



**Arts, Culture, and Heritage Commission (ACHC)
FY ~~2024/25~~ 2025/26 Five-Year Action Plan and
Annual One-Year Implementation Plan**

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A. Introduction

The City of Wilsonville's Arts, Culture, and Heritage Commission's (ACHC) purpose is to provide ongoing input and advise the City Council and other City Boards, commissions and committees on matters relating to advancing arts, culture and heritage in Wilsonville and oversee recommendations outlined in the Arts, Culture & Heritage Strategy (ACHS). The ACHS, a City Council 2019-20 Goal, provides findings and recommendations for cultivating a sustainable, long-term plan that supports community aspirations for a vibrant cultural scene in Wilsonville. The City Council approved [Resolution No. 2857](#), adopting the ACHS in November 2020, which included many key findings and recommendations on how to achieve this. Within the ACHS, one recommendation states "City forms an Arts and Culture Commission and provides supporting staffing resource." A 2021-23 Council Goal included: "5.3 Establish the Arts and Culture Board." The City Council formed the ACHC in December 2021 via [Resolution No. 2941](#), which began meeting in April 2022, and hired an Arts and Culture staff person in November 2022 to propel the recommendations within the Arts, Culture, and Heritage Strategy forward.

The ACHC also oversees the Community Cultural Events and Programs Grant including the recommendation of disbursement of grant funds. The ACHC is also charged specifically to develop annually for City Council approved fiscal-year plans for a long-term Five-Year Action Plan and annual One-Year Implementation Plan for prioritizing and fulfilling recommendations of the ACHS.

B. Arts, Culture, and Heritage Commission Members

Supported by the Parks and Recreation Department, the ACHC is composed of nine (9) voting members appointed by the Mayor with Council confirmation and four (4) non-voting ex-officio members who provide advice to the Commission, as stated in the Commission Bylaws established by Resolution No 2941.

~~The fiscal year (FY) 2023/2024 members included:~~

- ~~• David Altman~~
- ~~• Joan Carlson~~
- ~~• Jason Jones~~
- ~~• Sageera Oravil Abdulla Koya~~
- ~~• Benjamin Mefford~~
- ~~• Susan Schenk~~
- ~~• Angela Sims~~
- ~~• Deborah Zundel~~

The ~~Current~~ FY 2024/2025 members included:

- David Altman

- **Joan Carlson**
- **Nadine Elbitar**
- **Aaron Harris**
- **Jason Jones**
- **Sageera Oravil Abdulla Koya**
- **Benjamin Mefford**
- **Susan Schenk**
- **Deborah Zundel**

The Current FY 2025/2026 members include:

- David Altman
- Joan Carlson
- Creed Harmon
- Aaron Harris
- Jason Jones
- Douglas Parker
- Sageera Oravil Abdulla Koya
- Susan Schenk
- Deborah Zundel

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Non-Voting Ex Officio members:

- ~~City of Wilsonville City Council: Mayor Julie Fitzgerald~~
- **City of Wilsonville Parks and Recreation Department:** Kris Ammerman, Director
- ~~City of Wilsonville Administration, Mark Ottenad, Public Affairs Director~~
- **Wilsonville Public Library,** ~~Ethan Pieman, Library Services Manager~~ Shasta Sasser, Library Director

Staff Liaison:

- **City of Wilsonville Parks and Recreation Department,** Erika Valentine, Arts and Culture Program Coordinator

C. Mission & Vision

In FY 2022/23 the ACHC established a mission and vision statement to provide clarity and direction on their work. The mission is as follows:

To enhance the Wilsonville community by supporting, advocating and advising on matters relating to advancing arts, culture & heritage. We strongly believe residents' lives are enriched and enhanced through a thriving arts and culture environment.

The Vision is as follows:

Lives will be enriched and enhanced through a thriving arts and culture environment in Wilsonville.

Our vision for Wilsonville is one that:

- Supports all creatives
- Fosters a sense of inclusivity for all cultures
- Has a vibrant cultural identity
- Celebrates local history and heritage
- Is recognized for accessible community cultural facilities, parks, and other spaces to host a variety of creative forms and activities
- Has a robust Public Art program

D. Commission Meetings

The Commission met ~~nine-eight~~ times in FY ~~2023/24~~ 2024/25, exceeding the minimum required four meetings per fiscal year pursuant to Resolution No. 2941.

