



ARTS COUNCIL

REGULAR HYBRID MEETING

Monday, July 17, 2024 | 5:30pm

BOARD MEMBERS:

Chair: Elizabeth Mitchell
Vice Chair: Daniel Becker
Councilors: Suzanne Skone, Jonathan Harrington,
JB Gibson, Hannah Youn, Irene Rajagapol

LOCATION & CONTACT

MICEC – Slater Room Council Chambers
and via Zoom
8236 SE 24th Street | Mercer Island, WA 98040
Phone: 206.275.7600 | www.mercerisland.gov

We strive to create an inclusive and accessible experience. Those requiring accommodation for meetings should notify the Staff Liaison's Office 3 days prior to the meeting at 206.795.8518 or by emailing Katie.Herzog@mercerisland.gov.

The virtual meeting will be broadcast live on Zoom and recorded and saved on the City's [YouTube Channel](#).

Registering to Speak: Individuals wishing to speak live during Appearances must register their request with the staff liaison at **206.795.8518** or [email](#) before 4 PM on the day of the Arts Council meeting. Each speaker will be allowed three (3) minutes to speak.

Join by Telephone at 5:30 PM: Call **253.215.8782** and enter Webinar ID **891 2336 1265** Password **076260** when prompted..

Join by Internet at 5:30 PM:

- 1) Click [this link](#)
- 2) If the Zoom app is not installed on your computer, you will be prompted to download it.
- 3) If prompted for Webinar ID, enter **891 2336 1265**; Enter Password **076260**

Join in person at 5:30 PM: Mercer Island Community & Event Center 8236 SE 24th Street, Mercer Island

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL - 5:30 PM

APPEARANCES

STAFF LIAISON REPORT

1. Staff Liaison Report and Planning Schedule

REGULAR BUSINESS

2. Arts Council Meeting Minutes:

- A. April 17, 2024, Regular Meeting
- B. May 20, 2024, Special Meeting
- C. June 16, 2024, Special Meeting

Recommended Action: Approve minutes.

3. Arts Council Officer Elections

Recommended Action: Appoint a Chair and Vice Chair.

4. Next Steps for *Downtown Streetscapes*: Street Name Inlays

Recommended Action: Recommend next steps to staff for the Street Name Inlays series.

5. Art in Public Places 6-Year Workplan Progress

Recommended Action: Endorse the Public Art Pillars and provide input on planning process and timeline.

6. 2023 Recreation Division Annual Report

Recommended Action: Discussion only; no action needed.

7. 2025-2026 City Arts and Culture Workplan Priorities

Recommended Action: Endorse the 2025-2026 Arts and Culture Workplan Priorities

OTHER BUSINESS

8. Absences

ADJOURNMENT



City of Mercer Island
Arts Council

Staff Liaison Report

July 17, 2024

Item 1.

SUMMER CELEBRATION!

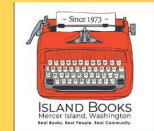
Item 1.





SUMMER CELEBRATION!

THANK YOU SPONSORS:





THE CITY OF MERCER ISLAND
PRESENTS

2024
MOSTLY MUSIC
in the Park

THURSDAYS | 6:30 - 8:30PM
MERCERDALE PARK

JULY 11	POINT OF SAIL	<i>Yacht Rock</i>
JULY 18	SOUL PROPRIETORS	<i>Motown Soul</i>
JULY 25	HARMONIOUS FUNK	<i>Greatest Hits</i>
AUGUST 1	CATCH A WAVE	<i>Beach Boys</i>
AUGUST 8	RESTLESS VOCAL BAND	<i>A Cappella Hits</i>
AUGUST 15	THE JEWEL TONES	<i>Motown Trio</i>
AUGUST 22	PROM DATE MIXTAPE	<i>80's New Wave</i>

6 SPONSORED BY:



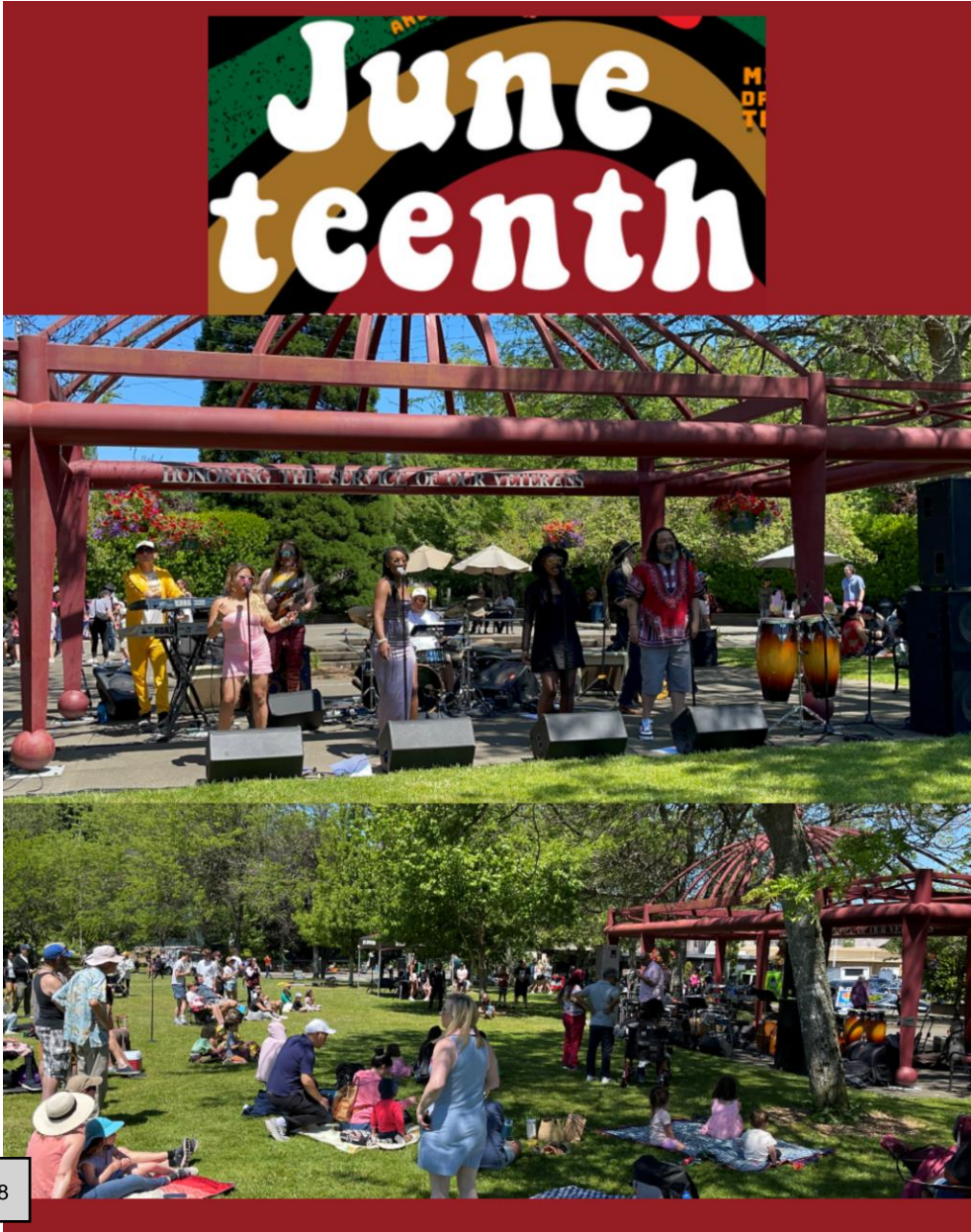
Item 1.



Shakespeare in the Park

- The Two Gentleman of Verona at the Luther Burbank Amphitheater.
- Shows through August 4
- For more info visit:
<https://www.seattleshakespeare.org>





- Held in partnership with MIHS Black Student Union on June 19th.
- Live music, food vendors, MIHS Drill Team and Jazz ensemble performances.
- Great weather and great attendance!

PRIDE IN THE PARK

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24

2:00 - 5:00PM | MERCERDALE PARK

*ALL AGES

*BRING CHAIRS+
BLANKETS

*EVERYONE
WELCOME



*RuPAWS Puppy
PARADE & COSTUME
CONTEST

*FOOD TRUCKS
*LIVE MUSIC
*GAMES AND FUN



RuPAWS Puppy

PARADE AND COSTUME CONTEST!

MERCERDALE PARK



SATURDAY

AUGUST 24

2:00 PM

*ALL AGES

*EVERYONE
WELCOME

*BRING CHAIRS+
BLANKETS

1 DRESS YOUR
PUP UP!

2 ENTER
TO WIN

3 WALK THE
RUNWAY



Mercer Island Pride



50th Annual MIVAL's Jr Art Show

MERCER ISLAND VISUAL ARTS LEAGUE



COME AND JOIN US TO CELEBRATE YOUTH ART ON THE ISLAND at the Mercer Island Community and Event Center June 24 to August 17

The Award Reception: Friday, July 12 from 4 to 5 PM at the MICEC

8236 SE 24th Street, Mercer Island, WA, 98040

Sponsored by





Summer Camps!

www.mercerisland.gov/summercamps



THANK YOU!



ARTS COUNCIL MINUTES REGULAR VIDEO MEETING

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Elizabeth Mitchell called the Zoom Online meeting to order at 5:31pm.

ROLL CALL

Chair Elizabeth Mitchell, Vice Chair Daniel Becker, and Councilors Jonathan Harrington, Rosemary Moore, Hannah Youn, and JB Gibson were present. Council Liaison Ted Weinberg was present.

Councilor Suzanne Skone was absent.

Recreation Manager Ryan Daly, Recreation Supervisor Katie Herzog, CIP Project Manager Sarah Bluvas, and Recreation Specialist Raven Gillis were present.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES

There were no public appearances.

STAFF LIAISON REPORT

Katie Herzog, Recreation Supervisor, reported on the following:

- Island Lanterns
- Leap for Green
- Art Exhibit and Artist Reception at the MICEC
- Upcoming partnered events: PRIDE in the Park and Juneteenth
- Mostly Music in the Park
- Save the Date: Summer Celebration: July 13, 2024
- Youth Summer Camps
- 2024 Planning Schedule Update

REGULAR BUSINESS

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the January 17, 2024 Regular Meeting were presented.

It was moved by Becker; seconded by Gibson to:

Approve the minutes from the January 17, 2024 Regular Meeting

Passed: 6 – 0

2. 2024 Public Art Restorations

Sarah Bluvas, CIP Project Manager, presented. Councilors asked questions and engaged in discussion.

It was moved by Gibson; seconded by Becker to:

Recommend the City Council appropriate \$20,000 from the 1% for Art in Public Places Fund to support restoration of Totem by Bernard Hosey and the Luther Burbank Park Mosaic Murals by Sandy Glass and José Orantes

Passed: 6 – 0

3. Kick-off to Art in Public Places 6-Year Workplan Development

Sarah Bluvas, CIP Project Manager, presented. Councilors engaged in discussion and asked questions.

It was moved by Gibson; seconded by Harrington to:

Confirm the recommended planning process.

Passed: 6 – 0

4. 2025 – 2026 Arts and Culture Workplan Priorities

Recreation Supervisor Katie Herzog presented. Councilors asked questions, engaged in discussion, and provided feedback.

OTHER BUSINESS

5. Absences

No absences were mentioned.

Chair Mitchell noted the next regular meeting on July 17, 2024 will be a Hybrid In-Person meeting (with an option to attend remotely)

ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Video Meeting adjourned at 7:02pm.



ARTS COUNCIL MINUTES

SPECIAL HYBRID MEETING

Monday, May 20, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Elizabeth Mitchell called the meeting to order at 5:36 pm.

ROLL CALL

Chair Elizabeth Mitchell, Vice Chair Daniel Becker, and Councilors Jonathan Harrington, and JB Gibson were present. Council Liaison Ted Weinberg was present.

Councilors Suzanne Skone, Rosemary Moore, and Hannah Youn were absent.

Recreation Manager Ryan Daly, Recreation Supervisor Katie Herzog, CIP Project Manager Sarah Bluvas, and Recreation Specialist Raven Gillis were present.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES

MIVAL President Anne Hritzay shared updates with the Arts Council.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

1. Art in Public Places 6-Year Workplan – Workshop #1

Sarah Bluvas, CIP Project Manager, presented. Councilors engaged in discussion, asked questions, and provided input.

OTHER BUSINESS

2. Absences

No absences were mentioned.

ADJOURNMENT at 7:01pm



ARTS COUNCIL MINUTES

SPECIAL HYBRID MEETING

Monday, June 17, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Daniel Becker called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

ROLL CALL

Vice Chair Daniel Becker and Councilors Suzanne Skone, Jonathan Harrington, Hannah Youn, JB Gibson and Irene Rajagopal were present. Council Liaison Ted Weinberg was present.

Chair Elizabeth Mitchell was absent.

Recreation Supervisor Katie Herzog, CIP Project Manager Sarah Blugas, and Recreation Specialist Raven Gillis were present.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES

There were no public appearances.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

1. Arts Council Introductions

Vice Chair Daniel Becker introduced new Councilor Irene Rajagopal, and Council Rajagopal shared about her background and interest in joining the Arts Council.

2. Art in Public Places 6-Year Workplan – Workshop #2

Sarah Blugas, CIP Project Manager, presented. Councilors engaged in discussion, asked questions, and provided input.

OTHER BUSINESS

3. Absences

No absences were mentioned.

ADJOURNMENT

The Special Hybrid Meeting adjourned at 7:34pm.



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

Item (3)
July 17, 2024
Regular Business

Item 3.

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	Arts Council Officer Elections	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Appoint a Chair and Vice Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Recommendation

STAFF:	Katie Herzog, Recreation Supervisor
EXHIBITS:	N/A

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this staff report is to appoint a Chair and Vice Chair and present the process for the election of officers for the Mercer Island Arts Council.

BACKGROUND

The Mercer Island Arts Council [Bylaws](#) provide information on officer terms, duties, and the election process.

Chair Elizabeth Mitchell has served two terms as Chair and Vice Chair Daniel Becker has served a single term in their respective officer roles on the Arts Council. Per the bylaws, there is not a maximum term limit for these roles.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

Tonight, the Arts Council will appoint a new Chair and Vice Chair utilizing the following process to elect new officers (as noted in section 3.1 of the bylaws).

The Staff Liaison shall conduct the elections for Chair as follows:

- A. Any Commissioner may nominate a candidate for Chair; no second is needed.
- B. Nominees may accept or decline the nomination.
- C. If only one (1) nomination is made, it is appropriate to make a motion and obtain a second to instruct the Staff Liaison to cast a unanimous ballot for that nomination for Chair. Approval is by majority vote of Commissioners present.
- D. If more than one (1) nomination is made, an open election is conducted by roll call vote.
- E. To be elected, the nominee needs a majority vote of the Arts Council.
- F. Elections will continue until a Chair is elected by a majority vote of the Arts Council.
- G. The Staff Liaison shall declare the nominee receiving the majority vote as the new Chair.

*This process is repeated for the election of the Vice Chair.

NEXT STEPS

Following the election of officers, the new officers will immediately assume their respective roles. The Staff Liaison will assist in the transition as desired by the newly elected Chair.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Appoint Chair and Vice Chair



ARTS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Item (4)
July 17, 2024
Regular Business

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

TITLE:	Next Steps for <i>Downtown Streetscapes: Street Name Inlays</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Recommend next steps to staff for the Street Name Inlays series.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution

STAFF:	Sarah Bluvas
COUNCIL LIAISON:	Ted Weinberg
EXHIBITS:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SP0118 Project Map 2. Photos of Street Name Inlays in Project Area 3. Guidelines for Deaccession of Works of Art

SUMMARY

The purpose of this staff report is to seek direction from the Arts Council on next steps for *Downtown Streetscapes: Street Name Inlays*, a series of bronze works installed at street corners throughout Mercer Island Town Center. Curb ramps at 11 street corners will be upgraded to comply with the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in summer 2024, and inlays, which do not comply with ADA regulations, must be removed from the project area.

ABOUT STREET NAME INLAYS

Downtown Streetscapes encompasses ten unique art elements designed by artist Ellen Sollod and installed on 77th and 78th Avenues SE during major Town Center street reconstruction in 1994. One of the art elements is Street Name Inlays (Exhibit 1).

The downtown streets of Mercer Island were named after early settlers of the Island. In the 1930s, King County renamed the streets to conform to a numbered grid. The Street Name Inlays series features the original names of seven downtown streets:

- Helen: 77th Avenue SE
- Gilpin: 78th Avenue SE
- Cable: SE 27th Street
- Tallman: SE 28th Street
- Summit: SE 29th Street
- Treen: SE 30th Street
- Proctor: SE 32nd Street

Two bronze names were inlaid at the base of the curb ramps on 21 street corners to denote the original intersections. Each letter is a bronze 655 plate that is 4.5" tall and .375" thick, and type is set on a 30-foot radius. To install each intersection marker, the last letters were welded to a silicon bronze framework, then the entire street name was secured to a block-out and filled with set grout.

ADA TRANSITION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

In May 2022, Mercer Island City Council adopted the [ADA Transition Plan](#), which identifies and guides the implementation of necessary accessibility improvements across the Island. ADA upgrades approved in the 2023-2024 Biennial Budget focus on Town Center pedestrian facilities (SP0118) and include replacing curb ramps, adjacent curbs/gutters, and sidewalks at 11 corners in 4 intersections this summer (Exhibit 1).

New detectable warning strips known as truncated domes will be installed in the curb ramps to comply with the ADA. Truncated domes are yellow tactile buttons that can be seen, felt, and heard to alert sight-impaired people when they approach a sidewalk edge that enters a roadway/crosswalk. Street Name Inlays installed within the project vicinity (Exhibit 2) will be removed to accommodate the new truncated domes and to comply with the ADA.

MITIGATING IMPACTS TO STREET NAME INLAYS

Eventually all Town Center curb ramps will be upgraded for ADA compliance, so City staff started working together in June 2023 to determine the best path forward for the entire Street Name Inlays series. It was determined that reinstalling the existing inlays at the same site was not feasible, so in August 2023, staff met with the artist to determine if all or some of the impacted Street Name Inlays could be re-sited or reused.

Sollod noted that the bronzes are very place-specific; reinstalling them outside of their original context diminishes the artwork's intent and impact, and she did not recommend re-siting the inlays to a new location. She did suggest two options for adapting or reusing the removed pieces:

1. Develop a new project by placing the existing pieces in a new context that builds on and responds to the history they represent.
2. Donate the pieces to a fine arts school or center (e.g. Pratt Fine Arts Center) that can melt them down and use them for new projects.

Both ideas require salvaging the existing bronze letters, so the ADA design consultant provided high-level information for how to complete this work.

One method is to sawcut the entire concrete block of each inlay and store the blocks until a new project can be identified. This method would likely be less time intensive, but the concrete slabs would be heavy (<200 lbs) and still need to be carefully cut to save the planar portion. Additionally, the slabs would still be fragile enough to break if mishandled.

Another method is to carefully remove individual bronze letters. This option requires chipping each letter out of the concrete, then cleaning, loading, and transporting the letters to storage. Additional equipment and labor time would be required to complete this work, which the ADA design consultant estimated will cost at least \$2,500 per intersection. Work would also be limited to one corner at a time to maintain pedestrian circulation, which would likely increase time and costs.

Currently, the City stores two works of art at Art Work Fine Services in Seattle, WA. Storage costs are calculated based on the volume of work stored, and volume is calculated using bin size or cubic footage. The City pays approximately \$3,000/year for public art storage now; staff have not calculated the cost to store the bronze letters but anticipate an increase by adding the bronze pieces.

The costs associated with salvaging the Street Name Inlays were not included in the approved 2023-2024 budget for SP0118, so removal and storage would need to be funded by the 1% for Art in Public Places Fund or another yet-to-be-identified source.

POTENTIAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Given the artist's input and the cost/challenges associated with removing the bronze pieces, staff do not recommend salvaging the Street Name Inlays impacted by SP0118. Staff seek direction for the remaining inlays in the series. The following could be considered by the Arts Council:

1. Recommend that the Street Name Inlays series be deaccessioned.

Deaccessioning is the process of removing an artwork from the public art collection. City guidelines (Exhibit 3) provide eight criteria for considering deaccession if a work cannot be re-sited. The Street Name Inlays series meets criteria 4 and 5, so the Arts Council may recommend that the series be deaccessioned. The remaining Street Name Inlays would be removed and disposed of during future capital project construction.

2. Recommend further exploration for salvaging pieces during future capital projects.

Street Name Inlays installed at eight street corners will be removed and disposed of during construction of SP0118. The Arts Council may recommend additional exploration of whether to salvage the remaining 15 inlays during future ADA upgrade or other capital projects. If it is determined that some or all pieces should be salvaged, funding for the removal would need to be identified and a new use for the pieces would need to be developed. Upon removal, the current Street Name Inlays series would be deaccessioned.

3. Recommend that a new project highlighting historic street names be developed.

The Street Name Inlays, while made of durable material that has lasted for 30 years, do not meet the accessibility needs of current and future Mercer Island residents. However, the Arts Council may determine that the artwork's original intent of connecting residents to site-specific Island history still has merit. If so, the Arts Council may recommend that a new public art project be developed as part of a future work plan. The Street Name Inlays series would then be deaccessioned, and the remaining inlays would be removed and disposed of during future capital projects.

The Arts Council may also recommend a different approach if desired.

