

Standing Strong Veterans Pergola

Improvements and
Operational Guidelines
Arts Council – October 15,
2025



Agenda

- Background
- Current Usage and Maintenance
- Community Feedback
- Three discussion topics for AC feedback
- Next Steps



Background

- The Veterans Pergola was installed in 2005, to honor to U.S. veterans.
- Designed after community input emphasizing reflection, performance, and gathering.
- Features: Steel structure, domed roof, and bronze plaques for service branches.
- Funded through the Beautification Fund and 1% for Art in Public Places Fund.
- Located in Mercerdale Park Plaza.

Current Usage

- Venue for civic and cultural events and passive park use.
- Decorated seasonally with lights, flower baskets, and temporary art.
- Use of the Pergola is managed by Parks and Recreation staff, who have utilized the community vision and design intent to permit usages.



Maintenance

- The Park Maintenance Team regularly conducts general cleaning to include:
 - Pressure washing annually
 - Removal of unauthorized postings and graffiti
 - Installing a shade cover, seasonally
- The pergola was professionally repainted in 2011
- Significant repairs to the original canvas cover occurred in 2012
 - The current cover has been unusable since 2021
 - Since 2021, staff has installed a low-cost shade cover, seasonally

Community Feedback

- A community member provided the following comments/requests related to the Pergola:
 - Temporarily hanging items, such as flower baskets, from the Pergola is inappropriate and contradicts with the intent of the artwork – holiday lights ok
 - A bronze plaque for the Space Force, a branch of the Armed Forces established in 2019, should be added to the artwork
 - The canvas cover should be repaired/purchased and installed seasonally instead of the mesh shade

Discussion #1

Armed Forces Plaques

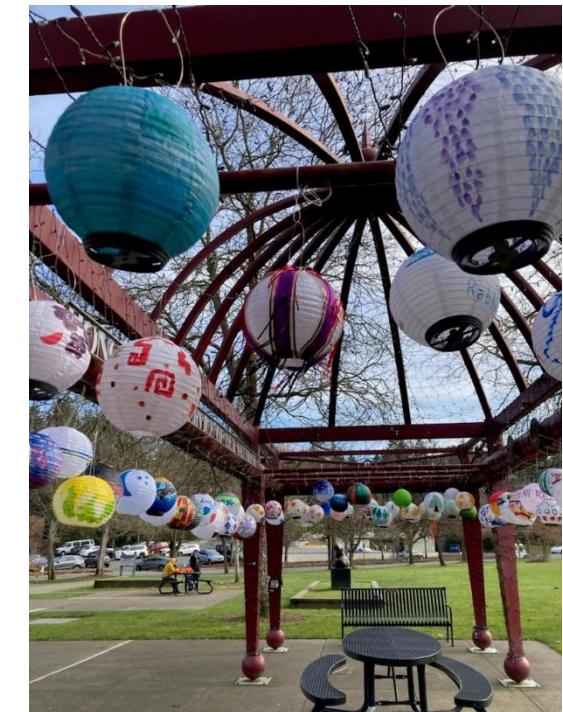
- Staff estimates the cost of fabricating new plaques at approximately \$1500 - \$3000 per plaque and approximately \$3000-\$5000 for installation.
- Would the addition of plaques for the **Space Force** and the **National Guard** branches align with the stated artistic intent and community vision?
- Does the Arts Council desire staff to obtain quotes for fabrication and installation of plaques for the Space Force and/or National Guard and be added in to the 6-Year Workplan for Art in Public Places?



Discussion #2

Seasonal Uses & Temporary Displays

- A site for reflection, performance, and community gatherings and has historically been utilized for these purposes as well as City-coordinated seasonal installations, including hanging flower baskets and temporary art installations such as *Island Lanterns*.
- Do these seasonal and temporary uses align with the stated artistic intent and community vision?
- What types of uses should be permitted?
- Does the Arts Council desire that staff develop guidelines for appropriate use of the Pergola for Arts Council endorsement?



Discussion #3

Canvas Cover



- The current cover is beyond repair and needs to be replaced, the estimated cost for replacement is between \$8,000 and \$10,000. Staff does not recommend replacing the cover.
- Is the canvas cover integral to the stated artistic intent and community vision?
- If yes, should the City continue to invest in this feature?

Next Steps

- Should the Arts Council wish to include improvements to the Pergola in the 6- Year Workplan, staff will return in April with updated cost estimates.
- Updates to the first two years of the 6-Year Workplan will serve as recommendations to the City Council for 1% for the Arts projects to be included in the 2027–2028 Biennial Budget.
- If desired, staff anticipate developing and recommending appropriate use guidelines for the Pergola in Q2 of 2026.

