



Milwaukee County

Meeting Minutes Committee on Finance-Budget

Chairperson: Supervisor Willie Johnson, Jr.

Vice Chairperson: Steve F. Taylor

Supervisor Sequanna Taylor

Supervisor Shawn Rolland

Supervisor Juan Miguel Martinez

Supervisor Justin Bielinski

Supervisor Anne O'Connor

Committee Coordinator: Allyson R. Smith, (414) 278-4225

Director of Research and Policy: Steve Cady, (414) 278-4347

Friday, October 10, 2025

9:00 AM

Room 203-R and Microsoft Teams
County Legislative Information Center

This meeting was held in Room 203-R, and was live-streamed on the County Legislative Information Center: <https://milwaukeecounty.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

Call To Order

Roll Call at 9:17 a.m.

Present 6 - Taylor (17), Taylor (5), Rolland, Martinez, Bielinski and Johnson Jr.

Excused 1 - O'Connor

Supervisors Sequanna Taylor (5) and Juan Miguel Martinez appeared virtually for today's meeting.

Item 1 Agency No. 199 - Cultural Contributions (Various Strategic Program Areas) and Item 3 Capital Projects 1452 - War Memorial (Various Capital Project Nos.) were considered together.

CONSOLIDATED NON-DEPARTMENTAL CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS

*Strategic Program Area

1 [25-668](#) From the County Executive, providing the 2026 Recommended budget.

Attachments: [25-668 2026 Recommended Operating Budget](#)
 [25-668 2026 Recommended Capital Budget](#)
 [25-668 2026 Recommended Budget Line Item Detail Report](#)
 [25-668 2026 Recommended Budget Position Supplemental Report](#)
 [25-668 2026 Recommended Budget Overview \(received 10/08/25\)](#)
 [25-668 POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS \(10/10/25\)](#)

Agency No. 199 Cultural Contributions
 * Fund for the Arts
 * Milwaukee County Historical Society
 * Federated Library System
 * Marcus Center for the Performing Arts
 * Milwaukee Public Museum
 * Charles Allis Art Museum (CAVT Museums, Inc.)
 * War Memorial Center
 * Milwaukee Art Museum
 * Friends of Villa Terrace (FOVT)

APPEARANCES:

James "Jim" Tarantino, Deputy Director, Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture

Kelsey A. Evans, Committee Coordinator, Legislative Services, Office of the County Clerk

Erica Goblet, Project Manager, Economic Development, Department of Administrative Services

Agency No. 199 - Cultural Contributions (Various *SPAs) and Capital Projects 1452 - War Memorial (Various Capital Project Nos.) were considered together.

Ben Barbera, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Historical Society (MCHS), appeared and spoke regarding Agency No. 199 - Cultural Contributions *SPA: MCHS.

Steve Heser, System Director, Milwaukee County Federated Library System, appeared virtually and spoke regarding Agency No. 199 - Cultural Contributions *SPA: Federated Library System.

The following people appeared and spoke regarding Agency No. 199 - Cultural

Contributions *SPA: Marcus Center for the Performing Arts (Marcus Center):
Kevin Giglinto, President and Chief Executive Officer, Marcus Center (virtually)
Katherine "Katie" Dillow, Chief Financial Officer and Vice President of Finance
and Administration, Marcus Center

Dr. Ellen Censky, President and Chief Executive Officer, Milwaukee Public
Museum (MPM), appeared and spoke regarding Agency No. 199 - Cultural
Contributions *SPA: MPM.

Dr. William "Bill" W. Wood, Interim Executive Director, Charles Allis Art
Museum (CAVT Museums, Inc.), appeared and spoke regarding Agency No. 199
- Cultural Contributions *SPA: CAVT Museums, Inc.

Barbara Velez, At-Large Member, Board of Directors, Friends of Villa Terrace
(FOVT), appeared virtually and spoke regarding Agency No. 199 - Cultural
Contributions *SPA: FOVT.

Co Nguyen, President and Chief Executive Officer, War Memorial Center
(WMC), appeared virtually and spoke regarding Agency No. 199 - Cultural
Contributions *SPA: WMC.

The following people appeared and spoke regarding Agency No. 199 - Cultural
Contributions *SPA: Milwaukee Art Museum (MAM):

Dr. Kim Sajet, President and Chief Executive Officer, MAM
Alissa Karl, Chief Development Officer, MAM

Agency No. 199 - Cultural Contributions (Various *SPAs), was DISCUSSED WITH
NO ACTION TAKEN.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET - 1 [MARCUS CENTER]

2 [25-668](#) From the County Executive, providing the 2026 Recommended budget.

