



City of Mercer Island Arts Council

Staff Liaison Report
October 15, 2025



Updates





Mostly Music in the Park

- We had **six weeks** of FANTASTIC concerts at Mercerdale Park this summer!
- Music ranged from a Beatles tribute to 80's New Wave, and crowds grew estimated between 400 – 600.
- Thank you to our sponsors: Mercer Island Community Fund, Seattle Airstream Adventures, Mercer Island Visual Arts League, Covenant Living, King County 4Culture, Mercer Island City Lifestyle Magazine, The Crawlspace Gastropub, and Neil Kelly Interiors.
- See you next year!



Summer Events

- **Shakespeare in the Park** held 15 shows at Luther Burbank Park in July/August, with crowds reaching up to **300 attendees!** Special thanks to the Mercer Island Community Fund for their sponsorship, along with King County 4Culture.
- **Juneteenth** was celebrated in Mercerdale Park with the partnership of the MIHS Black Student Union. It was a great day, with music from Island resident, Simon Okelo and his band.
- **Pride in the Park** was held before the August 7th Mostly Music in the Park. We had an amazing turn out of attendees, who enjoyed hands-on art activities hosted by the Mercer Island Visual Arts League, plus a host of community booths offering resources and connection opportunities.





Summer Camp Success

- Recreation staff experienced a **strong summer camp season**, teaming up with local organizations to offer a wide variety of camps for the community.
- This year's summer camps saw more than **1,300 kids** participating in **10 different camps** hosted at the MICEC and multiple parks across the island.
- We welcomed 5 returning camp partners and introduced five new ones. Our returning LEGO Camp experienced remarkable growth, nearly doubling from **38 participants last year to 89 this summer**.



Mid-Autumn Festival

- On Sunday October 5, the Mercer Island Chinese Association partnered with the City to bring back the Mid-Autumn Festival to the MICEC.
- The event featured cultural performances, hands-on workshops, traditional games, and culinary traditions.
- With approximately 1,000 in attendance, it was a wonderful day filled with celebration and connection.
- City staff are grateful for this meaningful community partnership that showcases the rich cultural diversity of Mercer Island!



Photos provided by the Mercer Island Reporter



Upcoming Programs/Events





The Beauty of Negative Painting with Watercolor with Yu-Yin Lin

Saturday
October 25th, 2 - 5 PM

For more information and
to register go to
www.mival.org/classes

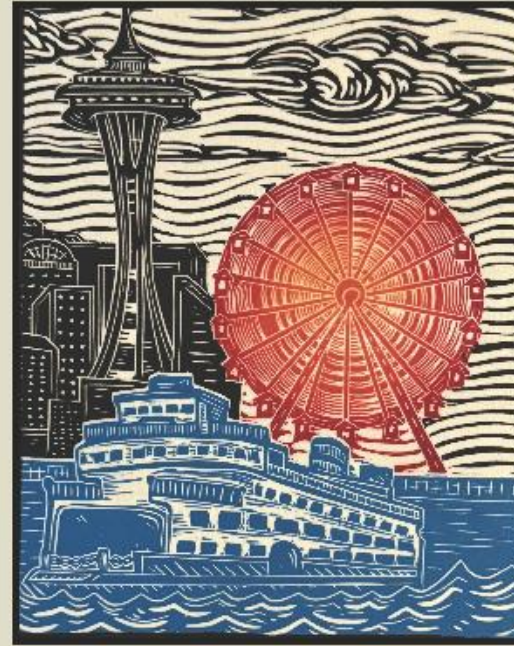
Learn how to use negative painting in your compositions to create depth and focus with instructor, Yu-Yin Lin. She is an experienced teacher who will teach you how to apply negative painting with watercolor as well as composition and lifting techniques in this fun 3 hour workshop

\$110/\$90 for MIVAL members

Mercer Island Community and Event Center
8236 SE 24th St, Mercer Island



MIVAL
MERCER ISLAND VISUAL ARTS LEAGUE



Jigsaw Block Printing with Leslie Nan Moon

Saturday, Nov 22
1 - 4 PM

Cost: \$100
\$80 MIVAL Members

Discover Relief Printmaking through the Jigsaw Block Print

In this class students will learn the basics of designing and carving a single block and then take their newfound skills to the next level. Blocks will be cut into sections with each piece inked separately and then reassembled for printing creating bold multi-color impressions without the need for complex registration. Ideal for artists in any medium who want to explore new ways of working with color, texture, and design through the direct, hands-on process of printmaking.

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MIVAL
MERCER ISLAND VISUAL ARTS LEAGUE

For more information
and to register, visit:
www.mival.org/classes





“Rake and Roll” Leaf Art

Bring your own rakes and gloves. Come rain or shine!

Sunday, October 26 Noon - 4 pm

Rotary Park

Friends and Family invited





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© D. Carlson



© S. Aly



© M. Abel

Community Photography Show

August 25 - October 17, 2025

Mercer Island Community & Event Center

Reception, Wednesday, Sept. 3rd, 5 - 7 PM

Community Center Hours:
9 AM - 7 PM Monday-Thursday

Location:
8236 SE 24th Street

MIVAL
MERCER ISLAND VISUAL ARTS LEAGUE

October 20 - December 12, 2025

Annual Holiday Show at the
Mercer Island Community and Event Center



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© J. Bank



© C. Whitaker



Two Receptions with 3D Art and
Pop-Up Holiday Items!

