



BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Committee on Arts, Culture, Entertainment, Tourism, and Special Events
Edward M. Flynn, Chair

One City Hall Square 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02201 ♦ Phone: (617) 635-3040 ♦ city.council@boston.gov

REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

October 1, 2025

Dear Councilors,

The Committee on Arts, Culture, Entertainment, Tourism, and Special Events was referred the following dockets for consideration:

Docket #1350, Message and order for the confirmation of the appointment of Napoleon Jones-Henderson as a Commissioner of the Boston Art Commission, for a term expiring June 1, 2029.

Docket #1351, Message and order for the confirmation of the appointment of Ian Alteveer as a Commissioner of the Boston Art Commission, for a term expiring January 1, 2029.

Docket #1352, Message and order for the confirmation of the appointment of Caitlin Gould Lowrie as a Commissioner of the Boston Art Commission, for a term expiring August 1, 2029.

These matters were sponsored by Mayor Michelle Wu, and were referred to the Committee on July 9, 2025.

Summary of Legislation

Dockets #1350 - #1352 are Mayoral orders for appointments to the Boston Art Commission. The Boston Art Commission was established under Chapter 410 of the Acts of 1898, as amended. Commissioners of the Boston Art Commission must be residents of Boston and individuals of recognized knowledge and experience in the arts. The Commission is responsible for approving and overseeing all works of art on City-owned land and buildings, ensuring that Boston's collection of public art accurately reflects the City's history, culture, and diverse communities.

Under the law, the Commission is composed of 9 members, appointed by the Mayor, with confirmation by the City Council. Pursuant to such, the Mayor has filed these appointments with this Body for confirmation. Passage of Dockets #1350-#1352 would confirm the Mayor's appointments of Napoleon Jones-Henderson, Ian Alteveer, and Caitlin Gould Lowrie as Commissioners of the Boston Art Commission, for a term expiring on August 1, 2029.

Information Gathered

The Committee held a hearing on September 29, 2025, to consider Dockets #1350-1352. The Committee heard testimony from Karin Goodfellow, Director of the Boston Arts Commission, and the appointees, Napoleon Jones-Henderson, Ian Alteveer, and Caitlin Gould Lowrie.

The Administration introduced the appointees, noting their distinct backgrounds: Mr. Jones-Henderson as a practicing artist with a fifty-year career in Boston, nominated by the Boston Public Library; Ms. Gould Lowrie as a museum professional with expertise in exhibition planning and community outreach, nominated by the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum; and Mr. Alteveer as a curator at the Museum of Fine Arts (MFA) with experience commissioning public-facing works, nominated by the MFA.



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Councilors asked the appointees about their professional experience, qualifications, and vision for serving on the Boston Art Commission. Councilors also inquired how the appointees would connect residents with art and culture, particularly those in public housing, immigrant communities, and communities of color, and asked for their perspectives on existing public artworks, signage, education, and student involvement.

In response, the appointees emphasized that public art should be rooted in community life, representative of Boston's diversity, and accessible in both neighborhoods and museums. The appointees agreed on the importance of meeting residents where they are, expanding opportunities for student art, and creating educational tools such as signage to deepen engagement. In closing statements, each appointee reaffirmed their commitment to expanding access to public art, supporting youth engagement, and ensuring that Boston's collection reflects the City's diverse neighborhoods and communities.

Committee Chair Recommended Action

As Chair of the Committee on Arts, Culture, Entertainment, Tourism, and Special Events, I recommend moving the listed dockets from the Committee to the full Council for discussion and formal action. At this time, my recommendation to the full Council will be that these appointments **OUGHT TO BE CONFIRMED**.

Edward M. Flynn, Chair
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