E. Charge of ACHC

- Make recommendations to City Council and staff on cultural arts programs, activities, services, policies, etc.
- Support and build awareness of cultural arts programs in Wilsonville and work with other agencies and organizations involved in cultural arts programs to build partnerships
- Receive and evaluate input from the community, including input from other individuals and organizations on relevant cultural arts topics and programming
- Advise the City on future Public Art program plans and serve as the City's review body for public art projects as they move through the approval process
- Serve as a resource to the City on a wide range of visual and performing arts mediums and topics
- Advise the City on facility needs and design regarding to Arts
- Provide feedback to staff on the assessment of current and future needs of the cultural arts community
- Increase opportunities for artists/creatives

F. Advancing Arts, Culture, and Heritage Strategy (ACHS)

The commission is charged with moving the ACHS forward.

The Commission makes recommendations to the City Council and other City boards, commissions and committees as is appropriate to:

Objective	
A	Provide leadership and coordination to support arts, culture and heritage activities, events, facilities and programs
B	Improve inter-governmental collaboration and coordination to advance arts, culture, and heritage
C	Work with partners to advance an arts and cultural center/facility
D	Develop a long-term, sustainable public art program
E	Suggest ways to make cultural diversity, ethnic inclusivity and accessibility for all community members a priority for cultural programs
F	Provide strategic assistance to Wilsonville cultural nonprofits in order to build organizational capacity
G	Identify and recommend sustainable funding mechanisms to support cultural activities, events and programs
H	Make recommendations concerning the goals and objectives, and the selection and disbursement of funds of the Community Cultural Events and Programs Grant

G. Past Year's Accomplishments, FY 2023/24 2024/25

The ACHC had a successful year, advancing key objectives and moving the City's Arts, Culture, and Heritage Strategy Recommendations forward, and getting more established as a newer City Board, such as advancing Public Art projects and cultural programs.

The following is an accounting of accomplishments achieved in 2024/25:

• Recruit to fill all voting positions for the ACHC

Six-Four (6.4) Members of the ACHC have been members since its inception in 2022. There are three (3) new members who started in FY 2023/24. The remaining 5 members started between 2023 – 2025.

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• Elect chair/vice-chair leadership positions.

Deborah Zundel was re-elected Chair and Angela Sims was elected Vice Chair during the June 2023. Nadine Elbitor was elected Vice Chair at the beginning of FY 24 – 25 after Angela Sims resigned from the committee due to moving out of the area.

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Jason Jones was elected as Chair and Sageera Oravil Abdulla Koya was elected as Vice Chair during the August 2025 meeting.

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• Commission continues to oversee the Community Cultural Events and Programs (CCEP) Grant and made fund distribution recommendations to Council

The ACHC received and reviewed five (5) applications from the following nonprofits: Charbonneau Arts Association (marketing assistance for expanded Arts & Music Festival), Siempre La Guitarra* (Guitar Concerts/Festival), Wilsonville Choral Arts Society (Advertising and Marketing assistance), Wilsonville Rotary Foundation (Summer Concert Series), and Wilsonville STAGE (Community Awareness).

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*Siempre La Guitarra cancelled their grant due to their organization's volunteer/staffing challenges

The ACHC received and reviewed three (3) applications from the following nonprofits: Charbonneau Arts Association (Wilsonville Music Festival), Wilsonville Rotary Foundation (Rotary Summer Concerts), Wilsonville STAGE (Pop Up Performances).

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- The ACHC received a presentation from Planning staff about the City's Heritage Tree Program and then subsequently passed Resolution No. 1, which updated the Heritage Tree Program Nomination process, acknowledged previously designated heritage trees in the City, and approved a new Heritage Tree Nomination for the Holiday Leyland Cypress.

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- The ACHC implemented the heARTs of Wilsonville: Many Cultures, One Heart Public Art project,

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This project consisted of 10 large fiberglass hearts sculptures that were to be painted by different local artists and placed around the City. The ACHC was the selection panel for this project and reviewed the Call for Art Application and solidified the theme "Many Cultures, One Heart." Following the artist solicitation period, the ACHC reviewed and scored 29 unique designs from 20 different artists, to ultimately award the 10 hearts to 10 different artists, including one heart led by WHS Art teacher Angennette Escobar in conjunction with her students. An opening reception took place at the Stein Boozier Barn to view all 10 hearts prior to them getting installed at City facilities and Parks. This project was extremely popular amongst the community and received a lot of positive praise.