NEXT STEPS

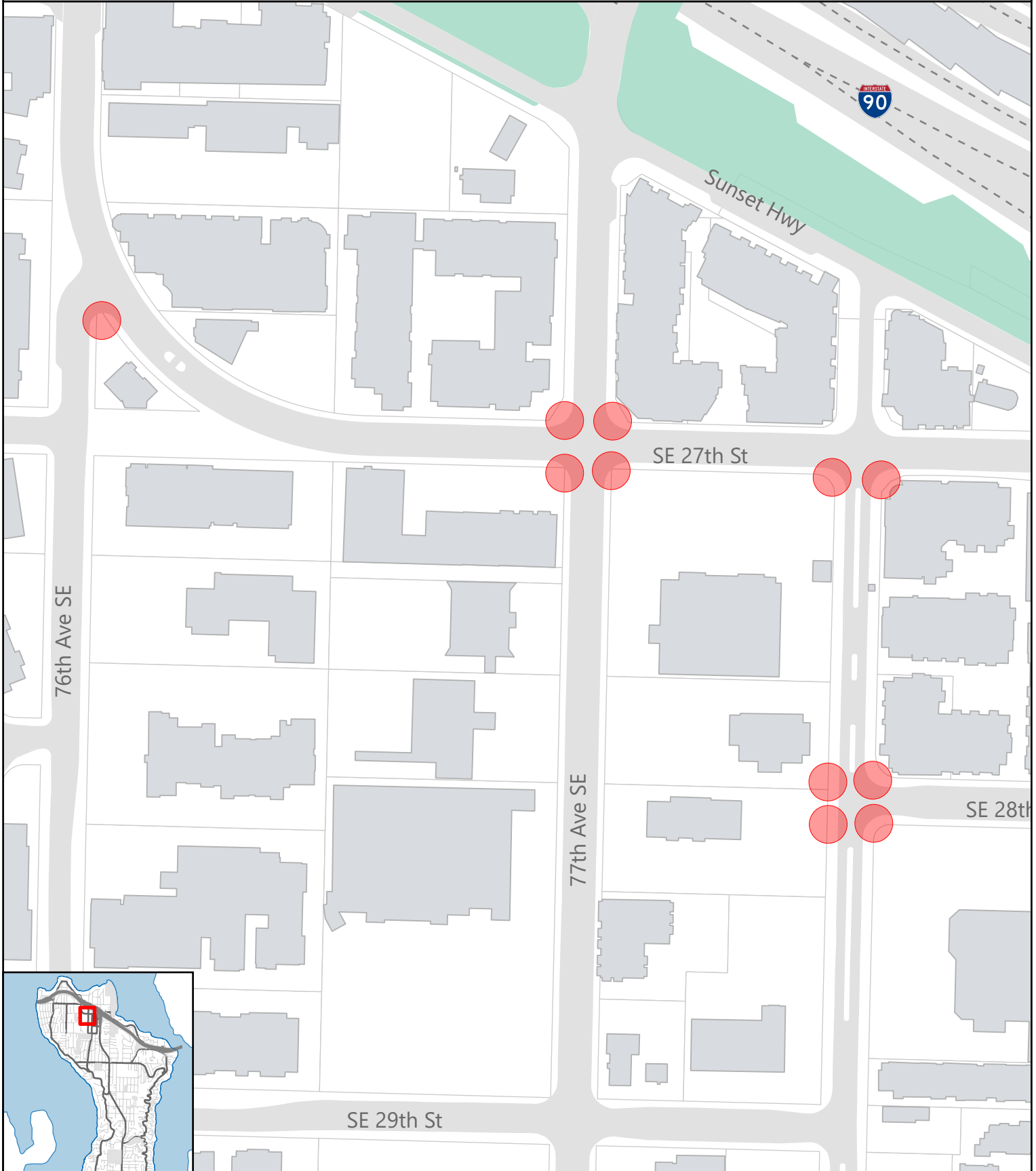
Once a recommendation is provided, staff will move forward with the appropriate next steps in the deaccession or project development process. Updates will be provided at future Arts Council meetings, and staff will seek additional input if/when necessary.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Recommend next steps to staff for the Street Name Inlays series.

SP0118 – ADA Transition Plan Implementation

Item 4.



Project Areas Buildings Parks Parcels

Disclaimer: No warranties of any sort including accuracy, fitness or merchantability accompany this map.

SE 28th Street and 78th Avenue SE

SE Corner: Gilpin-Tallman



NE Corner: Tallman-Gilpin



SE 27th Street and 78th Avenue SE

SW Corner: Cable-Gilpin



SE Corner: Gilpin-Cable



SE 27th Street and 77th Avenue SE

SW and NE Corners: Cable-Helen



SE and NW Corners: Helen-Cable



GUIDELINES FOR DEACCESSION OF WORKS OF ART Mercer Island

Policy

Deaccessioning is a procedure for the withdrawal of an artwork from the public collection. Deaccessioning should be considered only after a significant amount of time has elapsed from the date of installation of permanent works and acceptance in the case of portable works or under special circumstances (e.g., the piece has been damaged beyond repair.) Deaccessioning will be considered only after a careful and impartial evaluation of the artwork within the context of the collection as a whole. At the beginning of the process, District staff will make reasonable effort to notify any living artist whose work is being considered for deaccessioning.

Eligible Artworks

All artworks owned by Mercer Island whether acquired through the Commission, a Percent for Art Program, donation, or any other method. In the case of donated artworks, all legal documents relating to the donation will be consulted prior to beginning the process.

Criteria for Deaccessioning

A PAAC may consider the deaccessioning of artwork for one or more of the following reasons in the event that it cannot be resited:

1. A work is not, or is only rarely, on display because of lack of a suitable site.
2. The condition or security of the artwork cannot be reasonable guaranteed.
3. The artwork has been damaged or has deteriorated and repair is impractical or unfeasible.
4. The artwork endangers public safety.
5. In the case of site specific artwork, the artwork is destroyed by severely altering its relationship to the site.
6. The artwork has been determined to be significantly incompatible or inferior in the context of the collection.
7. The City wishes to replace the artwork with work of more significance by the same artist.
8. The artwork requires excessive maintenance or has faults of design or workmanship.

Deaccessioning Procedure

A Deaccessioning Subcommittee will be appointed by the Arts Council when necessary. This subcommittee will consist of no more than five arts professionals/experts (including one member of the Public Art Committee and an art conservator or curator).

As part of the ongoing evaluation of the collection, the Deaccessioning Subcommittee of the Public Art Committee will review the collection when deemed appropriate. The Arts Council staff will be responsible for recommending artworks for consideration/evaluation for deaccessioning.

Revised 12/9/03

1. The Subcommittee determines that an artwork meets one of the criteria for deaccessioning listed above.
2. The Council staff prepares a report that includes:
 - a) The opinion of legal staff on any restrictions which may apply to this specific work.
 - b) Approval of appropriate city authority
 - c) Written recommendation for deaccessioning.
3. The Public Art Committee will review the report. The Committee may seek additional information regarding the work from artists, art galleries, curators, appraisers or other professionals prior to making a recommendation to the full Arts Council.
4. A recommendation for action is sent to the City Council for approval at a regularly scheduled meeting.

Upon confirmation of its recommendation, a PAAC shall consider the following actions:

1. Sale or Trade
 - a) Artist will be given first option to purchase or trade artwork.
 - b) Sale may be through auction, gallery resale or direct bidding by individuals, in compliance with appropriate law and policies governing surplus property.
 - c) Trade may be through artist, gallery, museum or other institutions for one or more artwork(s) of comparable value by the same artist.
 - d) No works of art shall be sold or traded to members or staff of the District, consistent with District conflict of interest policies.
 - e) Proceeds from the sale of a work of art shall be returned to a departmental account form, which the original purchase was made if acquired through the District or a % for Art Program. Funds from the sale of gifts shall go into a Public Art Trust Fund for future artwork projects. Any pre-existing contractual agreements between the artist and the District regarding resale shall be honored.
2. Destruction of work deteriorated or damaged beyond repair and deemed to be of negligible value.
3. If the council is unable to dispose of the artwork in a manner outline above, the work shall be donated to a nonprofit organization or otherwise disposed of as council sees fit.



Downtown Streetscapes: Street Name Inlays

Arts Council Regular Hybrid Meeting | July 17, 2024



Agenda for Discussion

1. About *Downtown Streetscapes*: Street Name Inlays
2. ADA Transition Plan Implementation
3. Current and Future Impacts to Street Name Inlays
4. Potential Recommendations
5. Staff Responses to Project Questions
6. Discussion / Next Steps

What are the Street Name Inlays?

- Part of *Downtown Streetscapes* installation by artist Ellen Sollod.
- Installed on 77th and 78th Avenues SE during Town Center street reconstruction in 1994.
- Features original names of seven downtown streets, which were named after early Mercer Island families.
- Two bronze names inlaid at the base of the curb ramps on street corners to mark original intersections.

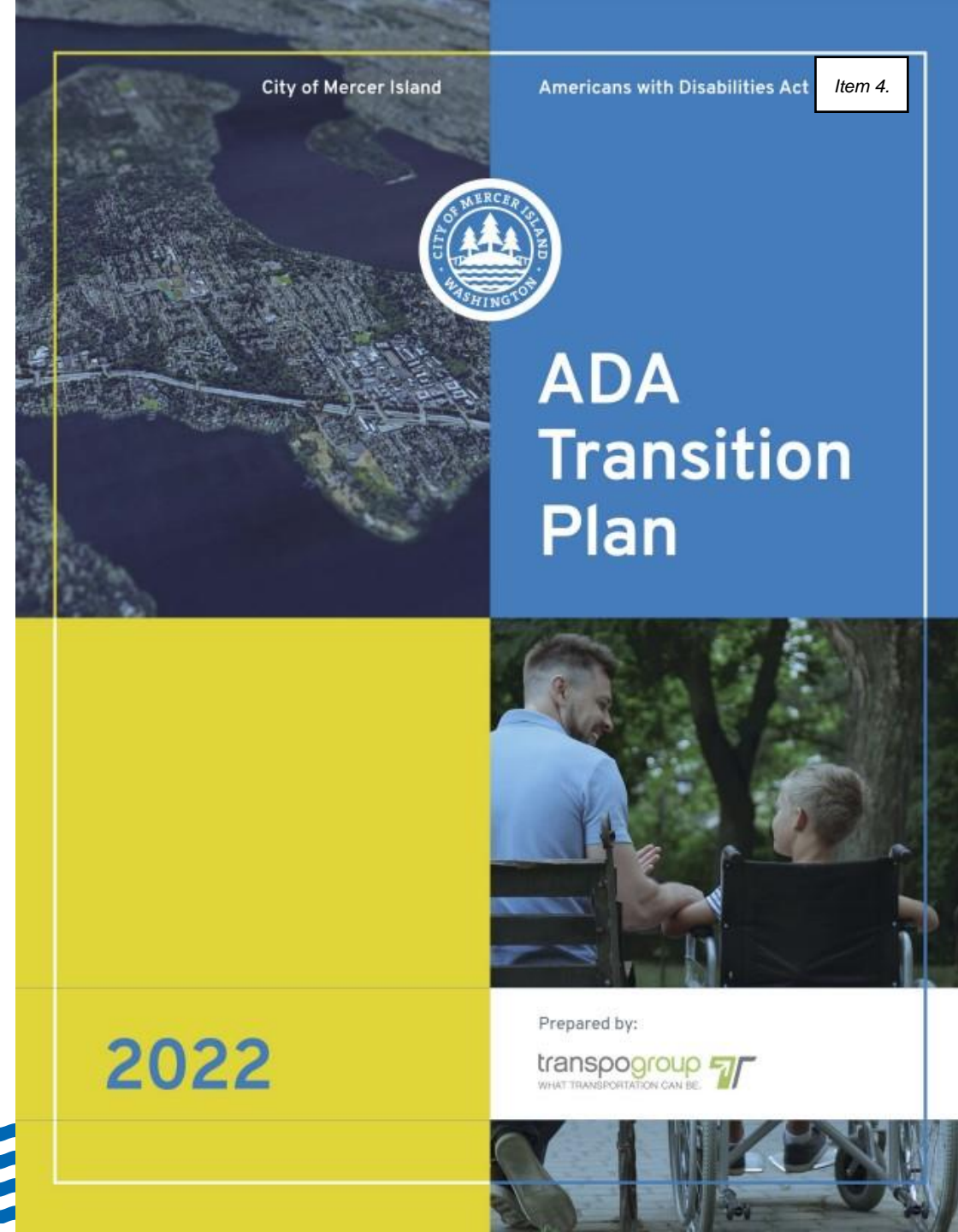


Installation Details

- Bronze 655 plate letters measuring 4.5” tall and .375” thick each.
- Last letters of each marker welded to silicon bronze framework.
- Entire intersection name secured to a block-out and filled with set grout.

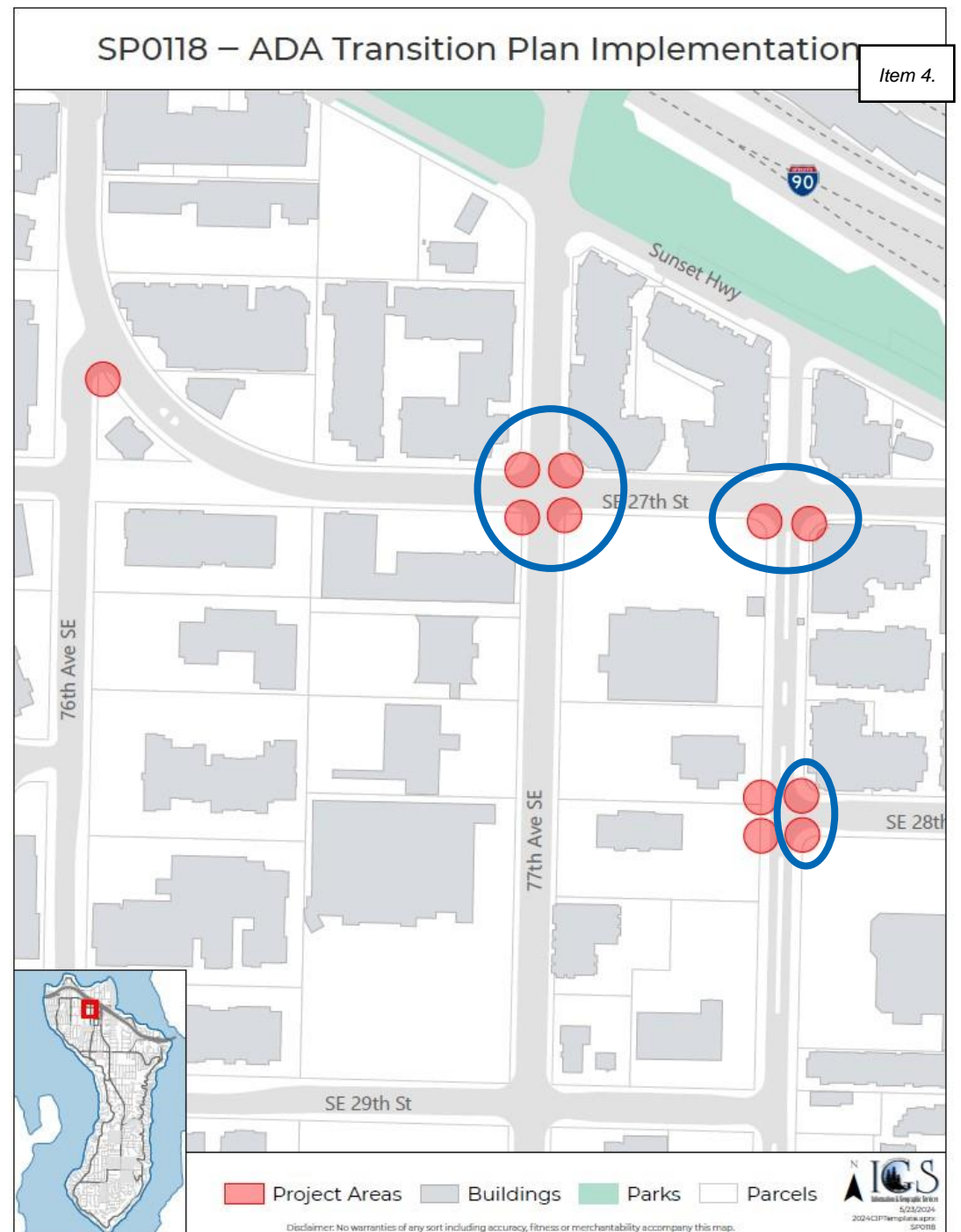
ADA Transition Plan

- Plan adopted in 2022.
- Identifies and guides the implementation of necessary accessibility improvements across the Island.
- Implementation focused on Town Center in 23-24 Biennial Budget.
- City's Transportation Engineer oversees implementation.
- Plan available for review at: <https://www.mercerisland.gov/ada>



SP0118 ADA Transition Plan Implementation

- Summer 2024 work includes replacing curb ramps, adjacent curbs/gutters, and sidewalks at 11 street corners (map to right).
- 8 of the 11 street corners include Street Name Inlays.
- Inlays will be removed during construction to accommodate new warning strips known as truncated domes.
- Other curb ramps with Street Name Inlays will be renovated during future CIP projects.





Input from Artist Ellen Sollod

- Staff met with Sollod in August 2023.
- Did not recommend re-siting to a new location since the inlays are place-specific.
- Supported deaccessioning series if suitable alternative isn't identified.
- Suggestion #1: Develop a new project with salvaged pieces that builds on/responds to context and history of current installation.
- Suggestion #2: Donate pieces to fine arts school or center to be melted down and used for new projects.

***The River* by Ellen Sollod; installed at Renton Transit Center**
Example of place-based artwork installed in different location

Removal Methods from ADA Design Consultant

Concrete Block

- Sawcut the intersection marker and remove as one concrete block to store.
- Not extremely time-intensive
- Would need to be removed carefully to maintain planar portion.
- Slabs would be heavy and fragile.
- No cost estimate for this option.

Individual Letters

- Chip each letter out of concrete, then clean and store.
- Limited to one street corner at a time to maintain pedestrian circulation.
- Very time- and labor-intensive.
- Cost per intersection = \$2,500
- Would need to be funded by 1% for Art in Public Places fund.

Meeting with Mercer Island Historical Society

- Staff met with MI Historical Society Co-Presidents July 11, 2024.
- Discussed significance of the Street Name Inlays and lack of historical representation in public art collection.
- Concerned about lack of notice to MI Historical Society about possible deaccession.
- MI Historical Society Board submitted a letter to the Arts Council on July 16 supporting development of a new project to highlight Island history in the Town Center.

Wednesday, January 18, 1995

Mercer Island, Washington

THIS WEEK

Mercer Islanders are at the helm of a 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 21 when the Chappin Symphony Orchestra comes to the island for a family concert at Mercer Island High School. The performance features Puck/Noel's "Four in the Wolf" as well as Stravinsky's "The Firebird".

Chappin is the first professional orchestra to perform on Mercer Island since 1988 according to Marguerite Sutherland, host of Classical Music Supper, which is sponsoring the concert. Tickets are available at Island Books, or by calling 860-6035. Tickets are \$12 (\$10 seniors, \$5 children).

Seattle's long beach known as a theater town - and Mercer Island is developing a reputation for fine theater. The Island had two productions featuring "The Snows".

Center Stage, the Eastside's only fully professional theater, is producing the award-winning play "Night Light" by Donald Margulies. It opened on the island, Jan. 13 and continued through Feb. 12 at the Theater at Shiloh Jewish Community Center. Tickets, \$10-\$15, are available by calling 738-4200.

The Youth Theatre Northwest presents a show "Cyrano" a production of myths that address the mysteries of life and creation. It opens Jan. 19 and features the filmstrip, the theater's advanced video stage. Tickets are \$8, available by calling 232-2250.

Few like Government is too big and too distant? Mercer Islanders can get closer to government and talk to the mayor tonight, from 7 p.m. at Executive Sam's, next to Alpacas at 78th Avenue Southeast.

Mayor Andy Carlson will be here to listen to what you or your friend - or the dog in a vest of "Coffee with the Mayor" sponsors has been holding recently. The setting is informal, and there's no set agenda - everybody's welcome to ask, ask questions, or just listen.

Let call for Christmas here! The City of Mercer Island's free Christmas tree chipping program ends on Friday, Jan. 20. If you still haven't gotten around to having down the "white-brown" tree, call the City Office behind City Hall, 8001 S.E. 20th Street. The chips are used for fuel and planted back into the island's forest.

Have you checked the CBD streets lately and wondered about some of the names?

Have you been curious about the street names, or the meaning of the words on the tree street?

That's the whole idea. The art elements were throughout downtown on the tree, golden sidewalk inlays, and light blue enclaves, were designed to engage the viewer in re-exploring and understanding Mercer Island's history, according to T. Eden Seidel, an artist who developed the art plan for downtown.

Let us have to get out of your car to see these - and that's the idea. From a map you see the street lights and benches, and you notice the street names, but it's only by walking through the CBD that you can appreciate the art plan. Only by walking do you get down to see the details and the pedestrian-oriented scale of the changes.

Art for pedestrians



The pedestrian growth of Mercer Island is a new focus for the city. The city staff is reviewing the way the city can make a personal increase in their monthly bills to \$1.50 per month on a \$10 bill.

By the way, last month, the Metropolitan King County Council approved a 20-cent increase in the tax on cellular phone calls for a 1.5-cent service. The county already adds 10 cents per month for every minute of use.

The cellular industry faces another hurdle as the law would force a 10-cent increase in the tax on cellular phone calls for a 1.5-cent service. The county already adds 10 cents per month for every minute of use.

The cellular industry faces another hurdle as the law would force a 10-cent increase in the tax on cellular phone calls for a 1.5-cent service. The county already adds 10 cents per month for every minute of use.

The cellular industry faces another hurdle as the law would force a 10-cent increase in the tax on cellular phone calls for a 1.5-cent service. The county already adds 10 cents per month for every minute of use.

The cellular industry faces another hurdle as the law would force a 10-cent increase in the tax on cellular phone calls for a 1.5-cent service. The county already adds 10 cents per month for every minute of use.

The cellular industry faces another hurdle as the law would force a 10-cent increase in the tax on cellular phone calls for a 1.5-cent service. The county already adds 10 cents per month for every minute of use.

The cellular industry faces another hurdle as the law would force a 10-cent increase in the tax on cellular phone calls for a 1.5-cent service. The county already adds 10 cents per month for every minute of use.

The cellular industry faces another hurdle as the law would force a 10-cent increase in the tax on cellular phone calls for a 1.5-cent service. The county already adds 10 cents per month for every minute of use.

The cellular industry faces another hurdle as the law would force a 10-cent increase in the tax on cellular phone calls for a 1.5-cent service. The county already adds 10 cents per month for every minute of use.

The cellular industry faces another hurdle as the law would force a 10-cent increase in the tax on cellular phone calls for a 1.5-cent service. The county already adds 10 cents per month for every minute of use.

