



# ARTS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Item (6)  
October 19, 2022  
Regular Business

## AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

<b>TITLE:</b>	Policy Subcommittee Update	<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>	Discuss and establish priorities.	

<b>STAFF:</b>	Eleanor Knight
<b>COUNCIL LIAISON:</b>	Salim Nice
<b>EXHIBITS:</b>	Exhibit 1: Draft 2023-2024 City Arts and Culture Priorities

## SUMMARY

### Background

During the first two regular meetings of the year, the Arts Council formed various Committees to assist staff in addressing items on the Recreation Division’s Arts & Culture Work Plan. The Policy Subcommittee is comprised of the following:

Policy Committee: Arts Council members Suzanne Skone, Jonathan Harrington, Rosemary Moore  
Staff members: Eleanor Knight, Sarah Bluvas

The first major task of the subcommittee was to revise and bring forward the 2023-2024 City Arts and Culture Priorities. The discussion between committee members focused on the needs of the community, such as communication needs, stewarding sustainable practices, and cultural celebration. Committee members expressed the need for communication between arts community members (internal communication), as well as communication with the City and public (external communication). Communication as a priority was developed through discussions about the Arts Summit, held in June 2022, and the responses from art community members that were present. Committee discussions also led to a greater understanding of the need to encourage and support cultural celebration and diversity in the Mercer Island arts community. The committee discussed the need for support of cultural events and programs, as well as encouraging diversity citywide.

The proposed priority items are present in Exhibit 1. The priorities were developed by staff following two meetings with the subcommittee members, who discussed several perceived needs and desired actions for the upcoming biennium based on discussions with community members, arts organizations, and other stakeholders. Some examples of proposed actions that would fall under the proposed priorities are:

- Centralized communication for the Mercer Island arts community (Priority 1)
- Diversify offerings and encourage cultural celebration through arts programming and events (Priority 2)

These examples and other proposed actions would be included as subsections of the main priorities (e.g. 1.1, 2.1).

Staff is requesting that the Arts Council review the suggested priorities tonight. The Council will add, remove, or adjust the priorities for 2023/2024 City Arts and Culture, and suggest proposed actions that fall under these priorities. A motion can be made by the Council to endorse these priorities after discussion.

### **Next Steps**

1. The Arts Council will discuss and define the priority items and proposed action items.
2. Staff will review the discussion and synthesize a final 2023-2024 City Arts and Culture Workplan.
3. The Workplan will be reviewed at the January 2023 meeting for endorsement.

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Discuss priorities, and possibly move to endorse.