



# City of Mercer Island Arts Council

Department Report  
April 15, 2026



# Updates



# SAVE THE DATE! First Hill Park Ribbon Cutting

- The City will host a ribbon cutting event for the renovated playground at First Hill Park in May!
- Save the Date – Tuesday, May 5, at 4pm, at the park
- Join the City Council for light refreshments as we celebrate another successful playground project for the Mercer Island community



# Annual Board and Commission Recruitment

## March 25 – May 8

- Recruitment for annual appointments to the City's advisory boards and commissions are open March 25 to May 8
- Annual appointments at the May 19 City Council meeting.
- Arts Council (3 positions)
- Open Space Conservancy Trust (2 positions)
- Parks & Recreation Commission (2 positions)
- Utility Board (2 positions)

Apply today at: [Boards and Commissions | Mercer Island, Washington](#)

- Questions? Email the [City Clerk: andrea.Larson@mercerisland.gov](mailto:andrea.Larson@mercerisland.gov)



# Programs/Events





# EARTH MONTH EVENTS

APRIL 2026

SU	M	TU	W	TH	F	SA
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Shop secondhand all month at the All Thrift Shop!

- 29 - Recycling Event, 9a-3p, Mercer Island Boat Launch
- 4 - Volunteer Event, 10a-1p, Gallagher Hill Open Space
- 7 - Mindfulness Walk, 11a-12p, Pioneer Park
- 9 - Volunteer Event, 12p-2p, Native Plant Nursery
- 11 - Paint Recycling Event, 9a-3p, City Hall
- 11 - Volunteer Event, 9:30a-11:30a, Ellis Pond
- 14 - Stormwater Stewardship, 1p-3p, Pioneer Park
- 15 - Garden Club, 1p-3p, Gallagher Hill Habitat Garden
- 16 - Nature Journaling, 10a-12p, Pioneer Park
- 18 - Volunteer Event, 10a-1p, Homestead Field
- 21 - Plant ID Walk, 1p-3p, Pioneer Park
- 22 - Art in E(CART)H Day, 1p-3p, Clarke Beach Park
- 23 - SUSTAINABLE FASHION SHOW, 11a-1p, MICEC
- 23 - Heat Pump Workshop, 5:30p-6:30p, MICEC
- 25 - Volunteer Event, 9a-11a, Wildwood Park
- 25 - Noxious Weeds Class, 10a-12p, MICEC
- 25 - Guided Bird Watching Walk, 9a, North Luther Burbank Parking Lot Kiosk
- 30 - Mindfulness Walk, 11a-12p, Pioneer Park



Scan for more info

[www.mercerisland.gov/publicworks/page/2026-earth-month-events](http://www.mercerisland.gov/publicworks/page/2026-earth-month-events)



# A GUIDED BIRD WATCHING WALK

With The Friends of Luther Burbank Park

## SATURDAY, APRIL 25

## 9:00AM ✨

### What to Bring

- Binoculars
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Water bottle
- Notebook for observations
- Camera (optional)

### Why Join?

- Explore Luther Burbank Park
- Spot a variety of local bird species
- Guided walk with experienced birdwatchers
- Learn practical birdwatching tips



**Luther Burbank Park**  
8236 SE 24<sup>th</sup> St.  
Mercer Island

Meet at the kiosk in  
the North Parking Lot

To secure your spot, email:  
[jroan@fredhutch.org](mailto:jroan@fredhutch.org)



# Curating the Curators

Art on Show: March 2 - April 24, 2026

Anna Macrae - Amanda Knowles - Judith Rayl

June Sekiguchi - Lynda Swenson

Meghan Thréinfhir - Stephanie Hargrave



A. Macrae



M. Thréinfhir



S. Hargrave



J. Rayl



A. Knowles



J. Sekiguchi



L. Swenson

## Art Show Reception

Wednesday, March 11, 5 - 7 PM



Location  
Mercer Island

Community and Event Center

8236 SE 24th Street  
Mercer Island, WA 98040  
M - Th 9 AM - 7 PM; F & Sa 9 - 5 PM  
Closed Sundays

MIVAL

[www.mival.org](http://www.mival.org)

## Photo Transfers with Acrylic Painting

/ Classes / By Molly Kent

Saturday, June 13, 10 – 4 PM 10AM – 4PM | Taught by  
Casey Jo Ailes 🎨

- Single-session class at the Mercer Island Community & Event Center  
8236 SE 24th St, Mercer Island
- \$120 for MIVAL members
- \$150 for non-members
- All skill levels welcome
- Ages 18+



Take inspiration from Pop Art and Contemporary artists who incorporate photo transfers in their acrylic paintings, then create your own.

We will discuss painting fundamentals such as brush strokes, paint application, color mixing, and exploring various materials. You will learn how to build your compositions by applying layers of paint with photo transfers.

All experience levels are welcome. There is a \$10 materials fee for prints before class; please review the [materials list](#) for what to bring.

Register Today

# MERGER ISLAND SUMMER CAMPS



**REGISTER TODAY**



**WWW.MERCERISLAND.GOV/SUMMERCAMPS**





# OPEN ART STUDIO



**Facilitator: Irene Rajagopal**

**Mercer Island Community & Event Center**

Drop-in for this free event - Open to everyone!

*No registration required*

Please bring your own watercolor paints and paper.

## **2026 Schedule**

10:00 - 11:30 am on the following Fridays

### **Jan 23 - Color journal: capture unseen colors**

*Discover hidden hues around you and create your own abstract color journal*

### **Feb 13 - Painting Cats and Dogs**

*Bring a photo of your pet and paint a colorful portrait full of character.*

### **Mar 13 - Expressive Portraits in Mixed Media**

*Experiment with watercolor, pastel, and collage to create expressive portraits.*

### **Apr 24 - Painting Venice with Sargent**

*Learn Sargent's watercolor techniques for light and reflection.*

### **May 22 - Watercolor in Turner's Style**

*Explore Turner's luminous and emotional landscapes step by step.*

### **Jun 12 - Create a Children's Story Illustration**

*Imagine a story for children and bring it to life through art.*

### **Jul 24 - Plein Air Painting in the Park - Part 1**

*Sketch outdoors in Luther Burbank Park.*

### **Aug 28 - Plein Air Painting in the Park - Part 2**

*Sketch outdoors in Luther Burbank Park.*

### **Sep 25 - Impressionism**

*Play with color and light to paint in the spirit of the Impressionists.*

### **Oct 23 - Fall Colors**

*Capture the brilliance of autumn leaves and landscapes.*

### **Nov 20 - Holiday Cards**

*Design and paint your own festive greeting cards*



# Arts Council Planning Schedule

## **July 15, 2026**

- Chair & Vice-Chair Elections
- Art in Public Places 6-Year Spending Plan
- 2025 Recreation Division Annual Report
- 2027 – 2028 City Arts & Culture Workplan Priorities

## **October 21, 2026**

- 2025 – 2026 Workplan Update
- 2027 – 2028 City Arts & Culture Workplan Objectives
- AIPP Annual Update



**Thank you!**

