BOARD MEMBERS: LOCATION & CONTACT

Chair: Elizabeth Mitchell MICEC – Slater Room Council Chambers
Vice Chair: Daniel Becker and via Zoom

Councilors: Suzanne Skone, Jonathan Harrington,

JB Gibson, Hannah Youn, Irene Rajagopal

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 <a href="mailto:e

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. July 17, 2024, Regular Meeting
 - B. September 16, 2024, Special Meeting **Recommended Action:** Approve minutes.
- 3. Update on Downtown Streetscapes: Street Name Inlays

Recommended Action: Receive staff report.

4. 6-Year Workplan for Art in Public Places Progress

Recommended Action: Provide feedback on the draft materials presented by staff.

5. 2023 – 2024 City Arts and Culture Workplan Update: Q4 2024

Recommended Action: Receive staff report.

6. 2025 - 2026 City Arts and Culture Workplan

Recommended Action: Review and endorse the 2025-2026 Arts and Culture Workplan.

OTHER BUSINESS

7. Absences

ADJOURNMENT

City of Mercer Island Arts Council

Staff Liaison Report

October 16, 2024



Family Movie Night Fun

- 124 people registered for last Friday's Family Movie Night, watching Kung Fu Panda 4!
- Families brought blankets and chairs, enjoyed popcorn and treats, played in the Game Room, and hung out in the lobby.
- THANK YOU to Mercer Island Martial Arts for sponsoring!
- The next Family Movie Night is scheduled for Friday, December 13th as part of our "Family Holiday Party" event!
- Staff is currently arguing about the BEST family-friendly holiday movie to show input can always be sent to Miparks@mercerisland.gov to sway the selection.





Mid-Autumn Festival

 The City partnered with the Mercer Island Chinese Association to bring the Mid-Autumn Festival to the Community Center on **September 22 from 10am** – 2pm.

 WOW- What a turn out! Estimation of 3,000 attended during the day!

 This event included beautiful lanterns, delicious mooncakes, incredible performances, a variety of games and activities for the entire family.









MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- 2024 MIVAL Holiday Show is October 21 –
 December 13
- Opening Reception on October 24th from 5 –
 7pm!



2024 Holiday Show October 21 - December 13





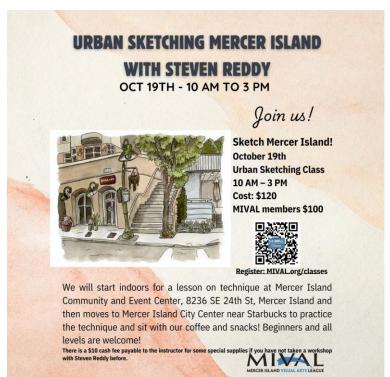
Mercer Island Community & Event Center

8236 SE 24th St, Mercer Island, WA 98040 (206) 275-7609, M - Th, 9 AM - 7 PM, F - Sa, 9 AM - 5 PM



New Recreation Programs







Public Input on Clarke & Groveland Beaches

- The City has launched a digital survey to collect information about how the community currently uses **Clarke and Groveland Beaches**.
- Responses will be accepted until October 22.
- Community input will be combined with other background analysis to inform the scope of the planning process for future improvements at these parks.
- Staff anticipate engaging the PRC for input in December and bringing a recommended planning scope to the City Council in early 2025.
- Please visit our Let's Talk page to provide input! <u>www.mercerisland.gov/cgmp</u>





Town Center Trick or Treating

Friday, October 25
4 - 6pm

Trick or Treat in Town Center with participating businesses. Look for the pumpkin decal in the windows!

This free-family-friendly event provides our community with the perfect start to their Halloween festivities!











PUMPKIN WALK



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27 5 - 8 PM MERCERDALE PARK

Join a fun, family friendly walk along the Mercerdale loop. The path will be lined with a glowing display of carved pumpkins.

WE NEED YOUR PUMPKINS!

Carvers of all ages are encouraged to participate in the display. Carved pumpkins can be dropped off from 12pm - 4pm on the day of the event at Mercerdale Park or the week of at the Mercer Island Community & Event Center.

