



ARTS COUNCIL CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

AC26-06
April 15, 2026
Regular Business

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AC26-06: Standing Strong Veterans Pergola – Cost Estimates, Appropriate Use and Maintenance Guidelines	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recommendation
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Recommend staff include Pergola improvements in the 2027-2028 biennial operating budget and endorse the draft Pergola Appropriate Use and Maintenance Guidelines	

STAFF:	Katie Herzog, Interim Recreation Manager
EXHIBITS:	1. Draft Pergola Appropriate Use and Maintenance Guidelines

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This follow-up agenda bill builds on prior discussion under [AC 25-06](#) regarding the Standing Strong Veterans Pergola in Mercerdale Park.

At the Arts Council’s direction, at the [October 15, 2025](#) meeting, staff have:

- Developed refined cost estimates for potential improvements, including additional commemorative plaques and repainting of the pergola structure
- Prepared draft Appropriate Use and Maintenance Guidelines (Exhibit 1)

Tonight, staff is seeking Arts Council support on the potential improvements, draft guidelines for use and maintenance of the Pergola.

BACKGROUND

At its October 2025 meeting, the Arts Council reviewed the history, purpose, and current use of the Standing Strong Veterans Pergola and discussed potential updates, including:

- Addition of plaques representing all branches of the Armed Forces
- Replacement or reconsideration of the pergola cover
- Clarification of appropriate uses of the structure
- Need for a formal maintenance plan

The Arts Council directed staff to return with additional information, including cost estimates for plaque(s), guidelines for pergola use, and a maintenance plan to include cost estimate to repaint the pergola. The Arts Council decided unanimously not to seek further price estimates on the pergola cover.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

At the time the pergola was designed and installed, maintenance and operational guidelines were not established. Since installation, use of the Pergola has been managed by Parks and Recreation staff, guided by the original community vision and design intent as a memorial and gathering space.

Recent community feedback identified two key issues:

- The absence of representation for the U.S. Space Force among the military branch plaques
- The need for repainting to restore the structure’s original vibrancy

Cost Estimates – Plaques and Repainting

The U.S. Space Force was officially established as the sixth branch of the U.S. Armed Forces on December 20, 2019. Staff evaluated the addition of plaques representing both the U.S. Space Force and the National Guard. Based on further review and community input (including from members of the VFW), staff recommend adding only the U.S. Space Force plaque, as the National Guard is represented within other branches of the military.

Updated cost estimates for fabrication and installation of additional bronze plaques are as follows:

- Fabrication: approximately \$1,000
- Installation: approximately \$2,000 - \$3,000

Pergola Repainting:

The pergola was last repainted in 2011. Based on current conditions and lifecycle expectations, repainting is recommended to preserve structural integrity and visual quality of the artwork.

- Estimated repainting cost: \$15,000.00

Draft Pergola Appropriate Use and Maintenance Guidelines (Exhibit 1)

Staff have developed draft guidelines to clarify and document appropriate use of the Pergola, ensuring activities remain consistent with its artistic intent as a memorial and community gathering space. These guidelines are intended to preserve the dignity of the site while allowing for meaningful community use.

In addition, the Pergola currently does not have a formal maintenance plan. Staff recommend the Arts Council endorse the Pergola Appropriate Use and Maintenance Guidelines to provide clarity to the use and operation of this park asset and to support the long-term preservation, safety, and visual integrity of the structure. This plan includes routine cleaning and inspections, timely repairs, and scheduled lifecycle maintenance such as repainting.

Tonight, staff will provide a brief presentation and be seeking the Arts Council’s input and endorsement of the Appropriate Use and Maintenance Guidelines, and a recommendation to include repainting costs, procurement and installation of U.S. Space Force plaque in the 2027-2028 biennial budget.

NEXT STEPS

Based on Arts Council direction, staff will:

- Develop a budget request to submit as part of the biennial budget development process
- Collaborate with park maintenance and permitting staff on use and maintenance guidelines

RECOMMENDED ACTION

- Recommend staff include repainting costs, procurement and installation of U.S. Space Force plaque in the 2027-2028 biennial operating budget
- Endorse the draft Pergola Appropriate Use and Maintenance Guidelines