Revised Agenda Item #29
for the meeting of
September 15, 2025

GENERAL BUSINESS

29. Full Board Appointments to the Council on Culture and Arts Board, Investment Oversight Committee, and the Tallahassee-Leon County Commission on the Status of Women & Girls
(County Administrator / Administration)

This update provides a revised Agenda Item to correct the term date in Option #2.

This document distributed on September 15, 2025.

Leon County Board of County Commissioners

Agenda Item #29

September 15, 2025

To: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

From: Vincent S. Long, County Administrator

Title: Full Board Appointments to the Council on Culture and Arts Board, the Investment Oversight Committee, and the Tallahassee-Leon County Commission on the Status of Women & Girls

Review and Approval:	Vincent S. Long, County Administrator
Department / Division Review:	Ken Morris, Assistant County Administrator
Lead Staff / Project Team:	Lisa Davis, Agenda Coordinator

Statement of Issue:

This item seeks the full Board's consideration of the appointment of citizens to the Council on Culture and Arts Board, Investment Oversight Committee, and the Tallahassee-Leon County Commission on the Status of Women & Girls.

Fiscal Impact:

This item has no fiscal impact.

Staff Recommendation:

Provided on the following page.

Staff Recommendation:

Option #1: Ratify the Commission on the Status of Women & Girls' reappointment of three citizens, Kay Meyer-Ignacio, Kimberly Berry, and Dr. Wachell "Shelly" McKendrick, to the Tallahassee-Leon County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls, for two-year terms ending September 30, 2027 (Attachments #1, #2, and #3).

Option #2: Appoint one citizen to the Investment Oversight Committee for a three-year term ending July 31, 2028. Eligible applicants are: Jarvis Benjamin Watkins and Matt Allen (Attachments #5 and #6).

Option #3: Appoint one nominated citizen, Erika Branchcomb, to the City At-Large seat on the Council on Culture & Arts Board for a four-year term ending September 30, 2029, as recommended by the Mayor of the City of Tallahassee (Attachment #7).

Option #4: Appoint one nominated citizen, Carol Hill, to the City Business / Economic Development seat on the Council on Culture & Arts Board for a four-year term ending September 30, 2029, as recommended by the Mayor of the City of Tallahassee (Attachment #8).

Option #5: Appoint one nominated citizen, Haiqiong Deng, to the City Heritage Community seat on the Council on Culture & Arts Board for a four-year term ending September 30, 2029, as recommended by the Mayor of the City of Tallahassee (Attachment #9).

Option #6: Appoint one nominated citizen, Brinda Pamulapati, to the City Practicing Artist seat on the Council on Culture & Arts Board for a four-year term ending September 30, 2029, as recommended by the Mayor of the City of Tallahassee (Attachment #10).

Option #7: Reappoint one citizen, Reenee Williams, as recommended by the Council on Culture and Arts Board, to the Business/Economic Development seat, for a four-year term ending September 30, 2029 (Attachment #11).

Option #8: Appoint one citizen to the County Tourism seat on the Council on Culture and Arts Board for a four-year term ending September 30, 2029, from the slate of three COCA nominees (Attachment #12). The nominees are: Janet Chernoff, Giavona Williams, and Erika Zambello.

Report and Discussion

Background:

Pursuant to Policy No. 03-15, "Board-Appointed Citizen Committees", a General Business item is presented to fill vacancies for full Board appointments of citizens to Citizen Committees.

Analysis:

Tallahassee-Leon County Commission on the Status of Women & Girls (CSWG)

Purpose: The CSWG provides input and recommendations on approaches with which to address issues affecting women and girls in Tallahassee and Leon County. The Committee's goal is promoting awareness on issues that affect women and girls in the community, including but not limited to discrimination, disparate experiences of diverse women and girls, employment, education, services, health, economic security, access to justice, and freedom from violence.

Composition: The CSWG has 21 members.

- Seven members appointed by the Board of County Commissioners with each County Commissioner having one appointment;
- Seven members appointed by the City Commission with each City Commissioner making one appointment and the full City Commission making two appointments; and
- Seven members appointed by the CSWG and ratified by the Board of County Commissioners and the City Commission.

Members serve two-year terms, expiring September 30. Members can serve no more than three consecutive full terms.

Diversity of Current Membership:

Total Seats	Vacant Seats	Gender	Race
21	2	Female – 19 Male – 0	Black – 11 White – 4 Hispanic – 1 Not Available – 3

Vacancies: The terms of nine CSWG members expire on September 30, 2025. Three of the expiring terms are members appointed by individual County Commissioners which are addressed in a separate agenda item, three are members appointed by CSWG, and three are members appointed by the City Commission. This item seeks the Board's ratification of the three CSWG appointments.

The terms of CSWG appointed members Kay Meyer-Ignacio, Kimberly Berry, and Dr. Wachell "Shelly" McKendrick are due to expire on September 30, 2025. All three members are seeking reappointment and their applications and resumes are included as Attachments #1, #2, and #3.

