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Arts & Culture Workplan Direction



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Background

- On January 18, 2023, the Arts Council endorsed the 2023-2024 City Arts and Culture Workplan, which reflects the arts and culture priorities.
- At the October 25, 2023 Special Meeting, staff presented a Q4 progress update.
- Tonight, staff seek input and direction toward three objectives:

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.

- Included in your packet 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 City-wide Comprehensive Plan)
 - Staff have been engaged with the Community Planning and Development (CPD) Department to determine the feasibility of 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.
 - (Direction is not needed currently). Address this item as an arts and culture priority (if desired) for the 2025-2026 biennium.

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

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.