



# ARTS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Item (5)  
January 17, 2024  
Regular Business

## AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

<b>TITLE:</b>	Arts & Culture Workplan Direction	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
<b>RECOMMENDED ACTION:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Direct a committee (standing or ad hoc) to return to the April meeting with a recommendation for Arts Council engagement at 2024 City events.</li> <li>2. Request staff to return in April with recommended timeline and process for the Arts Council to develop a six-year spending plan for the 1% for the Art in Public Places Fund.</li> </ol>	

<b>STAFF:</b>	Katie Herzog
<b>COUNCIL LIAISON:</b>	Ted Weinberg
<b>EXHIBITS:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 2023-2024 City Arts and Culture Workplan</li> <li>2. 2024 City Special Events</li> </ol>

## SUMMARY

The purpose of this staff report is to seek the Arts Council’s direction for supporting identified workplan items.

### BACKGROUND

On [January 18, 2023](#), the Arts Council endorsed the 2023-2024 City Arts and Culture Workplan (Exhibit 1). This workplan was developed by City staff and reflects the arts and culture priorities established by the Arts Council.

At the [October 25, 2023](#) Arts Council Special Meeting, staff presented a Q4 progress update on the 2023-2024 City Arts and Culture Workplan and informed on objectives for 2024.

### DISCUSSION

Staff seek input and Arts Council direction toward the following objectives, included under each objective is a staff recommendation:

**Priority 1: Strengthen community awareness of and support for Mercer Island’s arts and culture ecosystem.**

**1.2 Create presence and exposure at events for the Arts Council to engage with the community.**

The Arts Council Events Committee (Mitchell, Becker, Blum) met on February 2, 2023, to discuss opportunities for the Arts Council to engage the community through events throughout the year. The Committee determined that Mostly Music in the Park would provide the best opportunity for members to attend and engage the community.

Included in this report as Exhibit (2) is a list of the 2024 City Special Events. Staff view these events as valuable opportunities for the Arts Council to connect with the community, build relationships, and contribute to the cultural vibrancy of Mercer Island.

Recommendation: Direct a committee (standing or ad hoc) to return to the April meeting with a recommendation for Arts Council engagement at 2024 City events.

**Priority 3: Complete two major City arts and culture policy projects:**

**1. Update the Comprehensive Arts & Culture Plan (appendix to the Citywide Comprehensive Plan)**

Staff have been engaged with the Community Planning and Development (CPD) Department to determine the feasibility of addressing these updates in the current biennium. Following discussions with the CPD Department staff have determined it is not feasible to include this in the current updates to the Comprehensive Plan based on current workload and the volume of other items on the docket. Staff anticipates this item to be included in the 2025-2026 Workplan.

Recommendation: (Direction is not needed currently). Address this item as an arts and culture priority (if desired) for the 2025-2026 biennium.

**2. Develop a Six-Year Spending Plan for the 1% for the Art in Public Places Fund**

Staff educated the Arts Council on the 1% for Art in Public Places Fund at the [September 14, 2022 meeting](#), which included funding, how dollars may be used, and a need for the ongoing spending plan.

Recommendation: Request staff to return in April with recommended timeline and process for the Arts Council to develop a six-year spending plan for the 1% for the Art in Public Places Fund.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

1. Direct a committee (standing or ad hoc) to return to the April meeting with a recommendation for Arts Council engagement at 2024 City events.
2. Request staff to return in April with recommended timeline and process for the Arts Council to develop a six-year spending plan for the 1% for the Art in Public Places Fund.