

**McKinney Center Advisory Committee Meeting
McKinney Center
103 Franklin Avenue, Jonesborough, TN 37659**

**Meeting Notice
Thursday, April 16, 2026, 3:30pm**

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

Members of the public wishing to speak concerning any item on the agenda during the Public Comment period must sign up by calling the McKinney Center Office at 423-153-0562 with their name, address, and subject about which they wish to speak no later than 2 hours before the meeting occurs during normal business hours or by 1:30 p.m. the day of the meeting. Otherwise, such member of the public must sign in at the location of the meeting, prior to the beginning of the meeting, by seeing the McKinney Center Director at the McKinney Center Advisory Board meeting.

Each individual shall be given three (3) minutes to address the McKinney Center Advisory Committee regarding Agenda items. Comments shall be limited to items on the meetings Agenda.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order:
2. Citizens Comments
2. Approval of Minutes – March 2026
3. Director's Report
 - A. Past/Ongoing Events Reports
 - B. Budget, Building, and Grounds Report
 - C. Upcoming Events Report
4. Outreach Report
 - A. Outreach Report
 - B. Volunteer Report
5. StoryTown Report
 - A. StoryTown Radio Show/StoryTown Initiatives Report
 - B. Story Collecting/Story Brigade Report
 - C. 250th Community Play Report

6. Visitation Report

- A. General Visitors Report
- B. Class and Student Attendance Report
- C. Rentals Report

7. Old Business

- A. Discussion and possible action concerning the Art Wrap/Electrical Box at the McKinney Center Location.

8. New Business

- A. Discussion and possible action concerning the new documentary screening with Frederick Murphy.
- B. Discussion and possible action concerning the relaunch of CROWNS, dates, etc.
- C. Discussion and possible action regarding possible ISC partnerships.
- D. Discussion and possible action regarding new Jackson Theatre 250th programming.
- E. Discussion and possible action regarding possible new partnership with T.R. Dunn and Student Art Show.
- F. Reminder of 2026 Meeting Dates

9. Adjournment

Date April 16, 2026
1

Agenda Item

Subject Call to Order

Date April 16, 2026
2

Agenda Item

Subject Citizens Comments

Date April 16, 2026
2

Agenda Item

Subject Approval of Minutes

McKinney Center Advisory Committee Meeting
March 19, 2026
McKinney Center – in Person
Agenda Presentation

Attendance:

Advisory Committee Members: Richie Hayward, Pauline Douglas, Michelle Treece, Starlene Casey, Nancy Kavanaugh, Sharon Squibb. **McKinney Center Staff:** Theresa Hammons, Anne Mason, Martha Blaser, Breanna Walker-Schadler

A Quorum was established. McKinney Center Director called the meeting to order at 3:30pm.

Motion #1: (Hayward/McKinney) Motion to accept the minutes from the February Advisory Committee Meeting.

5 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carries.

Director Report:

All present reviewed the 2025 McKinney Center annual report. The director has met with the town administration to discuss 2026-2027 budget. Membership drive and luncheon will take place February 21st. Masterpiece Mingle tickets are now on sale for members.

Motion #2: (Squibb/Kavanaugh) Motion to accept the 2025 McKinney Center annual report.

5 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carries.

Motion #3: (Kavanaugh/Grogg) Motion to accept the Director Report.

5 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carries.

Outreach Report:

Outreach on social media is great because of classes, the radio show, and the play. We are asking for help with volunteers for the play. Nori Shaw and Skye McFarland will be attending the Appalachian Studies Association conference in March to present the Living Here Alumni exhibit.

Motion #4: (Kavanaugh/Grogg) Motion to accept Outreach verbal report.

5 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carries.

StoryTown Report:

The StoryTown Radio Show opening gala has been moved to the March Radio Show due to inclement weather. There have been over 200 tickets sold for the 250th community play. There are plans to expand Listening Days in 2026 and to partner with the ISC.

Motion #5: (Kavanaugh/Grogg) Motion to accept StoryTown report.

5 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carries.

Visitation Report:

Visitation numbers will be up in February because of classes and the play. There are five rentals on the calendar for the month of February.

Motion #6: (Hayward/Squibb) Motion to accept Visitation report.

5 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carries.

