



ARTS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Item (5)
April 17, 2024
Regular Business

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

TITLE:	2025 – 2026 Arts and Culture Workplan Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Review and provide input for the recommended 2025 – 2026 Arts and Culture Workplan Priorities.	

STAFF:	Katie Herzog, Recreation Supervisor
COUNCIL LIAISON:	Ted Weinberg
EXHIBITS:	

SUMMARY

The purpose of this staff report is to seek the Arts Council’s input toward the 2025 – 2026 Arts and Culture Workplan Priorities.

BACKGROUND

The City’s Arts and Culture Workplan Priorities are developed to inform the staff workplan and arts and culture initiatives for the biennium. These priorities play a crucial role in shaping the direction, focus, and impact of cultural policies and initiatives within the community.

The priorities are developed by staff with guidance from the [PROS Plan](#), [Arts and Culture Comprehensive Plan](#), and community input. Subsequently, the priorities endorsed by the Arts Council each biennium and should be reflective of the overarching Arts Council Goals.

The Arts Council’s goals are to:

- Advocate the arts, artists, and arts organizations of Mercer Island.
- Stimulate and promote community awareness, education, and enjoyment of the fine arts.
- Support performing, visual, and literary arts programs, projects, and events.

DISCUSSION

Building off the [2023 – 2024 Art and Culture Priorities](#), staff developed a draft set of priorities for the 2025 – 2026 biennium. Tonight, staff seek input and discussion from the Arts Council on the priorities listed below:

- Facilitate and promote comprehensive and engaging arts and culture experiences. (PROS Plan Goal 6).
- Encourage and support community engagement through collaboration and partnerships to grow high quality arts and culture programs. (Derived from PROS Plan Goal 7).
- Incorporate principles of environmental sustainability into arts and cultural practices.
- Complete three major City art and culture projects:

1. Update the Comprehensive Arts & Culture Plan (appendix to the Citywide Comprehensive Plan)
2. Complete the Public Art Deaccession Policy
3. Complete the Public Art Acquisition Policy/Memorial Art Acceptance Policy

Guiding Questions:

- Do these priorities align with guiding documents and community input received over the current biennium?
- Do these priorities remain relevant today and in alignment with the Arts Council goals?
- Do you think these priorities address community need for arts and culture opportunities and experiences?

NEXT STEPS

- Staff will return to the Arts Council’s July meeting with revised priorities for Arts Council review and endorsement.
- Following endorsement, staff will return in October with obtainable objectives and outcomes for the biennium reflective of the priorities.
- Staff will include these priorities and objectives in the 2025 – 2026 Recreation Division Workplan and budget proposal for review by City Council.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Review and provide input for the recommended 2025 – 2026 Arts and Culture Workplan Priorities.