The cellular industry faces another hurdle as the law would force a 10-cent increase in the tax on cellular phone calls for a 1.5-cent service. The county already adds 10 cents per month for every minute of use.

The cellular industry faces another hurdle as the law would force a 10-cent increase in the tax on cellular phone calls for a 1.5-cent service. The county already adds 10 cents per month for every minute of use.

The cellular industry faces another hurdle as the law would force a 10-cent increase in the tax on cellular phone calls for a 1.5-cent service. The county already adds 10 cents per month for every minute of use.

The cellular industry faces another hurdle as the law would force a 10-cent increase in the tax on cellular phone calls for a 1.5-cent service. The county already adds 10 cents per month for every minute of use.

New tax proposed on cellular phones

Some Islanders questioning safety of cellular antennae

about the potential health benefits of long-term exposure to transmitters over all frequencies, from such antennas.

Similar concerns have been raised in Seattle neighborhoods and across the country.

BUT HEALTH OFFICIALS say the evidence of health risks posed by the low-frequency radio waves is not conclusive.

Cellular towers have been installed in King County since 1992. The private sector, often outside of health officials, is so far as to be installed.

King County health officials last year reviewed the health issue for the 15 West counties as part of the 1994 health assessment. First HHS and concluded that each antenna was not a health risk.

Each of the 15 West counties is a wide area, given throughout the region. The federal government's standard for safety.

If the antennas cause to appear, the case will be decided by a Superior Court judge.

County members Tom Tate and Linda Johnson voted against the proposal. They said a controversial situation, such as a residential antenna, should not be allowed in a residential neighborhood.

In addition, Tate argued that the health officials have warned.

Laura McGowan, a resident who developed the petition, said that researchers have warned.

In addition, Tate argued that the health officials have warned.

Laura McGowan, a resident who developed the petition, said that researchers have warned.

In addition, Tate argued that the health officials have warned.

Laura McGowan, a resident who developed the petition, said that researchers have warned.

In addition, Tate argued that the health officials have warned.

Laura McGowan, a resident who developed the petition, said that researchers have warned.

In addition, Tate argued that the health officials have warned.

Art at your feet

Bronze inlays in CBD speak of Island history, poetry

But origins of the other names are unclear. They don't appear in "Mercer Island History," and Linda Jackson, president of the Mercer Island Historical Society, has been doing the research.

She says that the research has been done into the early street names. In fact, she says that anyone who has information about the early street names call her: 232-1111.

What's the history of the Sidewalk Inlays? These are four bronze sidewalk inlays.

What's the history of the Sidewalk Inlays? These are four bronze sidewalk inlays.

What's the history of the Sidewalk Inlays? These are four bronze sidewalk inlays.

What's the history of the Sidewalk Inlays? These are four bronze sidewalk inlays.

What's the history of the Sidewalk Inlays? These are four bronze sidewalk inlays.

Read More

INDEX

34 pages
Four sections
Vol. 42, No. 1

BusinessA5
CalendarC3
ClassifiedC9
EditorialA6
HealthA2
LifestyleC1
RecordsA7
SportsB1
SpecialsB1

Next Steps for Street Name Inlays

- SP0118 scheduled to begin construction later this month.
- Based on input from artist and cost to remove inlays, staff recommended the CIP project move forward without salvaging the impacted Street Name Inlays.
- Still opportunity to address other Street Name Inlays installed in Town Center.



NW Corner at SE 29th Street and 77th Avenue SE
Street Name Inlay previously removed by City ROW

Potential Recommendations

The Arts Council may choose to:

1. Recommend that the Street Name Inlays be deaccessioned.
2. Recommend further exploration for salvaging pieces during future capital projects.
3. Recommend that a new project highlighting historic street names be developed.
4. Some combination of options 1-3 OR a different recommendation proposed by an Arts Councilmember.

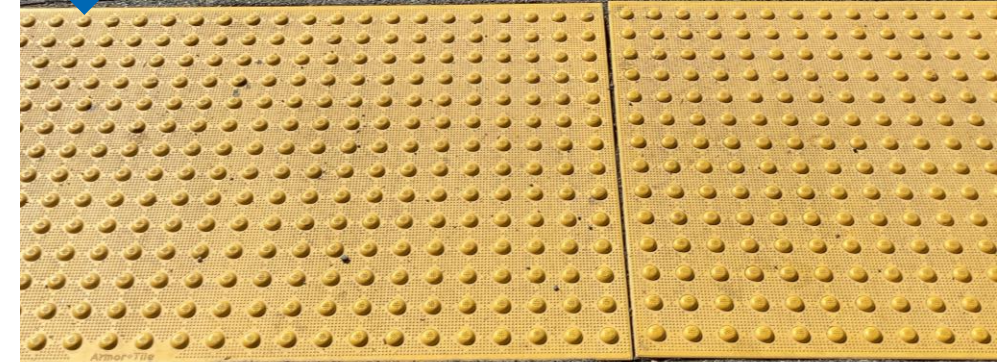
Questions Received by Staff

Why do photos in Exhibit 2 show corners that already have truncated domes?

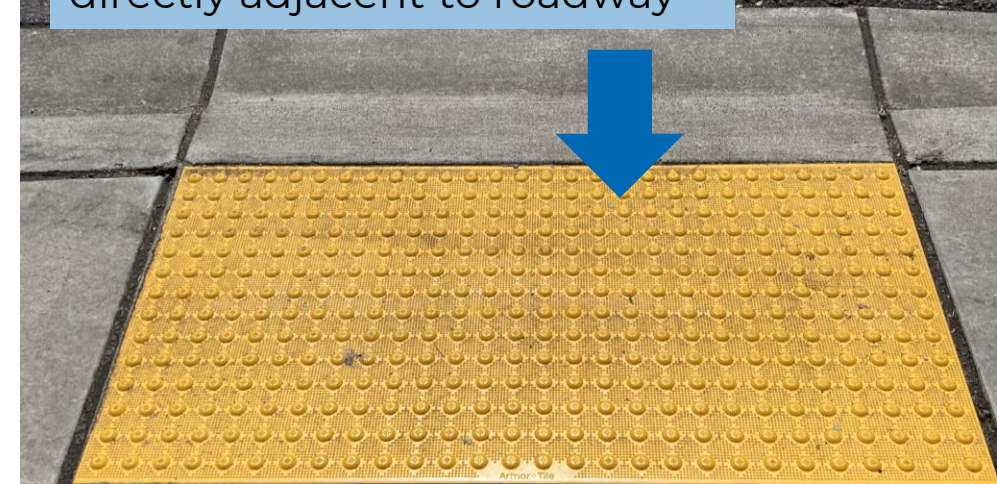
- Photos in Exhibit 2 show truncated domes already installed at corners on SE 27th and SE 28th Streets.
- These curb ramps were upgraded by the developer of 77 Central when that complex was built in the mid-2000s.
- At the time, the City required the developer to make street frontage improvements, including adding the truncated domes to the curb ramps and reinstalling the Street Name Inlays on the impacted corners.
- The audit for the ADA Transition Plan found that none of those curb comply with the ADA.

Non-compliant truncated dome placement

Item 4.



Compliant truncated dome – directly adjacent to roadway



Questions Received by Staff

Did the City consider re-siting the impacted Street Name Inlays somewhere else in the sidewalk on the corner? (E.g., at top of curb ramp, near building, etc.)

- The Mercer Island Historical Society suggested this.
- Design challenges for this option:
 - Length of the curb ramp depends on the length of the sidewalk and the slopes leading into the roadway.
 - ROW space is limited at the corners, and the required ADA design pushes the ramps closer to the ROW edge, leaving little to no room for Street Name Inlays.

Questions Received by Staff

Can you clarify the number of Street Name Inlays?

- 21 Street Name Inlays currently installed in Town Center.
- 8 impacted by summer 2024 construction.
- 13 will not be impacted this summer.

Can you clarify the construction timing?

- Our Transportation Engineer is working on the construction contract now, and we anticipate that construction of the curb ramp improvements will begin later this month.

Questions Received by Staff

When will the remaining 13 corners with Street Name Inlays be upgraded?

- No set timeline for future retrofits/reconstruction.
- Will continue to focus ADA Transition Plan implementation on Town Center, including on pedestrian facilities ahead of Light Rail opening.
- Still time to evaluate opportunities for salvaging the remaining Street Name Inlays.

Questions Received by Staff

Can you clarify the timing of deaccessioning for each potential recommendation?

- If the Arts Council chose Recommendation #1, the recommendation to deaccession the Street Name Inlays series would be sent to City Council for approval in Q4 of 2024.
- If the Arts Council chose Recommendation #2, a recommendation to deaccession the Street Name Inlays series would only be sent to City Council after further exploration of salvaging pieces is complete/the Arts Council provides direction.
- If the Arts Council chose Recommendation #3, the recommendation to deaccession the Street Name Inlays series would be sent to City Council at the same time approval of a new public art project to highlight historic street names is requested.

How are deaccession needs evaluated?

Current Deaccession Criteria

1. A work is not, or is only rarely, on display because of lack of a suitable site.
2. The condition or security of the artwork cannot be reasonable guaranteed.
3. The artwork has been damaged or has deteriorated and repair is impractical or unfeasible.
4. The artwork endangers public safety.
5. In the case of site-specific artwork, the artwork is destroyed by severely altering its relationship to the site.
6. The artwork has been determined to be significantly incompatible or inferior in the context of the collection.
7. The City wishes to replace the artwork with work of more significance by the same artist.
8. The artwork requires excessive maintenance or has faults of design or workmanship.



ARTS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Item (5)
July 17, 2024
Regular Business

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

TITLE:	Art in Public Places 6-Year Workplan Progress	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Endorse the Public Art Pillars and provide input on planning process and timeline.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution

STAFF:	Sarah Bluvas	
COUNCIL LIAISON:	Ted Weinberg	
EXHIBITS:	1. Summary of Arts Council Workshop Input	

SUMMARY

This staff report provides an overview of the progress to develop a 6-Year Workplan for the Art in Public Places Program (the Plan), an internal planning document that will guide internal decision-making for future public art projects. During the regular Mercer Island Arts Council (Arts Council) meeting on July 17, staff will seek endorsement of the Public Art Pillars and input for the upcoming planning process/timeline.

ABOUT THE 6-YEAR WORKPLAN

Development of the Plan was identified in the 2022 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (PROS Plan). In [April 2024](#), the Arts Council endorsed the planning process, which includes workshops focused on specific elements of the public art program. Staff will use the Arts Council’s input to draft the sections of the Plan for Arts Council review and endorsement. Once finalized, the Plan will inform public art items for future City department workplans.

ARTS COUNCIL WORKSHOP INPUT

The Arts Council has participated in two workshops to date:

- Workshop #1 – May 20, 2024 ([Agenda Item #2](#) | [Video Recording](#); Item begins at 7:13)
- Workshop #2 – June 17, 2024 ([Agenda Item #2](#) | [Video Recording](#); Item begins at 3:02)

A summary of feedback received during both workshops is provided as Exhibit 1.

The first workshop focused on current public art conditions. The Arts Council reviewed City planning documents relevant to public art and explored the City’s collection and program. They shared their observations as well as short phrases/sentences they wrote responding to two prompts.

For the second workshop, staff presented four “public art pillars” to serve as the foundation for public art projects developed over the six-year planning horizon:

- Aesthetic: Elements of physical artmaking, such as medium, materials, process, style/genre, and artists.
- Place: Both the physical location of the artwork and the sense of identity a work of art may cultivate.

- Connection: How public art encourages connection, both to the artwork itself and to/within the Mercer Island community.
- Longevity: Long-term viability of public art on Mercer Island, including culturally, environmentally, and financially.

Using the pillars, the Arts Council drafted and discussed statements to “frame” how public art projects will be prioritized and developed through the Plan. The Arts Council also shared feedback on the public art acquisition and deaccession guidelines. (At the third workshop, refined framing statements will be presented for comment, and the public art policy discussion will continue.)

ENDORSEMENT OF PUBLIC ART PILLARS

Following the second workshop, Arts Councilmember Skone recommended including safety/accessibility in a public art pillar description and suggested adding a fifth public art pillar:

***Innovation and Originality:** The art should demonstrate skill and creativity, offering visual appeal that engages and inspires viewers. Art that pushes boundaries or introduces new ideas can spark dialogue and enrich public discourse. Inspirational/Unique/novel/amazing, Art that brings awe and/or joy or provokes thought and feelings and/or nurtures the spirit*

At the July 17 meeting, the Arts Council will discuss these suggestions and, if desired, endorse the list of public art pillars to include in the Plan.

INPUT ON PLANNING PROCESS AND TIMELINE

Additionally, staff invite the Arts Council to share feedback on how this internal planning process can be improved. Staff propose adding three more workshops (special hybrid meetings) to continue the planning process in 2024. A draft schedule is provided in the table below.

Date	Title	Topics	Milestone
September 16, 2024	Special Hybrid Meeting	Framing Statements Public Art Policy	Draft Review: Framing Statements
October 16, 2024	Regular Hybrid Meeting	Framing Statements Interpretation / Engagement	Endorsement: Framing Statements
November 18, 2024	Special Hybrid Meeting	Public Art Policy Interpretation / Engagement	Draft Review: Public Art Guidelines
		CIP Project Opportunities Evaluation	Endorsement: Goals for Public Art Interpretation / Engagement
December 11, 2024	Special Hybrid Meeting	CIP Project Opportunities	Draft Review: Future Plan Updates
		Collection Care	Endorsement: 25-26 Project Opportunities Matrix
		Funding Evaluation	

Public Art Policy and Evaluation work will continue into 2025. Staff anticipate completing all sections of the Plan by the end of Q1 2025.

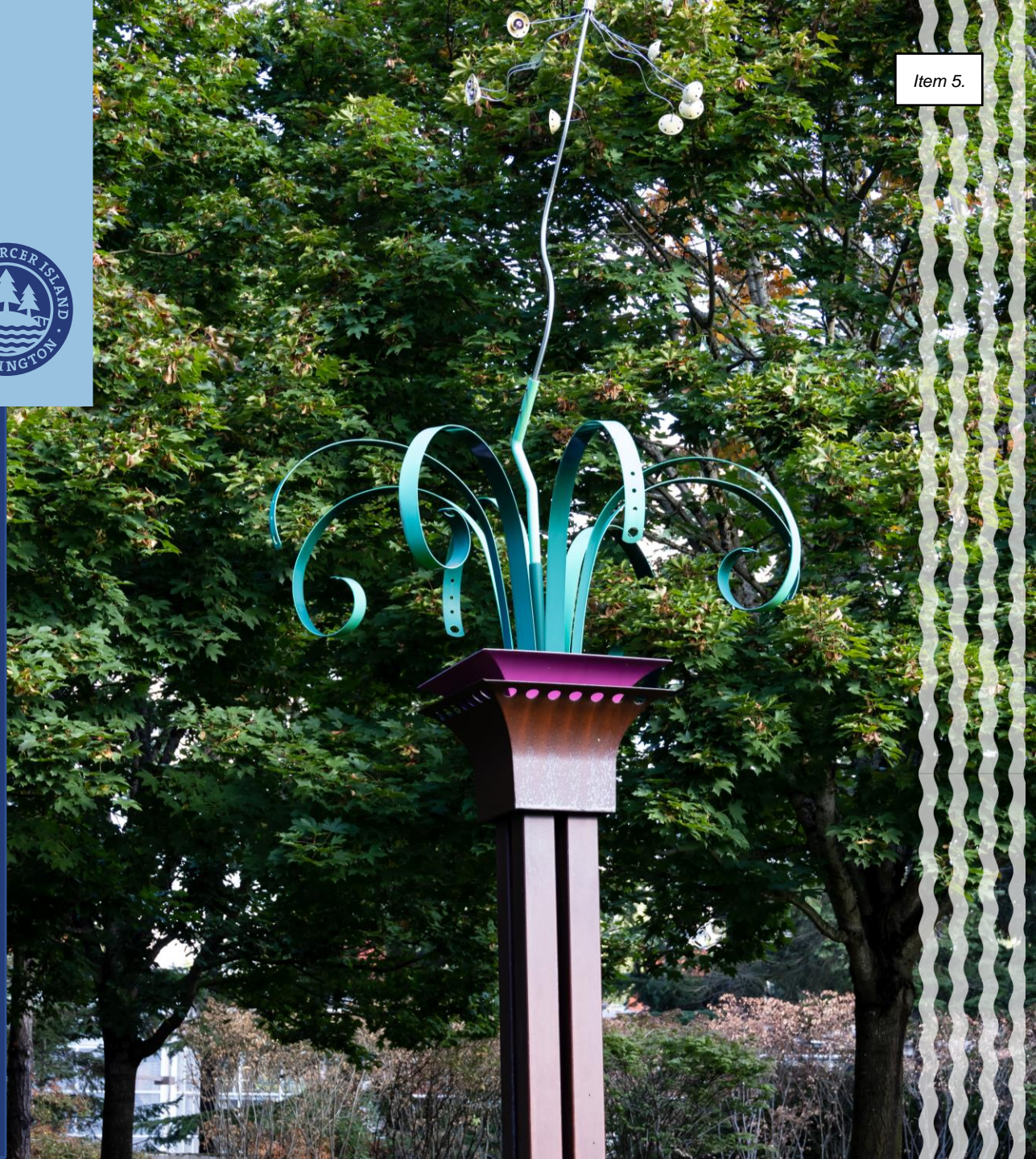
RECOMMENDED ACTION

Endorse the Public Art Pillars and provide input on planning process and timeline.



Summary of Arts Council Workshop Input

Arts Council Regular Meeting
July 17, 2024



Workshop Details

- The Arts Council is participating in workshops to develop a 6-Year Workplan for the Art in Public Places Program.
- This deck summarizes Arts Council input received during the following workshops:
 - Workshop #1 – May 20, 2024
 - Workshop #2 – June 17, 2024

3 Workshop #1
Arts Council Responses

How do you describe the public art collection today?

Responses	Keywords
Not as high quality as those in neighboring communities	Quality
Art community does not feel connected	Disconnected arts community
Community does not feel connected to the arts	Disconnected from public art
Island has many artists, art patrons, and citizens who want more access and opportunity to engage with the arts locally.	Opportunity and access Local artists / arts
Lot of visual art → bronze, sculpture	Visual arts heavy Bronze Sculpture
Not as much performing arts	Performing arts needs
Well-supported and prioritized on the Island through commissions and maintenance	Supported
Also under-appreciated and less well-known among our community	Under-appreciated Lacks awareness
Geographically concentrated in Town Center and North End	Town Center North End Concentrated geographically
Sizable collection; more significant than I realized	Sizable Significant Surprising
Very focused on visual arts	Visual arts heavy
Lacking space to gather to perform arts → goal to work toward	Performing arts need
Lack of awareness about the Arts Council	Lacks awareness
Arts community is disconnected → can the Arts Council play role in bringing different groups together?	Disconnected arts community
Artwork inspires feeling and emotion (e.g. figures at QFC, children at The Mercer fountain, etc.)	Inspiring Emotion
Artwork is inspiring and beautiful	Inspiring Beautiful
In-person and digital engagement opportunities for the collection are helpful	Community engagement
Accessible → known to the public and available to see all the time	Access
Artwork is a bit dated → need to maintain but also update the collection	Out-dated artwork Maintain but update
Artwork as landmark → people reference things around it or use it as reference points (placemaking)	Landmarks Placemaking
<i>The Source</i> is a landmark.	<i>The Source</i>
Variety in the artwork	Variety
Working off a good foundation	Foundation
Sculpture Gallery is central and well-organized → have something to show others at the Light Rail station area; centralize more artwork there to make it a destination?	Outdoor Sculpture Gallery Centralized
Interactive artwork → <i>Kenton's Dragon</i> , <i>The Source</i> , etc., provide opportunities for kids to interact.	Interactive Engaging kids / families

Item 5.

Where do you want to see the public art collection go?

Responses	Keywords
Plays a crucial role in quality of life in the community, fostering creativity, cultural exchange, and social cohesion.	Quality of life Creativity Social cohesion
Enriches urban landscape, stimulates dialogue, and contributes to the overall well-being and vitality of a community.	Dialogue Enriching Community vitality
More variety and types → especially more interactive art	Variety Interactive
Stronger integration with the surrounding context → pieces that make sense in the spaces in which they are installed	Context Integrated
More lighting → light-based artwork, lighting of the artwork, lighting for public safety	Lighting
Coordinated arts cooperation → bring arts / non-arts groups and individuals together	Coordination Cooperation
More crowd-sourced projects to bring people together → permanent projects like <i>Mercer Island Medallions</i>	Crowd-sourced Bring people together
Sustainability → environmental, social	Sustainability Equity
Explore other mediums → beyond sculpture to include glass, lighting, performance; make it a broader collection	Beyond sculpture Broader collection
Geographic equity	Geographic equity
Integrate context → tell the history of Mercer Island	Context History
Reflect values and pride of Mercer Island → open spaces / natural environments, schools, great place for families	Mercer Island values
<i>Mercer Island Medallions</i> a good example of telling the Island's history and community values	<i>Mercer Island Medallions</i>
Be intentional about what is commissioned and maintained going forward → future financial sustainability; position the City to commission more pieces rather than just maintain	Financial sustainability Future community Intentional
Honor Indigenous history of the Island	Indigenous history
Dedicated opportunities for different Island communities / organizations to express themselves	Self-expression Inclusion
Artwork to inspire inclusion and acceptance	Inclusion
Focus on placemaking → amphitheater at Luther Burbank Park, <i>The Source</i> , <i>Primavera II</i> , etc., are examples of artwork/arts spaces that create sense of place	Placemaking
Think about ways to welcome folks to Mercer Island, e.g. roundabouts in Thonon-les-Bains	Welcoming
Celebrate the place we're in	Celebrate place
Artwork as a theme throughout the City → e.g. Pigs in Pike Place Market; unifying theme throughout the community	Unifying
Water as a unifying theme → fountains, spray park, both art and functional	Water
Sculpture Gallery is central and well-organized → have something to show others at the Light Rail station area; centralize more artwork there to make it a destination?	Outdoor Sculpture Gallery Centralized Destination
Artwork is a bit dated → need to maintain but also update the collection	Update
Arts community is disconnected → can the Arts Council play role in bringing different groups together?	Arts Council as convener
Very focused on visual arts	Incorporate performing arts
Opportunities exist to engage community members for feedback	Engage community

Item 5.

