

ROANOKE ARTS

AUGUST 2026

2025-26 ANNUAL REPORT
+ A LOOK AHEAD

Our 2025-26 Commission

William Penn, *Chair*

Donna Davis, *Vice-Chair*

John Hitchins, Jr., *Treasurer*

Melissa Murray, *Recording Secretary*

Ben Bazak, *Placemaking Chair*

Demetrius Johnson, *Collections Chair*

Catherine Koebel Stromberg, *Funding Chair*

John Black

Aila Boyd

Becky Carr

John Cornthwait, *Planning Chair*

Charlene Graves

MaryJean Levin

Amya Matthews

Meighan Sharp

John Wiercioch

ROANOKE ARTS

AUGUST 2026

2025-26 ANNUAL REPORT
+ A LOOK AHEAD

Our 2027 Commission

Donna Davis, *Chair*

John Cornthwait, *Vice-Chair & Planning Chair*

Becky Carr, *Treasurer*

Melissa Murray, *Recording Secretary*

Ben Bazak, *Placemaking Chair*

Demetrius Johnson, *Collections Chair*

Amya Matthews, *Funding Chair*

John Black

Aila Boyd

Dr. Elizabeth “e” Dulemba

Dawn Erdman

John Hitchins, Jr.

MaryJean Levin

Meighan Sharp

John Wiercioch



2026 -2027 WORK PLAN

COMMITTEES

Collections

Funding

Placemaking

Planning

Executive

FY 26

FY27

COLLECTIONS

Pilgrims at the Creek Exhibition
Monthly Gallery Talks

Collection Maintenance

Online Collection Access
www.roanokearts.org/public-art

Elmwood Art Walk Sculpture Call

Old SW Wasena **Bridge Sculpture**

Pilgrim at Tinker Creek Community
Mural Design Call

**50 Stars for Roanoke Employee Arts
& Crafts Show,** (includes volunteers,
commissioners...and council
members!)

David A. Ramey mini-exhibit in City
Manager's Suite





FIFTY STARS FOR ROANOKE

CELEBRATING 250 YEARS OF FREEDOM

The City of Roanoke
Employee Arts & Crafts Show

October 1, 2026 – September 8, 2027



Share your creativity with coworkers and our community in our employee arts and craft show. Prepare your art and submit it in September!

Learn more and sign up at
RoanokeArts.org/stars



FY 26

FY27

FUNDING

Application and Grant Management

Managed *\$300,000 in grants supporting* arts and cultural programs offered by community nonprofits

Application and Grant Management
(opens Dec. 5)

Oversight of \$300,000 in FY 27 arts and cultural grants



FY 26
PLACEMAKING
FY27

Daisy Art Parade and neighborhood activations in Main Street Mosaic Neighborhoods

92 Arts Connect Neighbors Catalog Activities with more than 3,000 participants

Five new Murals

6 new signal box projects with Transportation

Project Development

Five Neighborhood Facilitators - Catalog + Main Street Mosaic

Mill Mountain Sculpture Project

Wasena Rebar Project

2-3 New Murals

Project Development
(Wonderpass)











FY 26

FY27

PLANNING

Arts and Cultural Planning Process

More than 700 engaged to date

Story Circles

Outreach Events, presentations

Survey

Survey closes late August,
though paths will stay open

Plan writing

Approval process

www.roanokearts.org/plan

We envision a Roanoke where
creativity builds bridges,
culture lives in every neighborhood,
and the arts help shape a
future we design — *together*.

VALUES

Bring people together.

Make space for everyone.

Imagine what's possible.

Celebrate along the way.

Nurture what's next.

SHARE YOUR IDEAS



Help shape the next decade of
arts and culture in Roanoke

EARLY THEMES

- People want the city to put real support behind **local artists**. It's the top pick for where investment should go, followed closely by neighborhood events and festivals.
- **Free or low-cost access** to the arts and seeing our community's full diversity represented are respondents highest priorities
- People want art close to home; **neighborhood centers** and parks rank well ahead of downtown-only venues.

