

**Veliz, Kim**

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**From:** Benjamin Mefford <director@wilsonvillearts.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 20, 2021 7:35 AM  
**To:** City Recorder; Mayor Julie Fitzgerald; Councilor Kristin Akervall; Councilor Charlotte Lehan; Councilor Ben West; Councilor Joann Linville  
**Subject:** Support for the ACHC, resolution 2941

[This email originated outside of the City of Wilsonville]

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Dear Mayor Fitzgerald, Council President Akervall, Councilor Lehan, Councilor West, and Councilor Linville,

I am writing in support of resolution 2941 to create a new Arts, Culture, and Heritage Commission for the City of Wilsonville.

Members of the Wilsonville Arts & Culture Council (WACC) have been deeply involved in the ACHS Task Force. Resolution 2941 reflects the recommendations of that Task Force, and establishes a sensible way forward as the city looks to better support and expand its cultural resources.

WACC values that this proposal will bring together input and resources from both Parks and Recreation, and the Library, both of whom have been active allies in the creation and presentation of art, culture, and heritage programming in Wilsonville.

For this new commission to be fully successful, it would be appropriate for the city to also create a dedicated position to support and advocate for local cultural non-profit organizations. In order to bridge the most significant gaps in existing cultural support in Wilsonville, and thereby take advantage of our most pressing opportunities, this proposed position would require an especially deep understanding of the arts, and heritage, as well as have appreciation for the many unique challenges and needs of cultural non-profit organizations in our city.

I would like to thank the city for taking this important step, and it is worth highlighting the contributions of Public & Government Affairs Coordinator Mark Ottenad for his invaluable work with consultant Bill Flood and the ACHS Task Force, in order to bring forward this clear and sensible proposal.

Respectfully,  
Benjamin Mefford  
Interim Executive Director, Wilsonville Arts & Culture Council