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(This project was funded by the Community Enhancement Program)

- The ACHC had a joint meeting with the City's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee to discuss shared goals and possible collaborations.

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- The ACHC approved the Boones Ferry Park Public Art Request for Qualifications – 'Essence of the River'

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The ACHC approved the RFQ for this project which is being funded by Public Art CIP # 9183. The RFQ included important site information, Boones Ferry Park Master Plan information, historical information, scope/goals of project, budget, theme, and 3 potential location zones.

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- The ACHC determined the top three artists/artist teams who responded to the Boones Ferry Park Public Art Request for Qualifications – 'Essence of the River'

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Over 150 artists responded to this RFQ. First, a Selection Panel consisting of two ACHC members and two Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members scored and reviewed all applications and then met to discuss. Through that meeting, they recommended the top 10 artists to the full ACHC.

The full ACHC then scored and reviewed the top 10 artists/applications. They determined a top three to advance to a Request for Proposals design phase which

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involves each of the three artists/artist teams coming up with their unique design proposal.

- **The ACHC planned and hosted a Multicultural Dance Celebration Event at McMenamin's Old Church**

The event took place in the evening at McMenamin's Old Church. The Performing Dance Groups included: Eien Hunter-Ishikawa, Shishimai (performing traditional Japanese dances), Jayanthi Raman Dance Company (performing classical Indian Dance), and Huizilopotchtli Danza Azteca (performing Indigenous Dances). The event was emceed by ACHC Member Aaron Harris. There were also appetizers available free for the attendees. Attendees could purchase their own drinks. Estimated attendance was about 100 people.

- **The ACHC was the selection panel to review 3 artist options to complete the 2025 Temporary Pride Month Mural.**

The ACHC reviewed 3 artists and their work samples for the Pride Mural. They advanced two artists to create unique designs.

- **The ACHC awarded the 2025 Temporary Pride Month Mural to Artist Daren Todd**

- This project was a successful collaboration between ACHC and the DEI Committee. The Mural design featured different monochromatic panels in rainbow colors, inspired by the Progress Pride Flag. The mural was up for the month of June on the Parks & Recreation Administration Building.

- **The City Hall Gallery held exhibits from four talented local artists as part of the Clackamas County Art's Alliance's Artist Exhibit Program.**

***The following text will all be removed as it is from last year's plan (2023- 2024)**

- **The ACHC reviewed multiple drafts of the Public Art Program Policy and Guidelines and provided feedback to staff.**

While the City has a robust Public Art Collection of over 20 pieces spanning decades; there has never been a Public Art Policy to guide the program. A public art policy was the first step to legitimize, as well as establish the City's Public art program, which is a charge of the ACHC. Within the policy includes goals of the program as well as outline procedures, processes, best practices and guidelines. Creating a policy was a critical step to guide the work of both City Staff and the ACHC.

The policy also creates transparency for both community members and artists, to understand equity regarding the processes for selecting artists, specific designs, final artwork, etc. The City's Public Art Program is a collaborative endeavor between the City, The ACHC and greater community, and artists. The Policy identifies goals, standards, procedures and best practices for the Public Art Program.

- **The ACHC recommended that the City Council Approve the Public Art Program Policy and Guides (Resolution No. 3081).**

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The City Council adopted Resolution No. 3081 as a result of the ACHC's work and recommendation.

- **The ACHC reviewed the Memorial Park Skatepark Mural Request for Qualifications (RFQ) and provided input to staff on the content and requests of the application and project.**

The committee received Wilsonville-Metro Community Enhancement Funds to commission a new permanent mural at the Memorial Park Skate Park. Once staff posted the RFQ, the City received 50 responses from talented muralists from across the Country.

- **The ACHC was the selection panel, along with members from the skate community, to review the top scoring eight Skatepark Mural RFQs and recommend which four artists to advance to the Request for Proposals (RFP) phase to submit their original designs.**

The ACHC went through an extensive scoring system, followed by discussion, to make their selections.

- **The ACHC was again the selection panel, along with members from the skate community, to select which artist should be awarded the final contract to complete the mural at Memorial Park Skatepark.**

The Panel selected Washington based Artist and Skater, Abigail Penfold, for her design that was inspired by the local wildlife and plants. Her design concept showcases the varying creatures holding different components of a skateboard in order to build a board. The artist completed the work in FY 25. This project was funded through the Wilsonville-Metro Community Enhancement Program.