FY 26

FY27

EXECUTIVE

Youth Poet Laureate Planning
with Roanoke Public Libraries

Art by Bus Project
with ValleyMetro and Ride Solutions

Executive Directors Roundtable

It's Here Strategy

Weekly Newsletter

NEA, VCA Applications

Youth Poet Laureate Process
with Roanoke Public Libraries

Art by Bus Project
with ValleyMetro and Ride Solutions

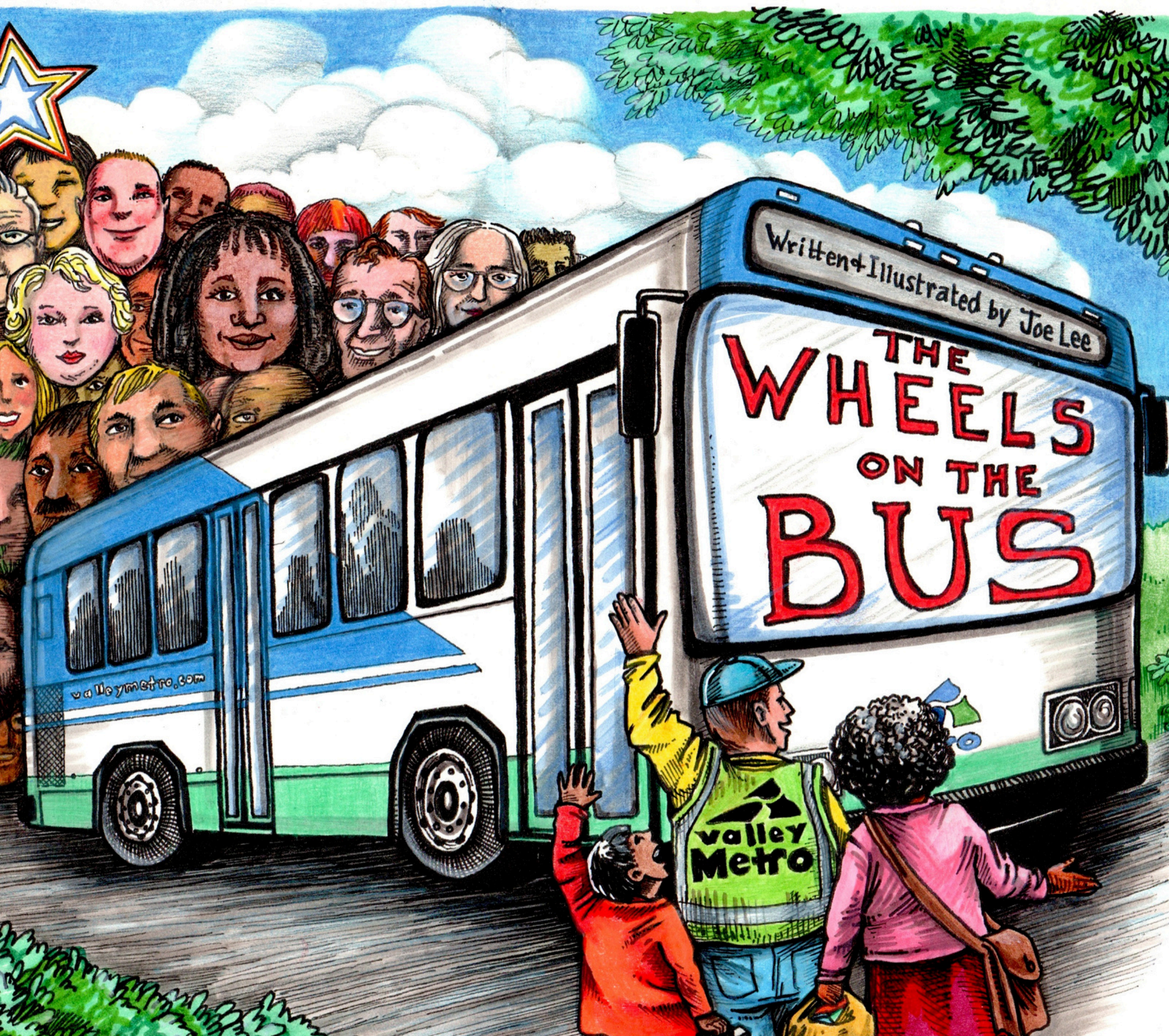
Executive Directors Roundtable

It's Here Strategy

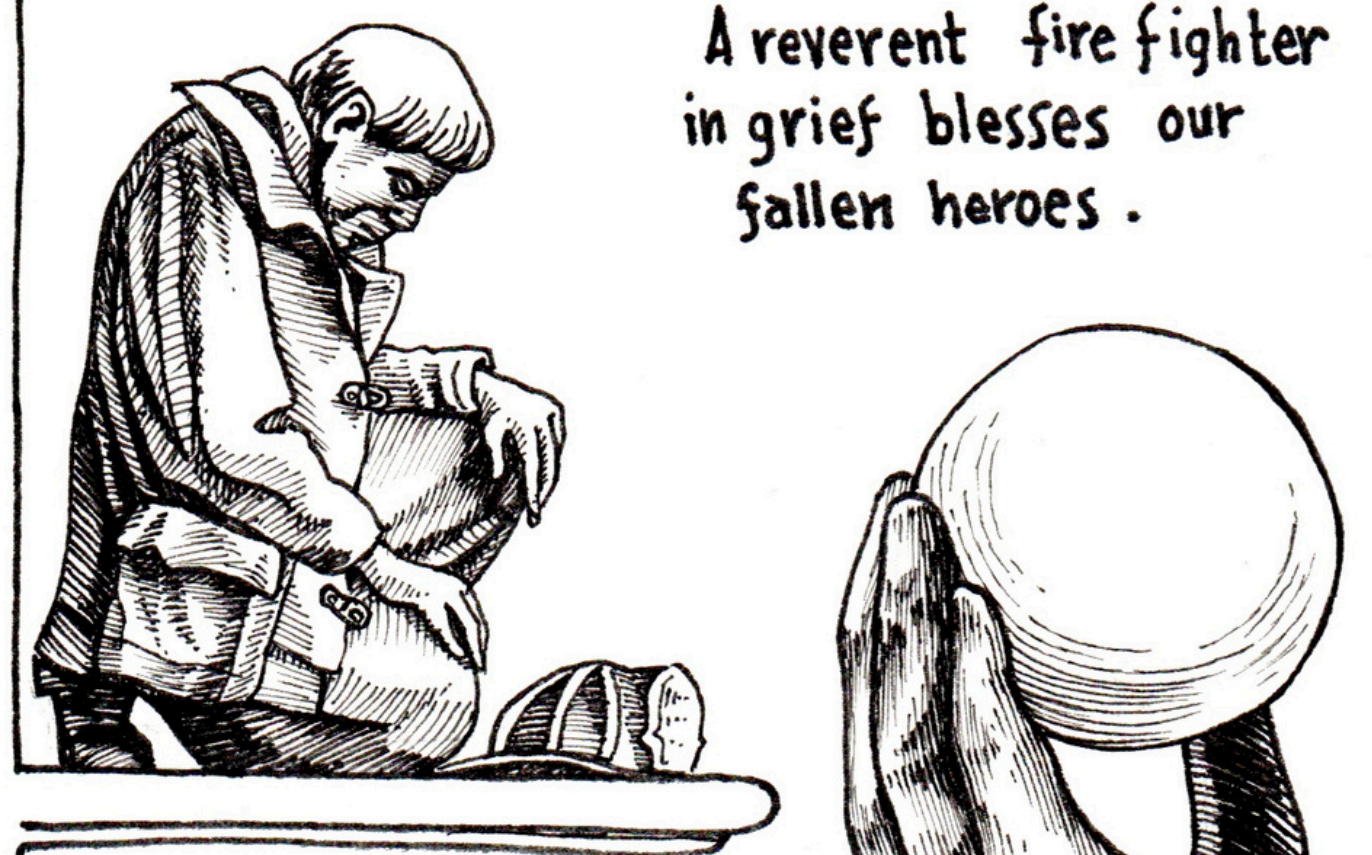
Weekly Newsletter

+ Application to Private
Foundation(s)





A reverent fire fighter
in grief blesses our
fallen heroes .



An enormous hand rises
catching an all reflecting
globe .

Henrietta Lacks,
a hero rediscovered,
whose cells
live on in
priceless
medical research,
saves lives
decades
after her
demise .







2026 -2027
WORK
PLAN

Percent for Art
BUDGET

Collections	\$ 73,000
Funding	\$0
Placemaking	\$101,500
Planning & Advocacy	\$19,000
Executive	<u>\$. 4,000</u>

TOTAL	\$197,500
REMAINING BALANCE	\$ 70,000
2024-5 COMPARISON	\$243,000



2026 -2027 WORK PLAN

Creating
EVERY DAY

THE
PLACE
WE
WANT
TO BE.

THANK YOU

Questions, comments, or guidance?