Shawnee’s Sunny Dayz Mural Festival

Public Funding, Private Partnerships & the Municipal Accountability Test (2026–2027)

UPDATED EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | November 2, 2026 | Continuing public-records investigation

Executive finding. New October 27, 2026 forwarded correspondence identifies the City of Shawnee Department of Tourism as actively promoting paid muralist recruitment in collaboration with Sunny Dayz and the Dunbar Heights community organization. This strengthens evidence of municipal staff participation, but does not establish a signed hosting agreement, approved payment, misuse of funds or an unlawful selection process.

1. New primary evidence: City tourism communication

The email, sent from a Visit Shawnee mailing address with a City-domain reply-to, identifies Stacy Cramer Moore as City Director of Tourism. It encourages Central Oklahoma, tribal and minority artists to apply for paid mural opportunities and describes travel stipends, 20–30 proposed murals, a November 9 artist application deadline and a November 1 youth mentorship deadline. The email was forwarded on November 2; independent confirmation of the original City record remains a recommended next step.

The message says the City tourism office is supporting recruitment for the Dunbar Heights community organization and Sunny Dayz. It does not specify a City appropriation, contractual obligation, staffing cost, reimbursement or funding source. The phrase “especially encouraged to apply” must not be treated as proof of exclusive eligibility.

2. National Main Street Program inquiry

The supplied Google search asks whether the national Main Street Program connects with Sunny Dayz. Main Street America has nationally recognized Accredited and Affiliate designations and a framework for downtown revitalization, stakeholder engagement and evaluation. No formal Main Street America sponsorship, grant, local designation, contract or partnership with this festival was verified from the materials reviewed. A downtown revitalization purpose alone does not demonstrate affiliation.

3. Financial and governance questions still unresolved

• Shawnee’s actual 2027 hosting agreement, selection records, authorizations and any amendments.

• City, tourism, County or other public cash and in-kind contributions, including employee time, communication platforms, permits, traffic services and facilities.

• Artist stipends, travel payments, youth mentorship financing, scoring criteria and applicable grant conditions.

• Property permissions, mural maintenance and public/private ownership of selected sites.

• Any formally designated local Main Street program and its actual role, if any, in festival decisions.

4. Preliminary evidence matrix

Issue	Documented / reported	Not established
City tourism role	Oct. 27 forwarded recruitment email	Expenditure or executed contract
Paid murals	Email promises stipends and travel assistance	Payment totals or funding source
Main Street	National framework exists	Formal festival affiliation

Issue	Documented / reported	Not established
Festival date	Organizer advertises June 5, 2027	Final public costs and outcomes

5. Recommended public-records sequence

First, request confirmation of the October 27 City communication, internal discussions and any authorization or budget coding for tourism staff support. Second, seek the festival hosting agreement and all proposed, approved, obligated and paid public contributions. Third, obtain artist selection and funding documents, with privacy protections. Fourth, verify any Main Street America designation or local partnership using current official directories and agreements. Fifth, gather merchant outreach, mural-site and post-event evaluation records.

6. Source register

• Primary email: “Muralists Sought: Central OK, Tribal, Minority for PAID Opportunity,” Oct. 27, 2026, forwarded Nov. 2 (researcher-held three-page PDF).

• Prior primary email: “Sunny Dayz is coming to Shawnee!”, Nov. 2, 2026 (researcher-held correspondence).

• Sunny Dayz muralist application: https://www.sunnydayzmuralfest.com/apply

• Sunny Dayz festival information: https://www.sunnydayzmuralfest.com/

• Main Street America designation tiers: https://mainstreet.org/our-network/community-evaluation-framework/designation-tiers

• Main Street America evaluation framework: https://mainstreet.org/our-network/community-evaluation-framework

• Published case-study landing page: https://www.baseballheaven.net/shawnees-sunny-dayz-mural-festival-public-funding-private-partnerships-the-municipal-accountability-test-2026-2027/

Methodology and disclaimer

This independent report separates retained correspondence, organizer statements, national policy guidance and unanswered records questions. The forwarded email has not been authenticated directly with the City. No finding of corruption, unlawful discrimination, improper public spending, Main Street affiliation or business displacement is made. New documents and corrections should be dated and incorporated into the ongoing case study.