- **The ACHC approved the Boones Ferry Park to be the future site of a permanent Public Art Piece.**

The City is already making a great investment in Boones Ferry Park to redo it, so this is a great location for a larger scale piece public art. There will be multiple locations that are feasible for public art, giving an artist flexibility to conceptualize the space and create a site specific piece(s), as well as creatively interpret art that evokes the history of traveling on the river, which is stated in the Boones Ferry Park Masterplan. The project will be funded by Public Art CIP # 9183.

Additional reasons that this site and project will be a positive first permanent public art project to be undertaken by the ACHC include: the ACHC is housed within the Parks & Recreation Department, making collaboration and communication effective as the site location is a Park and managed by the Parks & Recreation Department, the site is of historic significance, so the project and theme touches on the heritage component of the ACHC, the site does not currently have any public art, the Park will be new, so installation of a new piece of public art would align, the proximity to the river will provide visual interest and inspiration to the artist(s), and the Park visitors include those for the river, trails, Tauchman house, playground, etc. so it will be highly used and the piece will be very visible.

- **The ACHC brainstormed ideas of future small to medium sized community public art projects for potential applications for the Wilsonville-Metro Community Enhancement Program.**

The ACHC recommended staff explore a project having artists paint fiberglass hearts with a theme about celebrating cultures which will be implemented in FY 2025.

- **The ACHC received a presentation on Arts and Economic Prosperity, presented by Clackamas County Arts Alliance’s Executive Director, Dianne Alves which reviewed the positive economic and social impacts of arts and culture.**
- **The ACHC approved staff moving forward on developing a Call for Art Application for a temporary Pride Month mural, in order to provided visual representation for the LGBTQ+ communities during June. The ACHC then selected an artist to be awarded the project based on their design.**

This project was a successful collaboration between ACHC and the DEI Committee. The Selection Panel (ACHC and members from the DEI Committee) selected local artist Lauren ‘Ren’ Kyles. The mural was up for the month of June on the Parks & Recreation Administration Building. There was also a reception event to unveil the mural and celebrate Pride Month.

- **The ACHC selected artist Chalk Artist Brittany Resch for the 2023 and 2024 Party in the Park Event**
- **The City Hall Gallery held exhibits from four talented local artists as part of the Clackamas County Art’s Alliance’s Artist Exhibit Program. The ACHC held three Gallery Receptions.**

The City Hall Gallery Program was recommended by the ACHC and is a strong collaboration with the Clackamas County Arts Alliance. The Gallery Receptions are free to the community, and provide an opportunity to meet the artist and learn more about their work.

H. Five-Year Action Plan ACHC:

FY ~~2024/25~~ — FY2028/29 ~~2025/26~~ – 2029/30

The longer-range five-year plan recommended by the Commission focuses on objectives derived from the ACHS.

While the Commission recognizes that adjustments are to be made to the longer-range plan via annual ‘course corrections’—the five-year plan is outlined below in fiscal years, July 1 of one year to June 30 of the following year.

Annually the ACHC will make recommendations on the distribution of the CCEP Funds.

Year 1 FY ~~2024/25~~ 2025/26

- **Conduct Commission Business**
 - **Leadership, Meetings:** Continue recruitment efforts to fill all voting positions for the ACHC. Elect committee chair/vice-chair leadership positions annually.
 - **Community Cultural Events and Programs Grant (CCEP):** Commission continues to oversee the CCEP Grant and make funding recommendations to Council.
 - ~~Complete the Memorial Park Skatepark Mural project which was funded through the Wilsonville Metro Community Enhancement~~
-

- ~~Program~~ The ACHC will advance this project including engaging with the skate community, reviewing the RFQ, selection process, etc.
- ~~Complete the HeARTs of Wilsonville, Many Cultures One Heart Project, which was funded through the Wilsonville Metro Community Enhancement Program.~~ The ACHC will advance this project by reviewing the Call for Art Application and determining project theme(s), getting the word out about the project to the community, reviewing applications, approving locations, etc.
 - ~~Begin work on the permanent public art sculpture to be installed at Boones Ferry Park.~~ The ACHC will review the RFQ and be integral in all steps of the project including artist selection.
 - Award the Boones Ferry Park Public Art Project and provide design revisions
 - Complete the heARTs of Wilsonville: Many Cultures, One Heart Public Art Project and finalize the silent auction
 - Award a Pride Month Mural Artist and support Pride Event Selection and Event
 - Approve the Wilsonville Public Library Children’s Section Mural Project Artist and Muralist Design
 - Develop and advance a Utility Box Public Art Project forward, through potential funding from the Community Enhancement Program
 - **Increase arts classes and arts components of existing special events**
 - Explore possibility of holding a Performance/Speaker Event Series to feature local artists, musicians, dancers, etc. of planning future arts and culture events and performances.
 - **Attend a Joint-Collaborative Meeting with the DEI Committee**
 - ~~Determine locations for future public art pieces~~
 - Assessment of current Public Art Collection
 - Collaborate and strategize on coordination with the Library, School District, other arts organizations, etc.