Old Business:

There are two electrical wraps that the center is focusing on in their first call for art. One downtown and the one in the McKinney Center parking lot. Board discussed what kind of wrap would be best for the one in the center parking lot.

Motion #7: (Grogg/Starlene) Motion for a consensus to look for collage of pictures that represent McKinney Center art and activities.

5 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carries.

New Business:

We have four committee members who will need to renew in April. Crowns will wait until 2027.

Respectfully submitted by:

Date April 16, 2026
3

Agenda Item

Subject Director's Report

A. PAST/ONGOING EVENTS REPORT

- a. Spring 2026 – one class left to start, Vintage Glass Window
- b. Summer 2026 – 53 registrations as of 4/14/26
 - i. Camps that are full: Play-In-A-Week, Pottery Studio 101, Artsploration K-3.
 - ii. Camps that have space: Pottery 202 (4 more spaces) Artsploration 4th – 7th (12 more spaces).
- c. Radio Show Gala - March 23, 2026 at 7pm.
- d. Ernest McKinney Day of Giving – April 2, 2026
 - i. We raised over \$4,500.
- e. Washington County Public Schools Exhibition – April 9, 2026
 - i. We had over 500 people in attendance.
 - ii. New plan for next year discussion.

B. BUDGET, BUILDINGS, AND GROUNDS – Report

- a. Building
 - i. Work on windows update

- ii. Change order details
- b. Berea Grant update

C. UPCOMING EVENTS REPORT

- a. Masterpiece Mingle – April 24
 - i. 92 tickets sold
 - ii. Need for art donations
- b. Ms. Brown’s Program
 - i. May 7, 6-7pm
- c. Traffic Box Art Wrap Project – deadline is April 20 and Update
- d. Washington County’s Got Teen Talent update – May 9th
- e. C4K Exhibition – May 21, 5:30pm

Date April 16, 2026

Agenda Item **4**

Subject **Outreach – by Skye McFarland**

Outreach:

Over the past month, again, we have not hosted an in-person outreach event, but our first outreach event will be March 14th at the St. Paddy’s Day event in downtown Jonesborough. This is one of our largest events each year. We have worked this month to get ready for the craft and the parade for this event. We have also been very busy pushing things on social media including the play, final class pushes, the radio shows, and now we switch to Masterpiece Mingle, Listening Day, the radio show gala, and Ernest McKinney Day of Giving. Facebook Ad reach over the past 30 days has been about 11,485, other Facebook reach has been 51,477. On Instagram we have reached 8,479 people.

The first round of art class at Jonesborough Elementary closed on March 10, we have a week off and then return the next week for the older group of kids. The class went well! I am working to get the demographic information of these kids to add to our records.

Volunteers:

We have had so much help over the past month with the radio show and the play. We had 49 volunteer hours for February and once we add the hours for the play participants, it will be a lot larger. With the play, as well, we are already at 27 hours for March. We will need help with the St. Paddy's Day event and the Easter events downtown, then we'll move on to getting volunteers for Masterpiece Mingle!

Date April 16, 2026

Agenda Item 5

Subject StoryTown – Anne G-Fellers Mason

StoryTown Radio Show/StoryTown Initiative

We were finally able to host our 15th anniversary show and gala on March 23rd. We were able to move a lot of the ticket holders from the canceled January show to the March show. We had a sold-out house and quite the spread including food donated by Boone Street Market, Main Street Café & Catering, Black Olive, Food City, and Ingles. It was a wonderful evening. Our April 27th show features Jimmy Neil Smith stories with musical guest the Science Hill High School Steel Toppers. **Update: We have sold 23 tickets to the April show so far.**

- 1) We've raised \$3,900 in sponsorship money. – **Update: We have raised \$4,050.**
- 2) We have sold/reserved 59 season passes.
- 3) I submitted an Arts for All grant to the Tennessee Arts Commission and recently had the review panel. We should know more by May.
- 4) The movie Love in Story Town that the Radio Show was a part of back in 2023, is hosting a premiere at the Jackson Theatre on April 12th. The studio has been in touch with us for our logo so we can cross promote. – **Update: They added an extra showing on April 16th; both showings are sold out.**

Action Items: Help spread the word about the April show and sell tickets. We'd love another full house.

