



## ARTS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Item 1  
April 14, 2021  
Regular Business

### AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

|                            |  |   |
|----------------------------|--|---|
| <b>TITLE:</b>              | Arts Reset Planning – Update on Reset Planning Process and Review of Arts Reset Plan Draft   | <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only  |
| <b>RECOMMENDED ACTION:</b> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Approve the 2021 Arts Council financial resource request as recommended by staff;</li><li>2. Endorse staff's recommendation to include this request in the April 20<sup>th</sup> appropriation request to City Council; and</li><li>3. Provide feedback on the Arts Reset Plan draft.</li></ol> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed:<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion<br><input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance<br><input type="checkbox"/> Resolution |
| <b>STAFF:</b>              | Sarah Bluvas, Economic Development Coordinator   |   |
| <b>COUNCIL LIAISON:</b>    | Salim Nice   |   |
| <b>EXHIBITS:</b>           | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Phase 1 Accelerated Resource Plan – DRAFT</li><li>b. Arts Reset Plan – DRAFT</li></ol>  |   |

### SUMMARY

The Arts Council continued its work to develop the Arts Reset Plan at its regular meeting on March 10, 2021. The board discussed and provided feedback on key items proposed by staff and the reset planning consultant for an Immediate Action Plan (IAP). Staff then met with the Arts Council officers and City Council liaison on March 19, 2021, to further refine ideas for and resource requests to implement the IAP. The officers and City Council liaison instructed staff to develop a budget proposal to support the following:

- Present a limited Mostly Music in the Park concert series in late summer 2021
- Reopen the Mercer Island Gallery at the Mercer Island Community and Event Center
- Coordinate a Community Arts Project that reflects on and responds to Mercer Island's COVID-19 experience

Staff planned to present a budget proposal for these IAP items at the April 2021 Regular Meeting. However, recent changes to COVID-19 activity restrictions and more clarity about available financial resources provide the opportunity to consider accelerating the Arts Council's resource request.

### PLANNING PROCESS UPDATES

On March 22, 2021, King County moved into Phase 3 of Governor Inslee's Healthy Roadmap to Recovery plan, which allows more activities to resume during the pandemic. Staff has also received more clarity about available financial resources, which prompted the reset planning team to draft resource needs for an accelerated Phase I Resource Plan (Exhibit A) for Recreation and the Mercer Island Community & Event Center (MICEC). The Parks & Recreation Commission endorsed the accelerated plan at its April meeting, and the plan will be presented to City Council on April 20, 2021. As part of that City Council presentation, staff recommend the Arts Council include the following financial requests:

- Appropriate \$20,000 to support operating needs of 2021 arts programs;
- Authorize acceptance of the City's 2021 4Culture Arts Sustained Support grant award of \$10,580; and
- Appropriate the full grant amount to support operating needs of 2021 arts programs

This request results in a total operating budget of \$30,580 to offer Arts Council programs in 2021.

### **2021 ARTS RESET PLAN DRAFT**

Although staff propose making a general financial request on April 20, the Arts Council still needs to articulate its plan for resuming arts programs and services post-pandemic as well as identify the necessary staff resources. The reset planning team anticipates returning to City Council in May to ask for authorization of staffing resources to execute the accelerated Phase 1. This will be the best opportunity for the Arts Council to articulate its staff resource needs and seek support.

During tonight's meeting, the Arts Council will receive a draft of the Arts Reset Plan (Exhibit B) and will be asked to provide feedback in preparation for the April 20 City Council meeting. Staff will return in May to discuss staffing needs and next steps for executing 2021 program offerings (pending authorization of funding).

### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. Approve the 2021 Arts Council financial resource request as recommended by staff;
2. Endorse staff's recommendation to include this request in the April 20<sup>th</sup> appropriation request to City Council; and
3. Provide feedback on the Arts Reset Plan draft.