



ARTS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Item (4)
January 18, 2023
Regular Business

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

TITLE:	Arts Council Events Update	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Receive the staff report and, if desired, give direction to the Events Committee	
STAFF:	Katie Herzog	
COUNCIL LIAISON:	Ted Weinberg	
EXHIBITS:		

SUMMARY

At the October 19, 2022 Arts Council meeting, the Events Committee recommended objectives to be included in the 2023 – 2024 Arts and Culture Work plan, pertaining to city-coordinated annual events, and key priorities and objectives to guide staff on ways to enhance future events.

2023 events include:

- Leap For Green Sustainability Fair, April 22
- Juneteenth Celebration, June 19
- Summer Celebration, July 15
- Mostly Music in the Park, July 20 – August 17 (Thursday evenings)
- Shakespeare in the Park, July/August
- Pumpkin Walk, TBD
- Illuminate MI: Tree Lighting and Firehouse Munch, December 1

The key objectives that were discussed and endorsed by the Arts Council to move forward to the Policy Committee were:

- Develop communication tools to easily share arts and culture events with the Mercer Island community.
- Gain partnerships to expand activities for people of all ages within existing community events through arts and culture.
- Work with event partners to engage in environmentally friendly efforts (event giveaways, promotional items).
- Create presence and exposure at events for the Arts Council to engage with the community.

Discussion tonight will highlight ideas on how the key objectives can be implemented into 2023 city-coordinated events. If supported, the direction will be given to the Events Committee to carry forward.

- Gain consensus on whether the Arts Council is inclined to have organized attendance and participation at city-coordinated events.
- Gain consensus from the Arts Council to work as a “referral group” to city staff for arts and culture connections, sponsorship opportunities, and enhancements to event elements.

Additionally, staff would like to solicit feedback from the Arts Council tonight to recruit artists to provide design proposals for a 2023 Summer Celebration t-shirt. With a consensus, staff will work with the Events Committee for assistance to develop criteria for an “artist call-out.” Staff would bring all submissions back the Events Committee, who would select no more than 5 submissions to bring to the full Arts Council to select a design to move forward with.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Receive the staff report and, if desired, give direction to the Event Committee.