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1451 Marcus Center (WU)
Capital Project WU020110 - Marcus Center Roof
 Replacement - Fitch Garden Area
Capital Project WU020111 - Marcus Center - General
 Capital Improvements Amendment 3 - 2026

There were no appearances for Item 2.

Katherine "Katie" Dillow, Chief Financial Officer and Vice President of Finance and Administration, Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, appeared and spoke regarding Capital Project WU020110 - Marcus Center Roof Replacement - Fitch Garden Area and Capital Project WU020111 Marcus Center - General Capital Improvements - Amendment 3 - 2026.

Capital Project WU020110 - Marcus Center Roof Replacement - Fitch Garden Area and Capital Project WU020111 Marcus Center - General Capital Improvements - Amendment 3 - 2026, were DISCUSSED WITH NO ACTION TAKEN.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET - 1 [WAR MEMORIAL]

3 [25-668](#) From the County Executive, providing the 2026 Recommended budget.

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1452 War Memorial (WU)
Capital Project WU030101 - War Memorial Center (WMC) - Flood Mitigation
Capital Project WU030103 - WMC Saarinen Freight Elevator
Capital Project WU030201 - WMC Condominium Agreement - Exterior Pedestal - Concrete Repair and Replacement
Capital Project WU030202 - WMC Condominium Agreement - Passenger Elevator (Saarinen)
Capital Project WU030205 - WMC Condominium Agreement - Exterior Wall (Pedestal)
Capital Project WU030206 - WMC Condominium Agreement - Veterans Gallery Windows

APPEARANCES:

James "Jim" Tarantino, Deputy Director, Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture

Kelsey A. Evans, Committee Coordinator, Legislative Services, Office of the County Clerk

Erica Goblet, Project Manager, Economic Development, Department of Administrative Services

Agency No. 199 - Cultural Contributions (Various *SPAs) and Capital Projects 1452 - War Memorial (Various Capital Project Nos.) were considered together.

Ben Barbera, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Historical Society (MCHS), appeared and spoke regarding Agency No. 199 - Cultural Contributions *SPA: MCHS.

Steve Heser, System Director, Milwaukee County Federated Library System, appeared virtually and spoke regarding Agency No. 199 - Cultural Contributions *SPA: Federated Library System.

The following people appeared and spoke regarding Agency No. 199 - Cultural Contributions *SPA: Marcus Center for the Performing Arts (Marcus Center): Kevin Giglinto, President and Chief Executive Officer, Marcus Center (virtually) Katherine "Katie" Dillow, Chief Financial Officer and Vice President of Finance

and Administration, Marcus Center

Dr. Ellen Censky, President and Chief Executive Officer, Milwaukee Public Museum (MPM), appeared and spoke regarding Agency No. 199 - Cultural Contributions *SPA: MPM.

Dr. William "Bill" W. Wood, Interim Executive Director, Charles Allis Art Museum (CAVT Museums, Inc.), appeared and spoke regarding Agency No. 199 - Cultural Contributions *SPA: CAVT Museums, Inc.

Barbara Velez, At-Large Member, Board of Directors, Friends of Villa Terrace (FOVT), appeared virtually and spoke regarding Agency No. 199 - Cultural Contributions *SPA: FOVT.

Co Nguyen, President and Chief Executive Officer, War Memorial Center (WMC), appeared virtually and spoke regarding Agency No. 199 - Cultural Contributions *SPA: WMC.

The following people appeared and spoke regarding Agency No. 199 - Cultural Contributions *SPA: Milwaukee Art Museum (MAM):

Dr. Kim Sajet, President and Chief Executive Officer, MAM

Alissa Karl, Chief Development Officer, MAM

Capital Project Nos.:

- WU030101 - War Memorial Center (WMC) - Flood Mitigation;
- WU030103 - WMC Saarinen Freight Elevator;
- WU030201 - WMC Condominium Agreement - Exterior Pedestal - Concrete Repair and Replacement;
- WU030202 - WMC Condominium Agreement - Passenger Elevator (Saarinen);
- WU030205 - WMC Condominium Agreement - Exterior Wall (Pedestal); and
- WU030206 - WMC Condominium Agreement - Veterans Gallery Windows,

were DISCUSSED WITH NO ACTION TAKEN.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET - 1 [CHARLES ALLIS]

- 4 [25-668](#) From the County Executive, providing the 2026 Recommended budget.