Story Collecting/Story Brigade

The first Listening Day of the year took place at the Jonesborough Senior Center on March 19 (9:00 am – 12:00 pm). We only had one person attend, but he came all the way from Elizabethton, his daughter thanked us, and he was full of stories. He also knew Ernest McKinney. I have a meeting with the Fischman Gallery in JC on April 10th to talk about hosting a session there, and we have a Listening Day booked from 9:00-12:00 on July 28th at the Johnson City Public Library. Storytelling shared they have had success with hosting programs at those locations.

250th Community Play – The First and Last Town in TN

The play is over now, and it was a success with coverage in the *New York Times*. Except for the Saturday night shows, performances were sold out or almost sold out with an estimated 618 in attendance. Mayor Kelly Wolfe welcomed the audience on opening night. It would have been nice if more of Jonesborough's leadership had been able to attend the play.

We may consider not doing Saturday evening performances in the future since Saturday matinees are so popular. Preliminary ticket sale totals are \$8,418.76. I don't have a final expense total, but we received the grant (\$19,250) and wonderful sponsorships (\$2,654.50) for this play, so I feel good about covering expenses. We had a school performance on March 3rd, which we were able to offer for free thanks to the grant. Lamar Elementary brought a 5th grade class, and we had several homeschool groups in attendance.

America's 250th

After meeting with Amber, we have selected the following dates for the Jackson Theatre performances. These programs will focus on local history, taking vignettes from the play and expanding upon them with music and other speakers. Each date will have a theme or time period with a Paul Fink type character serving as narrator for the series. The goal is to have everything set by April 27, finalized by May 4, and rolled out over Memorial Day weekend. Price is pending, but we talked about \$5.00.

June 25th from 7:00-8:30 – **Historic Preservation Movement (Dr. Kennedy, musical guest Ozone Rangers)**

July 23rd from 7:00-8:30 – **Revolutionary War History (Sycamore Shoals)**

August 20th from 7:00-8:30, School performance at 10:00 am – **African American History (Nancy with Taleah Rogers, Thankful Baptist Church Choir, Paul Braxton as Alf Taylor, maybe a drumming workshop)**

September 24th from 7:00-8:30 – **Lost State of Franklin (Dr. William Hardy from LMU, Tipton Haynes)**

October 22nd from 7:00-8:30, School performance at 10:00 am – **TBD**

Play in a Week Camp
Already full with 17 students.

Podcast

We continue to post Voices of the Archive, Director’s Cut, and StoryTown Radio Show podcasts every month.

Total Downloads: 472 in the last thirty days

Numbers for Month

StoryTown Volunteers – 46 for Radio Show – 81.5 Hours
6 for Gala – 12 Hours

Story Brigade – 2 Brigade Members, 2 Hours

Community Play Volunteers – 402 over multiple rehearsals & shows, 3,528 Hours

Interactions: First and Last Town in TN – 618, FLTT School Performance – 100, Media – 2, JAMSA – 8, Main Street Meeting – 14, Marketing Team – 2, Publicity Committee – 10, Jackson/Grant Related Mtgs – 1, Listening Day – 2, Advisory Committee – 6, March Radio Show – 126, TAC Panel – 24, Misc - 1

Total for Month – 1,370

Total Volunteer Hours – 3,623.50

Date April 16, 2026

Agenda Item

7

Subject Visitation Update – Bre Walker-Schadler

Visitation Update:

Month	Classes	General Visitors	Rentals
January	43	728	339
February	312	1208	157
March	497	1250	219
April			
May			
June			
July			
August			
September			
October			
November			
December			

Total

Rental Update:

Month

January \$2,122.50

February \$420.00

March \$440.00

April

May

June

July

August

September

October

November

December

Total: \$

We hosted a Simple Elegance bridal shoot partnership during March, so we have access to more wedding style auditorium pictures for rental advertising.

Date April 16, 2026

Agenda Item

8

Subject OLD BUSINESS

- A.** New documentary screening with Frederick Murphy.
 - a.** Narrowing down to fall dates
- B.** New possible ISC partnerships.
 - a.** No update
- C.** Appointment of Advisory Committee Members – approved by BMA
 - i. Starlene Casey
 - ii. Kay Hess Grogg
 - iii. Michelle Treece

Date April 16, 2026
9

Agenda Item

Subject NEW BUSINESS

A. New Business

B. 2026 Meeting Dates

April 16

May 21

June 18

July 16

August 20

September 17

October 15

November 19

December 17