



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND**

**AB 6204  
January 3, 2023  
Regular Business**

**AGENDA BILL INFORMATION**

|                            |  |   |
|----------------------------|--|---|
| <b>TITLE:</b>              | AB 6204: Acceptance of <i>Raven</i> by Ron Reeder (Public Art Donation by MIVAL) | <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed:<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion<br><input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance<br><input type="checkbox"/> Resolution |
| <b>RECOMMENDED ACTION:</b> | Receive presentation and accept donation of <i>Raven</i> by Ron Reeder.          |   |

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>DEPARTMENT:</b>            | Public Works  |
| <b>STAFF:</b>                 | Jason Kintner, Chief of Operations<br>Sarah Bluvas, CIP Project Manager                     |
| <b>COUNCIL LIAISON:</b>       | Salim Nice  |
| <b>EXHIBITS:</b>              | 1. Public Art Donation Process<br>2. Public Art Donation Proposal: Photograph by Ron Reeder |
| <b>CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:</b> | n/a   |

|                               |        |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| <b>AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE</b>  | \$ n/a |
| <b>AMOUNT BUDGETED</b>        | \$ n/a |
| <b>APPROPRIATION REQUIRED</b> | \$ n/a |

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this agenda bill is to accept the donation of the photograph *Raven* by Ron Reeder.

- The City of Mercer Island manages a public art collection of more than 60 two-dimensional and three-dimensional works of art located in public parks and buildings across the Island.
- Much of the collection was acquired through Mercer Island’s 1% for Art in Public Places program as well as through donations by private residents and organizations.
- In 2021, the Mercer Island Arts Council voted to accept the donation of the photograph *Raven* by Ron Reeder. The donation is being made by the Mercer Island Visual Arts League (MIVAL), Mercer Island’s local visual arts collective founded in 1961.
- Reeder was a long-time Mercer Island resident and accomplished scientist, author, and artist who worked in many photography formats and techniques, including palladium printing.

On Tuesday, the City Council will review the proposal to donate *Raven* by Ron Reeder. If accepted, the photograph will be permanently installed in a public facility, insured by the City, and incorporated into the City’s routine public art maintenance schedule.

## BACKGROUND

Mercer Island's robust public art collection is an important avenue for engaging the community with arts, culture, and creativity. The collection features more than 60 two-dimensional and three-dimensional works installed in public parks and buildings throughout the Island.

Many works in the collection were acquired through the City's 1% for Art in Public Places program as well as through donations by private residents and organizations. Recent acquisitions include *Island Icons*, the Town Center street banners installed in 2018, and *Twin Foxes*, acquired in 2015 to celebrate the City's 15-year anniversary of its Sister City relationship with Thonon-les-Bains, France. The City insures the public art collection and conducts annual public art maintenance using funds allocated from the 1% for Art in Public Places Fund. Learn more about the collection at [mercerisland.gov/publicart](http://mercerisland.gov/publicart).

The Mercer Island Arts Council works with City staff to showcase and enhance the public art collection, including occasionally recommending acquisitions and commissions for City Council approval. See Exhibit 1, which outlines the process to review and accept public art donations.

## ABOUT THE MERCER ISLAND VISUAL ARTS LEAGUE

The Mercer Island Visual Arts League (MIVAL) formed in 1961 to create community through the visual arts on Mercer Island. MIVAL hosts annual art shows such as the Junior Art Show and the Holiday Show as well as operates the MIVAL Gallery in Town Center. The organization features painters, fiber artists, and photographers as well as artists working in glass, jewelry, ceramics, encaustic media, and film (learn more at [mival.org](http://mival.org)). Since 2021, MIVAL has partnered with the Recreation division to reopen the Mercer Island Gallery, the City's gallery space at the Mercer Island Community and Event Center, as well as expanded exhibits to the Municipal Court.

## ISSUE/DISCUSSION

In November 2019, MIVAL submitted a proposal to donate a work of art by long-time Mercer Island resident and artist Ron Reeder (Exhibit 2). Reeder ran a research laboratory in the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center from 1978 to 2002, and he and his wife Judith Roan, also a MIVAL member, moved to the north end of the Island in 1991. He was also an accomplished photographer; Reeder received his first camera from his father and worked in many photography formats throughout his career, including both in the dark room and using digital photography and editing.



Judith Roan and Carol Whitaker presented MIVAL's public art donation request to the Mercer Island Arts Council on December 9, 2020 ([Agenda Packet](#) | [Video Recording](#)). After reviewing five potential works of art for donation, the Arts Council selected *Raven*, palladium print photograph created by Reeder. A photo of the artwork and its tombstone information are provided below.

- Title: *Raven*
- Artist: Ron Reeder
- Media: Palladium print on watercolor paper
- Dimensions: 20" w x 24" h
- Year Created: 2012
- Value: \$1,500

On February 10, 2021, the Arts Council voted to recommend that the City accept the donation of *Raven* by Ron Reeder for inclusion in the City’s public art collection ([Agenda Packet](#) | [Video Recording](#)). On Tuesday, City staff and members of MIVAL will present the donation request to the City Council for final acceptance.

### **INSTALLATION PLAN**

*Raven* is currently installed at the Municipal Court as part of MIVAL’s new rotating art exhibits coordinated with the Court and Recreation staff in 2022. MIVAL requested that the photograph be permanently installed at the Mercer Island branch of the King County Library System (KCLS), where several other works in the public art collection are also installed. City staff have contacted KCLS about this request and are still coordinating logistics for permanent installation.

### **COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE DONATION**

If accepted, the City will assume the responsibility of permanently installing the photograph as well as insuring and maintaining it. City staff anticipate the installation costs for a framed photograph of this size to be minimal, and the ongoing maintenance needs will be absorbed by the existing annual public art maintenance budget allocation. The artwork is valued at \$1,500.

### **NEXT STEPS**

Once the donation is accepted, City staff and MIVAL will complete a transfer-of-ownership agreement. After the City assumes ownership of the piece, staff, MIVAL, and the Arts Council will finalize the permanent installation of the piece. Additionally, the photograph will be insured by the City and incorporated into the City’s routine public art maintenance program. Staff will also work with MIVAL and the Arts Council to add the artwork to the [Public Art Story Map](#) and [STORY](#), the City’s digital platforms for showcasing the public art collection.

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Accept the donation of *Raven* by Ron Reeder into the City’s public art collection.