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1454 Charles Allis (WU)
Capital Project WU050201 - Development Agreement - Charles Allis
Deferred Maintenance

There were no appearances for Item 4.

Dr. William "Bill" W. Wood, Interim Executive Director, Charles Allis Art
Museum, appeared and spoke regarding Capital Project WU050201 -
Development Agreement - Charles Allis Deferred Maintenance.

Capital Project WU050201 - Development Agreement - Charles Allis Deferred
Maintenance, was DISCUSSED WITH NO ACTION TAKEN.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET - 1 [VILLA TERRACE]

- 5 [25-668](#) From the County Executive, providing the 2026 Recommended budget.

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1455 Villa Terrace (WU)
Capital Project WU060201 - Development Agreement - Villa Terrace
Deferred Maintenance

APPEARANCE:
Erica Goblet, Project Manager, Economic Development, Department of
Administrative Services

Capital Project WU060201 - Development Agreement - Villa Terrace Deferred
Maintenance, was DISCUSSED WITH NO ACTION TAKEN.

PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURE FUNCTION - 2

*Strategic Program Area

6 [25-668](#) From the County Executive, providing the 2026 Recommended budget.

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Agency No. 991 University of Wisconsin - Extension

There were no appearances for Item 6.

Jerold "Jerry" Braatz, Area Director, University of Wisconsin (UW) - Extension,
appeared and spoke regarding Agency No. 991 - UW - Extension.

Agency No. 991 - UW - Extension, was **DISCUSSED WITH NO ACTION TAKEN.**

7 [25-668](#) From the County Executive, providing the 2026 Recommended budget.

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Agency No. 900 Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture
 * Administration
 * Park Operations and Trades
 * Recreation and Business Services

APPEARANCES:

Guy Smith, Director, Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture (DPRC)
James "Jim" Tarantino, Deputy Director, DPRC

Agency No. 900 - DPRC (Various *SPAs), was **DISCUSSED WITH NO ACTION TAKEN.**

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET - 1 [PARKS]

8 [25-668](#) From the County Executive, providing the 2026 Recommended budget.

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1400 Parks (WP)

Capital Project WP074001 - Kosciuszko Community Center
 Rehabilitation

Capital Project WP075001 - Bender Park Roadway and Drainage
 Replacement

Capital Project WP075701 - AC Hanson Playground Reconstruction

Capital Project WP077801 - Bender Park Boat Launch - Sediment
 Abatement

Capital Project WP078401 - Kosciuszko Community Center - Facade
 and Entrance

Capital Project WP079801 - Sherman Park - Boys and Girls Club Roof
 Replacement

Capital Project WP080201 - Copernicus Playground Replacement

Capital Project WP080301 - Mitchell Park Domes Repairs

Capital Project WP080801 - Parks Lighting Improvements

Capital Project WP082301 - Playground Resurfacing - Phase 4

Capital Project WP084101 - Washington Park Aquatics

APPEARANCES:

James "Jim" Tarantino, Deputy Director, Department of Parks, Recreation, and
Culture (DPRC)

Guy Smith, Director, DPRC

Capital Project Nos.:

- WP074001 - Kosciuszko Community Center Rehabilitation;
- WP075001 - Bender Park Roadway and Drainage Replacement;
- WP075701 - AC Hanson Playground Reconstruction;
- WP077801 - Bender Park Boat Launch - Sediment Abatement;
- WP078401 - Kosciuszko Community Center - Facade and Entrance;
- WP079801 - Sherman Park - Boys and Girls Club Roof Replacement;
- WP080201 - Copernicus Playground Replacement;
- WP080301 - Mitchell Park Domes Repairs;
- WP080801 - Parks Lighting Improvements;
- WP082301 - Playground Resurfacing - Phase 4; and
- WP084101 - Washington Park Aquatics,

were DISCUSSED WITH NO ACTION TAKEN.

Item 9 Agency No. 950 - Zoological Department (Various Strategic Program Areas) and Item 10 Capital Projects WZ017401 and WZ020901 were considered together.

PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURE FUNCTION - 1

*Strategic Program Area

9 [25-668](#) From the County Executive, providing the 2026 Recommended budget.