5 Workshop #2
Arts Council Framing Statements

Item 5.

Art installations should enhance the sense of place, creating landmarks that celebrate the identity of Mercer Island and ensure geographic equity across all neighborhoods.

It should be easy for viewers to understand the connection of each piece to Mercer Island's past and present.

Sparking curiosity with artwork located throughout the Island where people walk, gather, and play.

Celebrate variety of forms of arts with a strong emphasis on high aesthetic quality.

Public art will celebrate diverse aesthetics and mediums, embracing innovation across vibrant and inclusive canvases. We aim to prioritize projects that actively engage diverse community voices, ensuring that each piece resonates and reflects the cultural richness of our city. This approach ensures that public art is not just a form of decoration but a platform for dialogue and community pride.

Promote non-resident interest in visiting Mercer Island.

Educate and promote arts on the Island. Arts are an essential element *and* an extra.

Create a destination to bring local artists together and make their work more accessible to the community.

The 6-year plan should focus 100% on the "front door" of Mercer Island. The Greta Hackett Outdoor Sculpture Gallery would welcome people to Mercer Island from Light Rail, be in the densest population, and be accessible to all.

Priority should be given to pieces that are integrated into their surroundings such that they appear to be commissioned specifically for that location.

Each project will be thoughtfully integrated into its geographical and cultural context, enhancing the unique identity and historical significance of its location. We will turn artworks into landmarks that narrate the rich history of Mercer Island, creating spaces that are not only visually captivating but also educational. This strategic placement aims to strengthen the connection between our community and the environment, making art a cornerstone of civic identity and pride.

Embrace Mercer Island's natural environment. In suitable projects, blend art and natural science to provide the public with a holistic, educational, and family friendly experience.

Promote arts and culture projects that expand resident involvement in the civic and cultural life of the community (e.g. volunteerism, political participation, arts/culture creation).

Art projects should be designed with sustainability in mind, ensuring cultural, environmental, financial, and physical durability.

Encourage and facilitate community members of all ages, cultural backgrounds, and economical means to participate in art creation, performance, and appreciation.

Artwork should either provide something new that does not already exist in our collection or intentionally expand on existing pieces/elements.

6 Workshop #2
Arts Council Framing Statements

Item 5.

Create opportunities that can be funded in the future with 1% funds, grants, and donations – sort of a menu of opportunities that are scoped out with cost and space.

Sharing our history with future generations through landmarks and performing arts commissions.

Public art should foster community connections by being accessible, inclusive, and reflective of Mercer Island's history, values, and pride, encouraging dialogue and community engagement.

Operate the public art program with physical responsibility.

Public art projects should incorporate diverse mediums such as light-based art, glass, and interactive installations that reflect local artists' self-expression and integrate performing arts.

Expand opportunities for diverse communities to express their values and creative spirit.

Maximize use of the Greta Hackett Outdoor Sculpture Gallery to facilitate experiences like Art Uncorked, small stage for performances, water touch gardens for children, games for adults to gather around, etc.

Focusing on long-term sustainability, we will embody sustainability not only in materials but also in artwork's ability to remain relevant and engaging over time. Projects will be evaluated not only for their immediate impact but also for their potential to endure and inspire future generations, ensuring financial and environmental sustainability at its core. We aim for public art that inspire future generations, maintaining its beauty and significance through sustainable practices and forward-thinking design.

Heighten Mercer Island's quality of life by celebrating a diverse variety of self-expression.

Promote arts and culture projects that contribute to sustainable development and intergenerational equity.

Artwork should thoughtfully consider its future on Mercer Island, including maintenance, environmental sustainability, and the changing interpretations of generations.

Who is involved in the acquisition process?

Activity	Current “Who”	Updated “Who”
Develop RFQ/RFP document.	Program Writing Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arts Council member (committee chair) City staff Project designer (e.g. CIP) Interested citizen Others identified by staff and/or City Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove interested citizen Flexible depending on the project Find other ways for community engagement in the process
Approve RFQ/RFP document.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Program Writing Committee Chair presents to Arts Council for recommendation. Staff present Arts Council recommendation to City Council. City Council approves recommendation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make sure the Arts Council has agency
Evaluate artist submittals.	Artist Selection Panel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Artist Mercer Island citizen w/ special interest in project site Arts Council member (panel chair) Design Commission member Mercer Island citizen City Councilmember City staff (non-voting) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forum for Mercer Island citizens to weigh in at artist selection Commissions that will be involved with that location, project, etc. → for increased buy-in Interested constituency → less prescribed Interest in project site if project specific AC approve selection panel w/o CC approval
Select artist.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Artist Selection Panel Chair presents panel results to Arts Council for recommendation. Staff present Arts Council recommendation to City Council. City Council approves recommendation. Artist Selection Panel Chair notifies selected artist. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff do the notification
Implement acquisition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Artist Selection Panel Chair City staff 	

How are submittals evaluated?

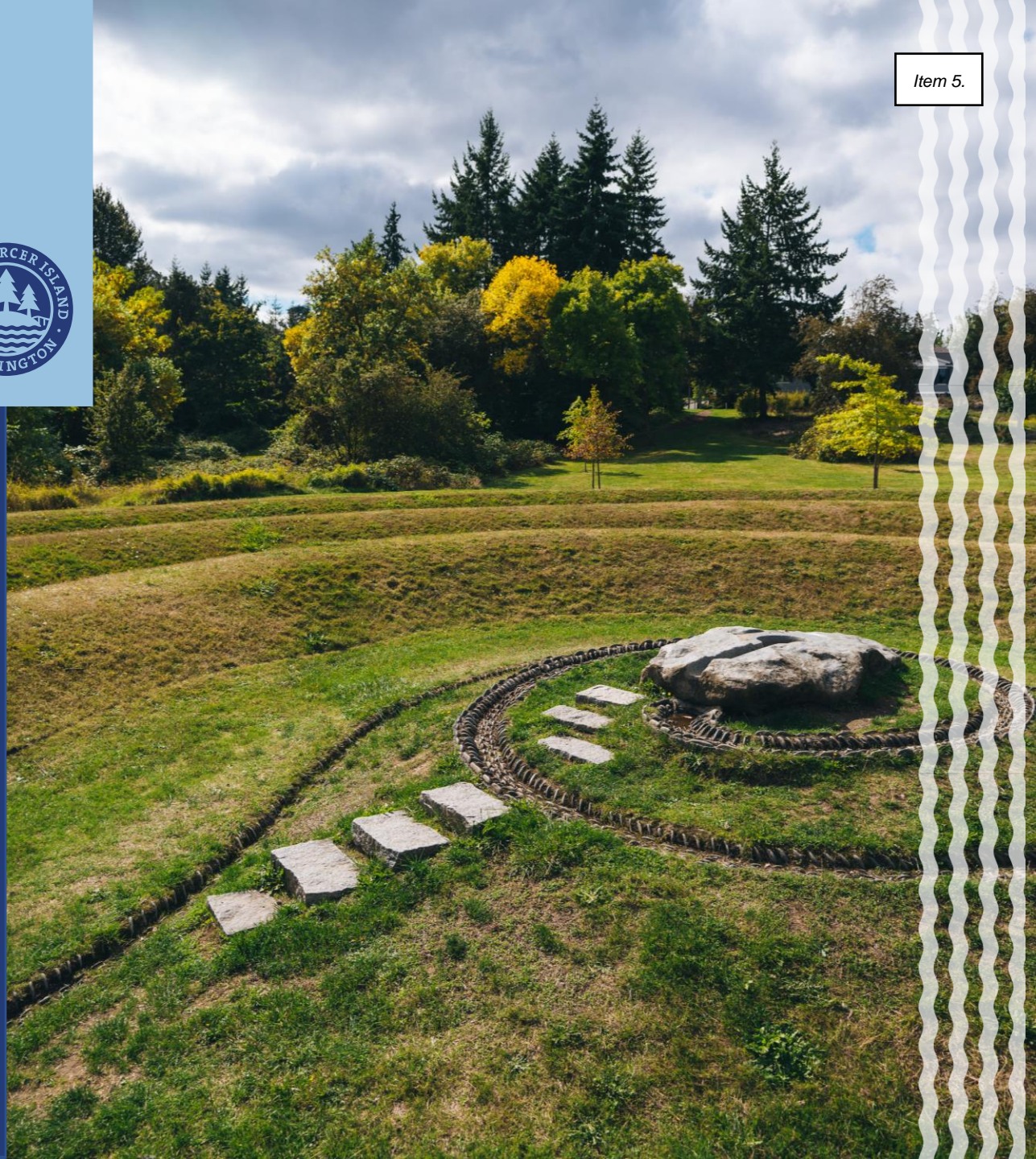
Yes / No
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Recognized as professional who routinely creates high quality work.2. Worked with public, private, or corporate entities previously.3. Completed commissioned work on time and within budget. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use the four pillars and framing statements to build out the evaluation criteria.• Keep/update criteria for aesthetic quality.• Possible to include criteria/evaluation related to artwork lifespan and maintenance needs?• Make ranking less complicated / disparate.• Consider general criteria + project-specific criteria.

Rank (1-6, Low to High)
<ol style="list-style-type: none">4. Produced artwork sensitive and responsive to broad range of public.5. Shows sensitivity to public benefit requirement identified in RFQ/RFP.6. In scale with site and / or intended use; does not interfere with any traffic patterns.7. Recognizes issues of theft, vandalism, weather, and excessive maintenance costs.8. Experience in/ knowledge of chosen medium.9. Written concept, sketches, and chosen medium/material expressed cohesively.10. Entry compatible with RFQ/RFP.



6-Year Art in Public Places Workplan Progress

Arts Council Regular Hybrid Meeting
July 17, 2024



Goals for Tonight's Conversation

1. Recap Workshops #1 and #2.
2. Endorse the Public Art Pillars.
3. Provide feedback on planning process and timeline.
4. Update on summer 2024 public art maintenance.
5. Confirm the date/time for Workshop #3.



Workshop Recap

Public art projects
Should incorporate diverse mediums such as light, sound, sculpture, and interactive installations that reflect local artists' self-expression and integrate performing arts.

Place
Art installations should incorporate a sense of place, creating history that celebrates the identity of Mercer Island and ensures geographic equity across all neighborhoods.

Conversation
Public art should foster community connections by being accessible, inclusive, and reflective of Mercer Island's history, values, and goals. Encourage dialogue and community engagement.

Encouraging and Facilitating
Encourage and facilitate community members of all ages, cultural backgrounds, and experiences means to participate in art creation, performance and appreciation.

Promote and Support
Promote and support local artists and their work.

Maximize Use of
Maximize use of public spaces like Art Unleashed, small stage for performers, water touch gardens for children, games for adults to gather around.

Educate and promote arts on the Island
Arts are an essential element and an extra.

Other notes:
- Create a destination to bring local artists together and make their work more accessible to the community.
- Public art should be located throughout the island where people will gather and enjoy.
- Priority should be given to pieces that are integrated into their surroundings such that they appear to be commissioned specifically for that location.
- It should be easy for visitors to understand the connection of each piece to Mercer Island's past and present.
- We aim to practice projects that actively engage diverse community voices, ensuring that each piece resonates & reflects the culture & richness of our city.
- Artwork should respectfully consider its place in Mercer Island including maintenance, environmental sustainability, and its changing interpretations of generations.
- Each project will be thoughtfully integrated into the geographical & cultural context, enhancing the island's identity & historical significance of its location.
- We will honor our rich history of maritime space that are not only visually appealing but also educational.
- We will create a connection between our community & the environment, making art a cornerstone of our identity & pride.
- Public art should be a reflection of our community's history & aspirations, creating a sense of place and belonging.
- Public art should be a reflection of our community's history & aspirations, creating a sense of place and belonging.

Workshop #1 – May 20, 2024

- Focus: Current Public Art Conditions
- Pre-work: Arts Council reviewed City planning documents relevant to public art and explored the City's public art collection/program.
- Exercise: Board members shared short phrases responding to two prompts:

How do you describe the public art collection today?

Where do you want to see the public art collection go as a result of this workplan?

Workshop #2 – June 17, 2024

- Focus: Framing Statements & Public Art Policy
- Pre-work: Staff proposed Four Public Art Pillars, and Arts Council drafted statements to “frame” how public art projects will be prioritized and developed through the workplan in response.
- Exercise: Board members shared and discussed their framing statements and provided initial input on guidelines for acquisition.

Arts Council feedback received at both workshops is included as Item 5 - Exhibit 1 in tonight's Agenda Packet.



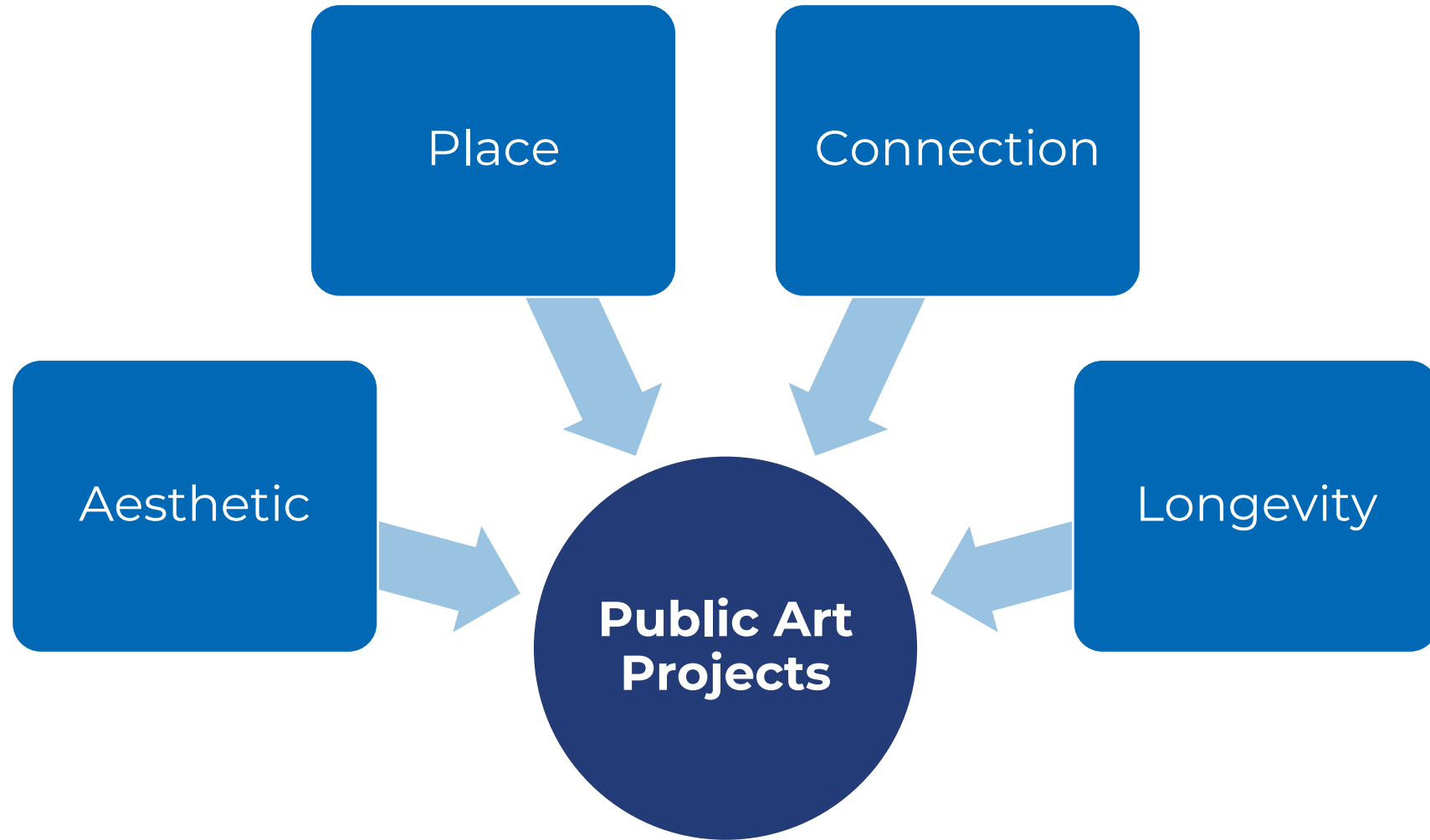
Public Art Pillars



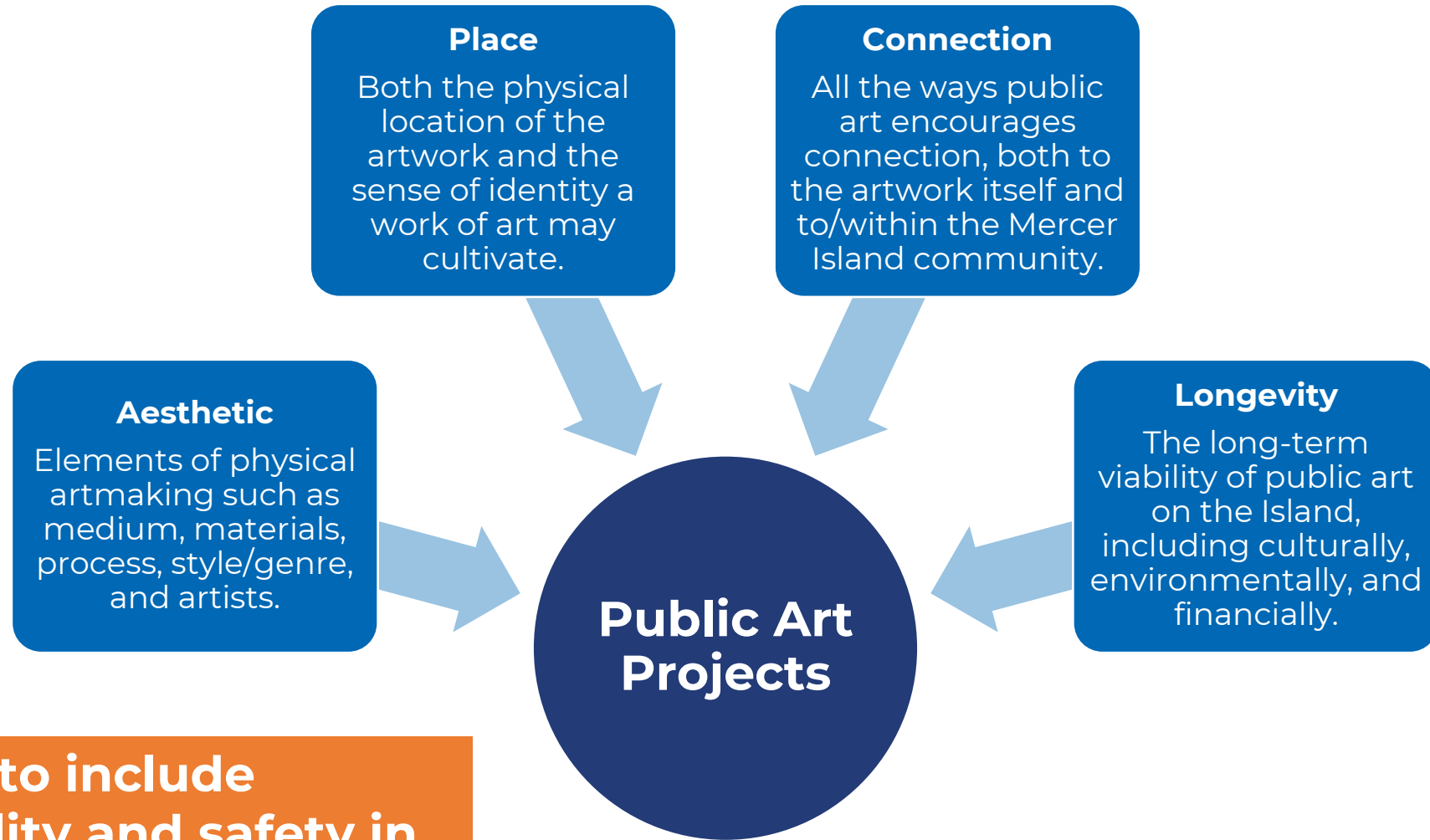
Standing Strong (Veterans Pergola) by Richard Frombach

