



Arts Council Guiding Documents Review and Discussion

January 21, 2026



Agenda

- Background
- Guiding Documents Overview
- Discussion and Questions
- Ways to Succeed
- MICEC Gallery Reception



Background

- The Arts Council was established as an advisory board with a mission to nurture, promote, and support high quality arts and culture activities for the community.
- The Council's role, priorities, and practices have evolved in response to community needs, City policies, and the growing recognition of arts and culture over the years.
- The Arts Council continues to help guide public art, cultural planning, and arts-related initiatives by identifying community needs and establishes priorities to enable the City and community organizations to better serve the diverse needs of the Mercer Island community



Bylaws

Defines how the Arts Council is governed and how it carries out its work.

Includes:

- Duties and responsibilities of the 7-member board
- Training requirements
- Absences & regular attendance at meetings
- Chair & Vice Chair roles and elections each July
- General Meeting Guidelines

Councilors will:

- Be active participants outside of the AC meetings
- Be “ambassadors” for the community and attend at least one city art related function a year and report back their experience and observations

Review of Bylaws: Proposed bylaw amendments must be approved by the City Attorney and a majority of the Arts Council. Proposed amendments should be given to the Staff Liaison prior to the July meeting, annually.



Key Staff Roles

Staff Liaison, Katie Herzog: Support services to the AC – development of work plans and schedules, guidelines and procedures, correspondence, and agenda preparation.

Recreation Manager, Ryan Daly: Support services

CIP Project Manager, Sarah Blugas: Maintains Art in Public Places oversight, coordination and 6-Year workplan.

Recreation Specialist, Raven Gillis: Packet distribution, meeting minutes, hybrid-meeting coordination.

Council Liaison, Julie Hsieh: Annually designated by Mayor & Deputy Mayor to serve between the city council and the AC.



Comprehensive Arts and Culture Plan

Provides a long-term framework to support, develop, and integrate arts and culture into the community.

- Through significant community input and extensive collaboration between staff and the AC, this document was created.
- Guides arts and culture to enrich quality of life and foster a vibrant creative community.
- The Arts & Culture plan is formally adopted into the City's overall Comprehensive Plan to ensure long-term sustainability.

The AC will begin work in October to update the Comprehensive Arts and Culture Plan.



City Arts and Culture Priorities & Work Plan

Establishes the two-year priorities set by the Arts Council, and staff's developed work plan to address the priorities set.

- Adopted by City Council as part of the biennial budget
- Arts Council set priorities to for a two-year cycle
- Staff develop the work plan to address those priorities, based on available resources
- Staff give updates on work plan throughout the year

The AC will begin work in July on the 2027-2028 Arts & Culture Priorities





Art in Public Place 6-Year Plan

Strategy for commissioning, acquiring, and maintain public art over a 6-year period.

- In 2024-2025, the AC drafted the 6-Year Plan and was adopted by City Council.
- Items in the 6-Year plan are submitted to the City Council as recommendations by the AC for funding through the 1% for Public Arts Fund.
- Work Plan outlines three components:
 - Project Opportunities
 - Funding
 - Public Engagement

The AC will continue discussions and opportunities at the April meeting

How To Succeed as an AC Member:

- Attend and participate in meetings
- All communication from staff will be sent to your city email – please check it regularly
- Ask clarifying questions ahead of meetings
- Engage with the community and attend local events and programs



Questions?

