



ECONOMIC PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2025 | 6 PM

3rd Committee Meeting

The Committee will meet in Mauldin City Hall at 5 East Butler Road in the Council Chambers

The meeting will be available remotely through Zoom. Please visit the City's website at [https:// cityofmauldin.org/your-government/meeting-minutes-agendas/](https://cityofmauldin.org/your-government/meeting-minutes-agendas/) to access the meeting via audio and videoconferencing.

A quorum of Council will be present.

**ECONOMIC PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 6, 2025, 6PM
CITY HALL - COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Committee Members: Taft Matney (Chair), Mark Steenback and Jason Kraeling

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| 1. <u>Call to Order</u> | Chairperson Matney |
| 2. <u>Public Comment</u> | Chairperson Matney |
| 3. <u>Reading and Approval of Minutes</u> | Chairperson Matney |
| a. Economic Development Committee
Minutes May 5, 2025 [Pages 3-4] | |
| 4. <u>Reports or Communications from City Officers</u> | Chairperson Matney |
| a. City Administrator Seth Duncan Hospitality
Tax Grant Program Updates | |
| 5. <u>Unfinished Business</u> | Chairperson Matney |
| There is no unfinished business. | |
| 6. <u>New Business</u> | Chairperson Matney |
| a. Public Art Trail [Pages 5-13] | |
| 7. <u>Public Comment</u> | Chairperson Matney |
| 8. <u>Committee Concerns</u> | Chairperson Matney |
| 9. <u>Adjournment</u> | Chairperson Matney |

MINUTES
ECONOMIC PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
MAY 5, 2025, 6PM
CITY HALL - COUNCIL CHAMBERS
5 E. BUTLER ROAD
3rd committee meeting

Committee Members present: Taft Matney (Chair), Mark Steenback and Jason Kraeling
Others present: City Administrator Seth Duncan and Assistant City Administrator Greg Saxton

1. Call to Order- Chairman Matney

2. Public Comment- None

3. Reading and Approval of Minutes

a. Economic Development Committee Minutes February 3, 2025

Motion: Councilman Steenback made a motion to accept the minutes as distributed with Councilman Kraeling seconding.

Vote: The vote was unanimous (3-0).

4. Reports or Communications from City Officers

a. City Administrator Seth Duncan- City Administrator Duncan reported on the Pickleball Yards, the trail at Layton Hall, the amphitheater stage cover and 6 new businesses that have opened up in Mauldin.

b. Cultural Center Updates- Mr. Saxton reported the Blues and Jazz festival went very well.

The new sculpture on the Art Trail was unveiled.

The Bodyguard production begins this week.

The stage cover is coming along well and looks great. It will be ready by the first Amp'd Up Friday.

Bridgeway 5K will be May 17th.

Memorial Day is May 26th. A ceremony will be held at 11:00 a.m. at the Cultural Center.

The new Events Coordinator is beginning work on May 19th.

Dance classes will be held at the Cultural Center offering ballroom dancing, salsa, and shag.

c. Rebranding Update- A RFP was done in January for rebranding. Flock and Rally was chosen. An initial discovery call was made in April. They will be onsite on May 20th to learn more about the City. This process should take about 5 months.

5. Unfinished Business- There is no unfinished business.

6. New Business- There is no new business.

7. Public Comment- None

8. Committee Concerns- None

9. Adjournment- Chairman Kraeling adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Miller
Municipal Clerk

ECONOMIC PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

MEETING DATE: October 6, 2025

AGENDA ITEM: 6 a

TO: Economic Planning & Development Committee
FROM: Gregory Saxton, Assistant City Administrator
SUBJECT: Public Art Trail Selection 2025-2026

REQUEST

Staff is recommending Committee and Council approval to commission Aldo Muzzarelli to build and install his piece “The Minstrel of the Muses” along the Mauldin Art Trail.

HISTORY/BACKGROUND

Since 2014, the City of Mauldin has commissioned various works of art as part of an art trail along City Center Drive. The Mauldin Public Art Trail is an initiative designed to beautify the community with public art displays created by local and regional artists.

This year’s theme, *Inspiring Transformation*, focuses on the promises of community growth and vibrant development which is something that can be seen all around us. Moreover, the process of transformation and rebirth is necessary for its full potential to become evident and hope this helps residents craft a life full of energy and color.

In June, staff issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit proposals from local and regional artists. Staff received a total of three proposals, and each were asked to prepare a 3-D model due in August. Once received, each was reviewed and considered based upon the artists’ scale models, concept statements, and suitability for the trail.