required 2005 Veterans Recognition AIPP

Four Public Art Pillars Presented at Workshop #2

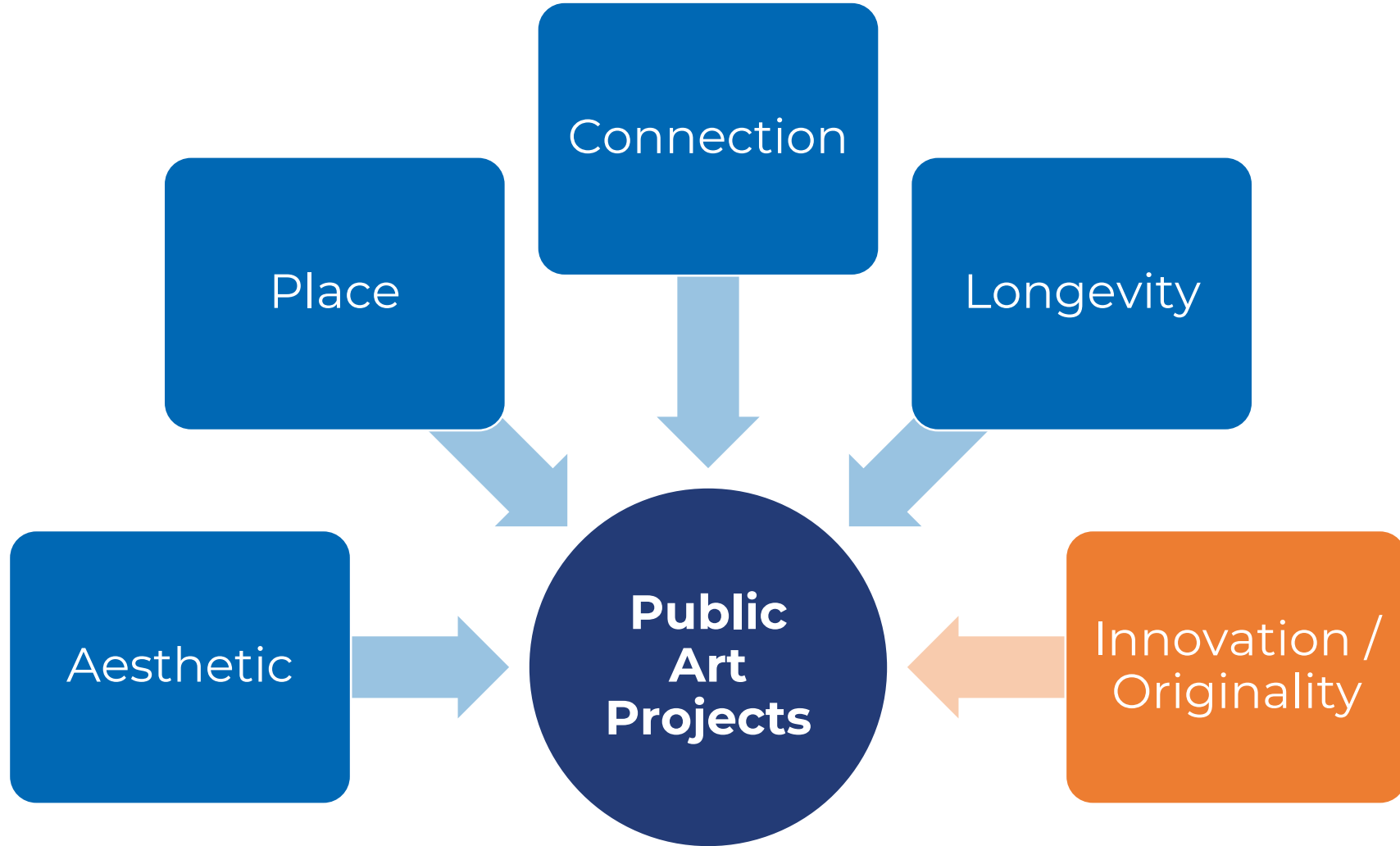


Four Public Art Pillars Presented at Workshop #2

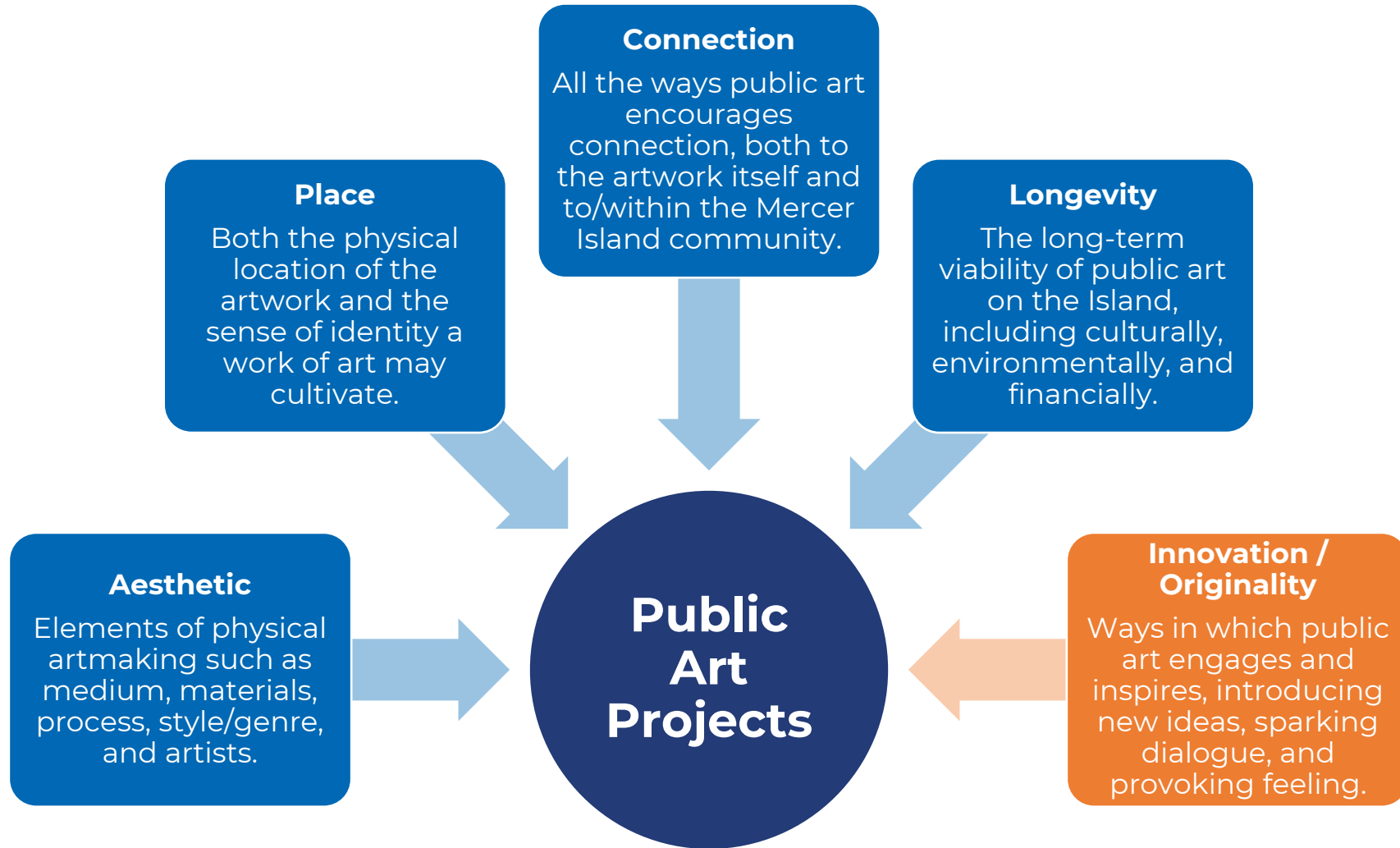


Proposal to include accessibility and safety in one of the descriptions.

~~Four~~ **Five** Public Art Pillars



Four **Five** Public Art Pillars





Process Feedback

Call of the Wild by Donald Riggs
Donated to the City in 2013



Proposed Upcoming Planning Schedule

Date	Title	Topics	Milestone
September 16	Special Hybrid Meeting (Workshop #3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Framing Statements • Public Art Policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Review: Framing Statements
October 16	Regular Hybrid Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Framing Statements • Interpretation / Engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorsement: Framing Statements
November 18	Special Hybrid Meeting (Workshop #4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Art Policy • Interpretation / Engagement • CIP Project Opportunities • Evaluation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Review: Public Art Guidelines • Endorsement: Goals for Public Art Interpretation & Engagement
December 11	Special Hybrid Meeting (Workshop #5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CIP Project Opportunities • Collection Care • Funding • Evaluation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Review: Process for Plan Updates • Endorsement: 25-26 Project Opportunities Matrix



Public Art Maintenance Updates

- Restoration of the mosaic murals at Luther Burbank Park begins **tomorrow**.
- Contracting process to restore *Totem* by Bernard Hosey is still underway. Anticipate work will begin in late August.
- General public art maintenance happening throughout the summer.



Public Art Planning Look-Ahead

- Mostly Music in the Park – August 1
 - Staff will have coloring sheets, a public art map, and other materials highlighting the public art collection.
 - Stop by to say hello!
- Special Hybrid Meeting (Workshop #3) – Monday, September 16, 5:30pm
 - Review draft Framing Statements.
 - Continue Public Art Policy discussion.

Illustration of *Gateway Figures* by Garth Edwards



ARTS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Item (6)
July 17, 2024
Regular Business

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

TITLE:	2023 Recreation Division Annual Report	<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:	Discussion only; no action needed.	

STAFF:	Ryan Daly
COUNCIL LIAISON:	Ted Weinberg
EXHIBITS:	1. 2023 Recreation Division Annual Report

SUMMARY

The purpose of this staff report is to transmit the [2023 Recreation Division Annual Report](#) (Exhibit 1) to the Mercer Island Arts Council. This report was previously delivered to the Parks and Recreation Commission on [June 6, 2024](#).

BACKGROUND

In 2021 the Recreation Division successfully completed the *Strategy for Mercer Island Community and Event Center and Recreation Programs and Services* ([Reset Strategy](#)). The Reset Strategy provides direction and guidance for the development and implementation of services, and establishes minimum cost recovery goals. This document was supported by the Arts Council, endorsed by the Parks and Recreation Commission, and accepted by the City Council. The Division has been dedicated to following the Reset Strategy and in providing transparency to the public on Division operations.

As part of the Reset Strategy development process staff committed to providing an annual report to the Parks and Recreation Commission and Arts Council as a way to track progress over time and to hold the division accountable to the Reset Strategy’s principals.

The first annual report was developed in 2021 and has continued in subsequent years to track Division services offered and outcomes for cost recovery and participation rates over time. Linked here are past annual reports for [2021](#) and [2022](#). It is anticipated that subsequent reports will be adapted and be refined annually to demonstrate the success of the Division and to identify areas needing improvement or service alterations.

DISCUSSION

In 2023 staff sought to further implement the Reset Strategy, and to refine and expand services offered in the previous year. The 2023 Annual Report includes narrative information for the (3) functional areas which make up the Recreation Division. These functional areas include Administration, Mercer Island Community and Event Center (MICEC), and Programs and Events.

Incorporating more than just narrative details, staff has expanded the report to encompass a comprehensive three-year review of Division expenditures and revenues and participation rates. Additionally, visual representations depicting facility usage of the MICEC and park spaces have been included, as well as program participation and facility rental booking data to complement financial data.

Tonight, staff will present a high-level overview of the 2023 Annual Report and welcome Arts Council questions and comments regarding the past year's outcomes.

NEXT STEPS

Staff have posted the most current (3) reports on the Parks and Recreation website and are utilizing the information to inform service delivery for the following year and biennium.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Discussion only; no action needed.



CITY OF MERCER ISLAND RECREATION DIVISION ANNUAL REPORT 2023

DIVISION OVERVIEW

The City of Mercer Island is dedicated to providing the community with a diverse array of recreational services and opportunities, facilitated through collaborative efforts with the city, partnerships, and private providers. These recreation services are integral to enhancing the quality of life on Mercer Island, serving as a catalyst for equitable access and the promotion of community values and objectives.

As a part of the Public Works Department, the Recreation Division has been dedicated to following the *“Strategy for Mercer Island Community and Event Center & Recreation Program and Services”* (established in 2021) as a roadmap how and what recreational services are delivered. The division’s personnel provide essential services such as implementing marketing and community engagement efforts, managing park and facility scheduling, facilitating special event permitting, coordinating recreation programs and events, operating the Mercer Island Community and Event Center (MICEC), and providing staffing support to the Arts Council and Parks and Recreation Commission.

IMPLEMENTATION OF 2023 SERVICES

The following ambitions and approaches were carried forward from 2022 to guide the delivery of recreation services in 2023. They are deemed necessary for long-term division success:

- Professional management and smart business operations.
- Increased community access to the MICEC.
- Flexible, cross-trained staff.
- Leveraging community partnerships and service provider contracts.
- Developing more programs and services, consistent with Division goals and evaluations.
- Boosting self-service possibilities and reducing staff inefficiencies.
- Increasing staffing resources as pandemic conditions improve.

The 2023-2024 Biennial Budget allocated \$2.1M in funding for 2023 recreation services. This allocation anticipated a higher volume of use for recreation programming and rentals while maintaining the same level of staffing resources from the previous year.

2023 GOALS, SUCCESS MEASURES AND SERVICES OFFERED

The goals for 2023 were aligned with a continuation of services from 2022, and were informed by the *Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (PROS)*, the *Strategy for Mercer Island Community and Event Center & Recreation Program and Services* and included in the budget work plan.

2023 Goals/Objectives/Success Measures:

- Continue offering services from 2022 and enhance access and participation levels from the previous year.
- Collaborate with local community organizations to partner on special events, programs, volunteerism, and other community engagement opportunities.
- Facilitate and promote comprehensive and engaging arts and culture experiences through ongoing community partnerships.
- Expand drop-in programming and rental opportunities for the Mercer Island Community and Event Center and outdoor facilities.
- Achieve MICEC rental occupancy level of 1,500 bookings by end of Q4 2023.
- Achieve drop-in programming participation of 2,000 individuals to the fitness room and 6,000 drop-in sports participants by end of Q4 2023.
- Collaborate with the City Manager's Office on the development of the Comprehensive Facilities Assessment to include the Annex Building and the Mercer Island Community & Event Center.
- Continue to support city-wide response and coordinate the Operations Section of the Emergency Operations Center.
- Implement Arts & Culture Work Plan.

2023 Services Offered:

- Staff liaison support of Arts Council and Parks & Recreation Commission
- Summer camp programming
- MICEC rentals, drop-in programming, fitness center access
- Annex lease management
- Donation sponsorship acceptance and scholarship allocation
- Special event permitting, picnic shelter rentals, and athletic field reservations.
- City-coordinated special events
- Limited: Senior/youth recreation programming through partnerships
- P-Patch Community Gardening Program
- Emergency operations support

2023 SUMMARY OF SERVICE DELIVERY

The Recreation Division met and exceeded the stated objectives above. Though the division didn't add additional services, the team built upon work in 2021 and 2022 to further promote and enhance service offerings. The MICEC began 2023 operating at full capacity and concluded the year providing a volume of facility usage and service not seen since before the pandemic.

Early in 2023 delivery of services was slightly impacted due to staffing vacancies of the Recreation Facility Supervisor and Recreation Coordinator (Business & Administration) and challenges recruiting casual labor. Though these vacancies accounted for approximately 20% of the allotted staffing resources, impacts were minimal due to the Division's continuing focus on cross-training personnel.

Recognizing a need for additional resources dedicated to MICEC facility operations, the Division was restructured while vacancies were present. The restructuring resulted in no changes to head count, however a Recreation Coordinator was promoted to Recreation Supervisor, and the vacant Recreation Coordinator position was reassigned from Administration to the MICEC as a Recreation Business Systems Analyst.

An additional impact in 2023 was the unforeseen closure of City Hall in April. This closure required the Division leadership to take a lead role in supporting City-wide needs including reorganizing the MICEC and Luther Burbank Admin Building office spaces to address immediate police needs, while developing meeting space for City Council, boards, commissions, and displaced departments and divisions.

The Division's focus on adaptability of positions and work schedules provided the necessary responsiveness to community needs and expanded the capacity of the team. Despite staffing vacancy challenges and the closure of City Hall, the Recreation Division excelled in providing quality services throughout the year and in building toward the future.

2023 BUDGET AND COMPARISON

	2021 Budget	2021 Actual	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	2023 Actual
Expenditures	\$1,265,003	\$1,125,649	\$1,942,250	\$1,590,643	\$2,127,581	\$1,950,325
Revenue	\$180,880	\$591,692	\$1,051,452	\$1,046,245	\$1,223,039	\$1,278,534
Overall Cost Recovery	14%	53%	54%	66%	57%	66%

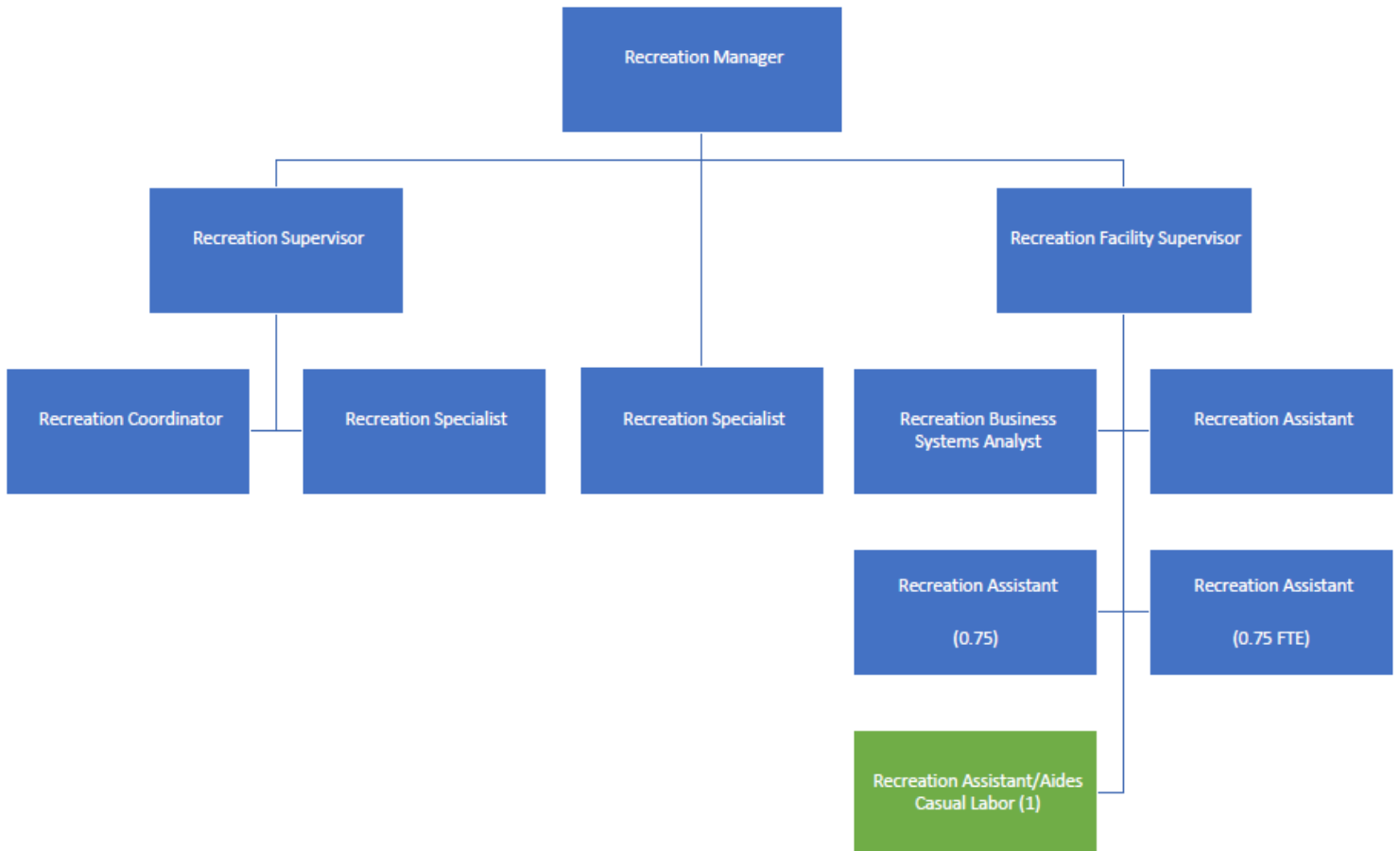
Note: 2021, 2022, 2023 Revenue shown above includes Turf Sinking Fund contributions not included in the 2021 Annual Report.

Revenue by Service Area						
Revenue Area	2021 Budget	2021 Actual	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	2023 Actual
Grants	\$ 12,480	\$ -	\$ 11,950	\$ 62,805	\$ 41,293	\$ 14,500
Concessions	\$ -	\$ 184	\$ 500	\$ 328	\$ 450	\$ 375
Boat Launch	\$ 67,800	\$ 55,168	\$ 54,402	\$ 35,552	\$ 54,000	\$ 35,087
Ball Fields	\$ 13,100	\$ 97,080	\$ 165,000	\$ 67,038	\$ 269,641	\$ 140,299
Turf Replacement- Sinking Fund	\$ -	\$ 200,000	\$ -	\$ 159,209	\$ -	\$ 200,000
Picnic Shelter Rentals	\$ -	\$ 11,968	\$ 10,000	\$ 24,473	\$ 29,450	\$ 24,184
Special Event/Use Permits	\$ 1,000	\$ 8,366	\$ 18,000	\$ 8,399	\$ 17,946	\$ 18,089
Special Events /SC!	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 51,000	\$ 49,404	\$ 62,812	\$ 60,416
MICEC Drop-ins	\$ -	\$ 20,937	\$ 50,000	\$ 73,247	\$ 104,686	\$ 66,836
Recreation Programs/Camps	\$ -	\$ 95,254	\$ 114,000	\$ 96,500	\$ 134,596	\$ 78,690
MICEC Rentals	\$ 80,000	\$ 89,548	\$ 480,000	\$ 425,387	\$ 420,455	\$ 608,160
Donations / Misc. Revenues	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,904	\$ 76,600	\$ 33,176	\$ 75,746	\$ 17,226
Registration System Fee	\$ 1,500	\$ 10,283	\$ 20,000	\$ 10,727	\$ 11,964	\$ 14,670
Total:	\$ 180,880	\$ 591,692	\$ 1,051,452	\$ 1,046,245	\$ 1,223,039	\$ 1,278,534

Expenditure by Service Area						
Service Area	2021 Budget	2021 Actual	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	2023 Actual
Administration (PR)	\$ 821,841	\$ 769,220	\$ 677,079	\$ 643,983	\$ 850,055	\$ 809,787
ARPA-Recreation Restart	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 416,000	\$ 347,218	\$ -	\$ -
Recreation Programs	\$ 3,983	\$ 7,988	\$ -	\$ 5,308	\$ -	\$ 9,171
Aquatics Programs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 26,000	\$ 12,216	\$ 43,110	\$ 41,636
Special Events	\$ 50,000	\$ 33,849	\$ 141,400	\$ 66,256	\$ 139,248	\$ 111,106
Sports & Leagues	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,083	\$ -	\$ -
Senior Services	\$ 17,553	\$ 17,553	\$ -	\$ 10,677	\$ -	\$ -
Community Center	\$ 339,046	\$ 278,647	\$ 527,971	\$ 389,024	\$ 949,168	\$ 858,496
Public Art	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 900	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Community Arts Support	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,500	\$ 3,496	\$ 5,500	\$ 2,298
Gallery Program	\$ 4,000	\$ -	\$ 3,900	\$ 231	\$ 4,500	\$ 2,223
Cultural & Performing Arts	\$ 26,580	\$ 18,392	\$ 33,000	\$ 25,493	\$ 33,000	\$ 14,350
Summer Celebration	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 110,500	\$ 84,658	\$ 103,000	\$ 101,258
Special Programs	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total:	\$ 1,265,003	\$ 1,125,649	\$ 1,942,250	\$ 1,590,643	\$ 2,127,581	\$ 1,950,325

2023 RECREATION DIVISION STAFFING SUMMARY & ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Full Time Equivalent (FTE)			
Position Area	2021	2022	2023
Administration	-	3	3
MICEC/Rentals	-	5.5	5.5
Events/Programs	0.75	1	1
Total FTEs	0.75	9.5	9.5
Limited Time Equivalent (LTE) / Casual Labor			
Administration	3	-	-
MICEC/Rentals	3.4	1	1
Events/Programs	0.25	-	-
Total LTEs	6.65	1	1
Total FTEs & LTEs	7.4	10.5	10.5



SUMMARY BY FUNCTIONAL AREA (ADMINISTRATION/ MICEC / PROGRAMS AND EVENTS)

The Recreation Division is segmented into three basic functional areas: **Administration, Mercer Island Community & Event Center Operations, and Programs & Events**. The sections below provide a summary of 2023 areas of focus and outcomes, as well as anecdotal information regarding the outcomes and service delivery for each section.