Sponsored By:







Illuminate MI 2024







Arts Council Planning Schedule

- November 18, 2024
 - Special Meeting: AIPP Six-Year Spending Plan
- January 15, 2025
 - Regular Meeting: Six Year Spending Plan
 - February 10, 2025
 - Special Meeting: AIPP Six-Year Spending Plan

Thank You



CALL TO ORDER

Chair Elizabeth Mitchell called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

ROLL CALL

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

Councilor Hannah Youn was absent.

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

PUBLIC APPEARANCES

- Jane Meyer Brahm, Mercer Island, addressed the Arts Council regarding the Street Name Inlays.
- Terry Moreman, Mercer Island, addressed the Arts Council regarding the Street Name Inlays.

STAFF LIAISON REPORT

Katie Herzog, Recreation Supervisor, reported on the following:

- Summer Celebration!
- Mostly Music in the Park
- Shakespeare in the Park
- Juneteenth
- Pride in the Park on August 24th
- 50th Annual MIVAL's Jr Art Show & Award Reception
- Summer Camps

REGULAR BUSINESS

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the:

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

It was moved by Becker; seconded by Gibson to:

Approve the minutes from the April 17, 2024, Regular Meeting, and the May 20, 2024 Special Meeting, and the June 17, 2024 Special Meeting.

Passed: 5 - 0 - 1

3. Arts Council Officer Elections

Becker nominated Mitchell for Chair. There were no further nominations.

Vote:

Passed: 6-0

Mitchell was elected Chair.

Skone nominated Becker for Vice-Chair.

Rajagopal nominated Harrington for Vice-Chair.

There were no further nominations.

Vote for Becker:

Passed: 6 - 0

Becker was elected Vice-Chair by majority vote.

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

Sarah Bluvas, CIP Project Manager, presented. Councilors asked questions, engaged in discussion, and asked Staff to return to the next meeting in October to provide options to commemorate the historical names of Mercer Island.

It was moved by Skone; seconded by Gibson to:

Recommend that the Street Name Inlays be deaccessioned.

Passed: 5-1

5. Art in Public Places 6-Year Workplan Progress

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

It was moved by Gibson; seconded by Harrington to:

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

Passed: 6-0

6. 2023 Recreation Division Annual Report

Recreation Manager Ryan Daly and Recreation Staff presented. Councilors received the report and asked questions.

7. 2025 – 2026 City Arts and Culture Workplan Priorities

Recreation Supervisor Katie Herzog presented. Councilors received the report.

It was moved by Becker; seconded by Harrington to:

Endorse the 2025-2026 Arts and Culture Workplan Priorities

Passed: 6 – 0

OTHER BUSINESS

8. Absences

No absences were mentioned.

ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Hybrid Meeting adjourned at 7:53pm.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Daniel Becker called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm.

ROLL CALL

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

Chair Elizabeth Mitchell and Councilor Youn were absent.

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

PUBLIC APPEARANCES

There were no public appearances.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

1. Art in Public Places 6-Year Workplan - Workshop #3

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

OTHER BUSINESS

2. Absences

Councilor Rajagopal will be absent from the next Regular Arts Council meeting on October 16, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

The Special Hybrid Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.



ARTS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Item (3) October 16, 2024 Regular Business

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

TITLE:	Update on <i>Downtown Streetscapes:</i> Street Name Inlays	☐ Discussion Only
RECOMMENDED	Receive staff report.	☐ Action Needed: ☐ Motion
ACTION:		☐ Ordinance
		☐ Resolution
STAFF:	Sarah Bluvas	
COUNCIL LIAISON:	Ted Weinberg	
EXHIBITS:	1. Project Idea Samples	

SUMMARY

This staff report presents findings from staff's exploration of project ideas to replace *Downtown Streetscapes*: Street Name Inlays.

BACKGROUND

On July 17, 2024, the Arts Council discussed next steps for *Downtown Streetscapes*: Street Name Inlays, a series of 21 bronze street names inlaid in Town Center curb ramps. Eight of the inlays are being displaced by construction of ADA upgrades in Town Center (SP0118), and staff presented the following recommendations for the Arts Council's consideration:

- Recommend that the Street Name Inlays series be deaccessioned.
- Recommend further exploration for salving pieces during future capital projects.
- Recommend that a new project highlighting historic street names be developed.
- Recommend another approach as desired.

