant programs updates and presented an overview of FY26 grant data. Rural and Community Arts Manager Tyrone Webb reported on FY26 Vibrant Communities Grant program updates.

**11:30 Traveling Exhibition Update**

Visual Arts Manager Kenny Oaster presented updates for **REIMAGINE: Georgia Contemporary Artists** traveling exhibition. He also discussed progress on updating the State Art Collection database and storage.

**11:45 Governor's Awards Update**

Director Tina Lilly discussed Governor's Awards that will take place December 1, 12:00 pm, at the Capitol. Council members will be sent formal invitation and a list of honorees.

**Break: 12:07**

**12:34** Representatives from the Sautee Nacoochee Community Association talked about the programs that they offer as well as the impact GCA grants have had on their organization.

**1:00** Tour of Brenau Dance Department by Madia Cooper-Ashirifi

**2:11 Council Committees**

Chair Colt Chambers and Tina Lilly presented the three committee that Council members may serve on this year:

- Governor's Awards for the Arts and Humanities
- Strategic Plan
- Education and Messaging

Tina will send out a survey to Council members so that they can select which committee they would like to serve on.

**2:38 Arts Education Update**

Emily Yewell Volin discussed updates for Poetry Out Loud and the Poet Laureate's Prize programs.

**2:55 Closing Business & Adjourn**

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 2:55 pm by Linda Nicholson. Second by Madia Cooper-Ashirifi. Meeting adjourned.