ADMINISTRATION

The Administration functional area is guided by the Recreation Manager with assistance from various Division personnel. This area's primary responsibilities include prioritizing resources, policy formulation, budgetary planning and oversight, management of various systems, contracting services, and the establishment and evaluation of performance metrics and workplan achievements.

This functional area is also responsible for providing staff liaison support to the Arts Council and Parks and Recreation Commission, while indirectly supporting other boards, commissions, the City Council and coordination with other divisions and departments.

Administration Functional Area Outcomes:

- Developed and presented the [2022 Recreation Division Annual Report](#).
- Extended and revised Pay by Phone agreement- to include annual Boat Launch passes.
- Expanded use of Civic Optimize software.
- Implemented MICEC room availability viewing online.
- Supported the opening and communication for Bike Skills Area.
- Restructured Division resources to meet emergent needs.
- Developed and implemented "Groveland Park Capacity Limit" special rule for Seafair.
- Provided ongoing support of emergency response to closure of City Hall.

Parks and Recreation Commission Outcomes:

- Approved 30% Design Recommendation to City Council 30% Design of the Bike Skills Area.
- Approved 30% Design Recommendation to City Council for Aubrey Davis Park Trail Safety Improvement Project.
- Recommended the draft City Council Park Area Naming Policy.
- Recommended to City Council the preferred court configuration for Luther Burbank Sports Courts.
- Endorsed P-Patch Program Guidelines.
- Adopted revised PRC Bylaws.
- Completed Parliamentary Procedure Training.
- Attended grand opening of Bike Skills Area.

Arts Council Outcomes:

- Endorsed 2023/2024 City Arts & Culture Work Plan.
- Approved RFQ and process for Luther Burbank Waterfront Improvements (LBWI)- Art in Public Places.
- Approved artist for LBWI- Art in Public Places.
- Approved the Events Committee to move forward with choosing the Summer Celebration! T-shirt design.
- Recommended the LBWI Art in Public Places Project to City.
- Completed Parliamentary Procedure Training.

MERCER ISLAND COMMUNITY AND EVENT CENTER

The Mercer Island Community and Event Center (MICEC) functional area is guided by the Recreation Facilities Supervisor. Services within this area include: MICEC gym and meeting room rentals, facilitating community facility access, managing drop-in programming, delivering division-wide customer service, and coordinating the Mercer Island Art Gallery. The MICEC also supports emergency operations functions; including serving as a backup Emergency Operations Center, emergency shelter, and as a heating, cooling, and smoke relief center when directed.

Growth and expansion were a focus for the MICEC in 2023. The primary objective was to continue to build off the reopening in 2021/2022 and to increase community access and facility rentals. While 2023 began with the continuation of staffing shortages at the MICEC, in March the previously vacant Recreation Facilities Supervisor position was filled, and the staffing structure was reorganized to hire a Recreation Business Systems Analyst in place of the vacant Recreation Coordinator position.

The MICEC saw a record number of participants take part in drop-in activities (fitness room and drop-in sports), returned to pre-Covid rental volume, and expanded operating hours (M-Th 9am-7pm, Fri/Sat. 9am-5pm, Sun. open for rentals). Improved processes and the implementation of the new rental request form through Civic Optimize increased customer access and enhanced staff efficiency in accommodating various rental requests.

Partnerships were a key aspect to delivering additional recreational opportunities. MICEC partnerships and recreation rental partnerships in 2023 included Jazzercise, YogaBliss, OSHER Life-Long Learning, 212 Fitness, Tai-chi, Autism Social Group, MIVAL art shows, Zoe Dodds Health and Fitness, and providing space for recreation programs coordinated by the Recreation Program and Events functional area.

The City Hall closure in April required the immediate response of the MICEC to house and assist vacated staff. Offices and meeting rooms were made available to help ease the transition. Within hours of notice, the Police Department began occupying much of the MICEC for over two months. After the Police Department relocated to the Luther Burbank Admin Building, the Slater Room was converted to City Council Chambers. The MICEC and its work group took on the significant role of accommodating and assisting City-wide staff during this transition period.

Below is a quarter-by-quarter of operations and key outcomes:

1st Quarter (January-March)

- Attended the Seattle Wedding Show as exhibitors to market rental offerings.
- YFS Foundation Annual Breakfast: Coordinated with YFS and YFS Foundation for pre-event planning and day of staff support.
- Expanded Sunday gym rental booking opportunities to increase access.
- Hired Recreation Facilities Supervisor (March)
- Hired Recreation Business Analyst (March)
- Partnered with "Music Together with Mrs. Chrisi" to offer music classes at the community center for young children and their families.

2nd Quarter (April-June)

- Activated MICEC for emergency operations during water supply emergency.
- Converted the MICEC facility and office spaces to address immediate City-wide operations in result of the City Hall closure.
- Transitioned the Slater Room to temporary Police Department headquarters.
- Implemented a new Rental Request online form process through Civic Optimize.
- Hosted Leap for Green Sustainability Fair.
- Attended the Northwest Event Show as exhibitors to market rental offerings.
- Coordinated and implemented Community Coffee as ongoing/regular programming.

3rd Quarter (July-September)

- Transformed Slater Room into City Council Chambers.
- Renewed Annex lease, updated to a single tenant occupying entire building.
- Provided facility access and support for weekly summer camps.
- Installed new and upgraded laser projectors in the Mercer Room.

4th Quarter (October-December)

- Hosted the Chamber of Commerce's full facility Holiday Market.
- Replaced Mercer Room flooring after previous product failed.
- Completed facility maintenance projects during the Annual Maintenance closure December 18 – January 1.

MICEC Facility Usage Definitions

-*Private Events*: Private rentals that are not recreational.

-*Recreational Rentals*: Rentals that are recreational in nature; Jazzercise, Kendo, Naginata, Tai Chi, Volleyball, etc.

-*City Coordinated Programs*: Drop-in sports and programs.

-*City Partnered Rentals*: Rentals offered in partnership with the City at a reduced rate and in collaboration; Rotary, Chamber, MIYFS Foundation, etc.

-*City Coordinated Events*: Leap for Green, Senior Lunch events, Women's Wellness, Chamber Market, Blood drives.

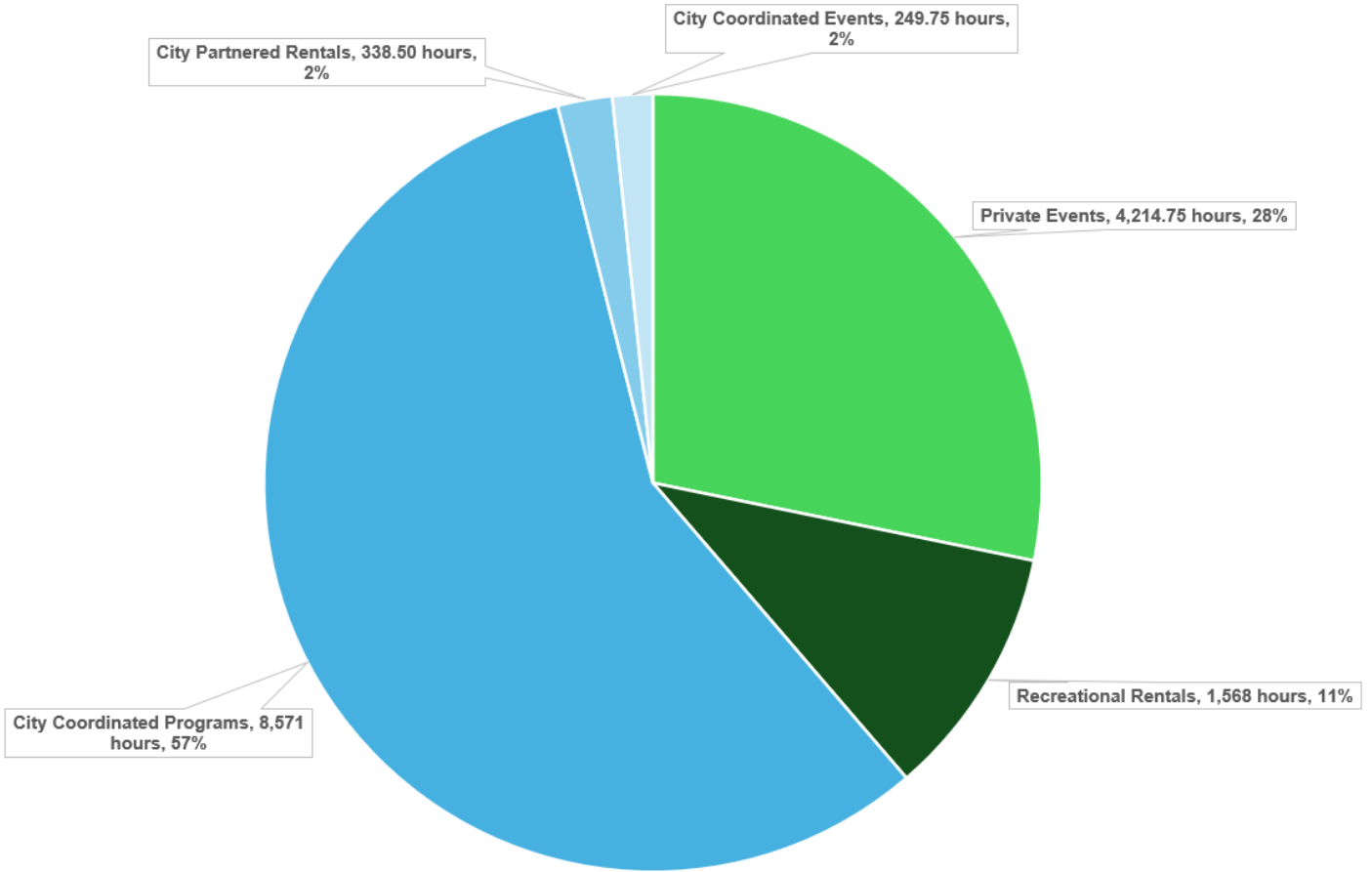
The first chart on the following page is a breakdown of the MICEC's facility usage in percentage of use over total hours booked.

- 61%- city rentals, programs, and events.
- 28% - Private rentals
- 11%- Recreational Rentals (private rentals which are recreation in nature)

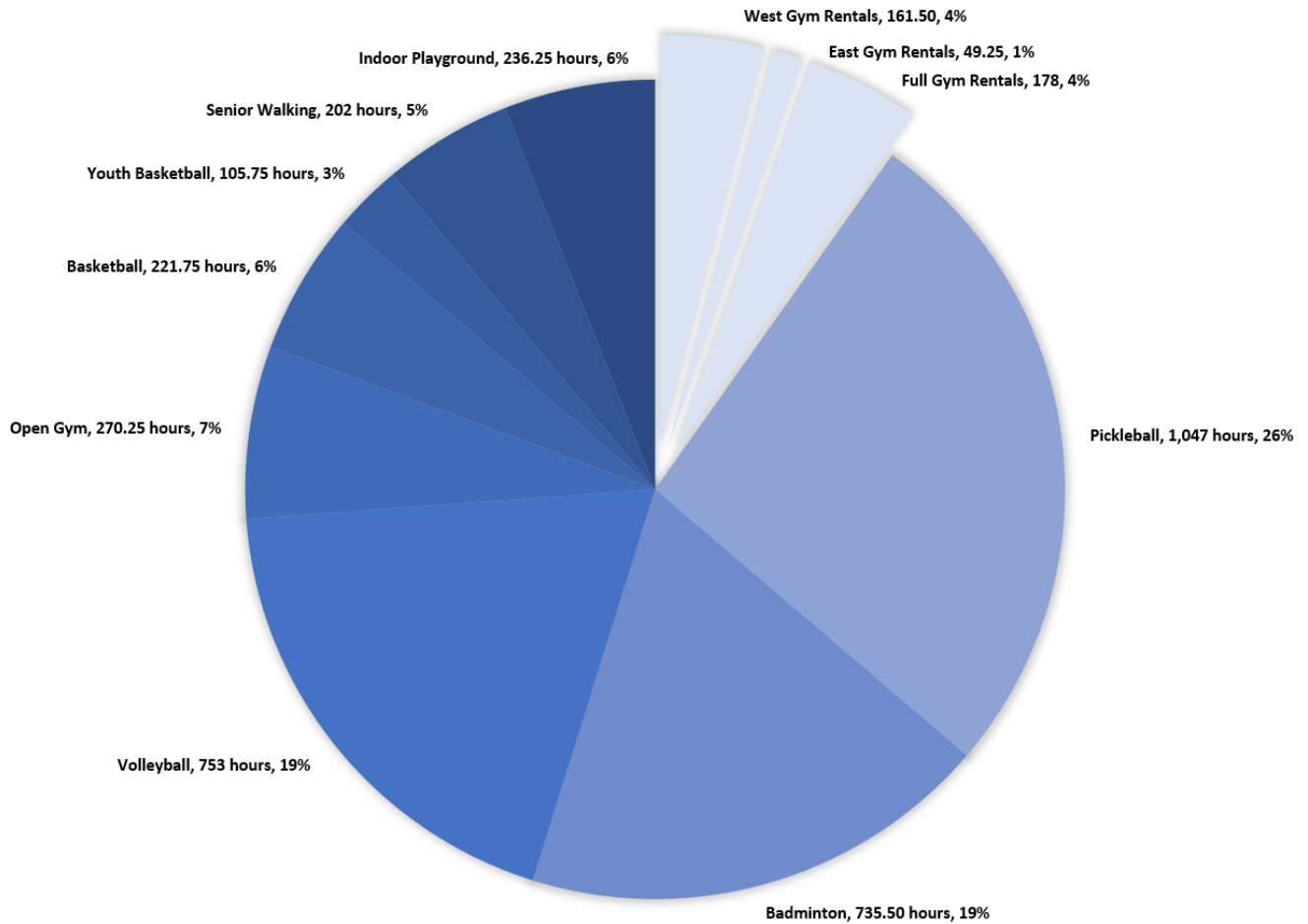
The second chart is a breakdown of gym space in percentage of use over total hours booked.

- 91%- drop-in sports programs
- 9%- Private facility rentals

2023 MICEC Facility Usage Based on Category



2023 GYM SPACE USAGE



RECREATION PROGRAMS AND EVENTS (INCLUDING PARK RENTALS AND ARTS & CULTURE)

The Recreation Programs and Events functional area, led by the Recreation Supervisor, focuses on coordinating and executing various activities for the city and includes park permitting and athletic field rentals. These include coordinating and overseeing the organization of special events for the city and partnerships and park usages by third-party organizations.

The Division hosted (12) twelve city-coordinated special events in 2023, to include: Summer Celebration, (6) six weeks of Mostly Music in the Park, Illuminate MI, the Pumpkin Walk, Island Lanterns, Leap for Green, PRIDE in the Park, and Juneteenth. The Division partnered with various organizations to support another (9) nine events for the community. The Public Special Events Sponsorship Policy, adopted in 2022, supported (5) five events permitted with a fee waiver increasing community access to events.

Additionally, services included expanding programming to meet the needs of the community with OSHER life-long learning classes, partnered programs with the Sister City Association, Senior Golf, Nancy Stewart, and the continuation of Music Together. Summer camp programming was robust, offering nine weeks with ten organizations to bring in approximately 1,600 registrations across the camp offerings, both at the Community Center and outdoors in community parks.

Park rentals and permits for athletic fields and picnic areas increased in 2023, aligning more closely with historical trends. To enhance user satisfaction, staff proactively allocated resources early in the year to streamline processes and improve access. Key initiatives such as the creation of the Athletic Field User Guide and the enhancement of online booking for picnic areas significantly contributed to making these facilities more user-friendly and accessible for patrons.

The P-Patch Gardening program saw significant improvements in 2023, marked by the implementation of new guidelines (supported by the Parks and Recreation Commission), increased communication from staff and continued focus to evaluate best practices to meet the needs of the participants and staff resources.

Highlighted below are quarterly outcomes:

1st Quarter (January-March)

- Coordinated Island Lanterns, a community art project displayed at Mercedale Park.
- Partnered with a variety of organizations to offer recreational and educational programs:
 - OSHER Life-long learning senior programs, Sister City French Art Lectures, Senior Golf, Nancy Stewart's Family Sing-Alongs, Music Together.
- Attended the MI Preschool Association's Preschool Fair.
- Held a "Call for Artists" competition for design used at Summer Celebration marketing and throughout the year.

2nd Quarter (April-June)

- Coordinated and implemented Leap for Green, Earth Day Fair at the Community Center. Secured two event sponsorships.
- Partnered with Rockers Softball to offer senior recreational softball league.
- Partnered with MIHS Black Student Union to host Juneteenth Celebration in Mercedale Park.
- Partnered with community groups to host Pride in the Park.
- Contracted summer camp offerings with 15 different organizations for 9 weeks of camps.
- Partnered and hosted Belle Harbour to offer a senior lunch at the Community Center.

3rd Quarter (July-September)

- Coordinated and hosted Mostly Music in the Park at Mercedale for 6 concerts. Secured 4 event sponsorships.
- Contracted with Wooden O to host Shakespeare in the Park at Luther Burbank Amphitheater for 12 performances.
- Planned, coordinated, and implemented Summer Celebration on July 15 at Mercedale Park and Luther Burbank Park. Secured 8 event sponsorships.
- Brought back the Community Parade to Summer Celebration, with 3 businesses assisting in the organization.
- Partnered with the Chamber of Commerce and Blood Works NW to host two days of blood drives at the Community Center.

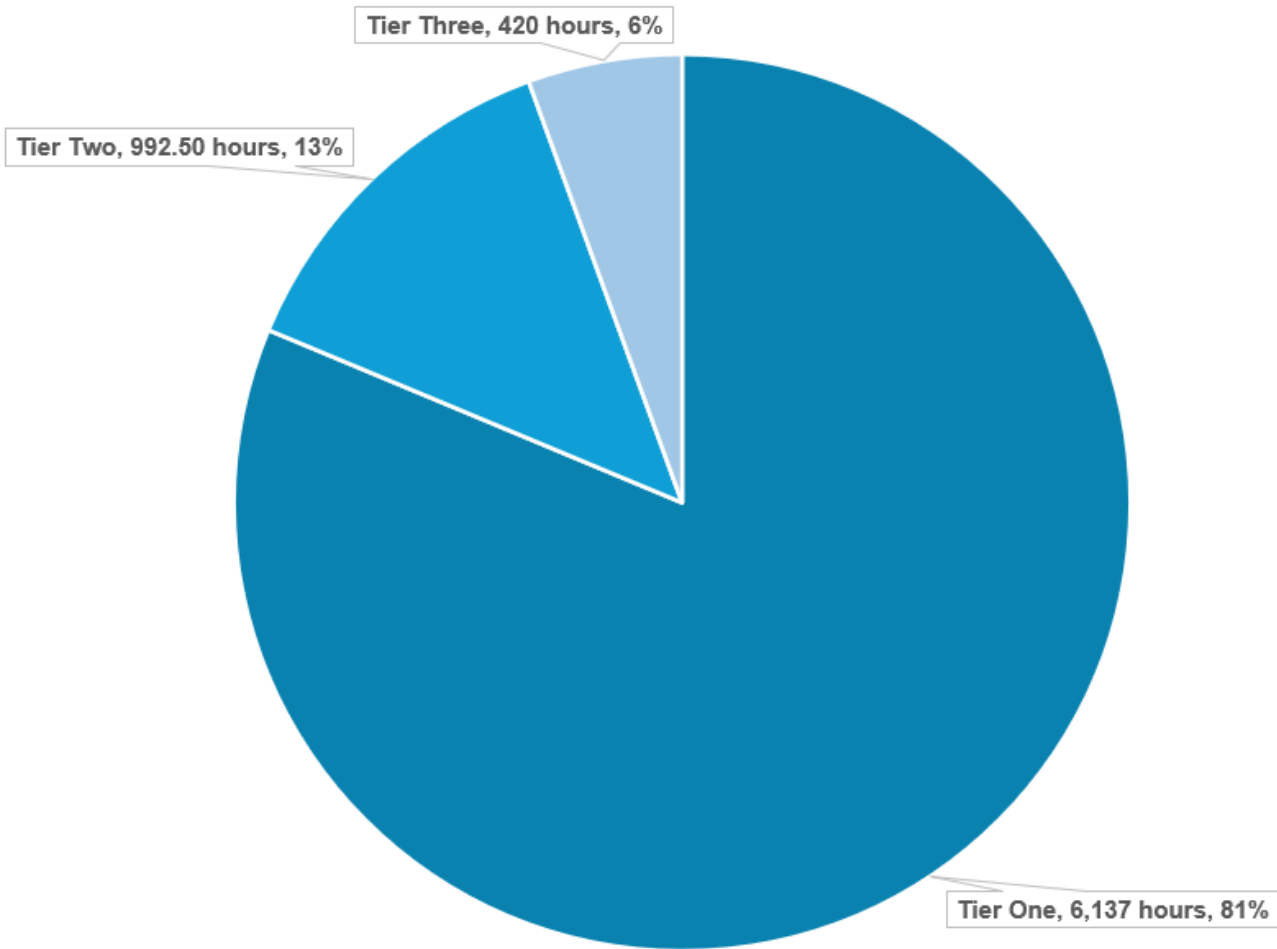
4th Quarter (October-December)

- Coordinated and hosted the Pumpkin Walk in Mercedale Park. Secured 2 event sponsorships.
- Coordinated Town Center Trick or Treating event, in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce.
- Hosted the Women's Wellness Fair, in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce and One Eastside.
- Coordinated Illuminate MI: Town Center Lights, Tree Lighting & Firehouse Munch. Secured 3 event sponsorships.
- Coordinated Argosy Christmas Ships at Luther Burbank Beach.
- Coordinated and hosted Family Movie Night at the Community Center.
- Partnered with Chabad Mercer Island for a Menorah Lighting in Mercedale Park, Mercer Island Girl Scouts in Toy Drive in Mercedale Park, and The Holiday Makers Market at the Community Center.