More details are included in the Staff Report from July 17.

The Arts Council voted to recommend that the Street Name Inlays be deaccessioned, which will be transmitted to the City Council at an upcoming meeting. Additionally, the Arts Council asked staff to return with ideas for a new public art project to highlight Mercer Island history and replace the deaccessioned Street Name Inlays.

EXPLORATION OF PROJECT IDEAS

Staff surveyed other communities to generate the following list of project ideas (Exhibit 1):

- Historic street name signs installed with the existing street name signs
- History-themed banners installed on light poles
- Historic photograph or other marker installed on sign or light poles
- Historic street names or other historic marker installed on adjacent buildings
- Historic street name or other marker painted on sidewalks
- Concrete stamp of street names in sidewalks or other adjacent location

These ideas were reviewed by the City's Capital, Engineering, and Right-of-Way (ROW) teams and evaluated for potential operational and/or capital project impacts. Feedback from other City teams was used to narrow the list of suitable replacement projects to the following:

- Historic street name signs installed with existing street name signs
- Historic photograph or other marker installed on sign or light poles

Costs for fabricating historic street signs and/or historical markers will vary by design, color, edging, and mounting method, and installation would be handled by City ROW crews. The estimated cost range for fabricating and installing up to 24 historic street name signs and 10 historical markers is \$10,000-\$18,000. This estimate only accounts for fabrication and installation and does not include costs associated with creating artwork for the signs, which may include engaging community partners, hiring an artist, and other activities. A project scope would need to be developed to more accurately account for those costs.

RECOMMENDATION

This concludes staff's exploration of potential project ideas. A project titled "Historic Street Names Project" has been added to the draft public art project opportunities for consideration in the 6-Year Workplan for Art in Public Places. If the Arts Council wishes to pursue a replacement project further, staff recommend keeping that project on the final list and prioritizing implementation for a future biennium.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

No staff presentation. Receive staff report only.

Historic Street Name Signs



History-Themed Banner



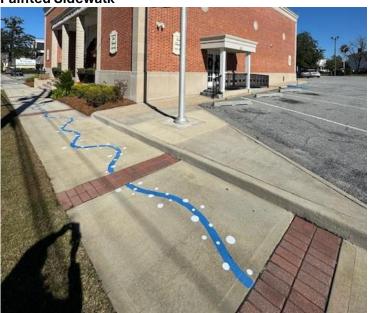
Historic Marker



Historic Street Name on Adjacent Building



Painted Sidewalk



Concrete Stamp





ARTS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Item (4) October 16, 2024 Regular Business

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

TITLE:	6-Year Workplan for Art in Public Places Progress	☑ Discussion Only☐ Action Needed:
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Provide feedback on the draft materials presented by staff.	☐ Motion☐ Ordinance☐ Resolution
STAFF:	Sarah Bluvas	
COUNCIL LIAISON:	Ted Weinberg	
EXHIBITS:	 Updated Draft of Public Art Program Goals, Actions, and Selection Criteria Draft Public Art Project Opportunities List 	

SUMMARY

The Mercer Island Arts Council (Arts Council) has collaborated with City staff since May 2024 to develop a 6-Year Workplan for the Art in Public Places Program (the Plan), a planning-level document that will guide internal decision-making for future public art projects. Details about the Arts Council's discussions to-date are available in the Staff Report from the September 16 special meeting.

At the October regular meeting, staff will seek feedback on updated public art goals, actions, and selection criteria (Exhibit 1) and will present a draft list of public art project opportunities (Exhibit 2). Input from the Arts Council will be used to refine the next draft of materials, which will be shared for discussion at the next special meeting on November 18. The updated schedule for this internal planning process is provided below.

Date	Title	Topics	Milestone
November 18, 2024	Special Hybrid Meeting	 Project Opportunities Goals, Actions, and Selection Criteria Public Art Policy 	 Endorsement: Goals, Actions, and Selection Criteria Draft Review: 25-30 Project Opportunities Draft Review: Public Art Guidelines
January 15, 2025	Regular Hybrid Meeting	Project OpportunitiesPublic Art PolicyCollection CareFunding	 Endorsement: 25-30 Project Opportunities Matrix Endorsement: Public Art Guidelines
February 10, 2025	Special Hybrid Meeting	• Evaluation	Draft Review: Updating the Plan

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Provide feedback on the draft materials presented by staff.