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Year 2
FY 2025/26
2026/27

- Complete temporary and permanent Public Art projects and art installations
- Investigate funding structures and options for advancement of Public Art and Arts programs such as a percent for art ordinance.
- Review and recommend funding of Community Cultural Events and Programs Grant
- Increase awareness of arts, culture and heritage programs through marketing – improve and develop ACHC/Arts website to support local artists, nonprofits, provide education, etc.
- ~~Evaluate and/or expand Gallery Program~~
- Explore feasibility of a mural policy / mural program, with possible private/public partnerships

- Collaborate and strategize on coordination with the Library, School District, other arts organizations, etc.
- Develop culturally relevant programming/opportunities/events, centering diversity, ethnic inclusivity and accessibility.
- Continuation of assessment of current Public Art Collection

Year 3
FY 2026/27
2027/28

- Complete temporary and permanent Public Art projects and installations
- Investigate funding structures and options for advancement of Public Art and Arts programs
- Review and recommend funding of Community Cultural Events and Programs Grant
- Identify partners, assess needs and assess existing cultural arts related facilities and assets as they relate to an arts and cultural center/facility
- Develop culturally relevant programming/opportunities/events, centering diversity, ethnic inclusivity and accessibility.

Year 4
2027/28
2028/29

- Complete temporary and permanent Public Art projects and installations
- Investigate funding structures and options for advancement of Public Art and Arts programs
- Review and recommend funding of Community Cultural Events and Programs Grant
- Develop culturally relevant programming/opportunities/events, centering diversity, ethnic inclusivity and accessibility.

Year 5
2027/28
2029/30

- Complete temporary and permanent Public Art projects
- Investigate funding structures and options for advancement of Public Art and Arts programs
- Review and recommend funding of Community Cultural Events and Programs Grant
- Investigation of feasibility of an arts and cultural center facility
- Develop culturally relevant programming/opportunities/events, centering diversity, ethnic inclusivity and accessibility.

I. Annual One-Year Implementation Plan: FY24/25, FY 25/26
July 2024 – June 2025 July 2025 – June 2026

Next fiscal year's work plan is segmented into four main sections:

- 1. Conduct ACHC Business:** The committee executes all Council-mandated activities, including:
 - **Leadership:** Elect a chair and vice chair at the first meeting of the new fiscal year.
 - **Meetings:** Hold at least four meetings with quorum attendance during the fiscal year.
 - **Plans:** Work with staff to draft for City Council adoption of an updated version of the Five-Year Action Plan and Annual One-Year Implementation Plan.

2. **Public Art:** The ACHC will work with staff and other stakeholders to advance public art projects while following the City's Public Art Policy and Guidelines, adopted by Council. Projects include ~~a mural at Memorial Park Skate Park, Fiberglass Hearts Project, Murals at the Wilsonville Library~~ and a larger scale project at Boones Ferry Park. The ACHC will also complete the heARTs of Wilsonville, Many Cultures, One Heart Project and explore a Utility Box Public Art Project. The ACHC will continue to assess the existing public art collection, determine goals of future projects, establish future sites of public art, etc.
3. **Public Awareness:** Cultivating increased local residents' knowledge and interest in learning about local arts, culture and heritage, as well as increased opportunities to engage with arts, culture and heritage. This will be achieved by increased marketing efforts and additions of arts, culture and heritage programs and classes, such as ~~a~~ speaker/performance events ~~series~~ and additional arts-themed workshops. The ACHC will also continue to collaborate with the DEI Committee on relevant projects and programs such as the Pride Month Mural and other cultural programming.
4. **Community Cultural Events and Programs Grant:** Review and recommend funding of the grant program.