The chart below shows the athletic field rental usage by user groups. The prioritization of access is informed by the [Athletic Facilities Allocation and Use Policy](#).

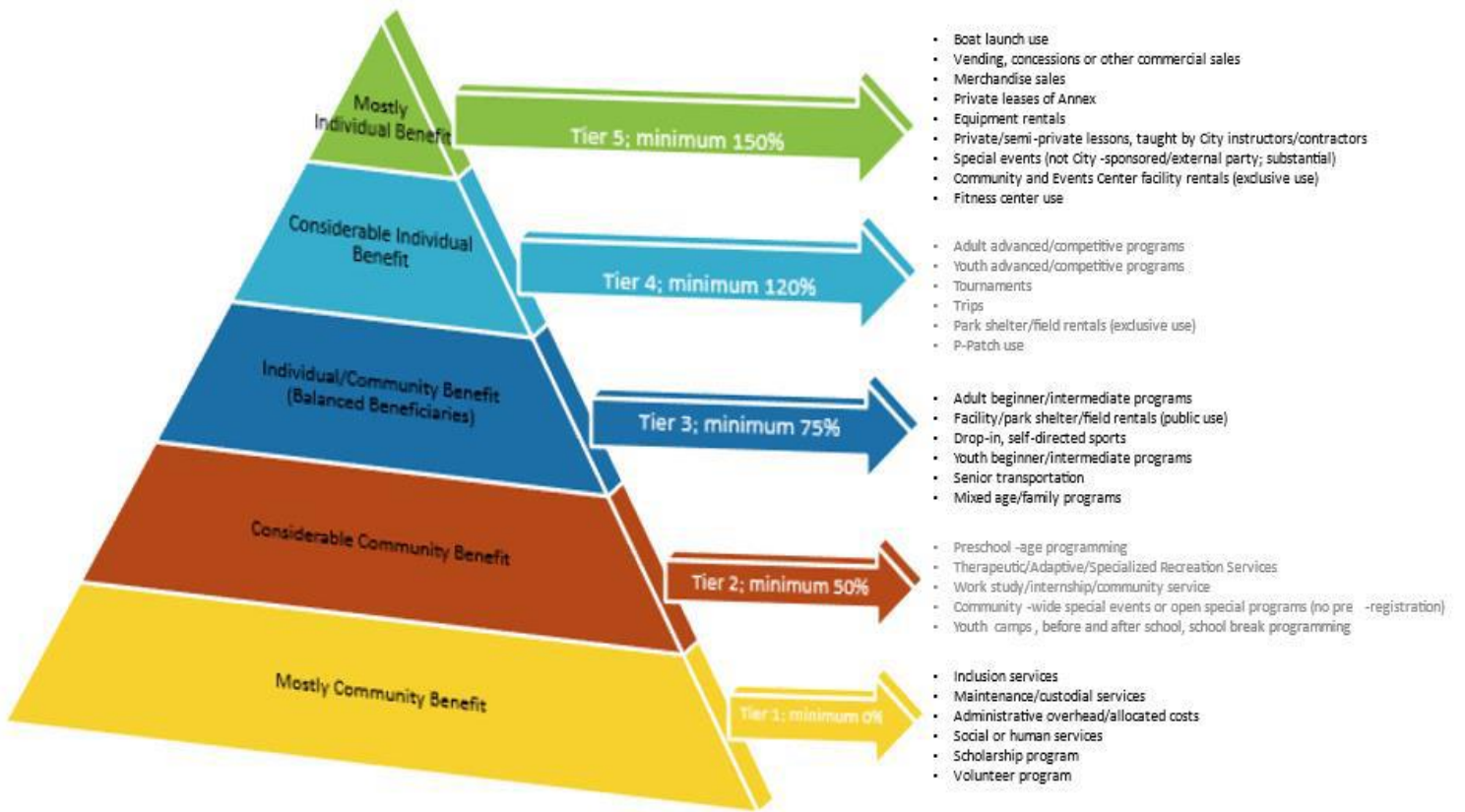
- 81% -Tier One: Non-profits, recreation-based organizations, minimum of 75% Mercer Island residents.
 - MISD included
- 13%- Tier Two: Non-profits, recreation-based organizations, less than 75% Mercer Island residents.
- 6%- Tier Three: For-profit organizations.

Athletic Field Rentals Usage based on Prioritization of User Groups



OUTCOMES BY TIER / COST RECOVERY

The following sections display recreation services by cost recovery tier and indicate the cost recovery of **direct costs** and participation rates for 2023 programming, rentals, and events. In some cases, where applicable, the service is compared to previous years to demonstrate changes over time. The image below demonstrates the Pyramid Methodology for Resource Allocation/Cost Recovery.



TIER 5, 150% MINIMUM - 2023 ESTIMATED COST RECOVERY RATE: 567%

Tier 5 has a minimum cost recovery requirement of 150% for all services within this level. Services identified within Tier 5 are for “mostly individual benefit”.

Tier 5 Services offered: Boat Launch, Vending/Concessions/Merchandise Sales, Annex Lease, Community Center Rentals, Fitness Center Use, Special Events (Private). **Equipment Rentals, *Private/semi-private lessons (*not offered).*

Community Center Rentals**Bookings:****2021:** 31 (+486 City Business)**2022:** 1,041 (+256 City Business)**2023:** 1,785 (+554 City Business)**Resident Booking Percentage:**

N/A / 37% / 30%

Hours Booked:**2021:** 38 (+4,163 City Business)**2022:** 3,379 (+809.25 City Business)**2023:** 6,012 (+3,370.25 City Business)***City Hall closed April 2023***Fitness Center (2021/2022/2023)****Visitors:** 0 / 2,034 / 5,316**Punch Passes Sold:** 0 / 112 / 284**Resident Percentage:** 0 / 86% / 83%**Boat Launch (2021/2022/2023)****Annual Passes:** 98 / *71 / *54**Daily Passes:** 2,334 / *2,034 / *2,001**Resident Percentage of annual passes:**

28% / *41% / *35%

Construction and limited spaces available.*Special Event Permits (private) 2021/2022/2023****Bookings:** 4 / 39 / 20**Resident Percentage:** 75% / 33% / 60%*Examples: MIHS Cross Country Meet, Sukkot Festival, weddings, company events, other private park/special usage.*

TIER 4, 120% MINIMUM - 2023 ESTIMATED COST RECOVERY RATE: 165%

Tier 4 has a minimum cost recovery requirement of 120% for all services within this level. Services identified within Tier 4 are for “considerable individual benefit”.

Tier 4 Services offered: Park Field Rentals, P-Patch Use, **Advance/Competitive Programs, *City-coordinated Tournaments, *Trips (*not offered)*

P-Patch (2021/2022/2023)**Users:** 44 / 44 / 48**Resident Percentage:** 98% / 98% / 98%**Picnic Rentals (2021/2022/2023)****Bookings:** 53 / 142 / 143**Resident Percentage:** 57% / 30% / 30%**Athletic Field Rentals****(2021/2022/2023)*****Hours Rented:** 7,517.25 / 9,044.75 / **7,549.5**Bookings:** 2,575 / 2,805 / 2,562**Resident Percentage:** 62% / 60% / 54%***SMP fields were unavailable early 2023 for maintenance*

*2021 and 2022 Annual Reports included all park rentals and Special Events. The reports have been updated to show Athletic Field Rentals only.

TIER 3, 75% MINIMUM - 2023 ESTIMATED COST RECOVERY RATE: 163%

Tier 3 has a minimum cost recovery requirement of 75% for all services within this level. Services identified within Tier 3 are for “individual/community benefit” resulting in balanced beneficiaries.

Tier 3 Services offered: *Facility/park/field rentals (public use), Drop-in Sports, *Beginner/Intermediate programs, *Senior Transportation, *Mixed age/Family programs (*not offered).*

Drop-in Sports (2021/2022/2023)

Punch Passes Sold: 295 / 488 / 571

Resident Percentage: 35% / 38% / 44%

Participants: 4,806 / 15,030 / 15,463

Resident Percentage: 23% / 32% / 35%

2023 Offerings: Pickleball, volleyball, basketball, indoor playground, table tennis, open gym, senior walking, badminton, youth basketball.

TIER 2, 50% MINIMUM - 2023 ESTIMATED COST RECOVERY RATE: 67%

Tier 2 has a minimum cost recovery requirement of 50% for all services within this level. Services identified within Tier 2 are for “considerable community benefit”.

Tier 2 Services offered: *Youth summer camps, Pre-school programming, Community-wide special events, *Before and after school programs, School break programming, Therapeutic/Adaptive/Specialized Recreation Services, Work Study/Internships/Community Service (*not offered).*

Summer Camps (2021/2022/2023)

Registrations: 1,388 / 1,311 / 1,598

of weeks provided 10 / 11 / 9

of different options: 8 / 10 / 15

2023 Offerings: Cartooniversity, Challenger Sports, Curiosity Camp, J Camp, Movie Star, Pedalheads, Play-Well, Seattle Adventure Sports, TGA, IncrediFlix, Chess Wizards, Youth Theater NW, Kids Run Club, Advantage Basketball

MICEC Gallery (2021/2022/2023)

of Shows: 1 / 5 / 6

of Artists displayed: 15 / 109 / 170

Special Events (2021/2022/2023)

of City-Coordinated and

Partnered Events: 1 / 10 / 12

2023 Offerings: Shakespeare in the Park (12), Mostly Music in the Park (6), Summer Celebration, Pumpkin Walk, Illuminate MI Lights, Tree Lighting & Firehouse Munch, Argosy Christmas Ship, Family Movie Night, Island Lanterns, Leap for Green, PRIDE, and Juneteenth

of City-Partnered Events: 8 / 7 / 9

2023 Offerings: Senior Lunches w/Belle Harbour (2), Blood Drives (2), Women’s Wellness, Town Center Trick or Treating, Chamber Market, Menorah Lighting, Toy Drive

of Special Event Sponsorships issued: 0 / 9 / 5

2023 Offerings: Sukkot, YTN, Swim Across America, Penguin Productions, Art Uncorked

TIER 1, 0% MINIMUM - 2023 ESTIMATED COST RECOVERY RATE: 0%

Tier 1 is expected to be 0% and is not calculated at the line-item level.

Inclusion services

Maintenance/Custodial services

Administrative costs/overhead

Scholarship program: 1 recipient

Recommendation: Staff recommend evaluating collaboration opportunities with Youth and Family Services Department for Scholarship Program to expand access to recreation services.

2023 DIVISION SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

SUCCESSES:

- Onboarded Recreation Facility Supervisor and Recreation Business Systems Analyst.
- Made minor changes to organizational structure- responsive to community needs and facility demands.
- Restored park asset donation program.
- Implemented MICEC online room availability calendar and athletic field user calendar.
- Exceeded MICEC rental revenue budget goal by 45%.
- Collaborated with local community organizations to partner on special events, programs, and community engagement opportunities.
- Renewed annex lease with single tenant.
- Supported closure of City Hall by accommodating other City functions at the MICEC, while expanding community access.
- Offered a limited variety of recreation programs through rentals and partnerships.
- Staff flexibility and accommodation of diverse needs.
- Increased arts and culture events/opportunities- collaboration with various partners.
- Implemented updated P-Patch Program Guidelines.
- Re-implemented Community Coffee Hour.
- Gym rentals and extended hours uses.

CHALLENGES:

- Beginning year without Recreation Facility Supervisor and Recreation Coordinator.
- Demand for MICEC rentals (especially after-hours) exceeded staff capacity.
- Recruiting casual labor to support after hours events/rentals.
- Community desire for city-coordinated recreation programs beyond allocated resources.
- Impacts from closure of City Hall.
- Limited workspace availability at MICEC.
- Projects in Luther Burbank Park limited facility access for aquatic camps and event permits.

2024 PREVIEW

In 2024 the Recreation Division will continue to focus on service enhancement through the following objectives:

- Enhancing booking processes for athletic fields, the MICEC, and special event permits.
- Developing diverse opportunities for sponsorships of recreation events and programs.
- Enhancing communication with the community on services offered by the division.
- Restoring in-person Parks and Recreation Commission and Arts Council meetings.
- Expanding opportunities for partners to meet the recreation programming needs of the community.

At the time this report was developed, the Recreation Division concluded Q1 of 2024. The Division is fully staffed and has filled additional temporary positions to meet demands for extended hours facility use. The community center continues to see significant drop-in use, and facility rentals are on pace to exceed 2023 bookings and revenue. The facility has seen a resurgence of passive usage including preschool, youth, and senior users, and an increase in week-day private rentals.

Staff have implemented new senior fitness classes twice a week as well as numerous preschool music classes. Summer camp registration is underway, with a variety of new options. In contrast to previous years, camp registrations are reduced. This is a trend being seen by other organizations on Mercer Island as well. Staff are focused on further promoting and informing the community of the various options offered.

Partnerships for events both in the parks and at the MICEC continue to be a priority for the Division. Earlier this year the Division collaborated with the Mercer Island Chinese Association for a Lunar New Year Celebration in addition to the variety of events being planned and permitted for 2024.

Division leadership are in the process of developing the 2025-2026 biennial budget. The anticipated request is to maintain current service levels and to provide opportunity for the expansion of recreation programs- with a priority on preschool and senior-aged programming.



Recreation Division 2023 Annual Report

June 6, 2024

Agenda

1. Who is the Recreation Division
2. What We Did
3. 2024 Update



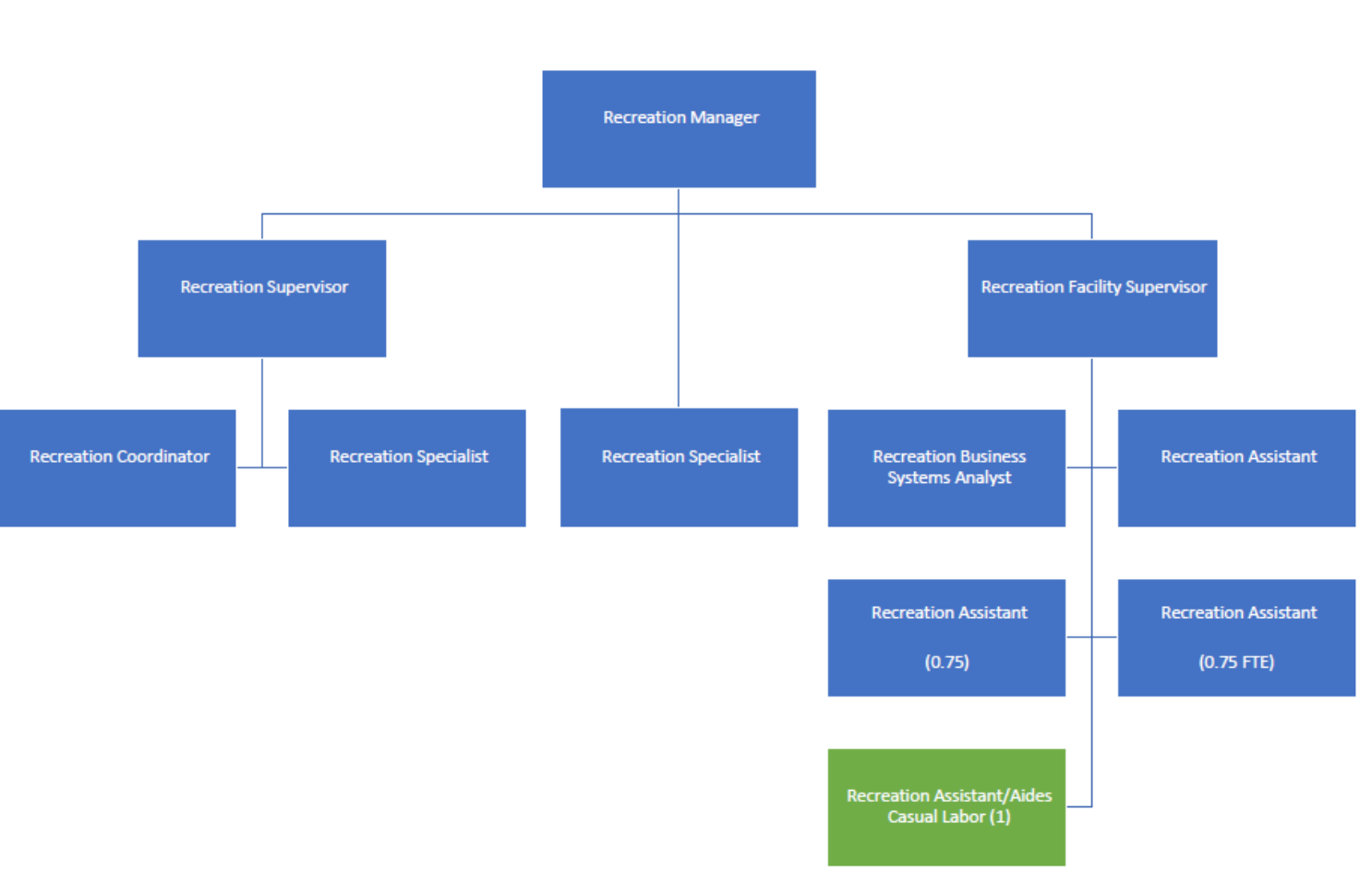
Who We Are

We are a team of 18 full-time and part-time staff who:

- Strive to deliver life improving recreation services.
- Focus on creating access and opportunities for all community members.
- Connect community members and neighborhoods together.
- Support community organizations.
- Consistently seek improvement.



Who We Are



Slight changes from 2022

- Promoted Recreation Coordinator to Supervisor
- Converted Recreation Coordinator to Analyst
- Moved Recreation Specialist to support Boards and Commissions



Administration



Administration: What We Did

The Administration Functional area is responsible for developing the division budget, prioritizing resources, developing policies, establishing and reviewing the Division's Work Plan and supporting city-wide emergency operations.

Administration Functional Area Outcomes:

- Developed and presented the 2022 Recreation Division Annual Report.
- Extended and revised Pay by Phone agreement to include annual Boat Launch passes.
- Expanded use of Civic Optimize software.
- Implemented MICEC room availability viewing online.
- Supported the opening and communication for Bike Skills Area.
- Restructured Division resources to meet emergent needs.
- Developed and implemented "Groveland Park Capacity Limit" special rule for Seafair.
- Provided ongoing support of emergency response to closure of City Hall.

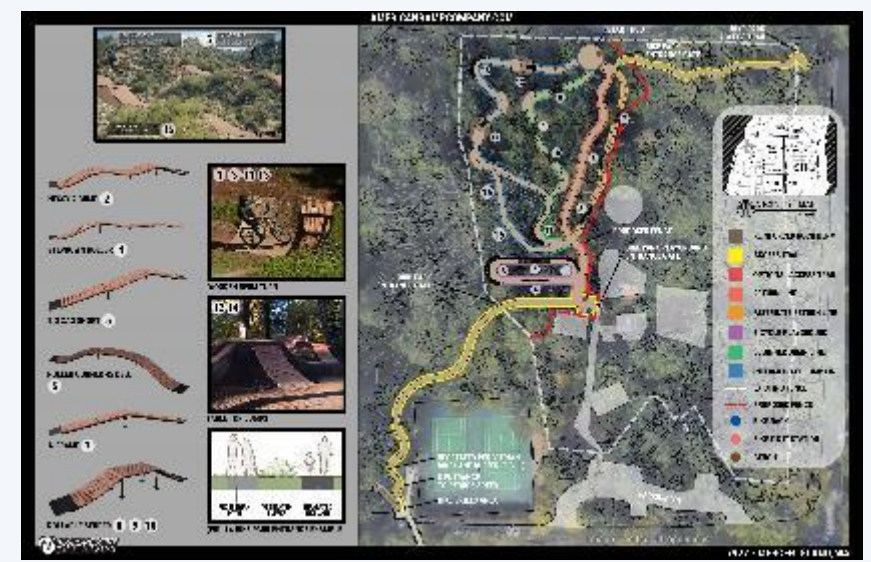


Administration: What We Did

The Administration Functional Area also provides staff support to the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Arts Council.

Parks and Recreation Commission Outcomes:

- Approved 30% Design Recommendation to City Council
- 30% Design of the Bike Skills Area.
- Approved 30% Design Recommendation to City Council for Aubrey Davis Park Trail Safety Improvement Project.
- Recommended the draft City Council Park Area Naming Policy.
- Recommended to City Council the preferred court configuration for Luther Burbank Sports Courts.
- Endorsed P-Patch Program Guidelines.
- Adopted revised PRC Bylaws.
- Completed Parliamentary Procedure Training.
- Attended grand opening of Bike Skills Area.