Item 4a: 6-Year Workplan for Art in Public Places Progress Exhibit 1: Public Art Program Goals, Actions, and Selection Criteria – DRAFT

Updated based on Arts Council feedback provided on September 16. Items in blue represent new content.

GOALS

Through public art, the Mercer Island Arts Council and City staff seek to:

- Spark curiosity where Mercer Island residents live, gather, and play.
- Cultivate community pride, civic engagement, high quality of life, and social connection.
- Share Mercer Island's rich history, natural beauty, and local creativity with Island residents and visitors.
- Invite and encourage community members to share their own diverse experiences, backgrounds, and beliefs through artmaking.
- Provide accessible, inclusive, and safe public art experiences that make all feel welcome.
- Steward a public art collection that future generations can sustainably enjoy, engage with, and enhance.

To achieve these goals, the 6-year workplan is divided into three focused actions related to **Project Opportunities**, **Funding**, and **Public Engagement**.

PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES

Action: Maintain a dynamic list of public art opportunities that can be implemented as resources allow.

- Items to include on the opportunities list:
 - o Preferred locations for pursuing public art projects
 - Locally significant events, locations, or details that can be highlighted through projects
 - Capital projects eligible/strong candidates for Art in Public Places projects using 1% funds
 - Project ideas proposed by Arts Council members, community groups, and Island residents

FUNDING

Action: Identify new funding strategies to support public art on Mercer Island.

- Track local, state, and federal grant opportunities for public art projects.
- Forecast 1% for Art in Public Places Fund contributions and expenditures and update the forecast on a biennial basis aligned with the City's Capital Improvement Program.
- Consider opportunities for soliciting private donations, sponsorships, and other outside funding from individuals and organizations.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Action: Engage the community throughout the public art process.

- Collaborate with community organizations to develop public art projects.
- Solicit project ideas from Island residents.
- Activate public art sites with events, gatherings, and other engagement methods.

SELECTION CRITERIA

After public art projects are identified, the following criteria will be used to evaluate artwork submittals, project proposals, etc.

Aesthetic

- Quality Does the proposal demonstrate high artistic merit?
- Representation Will the proposal add new mediums, materials, artmaking processes, styles/genres, and/or artists to the public art collection?
- Originality and Innovation Will the proposal bring something fresh and unique to the public art collection?
- Sustainability Is resource conservation thoughtfully considered for the design and creation of the proposed project?

Place

- Context Does the proposal demonstrate understanding of the project site and its historical, cultural, and environmental context?
- Functionality How will the proposal integrate into and/or enhance site?
- Sense of Identify Will the proposal enhance and/or cultivate a strong sense of place for residents and visitors?

Connection

- Inspiration Will the proposal provoke feeling in the viewer?
- Collaboration Does the proposal provide opportunities for Mercer Island residents, community groups, and others to participate in the public art process?
- Diversity Will the proposed project resonate with people of diverse abilities, backgrounds, and beliefs?
- Community Cohesion Will the proposal foster community dialogue and enhance community members' understanding of each other?
- Inclusion & Accessibility Does the proposal provide a safe and inclusive public art experience for all?