ANALYSIS or STAFF FINDINGS

The Minstrel of the Muses, by Aldo Muzzarelli, is a monumental sculpture that embodies the transformative power of inspiration and creativity. Composed of three carefully stacked cubes, the piece traces a symbolic journey from ancestral roots through diverse sources of human ingenuity, culminating in the vibrant expression of artistic creation. Each cube will integrate symbolic elements including ancestral masks, artistic and scientific motifs, and natural forms. Crowning the sculpture stands the Minstrel, a timeless figure of the free-spirited artist.

When complete, the piece will stand 7’10” in height and 3’5” in width and weight approximately 330 pounds. The medium will be mostly welded steel and painted resin, and will be installed with removable concrete screws.

Aldo Muzzarelli is a Venezuelan-born artist who holds a Bachelor of Arts from the Central University of Venezuela. He served as the Director of Culture in his hometown along with teaching at fine arts workshops all over Venezuela. Muzzarelli has created monumental works for the Cathedral of San Pedro in Caracas and opened his own gallery in Tinaquillo. Since immigrating to the United States, Muzzarelli has continued his artistic pursuits and has won awards and recognition while participating in exhibitions

around the world. If approved, this would be Aldo's second piece of art along the trail as he was the artist that created *The Big Cocoon* which was installed in 2019.

The Aldo will have until April of 2026 to build and install the new art display. The revealing of the new art display will take place during our annual Blues and Jazz Festival of 2026.

FISCAL IMPACT

The City has budgeted \$18,000.00 for this year's Public Art Trail. Finalist is notified that the project is not to exceed \$ 15,000.00 which covers artist fees, travel, materials, installation, and documentation.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approving and commissioning Aldo Muzzarelli and his piece *The Minstrel of the Muses* for installation along the Mauldin Public Art Trail.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- Aldo Muzzarelli Application

Proposal for the 2025–2026 Mauldin Public Art Trail: “**Inspiring Transformation**”

Title of the Work: *The Minstrel of the Muses*

Artist: Aldo Muzzarelli

Medium: Welded steel, painted resin

Dimensions: 7 ft 10 in (height) x 3 ft 5 in (width)

Approximate Weight: 330 lbs.

Installation Method: Removable concrete screws (½ in diameter x 4 in long)

The Minstrel of the Muses

By Aldo Muzzarelli

The Minstrel of the Muses is a monumental sculpture that embodies the transformative power of inspiration and creativity. Composed of three carefully stacked cubes, the piece traces a symbolic journey from ancestral roots through diverse sources of human ingenuity, culminating in the vibrant expression of artistic creation.

Each cube integrates symbolic elements—ancestral masks, artistic and scientific motifs, and natural forms—crafted with deliberate textures and colors that evolve from aged metals to luminous vibrancy. This progression mirrors the unfolding of inspiration from memory to light, from the silent spark to full manifestation.

Crowning the sculpture stands the Minstrel, a timeless figure of the free-spirited artist. Holding a painter’s palette and brushes, he represents the creative voice that channels the legacy of the nine Muses, bridging tradition and innovation. More than a performer, he is a herald of transformation, inviting viewers to witness the alchemy of art and the eternal dance between past and future.

Aldo Muzzarelli. 864 9916259.

Design. Color. Materials and Size.

The piece is a sculpture in welded steel and resin, approximately **8 ft** tall and **3.5 ft** wide. It is composed of three stacked and slightly offset cubes, creating an intentional visual balance that enhances its sculptural presence.

The materials and finishes evolve from base to top: the lower cube has the appearance of oxidized iron, the middle cube simulates aged bronze with a greenish patina, and the upper cube features a finish that starts as bronze and gradually transitions into golden tones, symbolizing the culmination of creativity and expression. This chromatic and material transition reflects a symbolic journey of artistic transformation.

The design incorporates motifs referencing cultural memory, artistic and scientific inspiration, and contemporary expression, culminating at the top with three books arranged as ascending steps and a minstrel figure in vivid tones, holding a painter's palette and brushes, representing the creative spirit.

The sculpture, designed for outdoor display, weighs approximately 330 pounds and is anchored with removable concrete screws to ensure stability. The combination of steel, resin, and paint emphasizes durability, color, and the symbolic richness of the work.

Production Schedule – Sculpture “The Minstrel of the Muses”

- **October 15–28:** Purchase of materials (clay, resin, rubber for molds, paint, tools, etc.)
- **October 28–November 5:** Fabrication of the metal cubes and base under my supervision, including welding of these pieces
- **October 29–January 15:** Creation of clay figures (minstrel, books, ancestral masks, etc.)
- **January 15–February 15:** Mold-making and casting of the clay figures in resin
- **February 16–28:** Preparation of additional metal pieces (laser-cut elements, gears, robotic arms, etc.)
- **March 1–10:** Integration of resin figures onto the metal structure
- **March 11–20:** Application of automotive primer and base paint
- **March 21–30:** Detailed painting, bronze effects, oxidation, and patina
- **March 31:** Application of gold leaf and gilding
- **April 1–2:** Final sealing with professional satin finish sealant
- **April 1–15:** Transportation of the completed piece to the Mauldin Art Trail

