



ARTS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Item 1
March 10, 2021
Regular Business

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

TITLE:	Arts Reset Planning – Immediate Action Plan and Resourcing Needs	<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:	Discuss and provide input on planning process	

STAFF:	Sarah Bluvas, Economic Development Coordinator; Emily Moon, consultant
COUNCIL LIAISON:	Salim Nice
EXHIBITS:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Memo from Consultant Emily Moon 2. Draft of Recreation Reset Plan and Timeline 3. Reset Planning Project Timeline

SUMMARY

The Arts Council held its second Special Meeting workshop on February 23, 2021, to continue discussing the Arts Reset Planning process and goals. The Reset Plan will be responsive to two different timeframes and contexts:

- An Immediate Action Plan will describe a few actions the Arts Council wishes to take in 2021 that are feasible, consider the uncertainties and limits of the pandemic, are consistent with existing Arts Council goals, and are responsive to current needs.
- A longer-term action plan will describe the prioritized goals and efforts the Arts Council wishes to advance (post-pandemic) and what resources will be needed to implement these actions in the next few years.

In the second reset workshop, the board reviewed the responses of the Arts Council member survey and discussed ideas for the Immediate Action Plan. A few overarching themes to focus on in 2021 emerged during this discussion, including:

- Engaging the community in Arts Council work and the public art collection
- Learning more about the programs and services the community wants going forward
- Collaborating with and amplifying the work of other Mercer Island arts organizations and artists
- Identifying specific policy needs and updating/developing those policies (e.g. coordinating with capital projects, art in private development, etc.)
- Coordinating a community arts project that responds to and remembers the COVID-19 pandemic
- Cultivating buy-in from City Council and creating better lines of communication and collaboration with other City boards/commissions

During tonight’s meeting, staff and the consultant will present recommendations for how to further synthesize these themes and the action plan ideas into a phased reset plan for resuming arts programs and services.

Staff and the consultant are conducting a parallel process with the Parks & Recreation Commission to develop a reset strategy for the Mercer Island Community & Event Center (MICEC) and Recreation Programs. This process began in October and will result in a Strategy Report presented to City Council in May 2021 (see Exhibit 2 for a draft of the recreation reset plan and timeline). The Arts Reset Plan may be presented with this report or may be presented as a stand-alone plan later (see Exhibit 3 for the reset plan project timeline).

RECOMMENDATION

1. Review and provide feedback on the Immediate Action Plan recommendations presented by staff and the consultant.
2. Schedule the next reset workshop (tentatively planned for late March 2021).