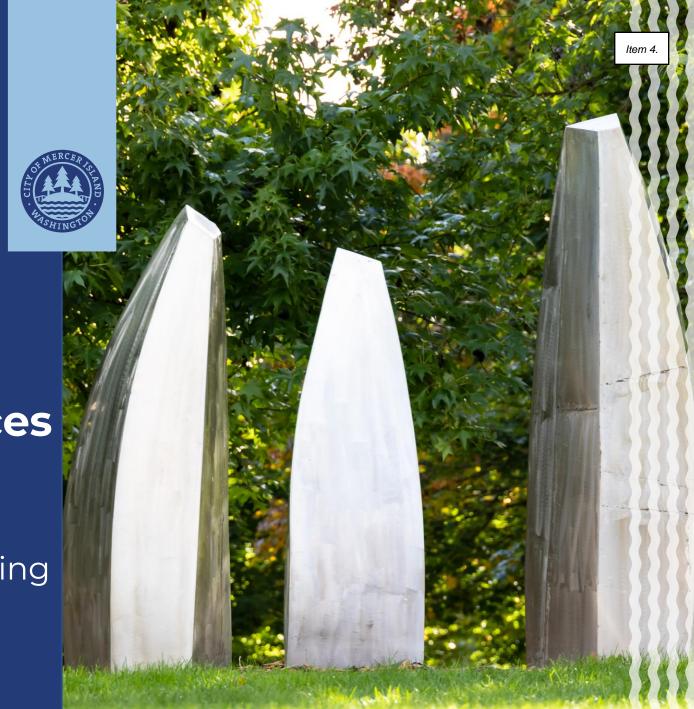
Longevity

- Staying Power Does the proposal demonstrate appeal for future Mercer Island generations?
- Collection Care Can the proposed project be completed and maintained within budget?

Item 4b: 6-Year Workplan for Art in Public Places Progress Exhibit 2: Public Art Project Opportunities List – DRAFT

Log	Proposed By	Project Idea	Comments
1	Councilmember Skone	Transform the Greta Hackett Outdoor Sculpture Gallery into Mercer Island's Premier All-Season Destination	 Imagine GHOSG as a vibrant, all-season hub that caters to people of all ages, interests, and abilities. Envision the Possibilities: Soundscape Solutions: Implement freeway noise reduction to ensure a tranquil environment. Versatile Venues: Introduce small stages for popup and planned performances and events or even tai chi or yoga in the park, alongside water features and play areas to engage visitors of all ages. Year-Round Comfort: Incorporate covered seating, lighted walkways, and a gallery-like atmosphere with high-quality Northwest and Mercer Island art that will draw visitors. We have world class artists here to showcase. Community Hub: Design the park as a vibrant town square, perfect for markets, art shows, and seasonal events like a winter wonderland of lights, Art UnCorked, perhaps a temporary ice-skating rink. With these upgrades, GHOSG will not only become a cultural and social centerpiece of our community but also a magnet for visitors arriving by light rail. This is the moment for Mercer Island to prioritize the park's development as a dynamic stage for community engagement and economic growth. Located in the heart of the city and accessible via light rail from across the region, this park stands to become a bustling center that draws both locals and visitors. By enhancing the park, we not only create a welcoming space but also boost support for nearby businesses and restaurants.
2	Community Member	Mural at Aubrey Davis Park Basketball Courts	E-mailed by community member on 07.30.24: Ever since I can remember, the Lid has been an important community hub and the first thing many people see coming onto the island. However, the large cement wall behind the basketball courts is not only an eye sore but also a missed opportunity. Why not have a local artist, kids, or other community members create a mural? The city could even hold a contest where Mercer Islanders vote on proposed designs. I would be more than happy to help generate publicity/put together flyers/whatever is helpful. Added lights over the court would also make it useable for kids in the winter months, when it gets dark in the afternoon.
3	Community Member	Refresh the Town Center Banners	I am having a thought about looking into updating the banners on the streetlight poles. I believe it was a competition years ago through the city and I'm not sure if the funding was through the one percent budget/Arts, Council, or where it came from. As MIVAL, we'd be willing to look into applying for a grant from the community foundation, and hopefully getting some funding from the city as well -along with your permission, of course- to refresh the banners. I'm thinking of using images of some of the art pieces we have around town in the sculpture garden along with references to our community events, such as farmers market summer celebration, first Friday art walks, etc. I'm sure there are lots of other ideas of what we can come up with for imagery, but it seems like it's time for a refresh on the banners.
4	Staff	Community Artmaking Project	 Collaborate with the community to develop and implement a small-scale, permanent public art installation on the Island. Examples: Mural in collaboration with Urban Artworks Sculpture made from reclaimed materials (like Thomas Dambo Trolls collaboration but much smaller scale) Pedestrian safety project – Painted sidewalks, bumpouts, etc.
5	Staff	Outdoor Gallery Golf	Activate the outdoor sculpture gallery with pop-up mini golf events. Each hole would be designed by an artist and/or inspired by artworks in the public art collection. Pilot as a one-day or one-weekend event (during Art on the Island weekend?) and consider for longer installations in the future. Inspiration: https://www.nelson-atkins.org/art-course/
6	Community Member	Aubrey Davis Park Stacks Project	Proposed by anonymous donor (Island resident). Presented to the Arts Council and Parks & Recreation Commission in July 2022 but no additional work has been completed since.
7	Staff	The Source Restoration	50th anniversary of <i>The Source</i> in 2030; could be good milestone opportunity to restore the piece and celebrate the rest of the public art collection
8	Staff	Redesign Luther Burbank Park Amphitheater	Project would be coordinated with Seattle Shakespeare Company and other community groups. Could be a good candidate for Doors Open grant funding.
9	Staff	Public Safety and Maintenance Building AIPP	City is currently in early stages of planning for a new public safety and maintenance building to house Police and Public Works on the City Hall campus. Will contribute to the 1% fund. Could be a good opportunity for art integration. Maybe a project centered on sustainability?