Thursday, October 23, 5 - 7 PM
Wednesday, December 3, 5 - 7 PM

www.mival.org



© M. McKelvey

8236 SE 24th St, Mercer Island, WA
M - Th, 9 AM - 7 PM, F - Sa, 9 AM - 5 PM

Autumn Programs

For our younger Kiddos

Beginning September & October

Music Together with Mrs. Chrsi

Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday (AM & PM), Saturday (PM)

Class Times & Register at: <https://www.musictogetherwithmrschrisi.com>

More than just a music class. Music Together is about connecting-- with music, with your child, and with other families in your community.

SuperTots Sports

Tuesday AM & Thursday AM

Class Times & Register at: <https://skyhawks.com/supertots>

Led by Skyhawks Instructors, children ages 18 months to 6 years use multi-sport activities to develop motor skills, physical fitness and instill a love for sports.

Art & Us

Thursday AM & Saturday AM

Class Times & Register at: <https://www.petalsartclub.com>

Designed for children ages 18 months to 5 years and their grown-ups to explore and create together. Join Becca and Bailey from Petals Art Club each week for rotating art stations and crafts.

Sing With Our Kids

Fridays, 10:30am, no registration needed

More info at: <https://singwithourkids.com>

A community project providing free songs and activities for kids up to 5 years. Come join Nancy Stewart and sing along.

Pre-Ballet

Friday PM

Class Times & Register at: <https://emeraldballet-theatre.org>

Led by instructors from Emerald Ballet Theatre, children ages 4-6 years use this joyful introduction to ballet, movement, and music to develop creativity and confidence.

All Programs located at the Mercer Island Community & Event Center
8236 SE 24th St, Mercer Island, WA 98040



indoor playground

Mercer Island Community & Event Center
8236 SE 24th St, Mercer Island, WA 98040

Come play and socialize in our indoor gymnasium! We have balls, scooters, tricycles, slides, climbing equipment and more! Equipment is geared towards stimulating gross and fine motor skills, improving balance, and cultivating imagination.

For ages 6 and younger.



Monday
9:30am
-11:30am



Wednesday
9:30am-
11:00am



Friday
9:30am-
11:30am



Saturday
11am-
12:30pm





 **OPEN ART
STUDIO**

Mercer Island Community & Event Center
9:30am-11:30am

Sept 26
Poems & abstract watercolor

Oct 24
Watercolor in Autumn

Nov 21
Watercolor greeting cards

Irene will cover a unique subject for each session
Free. No registration required
All supplies provided

www.mercerisland.gov/parksrec



Town Center Trick-or-Treating

- Town Center Trick-or-Treating is right around the corner! Join us on Halloween, October 31, from 3:30-5:30 PM.
- Check out www.mercerisland.gov/halloween for a growing list of participating businesses and trick or treat map.
- Did somebody say **candy tractor**? Be on the lookout for friendly faces from the Recreation, Right-of-Way, Police, and Youth and Family Services teams- all gearing up to bring the fun Halloween spirit to downtown!
- City staff are excited to bring the community together for one central Halloween celebration, designed to offer a safe, festive, and memorable experience for families.



The Spirit of the Season 2025

DECEMBER SPECIAL EVENTS

	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

4 - Holiday Tree Lighting, 5:30pm, Mercerdale Park

5 - First Friday Art Walk, 5-8pm, Town Center

6 - Holiday Makers Market, 10am-3pm, MICEC

6 - Girl Scouts Toy Drive, 10am-4pm, Mercerdale Park & MICEC

14 - Menorah Lighting, 5pm, Mercerdale Park

16 - MIHS Winter Music Concert, 6:30-9pm, MIHS PAC

17 - Gingerbread House Fun, 5:30-6:30pm, Mercer Island Library

17 - MIHS Winter Band Concert, 7-9pm, IMS Commons

19 - Community Holiday Party, 6:30-8:30pm, MICEC

19 - Argosy Christmas Ship, 8:40pm, Luther Burbank Beach

December Events and Illuminate MI

- We are gearing up for a busy month of December with multiple events across the community.
 - Tree Lighting
 - Holiday Makers Market
 - Community Holiday Party
 - Argosy Christmas Ship
- In addition, city staff will be hanging lights in the Town Center to Illuminate MI during the winter months!



Arts Council Planning Schedule

January 21, 2026

- Arts Council Guiding Documents Workshop

April 15, 2026

- AIPP 6-Year Spending Plan
- GHOSG Activation Plan Kick-off
- Clarke/Groveland Master Plans

July 15, 2026

- Chair & Vice-Chair Elections
- Deane's AIPP Opportunities
- 2025 Recreation Division Annual Report
- 2027 – 2028 City Arts & Culture Workplan Priorities

October 21, 2026

- Update Arts & Culture Comprehensive Plan
- 1% for the Arts Funding Review
- 2025 – 2026 Workplan Review
- AIPP Annual Update



Thank you!