The CSWG Full Board met on August 29, 2025, and voted to reappoint the three members listed in Table #1 (Attachment #4). Pursuant to Joint Resolution 15-56 and 15-R-28, the appointments for the members appointed by CSWG require ratification by both the Board and City Commission. This item seeks the Board's ratification of the three CSWG appointments. It is anticipated that the City Commission will ratify the appointments at its October 2025 meeting, in addition to appointing three City CSWG members.

Table #1: Commission on the Status of Women & Girls – CSWG appointments

Vacancies *Status*	**Term Expiration**	**Eligible Applicant** **Application Attachment #**	**Gender – Race**	**Recommended Action**
Kay Meyer-Ignacio served one term *Seeking reappointment*	9/30/2025	1. Kay Meyer-Ignacio	Female – White	Ratify the CSWG reappointment for a two-year term expiring on September 30, 2027.
Kimberly Berry served one term *Seeking reappointment*	9/30/2025	2. Kimberly Berry	Female – Black	Ratify the CSWG reappointment for a two-year term expiring on September 30, 2027.
Dr. Wachell "Shelly" McKendrick served two terms *Seeking reappointment*	9/30/2025	3. Dr. Wachell "Shelly" McKendrick	Female – Black	Ratify the CSWG reappointment for a two-year term expiring on September 30, 2027.

Investment Oversight Committee (IOC)

Purpose: The purposes of the IOC are to review, report, and recommend changes in investment practices of Leon County; review the County's portfolio activity for compliance with the investment plan; and review investment policies and make recommendations to the Board for amendments.

Composition: The IOC consists of five members; two citizens appointed by the Board, one citizen appointed by the Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller (Clerk), the County Administrator or designee, and the Clerk or designee. Appointed members must have experience in matters involving portfolio management or institutional fixed income investments. Appointed members serve three-year terms, expiring on July 31, and may be reappointed up to two times.

Diversity of Current Membership:

Total Seats	**Vacant Seats**	**Gender**	**Race**
5	1	Male – 3 Female – 1	White – 4

Vacancies: The term of IOC member Renee McNeill expired on July 31, 2025. All eligible applicants are listed in Table #2.

Table #2: Investment Oversight Committee

Vacancies *Term Status*	**Term Expiration**	**Eligible Applicants** **Application Attachment #**	**Gender – Race**	**Recommended Action**
Renee McNeill *Served two terms* *Not seeking reappointment*	7/31/2025	5. Jarvis Benjamin Watkins 6. Matt Allen	Male – White Male - White	Appoint one eligible citizen for the remainder of a three-year term ending July 31, 2028.

Council on Culture & Arts Board (COCA)

Purpose: The responsibility of COCA is to stimulate greater awareness and appreciation of the importance of the arts; encourage and facilitate greater and more efficient use of governmental and private resources for the development and support of the arts; promote the development of resident artists, art institutions, community organizations sponsoring art activities and audiences.

Composition: In accordance with Section 265.32(2)(b), Florida Statutes, COCA is comprised of 15 members appointed by the Board and two ex officio members: one County Commissioner and one City Commissioner. On October 14, 2003, the Board authorized the Mayor of the City of Tallahassee (Mayor) to recommend seven COCA members in consideration for the City's contribution to COCA. Of the 15 Board appointments, eight members are appointed by the Board from a list of recommended applicants from COCA, while seven members are recommended by the Mayor, also from a list of recommended applicants from COCA, and appointed by the Board. In addition, there are five nonvoting ex officio members serving as liaisons, including representatives from FSU, FAMU, TSC, Leon County Schools, and the Tourist Development Council.

Currently, Chairman Brian Welch is serving as the Board's ex officio member on the COCA Board.

Per COCA's bylaws, the 15 Council members shall include two Practicing Artists, two members from the Heritage Community, and at least one member each from Volunteer, Business/ Economic Development, Tourism, Finance, or Marketing.

Pursuant to Section 265.32, Florida Statutes, members are appointed for a four-year term, and no Council member may serve more than two full terms without a two year period of non-membership following the expiration of the members' second term. Members must be qualified electors residing in the County. In filling a vacancy, the replacement Council member shall be selected by the Board from a list of three candidates submitted by the remaining members of the Council. The Council considers suggestions or recommendations made by members of the public; representative civic, labor, and cultural associations; and groups concerned with encouraging the development and appreciation of the arts before submitting the list of candidates to the Board. In the event that none of the three candidates nominated by the Council meets Board approval, the Council shall submit another and entirely different list for Board consideration to fill the vacancy.

Diversity of Current Membership:

Total Seats	Vacant Seats	Gender	Race
17	0	Female – 12 Male – 4 N/A – 1	White – 10 Black – 3 Asian – 2 N/A – 2

Vacancies: The terms of six members, Amanda Clements, Reenee Williams, Hadley Peterson, Carol Hill, Haiqiong Deng, and Brinda Pamulapati, are set to expire on September 30, 2025.

For the City nominated seats, the Mayor has recommended Erika Branchcomb to fill the City At-Large seat (Attachment #7), Carol Hill to fill the City Business/Economic Development seat (Attachment #8), Haiqiong Deng to fill the City Heritage Community seat (Attachment #9), and Brinda Pamulapati to fill the City Practicing Artist seat (Attachment #10).