Log	Proposed By	Project Idea	Comments
10	Staff	LBP Boiler Building Phase 2: Entrance to the waterfront	Opportunity to create a "signature entrance" at the top of the hill.
11	Arts Council	Historic Street Names project	 Highlight Mercer Island historic downtown street names. Ideas approved by City staff so far include: Update street directional signage to include historical street name marker Design a new historical market to install on the street posts
12	Councilmember Skone	Permanent Stage at Mercerdale Park	I think the city demonstrated the success of this opportunity last summer.
13	Councilmember Skone	Enhance activities at the Luther Burbank Park Waterfront	Not every community has access to the water, and we have not taken advantage of one of our best assets.
14	Community Organization	Art Walk at the Greta Hackett Outdoor Sculpture Gallery	Provided by Anne Hritzay of MIVAL via Councilmember Rajagopal.
15	Councilmember Rajagopal	Public Art Talks	I am thinking of some art talks, in-person or virtual, on our current existing public art pieces and related topic. It might help to raise the awareness of our public art.
16	Councilmember Rajagopal	Local Art Auction Fundraiser	To raise the fund for public art, I wonder if any artists on the island would love to donate some art work for sale or auction that the proceeds will go towards the funding. If that is possible, we can organize a fundraising exhibition.
17	Councilmember Rajagopal	Events Highlighting Diverse Art Forms/Expressions	As for the diversity of the forms of expression, maybe we can organize some literature events. Possible collaboration with the bookstore on MI. Also for the diversity, maybe poet reading events inviting people to read different poems from different cultures, or just exhibit framed print-outs of the poems in different languages (with English translations) in the community center. I hope it will be a beautiful occasion. Art is always better under the influences of different cultures, say impressionists got inspiration from Japanese wood prints.
18	Community Members	Mural Collaboration with MIHS	Project proposed in 2021 by MIHS students. Could be a good fit for an Urban Artworks project. From their original proposal: The mural would be focused on representing historically oppressed peoples, and helping to make Mercer Island a more welcoming place for people of all races, ethnicities, and backgrounds. In the future it could even become a location for related events, as it would be in a public space already, and it would signify Mercer Island's commitment to racial and ethnic inclusion in a very permanent way. We are thinking of involving art clubs throughout Mercer Island School District to contribute to the mural. With the four elementary schools, middle school, and high school, we hope to have six "panels" of artwork that each club can draft individually and, of course, get approved. We also want to provide opportunities for people in the general arts community to contribute, with possible partnerships with local artists in the Mercer Island Visual Arts League, and regular people interested in art who have ideas for the project. These contributions could also be in a panel format, so that each group could represent a different facet of the diversity of the Island and the US. As for locations, we are still debating between a few. We loved your suggestion of the wall behind the basketball court at Aubrey Davis Park, though we were concerned this may involve ladders/be a larger project than we and other students can handle. You are welcome to offer your thoughts on this, too. We also still are contemplating the original idea of putting the murals in the concrete at Luther Burbank Park, although there would obviously be some challenges that we discussed at the previous meeting, including pre-existing graffiti, uneven surfacing, and possible opposition to a change in the park.



6-Year Art in Public Places Workplan

Arts Council Regular Hybrid Meeting October 16, 2024



Goals for Tonight's Discussion

- 1. Provide feedback on Framework for Developing Public Art Projects.
- 2. Discuss the Public Art Project Opportunities List.
- 3. Look ahead and confirm the date/time for Workshop #4.