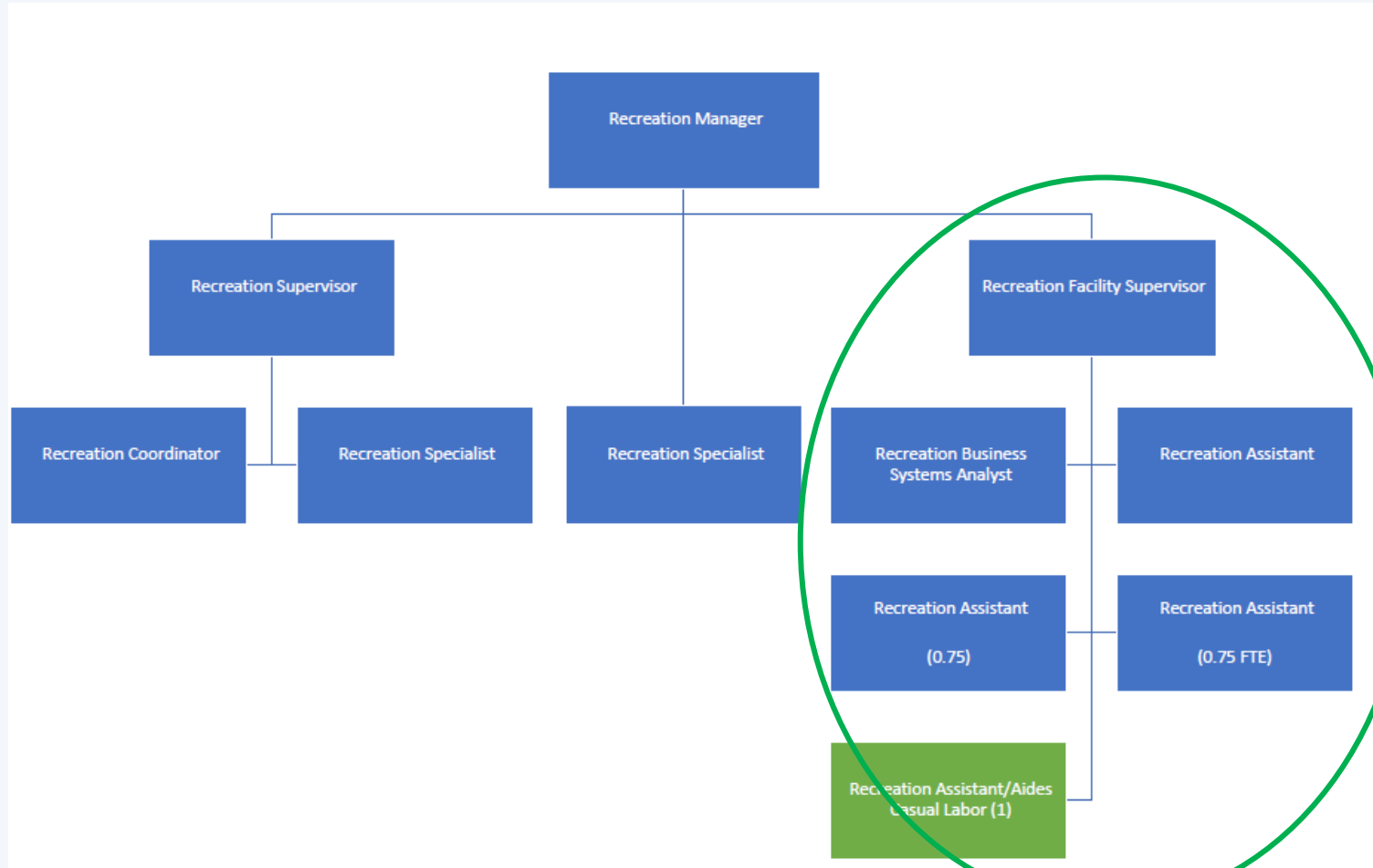
Administration: What We Did

Arts Council Outcomes:

- Endorsed 2023/2024 City Arts & Culture Work Plan.
- Approved RFQ and process for Luther Burbank Waterfront Improvements (LBWI)- Art in Public Places.
- Approved artist for LBWI- Art in Public Places.
- Approved the Events Committee to move forward with choosing the Summer Celebration! T-shirt design.
- Recommended the LBWI- Art in Public Places Project to City.

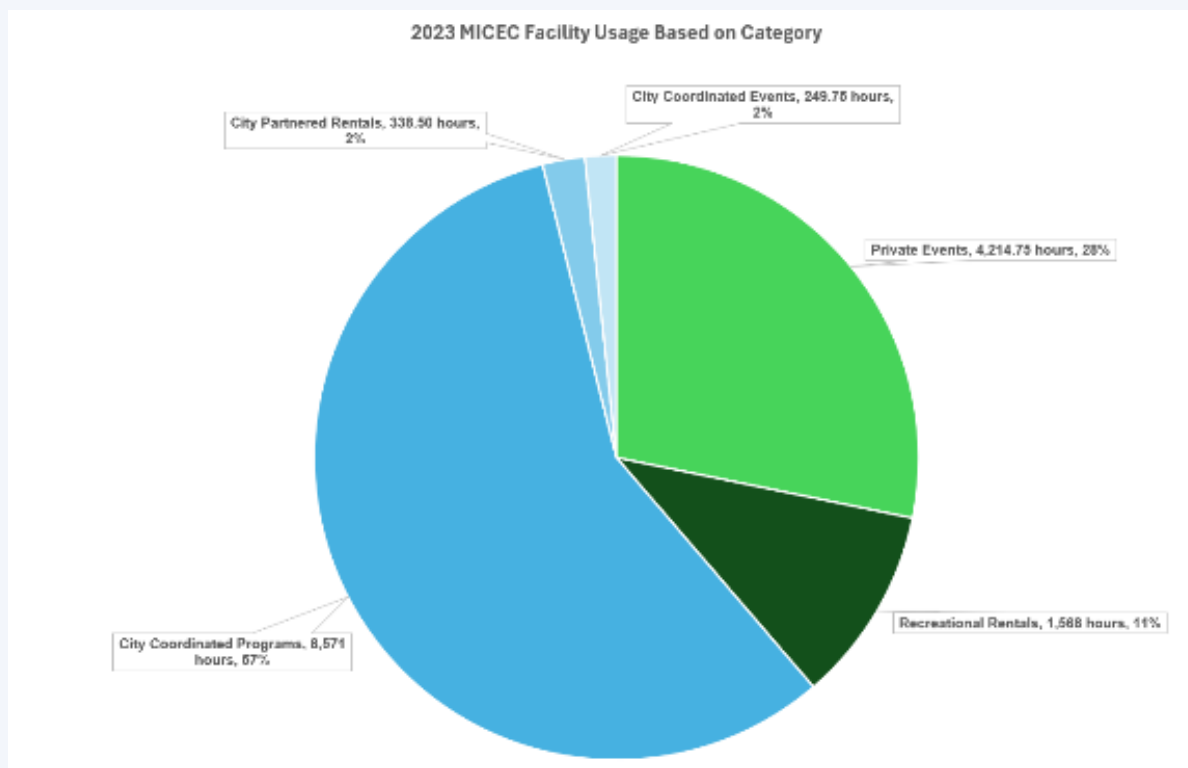


MICEC



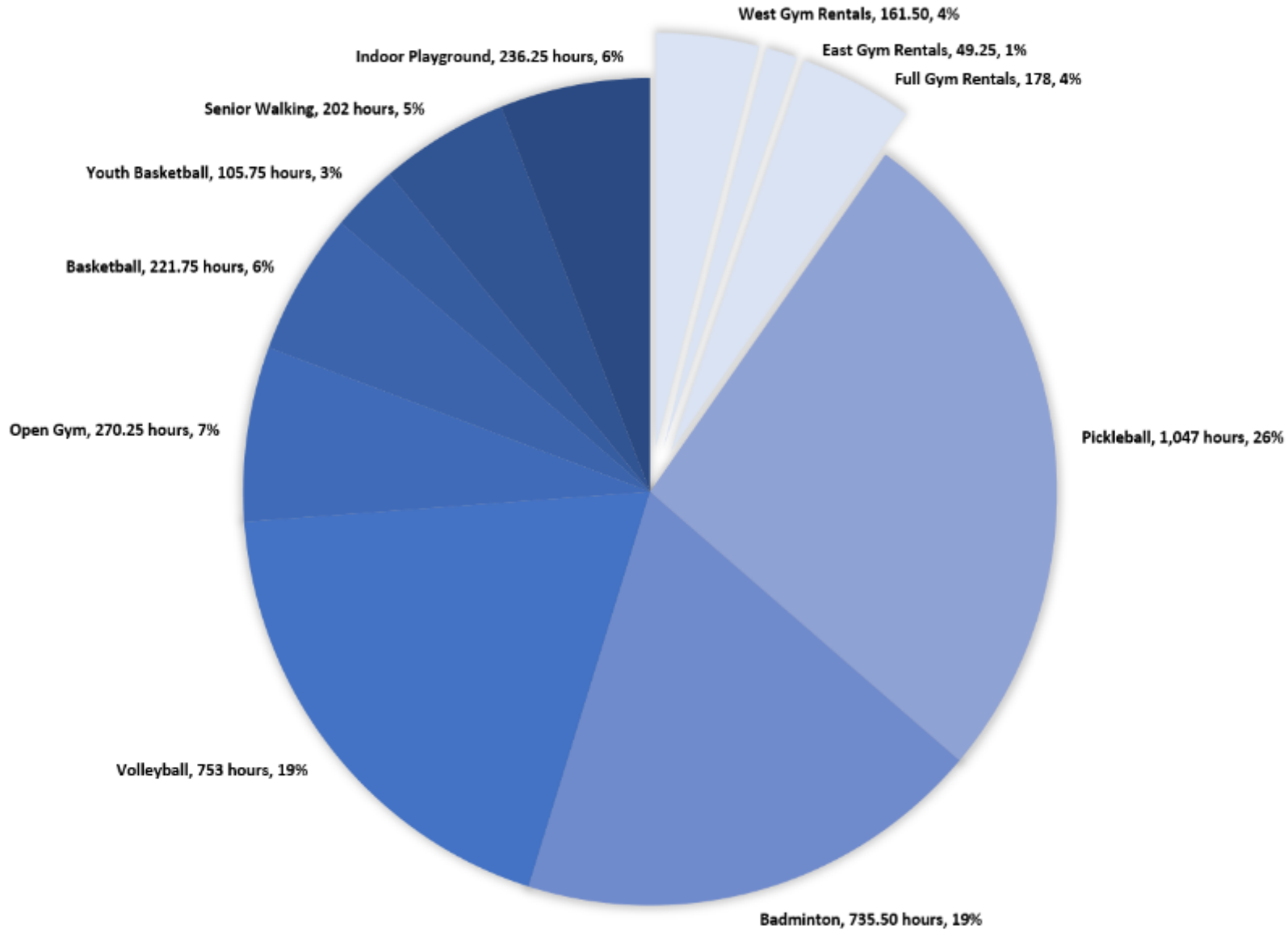
MICEC: What We Did

- Returned to pre-pandemic rental volumes.
- 1,785 bookings totaling 6,012 total hours.
- 15,463 participants for drop-in sports. (+433 over last year)
- 5,316 visitors to our fitness center.
*Fitness Center closed for 6 months.



MICEC: What We Did

2023 GYM SPACE USAGE

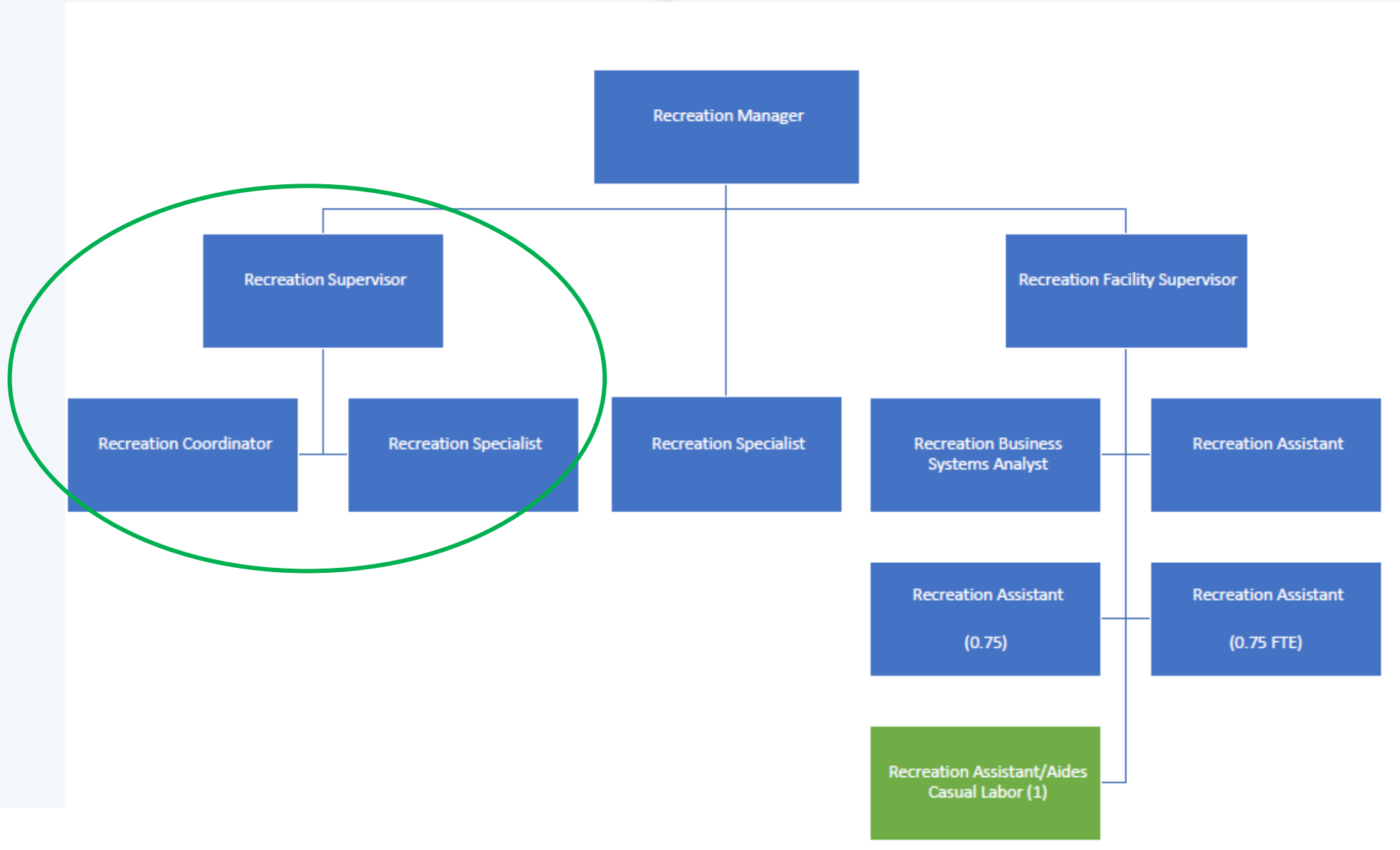


MICEC: What We Did

- Expanded “after hours” access.
- Utilized partnerships to increase offerings.
- Supported YFS Foundation Breakfast and Rotary and Chamber events.
- Adapted operations to support City-Wide functions with closure of City Hall.
- Provided Cooling and Warming Center functions, while maintain preparation as an emergency shelter.



Recreation Programs and Events



Programs/Events: What We Did

- Offered 15 different summer camp options serving approximately 1600 registrations.
- Permitted 39 third party (private) events in the park.
- Sponsored 5 events through the special event sponsorship program.
- Provided P-Patch space for 48 users.



Programs/Events: What We Did

City Coordinated Events:

- Shakespeare in the Park (12)
- Mostly Music in the Park (6)
- Summer Celebration
- Pumpkin Walk
- Illuminate MI Lights
- Tree Lighting & Firehouse Munch
- Argosy Christmas Ship
- Family Movie Night
- Island Lanterns
- Leap for Green
- PRIDE in the Park
- Juneteenth

Partnered Events:

- Senior Lunches w/ Belle Harbour (2)
- Blood Drives (2)
- Women's Wellness Event
- Town Center Trick or Treating
- Chamber of Commerce Holiday Market
- Menorah Lighting
- Toy Drive

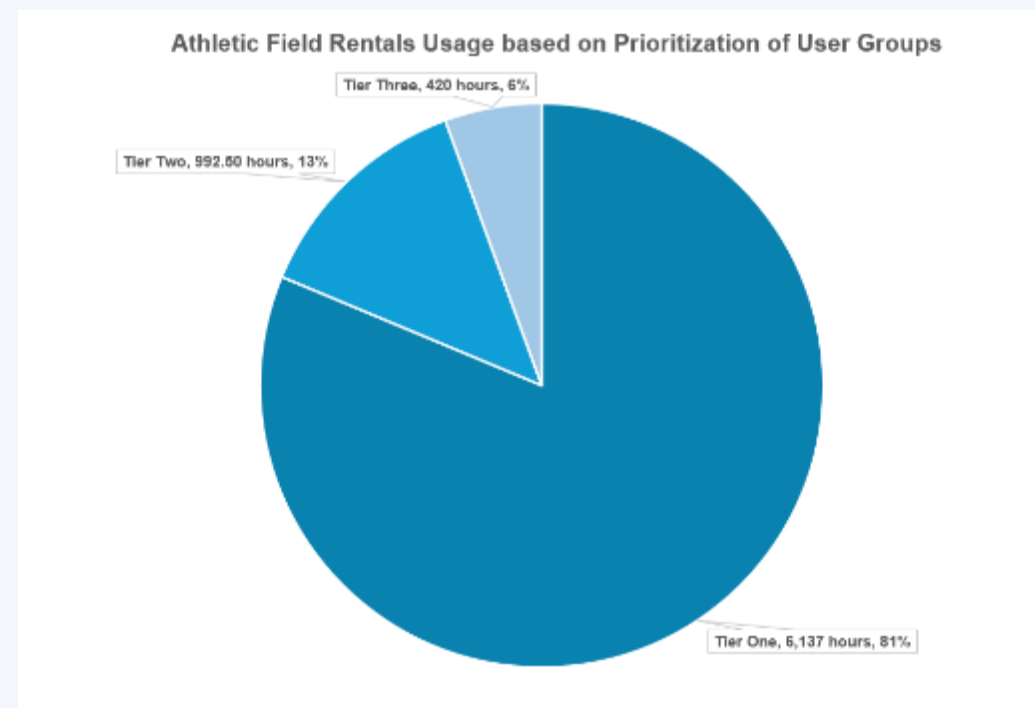
Sponsored Special Events:

- JCC Sukkot
- Youth Theater Northwest
- Swim Across America
- Penguin Productions
- Art Uncorked



Outdoor Facility Rentals

- Picnic Rentals: 143
 - 20 Special Event Permits Issued (private)
 - Athletic Field Rentals:
 - 7,549 hours
 - 2,562 bookings
- *SMP Fields unavailable early 2023.



2024 Preview

Off to a GREAT Start!

- All FTE positions are full!
- Staff and the facility operations have become more consistent with City Hall closure.
- We have recently added a 1.0 LTE Recreation Assistant to support facility rentals.
- MICEC Rentals and Drop-in's are on pace to EXCEED 2023 revenues and usage.
- PRC, OSCT, and Arts Council have returned to in-person meetings.
- Summer Celebration and events are in planning stages.
- Summer Camps registrations are very slow compared to previous years.
- Senior –Age opportunities are occurring: OSHER, Community Coffee Hour, Lunches, Musical Fitness and Golf.
- Staff are in the process of implementing new and expanded partnerships with Friendship Circle (Specialized Rec.), Mercer Island Chinese Association, and school-based groups.



Questions?





ARTS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Item (7)
July 17, 2024
Regular Business

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

TITLE:	2025-2026 City Arts and Culture Workplan Priorities	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Endorse the 2025-2026 Arts and Culture Workplan Priorities	

STAFF:	Katie Herzog	
COUNCIL LIAISON:	Ted Weinberg	
EXHIBITS:	1. 2025-2026 City Arts and Culture Workplan Priorities (Draft)	

SUMMARY

The purpose of this staff report is to seek the Arts Council’s endorsement of the 2025-2026 City Arts and Culture Workplan Priorities (Exhibit 1) which will inform the development of the City’s Arts and Culture Workplan objectives for the 2025-2026 biennium.

BACKGROUND

The City’s Arts and Culture Workplan Priorities are developed to inform the staff workplan and arts and culture initiatives for the biennium. These priorities play a valuable role in shaping the direction, focus, and impact of cultural policies and initiatives within the community.

The priorities are developed by staff with guidance from the PROS Plan, Arts and Culture Comprehensive Plan, and community input. The priorities are endorsed by the Arts Council each biennium and should be reflective of the aforementioned plans, community input, and Arts Council goals.

At the [April 17, 2024 meeting](#) the Arts Council reviewed and discussed a draft set of priorities:

- Facilitate and promote comprehensive and engaging arts and culture experiences. (PROS Plan Goal 6).
- Encourage and support community engagement through collaboration and partnerships to grow high quality arts and culture programs. (Derived from PROS Plan Goal 7).
- Incorporate principles of environmental sustainability into arts and cultural practices.
- Complete three major City art and culture projects:
 - Update the Comprehensive Arts & Culture Plan (appendix to the Citywide Comprehensive Plan)
 - Complete the Public Art Deaccession Policy
 - Complete the Public Art Acquisition Policy/Memorial Art Acceptance Policy

Staff committed to returning in July with a revised set of recommended priorities reflective of the Arts Council's input to include:

- The inserting of diversity, equity, and inclusion within the priorities
- Broadening reference to sustainability
- Prioritizing performing art
- Updating the list of major projects for completion to be informed by work currently occurring.

DISCUSSION

Staff have developed a draft 2025-2026 City Arts and Culture Workplan Priorities (Exhibit 1) following the April 17th meeting. Tonight, staff request that the Arts Council review and endorse the recommended priorities for 2025-2026.

Following endorsement of the City Arts and Culture Workplan Priorities, staff request the Arts Council provide input toward desired outcomes for the biennium reflective of the endorsed priorities. Staff will utilize this input in developing workplan objectives for review at a future meeting.

NEXT STEPS

- Staff will return in October with attainable objectives and outcomes for Arts Council review and endorsement.
- Staff will include these priorities and objectives in the 2025 – 2026 Recreation Division Workplan and budget proposal for review by City Council.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Endorse the 2025-2025 Arts and Culture Workplan Priorities.

2025-2026 City Arts and Culture Workplan Priorities

1. Deliver high-quality arts and culture programming to the Mercer Island community.
2. Facilitate and promote comprehensive and engaging arts and culture experiences which promote diversity, equity, and inclusion.
3. Encourage and support community engagement through collaboration and partnerships to expand arts and culture programs with a focus on performing arts.
4. Incorporate principles of sustainability into the City's arts and cultural practices.
5. Complete two major City art and culture projects:
 1. Update the Comprehensive Arts & Culture Plan, coordinate with the Community planning and Development Department to include as an appendix to the City of Mercer Island Comprehensive Plan.
 2. Collaborate with the Parks and Recreation Commission to update the Department's "Gift Acceptance Policy" to include various forms of art.