Ms. Williams, the County Business/Economic Development representative, is eligible for and seeking reappointment. Her application, resume, and nomination letter are included in Attachment #11, which also includes two other applications for consideration. Ms. Clements, the County Tourism representative, is not seeking reappointment. COCA has submitted a letter nominating three applicants for the County's Tourism seat (Attachment #12). All of the COCA nominees are listed in Table #3.

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Table #3: Council on Culture & Arts Board

Vacancies Category *Status*	**Term Expiration**	**Nominees Application Attachment #**	**Gender – Race**	**Recommended Action**
Hadley Peterson City At-Large seat *Not seeking reappointment*	9/30/2025	7. Erika Branchcomb*	Female – Asian or Pacific Islander	Appoint **one** nominated citizen, Erika Branchcomb, as recommended by the Mayor, for a four-year term ending September 30, 2029.
Carol Hill City Business / Economic Development seat *Seeking reappointment*	9/30/2025	8. Carol Hill*	Female – Black	Appoint **one** nominated citizen, Carol Hill, as recommended by the Mayor, for a four-year term ending September 30, 2029.
Haiqiong Deng City Heritage Community seat *Seeking reappointment*	9/30/2025	9. Haiqiong Deng*	Female – Asian or Pacific Islander	Appoint **one** nominated citizen, Haiqiong Deng, as recommended by the Mayor, for a four-year term ending September 30, 2029.
Brinda Pamulapati City Practicing Artist seat *Seeking reappointment*	9/30/2025	10. Brinda Pamulapati*	Female – Asian or Pacific Islander	Appoint **one** nominated citizen, Brinda Pamulapati, as recommended by the Mayor, for a four-year term ending September 30, 2029.
Reenee Williams County Business/Economic Development seat *Seeking reappointment*	9/30/2025	11. Reenee Williams	Female – White	Reappoint **one** citizen, Reenee Williams, for a four-year term ending September 30, 2029.
Amanda Clements County Tourism seat *Not seeking reappointment*	9/30/2025	12. Janet McKnight Chernoff Giavona Williams Erika Zambello	Female – White Female – Black Female – White	Appoint **one** citizen for a four-year term ending September 30, 2029.

***** *Nominees recommended by the Mayor of the City of Tallahassee.*

Options:

1. Ratify the Commission on the Status of Women & Girls' appointment of three citizens, Kay Meyer-Ignacio, Kimberly Berry, and Dr. Wachell "Shelly" McKendrick, to the Tallahassee-Leon County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls, for two-year terms ending September 30, 2027 (Attachments #1, #2, and #3).
2. Appoint one citizen to the Investment Oversight Committee for a three-year term ending July 31, 2028. Eligible applicants are: Jarvis Benjamin Watkins and Matt Allen (Attachments #5 and #6).
3. Appoint one nominated citizen, Erika Branchcomb, to the City At-Large seat on the Council on Culture & Arts Board for a four-year term ending September 30, 2029, as recommended by the Mayor of the City of Tallahassee (Attachment #7).
4. Appoint one nominated citizen, Carol Hill, to the City Business/Economic Development seat on the Council on Culture & Arts Board for a four-year term ending September 30, 2029, as recommended by the Mayor of the City of Tallahassee (Attachment #8).
5. Appoint one nominated citizen, Haiqiong Deng, to the City Heritage Community seat on the Council on Culture & Arts Board for a four-year term ending September 30, 2029, as recommended by the Mayor of the City of Tallahassee (Attachment #9).
6. Appoint one nominated citizen, Brinda Pamulapati, to the City Practicing Artist seat on the Council on Culture & Arts Board for a four-year term ending September 30, 2029, as recommended by the Mayor of the City of Tallahassee (Attachment #10).
7. Reappoint one citizen, Reenee Williams, as recommended by the Council on Culture and Arts Board to the Business/Economic Development seat, for a four-year term ending September 30, 2029 (Attachment #11).
8. Appoint one citizen to the County Tourism seat on the Council on Culture and Arts Board for a four-year term ending September 30, 2029, from the slate of three COCA nominees (Attachment #12). The nominees are: Janet Chernoff, Giavona Williams, and Erika Zambello.
9. Reject the slate of Council on Culture and Arts Board and City nominees and request both organizations submit a new slate of nominees.
10. Board Direction.

Recommendations:

Options #1 – #8

Attachments:

1. Kay Meyer-Ignacio application and CV
2. Kimberly Berry application and resume
3. Dr. Wachell "Shelly" McKendrick application and resume

4. Tallahassee-Leon County Commission on the Status of Women & Girls appointment nomination email
5. Jarvis Benjamin Watkins application and resume
6. Matt Allen application and resume
7. Erika Branchcomb application, resume, and COCA nomination letter
8. Carol Hill application, resume, and COCA nomination letter
9. Haiqiong Deng application, resume and COCA nomination letter
10. Brinda Pamulapati application, resume and COCA nomination letter
11. Reenee Williams application, resume, and COCA nomination letter
12. COCA nomination letter for the County Tourism seat including applications for Janet Chernoff, Giavona Williams, and Erika Zambello application, resume, and COCA nomination letter