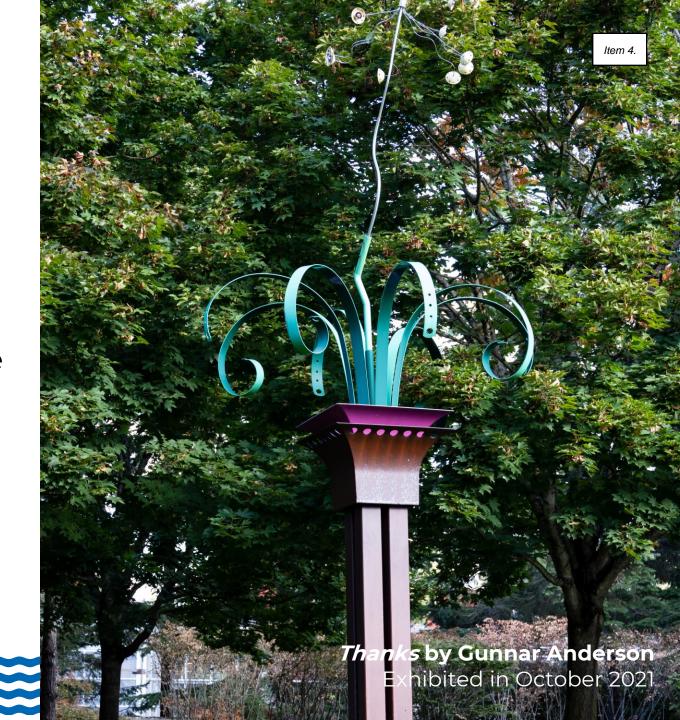


Framework for Developing Public Art Projects



Updates to Goals, Actions, and Selection Criteria

- Added a new goal related to diversity and refined the wording of other goals.
- Adjusted the focused actions to be less repetitive and consolidated them to tie specifically to three categories – Project Opportunities, Funding, and Public Engagement.
- Added new selection criteria for Aesthetic and Connection.





Goals for the Mercer Island Public Art Program

Through public art, the Mercer Island Arts Council and City staff seek to:

- Spark curiosity where Mercer Island residents live, gather, and play.
- Cultivate community pride, civic engagement, high quality of life, and social connection.
- Share Mercer Island's rich history, natural beauty, and local creativity with Island residents and visitors.
- Invite and encourage community members to share their own diverse experiences, backgrounds, and beliefs through artmaking.
- Provide accessible, inclusive, and safe public art experiences that make all feel welcome.
- Steward a public art collection that future generations can sustainably enjoy, engage with, and enhance.

Focused Action: Project Opportunities

- <u>Action</u>: Maintain a dynamic list of public art opportunities that can be implemented as resources allow.
- The list should include/reflect:
 - o Preferred locations for pursuing public art projects
 - o Locally significant events, locations, or details that can be highlighted through projects
 - Capital projects that are eligible/strong candidates for Art in Public Places projects using 1% funds
 - o Projects proposed by Arts Council members, community groups, and Island residents



