



ARTS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Item 3
May 12, 2021
Regular Business

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

TITLE:	Arts Reset Immediate Action Plan: Mostly Music in the Park	<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:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Receive staff presentation;2. Discuss Arts Council engagement in planning process and appoint MMIP sub-committee; and3. Confirm event dates.	
STAFF:	Sarah Bluvas, Economic Development Coordinator Ryan Daly, Operations Transition Team Manager	
COUNCIL LIAISON:	Salim Nice	
EXHIBITS:	N/A	

SUMMARY

On [April 20](#), the City Council appropriated \$328,000 ([AB 5848](#)) to begin implementation of the Mercer Island Community and Event Center & Recreation Programs and Services Strategy. This appropriation included \$15,000 to support the coordination and implementation of a Mostly Music in the Park (MMIP) summer community concert series as part of the Arts Reset Immediate Action Plan.

Following the April 20 Council Meeting, the City Manager directed the Operations Transition Team Manager to develop an event framework, engage the Arts Council, and begin coordination of MMIP community concerts.

PLANNING PROCESS

During tonight's meeting, staff will discuss with the Arts Council desired outcomes of MMIP, the accelerated coordination timeline, and identify respective roles and responsibilities.

Ongoing collaboration, support, and communication between staff and the Arts Council will be critical to the expedited delivery of MMIP. For that reason, staff recommend that a sub-committee of the Arts Council be appointed to work alongside staff in the planning and implementation of MMIP.

City staff would be responsible for the elements of event coordination, budget oversight, staffing support, contracting needs, and ensuring adherence to COVID-19 Washington State [Reopening Guidance](#). Staff propose the Arts Council collaborate on marketing, event creativity, band selection, volunteer recruitment, and day-of volunteer support.

Given the reduced planning schedule and ongoing impacts of the pandemic, this year's concert series may look different than past programs. Staff will have limited capacity to engage additional partners, lead a significant group of volunteers, or offer the flexibility of the past. This year's goal should be to provide a series of free concert events that provide a sense of community and take advantage of the opportunity to safely

gather with neighbors. With this goal in mind, and understanding resource and timing limitations, staff propose the following MMIP event framework:

- Venue: The Pergola at Mercerdale Park, 77th SE & SE 32nd, Mercer Island, WA 98040
- Dates (3): Thursdays, August 19, 26, and September 2, 2021
- Performance time: 7-8:30 pm
- Anticipated crowd size: 200-500 people
- Vendors and/or food trucks will not be permitted.
- Social distancing and applicable guidelines will inform the planning process.

Immediate Next steps (upon confirmation of dates and framework):

- Establish MMIP working group of staff and Arts Councilmembers.
- Confirm and contract sound engineers.
- Establish a process of soliciting and reviewing potential bands.
- Confirm and contract with bands/performers.
- Confirm staffing and volunteer needs.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Receive staff presentation.
2. Discuss Arts Council engagement in planning process and appoint MMIP sub-committee.
3. Confirm dates of events.