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Agency No. 950 Zoological Department
 * Administration and Finance
 * Marketing and Communications
 * Facilities
 * Animal Management and Health
 * Zoo Operations

APPEARANCES:

Amos Morris, Director, Milwaukee County Zoo (Zoo)
Vera Westphal, Deputy Zoo Director of Administration, Finance, and Operations, Zoo

Agency No. 950 - Zoological Department (Various *SPAs) and Capital Projects WZ017401 and WZ020901 were considered together.

Ms. Westphal provided a REVISED electronic presentation, which is included and attached to this Budget file as "25-668 POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS (10/10/25)."

Supervisor Bielinski requested data regarding numbers of visitors from outside the United States, and any reductions in foreign visitors between 2024 and 2025, as recorded via the Exit Surveys.

Agency No. 950 - Zoological Department (Various *SPAs), Capital Project WZ017401 - Zoo Front Entrance - Admissions Reconfiguration, and Capital Project WZ020901 - Zoofari Building - Roof and Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning Replacement, were DISCUSSED WITH NO ACTION TAKEN.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET - 1 [ZOO]

10 [25-668](#) From the County Executive, providing the 2026 Recommended budget.

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1575 Zoo (WZ)

Capital Project WZ017401 - Zoo Front Entrance - Admissions
 Reconfiguration

Capital Project WZ020901 - Zoofari Building - Roof and
 Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning
 Replacement

APPEARANCES:

Amos Morris, Director, Milwaukee County Zoo (Zoo)

Vera Westphal, Deputy Zoo Director of Administration, Finance, and
Operations, Zoo

Agency No. 950 - Zoological Department (Various *SPAs) and Capital Projects
WZ017401 and WZ020901 were considered together.

Ms. Westphal provided a REVISED electronic presentation, which is included
and attached to this Budget file as "25-668 POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS
(10/10/25)."

Agency No. 950 - Zoological Department (Various *SPAs), Capital Project
WZ017401 - Zoo Front Entrance - Admissions Reconfiguration, and Capital
Project WZ020901 - Zoofari Building - Roof and Heating, Ventilation, and Air
Conditioning Replacement, were DISCUSSED WITH NO ACTION TAKEN.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS, if necessary
REGARDING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S 2026 RECOMMENDED BUDGET - 1**

- 11 [25-668](#) From the County Executive, providing the 2026 Recommended budget.

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Unfinished Business, if necessary.

Unfinished Business could include consideration or discussion of any portion of the County Executive's 2026 Recommended Operating or Capital Improvement Budgets. Department Heads should be prepared to attend, if necessary.

There were no appearances for Item 11.

There were no items of Unfinished Business.

Unfinished Business was DISCUSSED WITH NO ACTION TAKEN.

E-COMMENTS - 1

- 12 [25-72](#) eComments submitted to the Committee on Finance via the County Legislative Information Center (CLIC).

*The Office of the County Clerk collects eComments submitted via CLIC, and appends these official public records to Reference File No. 25-72 at the conclusion of each meeting.

Attachments: [25-72 eComments \(10/13/25\)](#)

There were no appearances for Item 12.

There were no eComments submitted for the October 10, 2025, meeting.

The October 10, 2025, record of eComments was DISCUSSED WITH NO ACTION TAKEN.

The foregoing Agency Nos., Strategic Program Areas, and Capital Projects were not considered in agenda order.

Length of Meeting: 9:17 a.m. to 12:08 p.m.

Adjourned,

Kelsey A. Evans
Committee Coordinator
Legislative Services, Office of the County Clerk
Committee on Finance-BUDGET

Upcoming Budget Meetings for the Committee on Finance-Budget:

DEPARTMENTAL BRIEFINGS, at 9:00 a.m.

Monday, October 13, 2025

Tuesday, October 14, 2025

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE-BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2026
RECOMMENDED BUDGET, and review of supplemental Departmental
informational
reports.

Wednesday, October 15, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

SUPERVISOR BUDGET AMENDMENTS, at 9:00 a.m.

Thursday, October 23, 2025

Friday, October 24, 2025

MILWAUKEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ANNUAL PUBLIC HEARING
ON THE 2026 RECOMMENDED BUDGET

Monday, October 27, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

FINAL SUPERVISOR BUDGET AMENDMENTS, at 9:00 a.m.

Friday, October 31, 2025