Title of the Work: The Minstrel of the Muses**Artist: Aldo Muzzarelli****Budget**

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total
Steel bases & pedestal	Cubes of three sizes plus larger steel pedestal	1 set	\$2,250	\$2,250
Modeling clay	Minstrel, books, ancestral masks, etc.	6 boxes (25 lb each)	\$80	\$480
Brushes of Metal		2	\$50	\$100
Casting resin	To pour clay figures	1	\$800	\$800
Rubber for molds	For resin figures	1	\$560	\$560
Epoxy A/B	To reinforce exterior of rubber molds	1	\$450	\$450
Laser-cut metal pieces	Robot arm, microscope, treble clef, palette, etc.	1 set	\$450	\$450
Metal gears	For sculpture	3	\$60	\$180
Automotive gray primer spray	Background for entire sculpture	12 cans	\$17	\$204
Putty	For surface retouching	1	\$40	\$40
Bronze-effect paint	Brown, slate, green, ochre (¼ gallon each)	4	\$22	\$88
Patina green	Bronze-effect	1	\$16	\$16
Sienna paint	Rust effect	1	\$16	\$16
Bright gold paint	Outdoor, weather-resistant	1	\$70	\$70
Vibrant acrylic paints	Red, yellow, blue, green, orange	5	\$17	\$85
Gold leaf & mordant	Outdoor application	1	\$450	\$450
Automotive satin sealer spray	Entire sculpture	12 cans	\$27	\$324
Concrete anchors	4 units	4	\$6	\$24
Travel for materials & welding	3 trips (1 to NC, 2 for welding metal pieces)	3	\$200	\$600
Insurance	General liability insurance during execution, transportation, and installation (covering damage to third parties or property)	1	\$200	\$200

Grand Total: \$8,927

Note: The remainder of the budget represents the artist's fees. This quotation may be subject to minor adjustments as cost-saving options are explored during the process.

Conceptual Description of the Sculpture

The proposed sculpture is conceived as an allegory of the transformative power of art and inspiration. It consists of three slightly offset but balanced cubes, forming an ascending narrative of roots, creativity, and transformation.

The **first cube**, with a finish evoking oxidized iron, represents cultural memory and humanity's origins. On each face, four protruding books display ancestral masks —African, South American, Cycladic, and Japanese— symbolizing diverse traditions and the expressive power of heritage.

The **second cube**, with an aged bronze finish, embodies the sources of human creativity. Its reliefs include a treble clef (music as a universal language), a pair of theatrical masks (performing arts), a parchment with an inkwell and quill (literature and narrative power), and a Native American ancestral mask, honoring the land where the sculpture is displayed.

The **third cube** begins in bronze and gradually transitions to bright, luminous gold, representing the culmination of the creative process and transformation. Its symbols —a microscope (science), multiple gears and a robotic arm (technology), and a flower (nature)— evoke the pursuit of knowledge, innovation, and harmony with the organic world.

A **network of golden scales** flows poetically throughout the piece, suggesting a vital current of inspiration that moves through all levels of the sculpture and converges at the top, merging with the radiant gold and bursting into vivid color.

Nine **books** are scattered throughout the sculpture, symbolizing the nine Greek Muses of the arts and sciences, representing knowledge and the creative spark that drives cultural evolution.

On the third cube, three **books in vivid colors** form ascending steps, topped by a **polychrome jester**. Holding a palette in one hand and brushes in the other, the jester embodies the contemporary artist: rooted in tradition but projecting a vision toward a transformative future.

The visual and material evolution of the piece —from oxidized iron at the base, through transitional bronze, to bright gold at the summit— reinforces the theme of transformation. Ultimately, the sculpture is a metaphor for art as a vital force that elevates, connects, and reshapes our relationship with both the past and the future.

Maintenance Plan.

Any sculptural work displayed outdoors that is not made of bronze will eventually require some touch-ups over the years. If these occasional restorations are properly carried out on a piece made of metal, resin, concrete, or stone paste, there is no reason it should last less than 20 years.

This is a welded steel sculpture with resin pieces adhered using a high-durability, weather-resistant adhesive. The work will be protected with automotive primer, high-resistance acrylic paint, and a professional satin finish exterior sealant.

As with any outdoor artwork, over time it may require touch-ups to refresh the colors, particularly due to bird droppings or other minor effects, including the application of a new layer of sealant. If selected, I commit to inspecting the piece and performing this maintenance as needed.

For cleaning, only a damp cloth is required. For bird droppings, use water with isopropyl alcohol. Any touch-ups can be done with the same paint used for the original execution, followed by resealing with a professional automotive sealant.