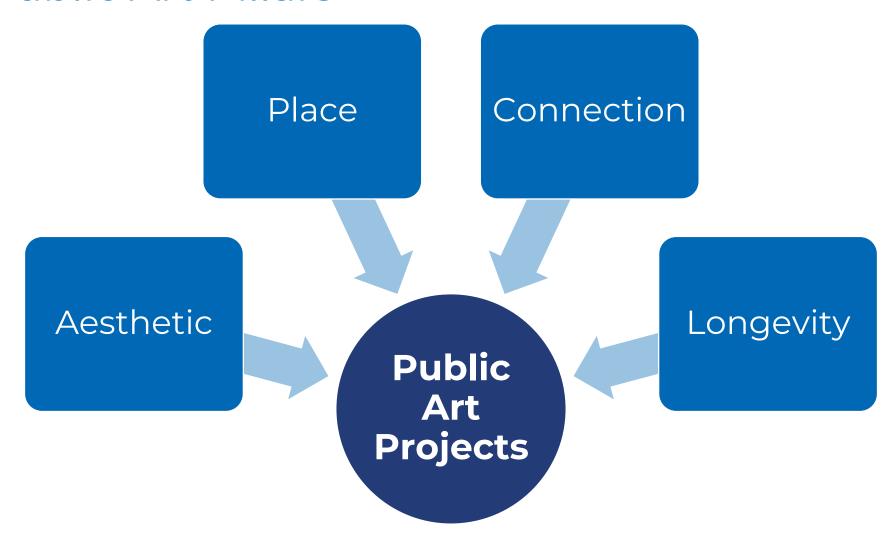
Focused Action: Funding

- Action: Identify new funding strategies to support public art on Mercer Island.
- The Plan should:
 - o Track local, state, and federal grant opportunities for public art projects.
 - Forecast 1% for Art in Public Places Fund contributions & expenditures, and update the forecast on a biennial basis aligned with the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP).
 - o Consider opportunities for soliciting private donations, sponsorships, and other outside funding from individuals and organizations.

Focused Action: Public Engagement

- Action: Engage the community throughout the public art process.
- Methods for involving the community:
 - o Collaborate with community organizations to develop public art projects.
 - Solicit project ideas from Island residents.
 - o Activate public art sites with events, gatherings, and other opportunities.

Four Public Art Pillars





Artwork & Artist Selection Criteria

Aesthetic

- Quality Does the proposal demonstrate high artistic merit?
- Representation –Will the proposal add new mediums, materials, artmaking processes, styles/genres, and/or artists to the public art collection?
- Originality & Innovation Will the proposal bring something fresh and unique to the public art collection?
- Sustainability Is resource conservation thoughtfully considered for the design and creation of the proposed project?



Artwork & Artist Selection Criteria

Place

- Context Does the proposal demonstrate understanding of the project site and its historical, cultural, and environmental context?
- Functionality How will the proposal integrate into and/or enhance the site?
- Sense of Identity Will the proposal enhance and/or cultivate a strong sense of place for residents and visitors?



Artwork & Artist Selection Criteria

Connection

- Inspiration Will the proposal provoke feeling in the viewer?
- Collaboration Does the proposal provide opportunities for Mercer Island residents, community groups, and others to participate in the public art process?
- Diversity Will the proposed project resonate with people of diverse abilities, backgrounds, and beliefs?
- Community Cohesion Is resource conservation thoughtfully considered for the design and creation of the proposed project?
- Inclusion & Accessibility Does the proposal provide a safe and inclusive public art experience for all?



Artwork & Artist Selection Criteria

Longevity

- Staying Power Does the proposal demonstrate appeal for future Mercer Island generations?
- Collection Care Can the proposed project be completed and maintained within budget?



Public Art Project Opportunities





What is the Public Art Project Opportunities List?

- Dynamic list of public art opportunities that can be implemented by the City as resources allow (i.e. Focused Action #1).
- List will be included in the final version of the 6-year workplan.
- Staff propose updating the running list on a quarterly basis to ensure new opportunities are documented.



Developing the Public Art Project Opportunities List

- Draft list is Exhibit 2 in Agenda Packet
- Ideas drawn from:
 - Previously proposed by community to Arts Council and/or City staff since 2020
 - Proposed by staff based on opportunities identified since 2020
 - Proposed by current Arts Council members in response to staff e-mail on 09.17.24
- Other ideas to add to the list?
- What community input does the Arts Council want to finalize the list?

Item 4.

Upcoming Planning Schedule

Date	Title	Topics	Milestone
November 18	Special Hybrid Meeting (Workshop #4)	 Project Opportunities Goals, Actions, and Selection Criteria Public Art Policy 	 Endorsement: Goals, Actions, and Selection Criteria Draft Review: 25-30 Project Opportunities Draft Review: Public Art Guidelines
January 15, 2025	Regular Hybrid Meeting	Project OpportunitiesPublic Art PolicyCollection CareFunding	 Endorsement: 25-30 Project Opportunities Matrix Endorsement: Public Art Guidelines
February 10, 2025	Special Hybrid Meeting (Workshop #5)	• Evaluation	• Draft Review : Updating the Plan





ARTS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Item (5) October 16, 2024 Regular Business

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

TITLE:	2023-2024 City Arts and Culture Workplan Update: Q4 2024	☑ Discussion Only☐ Action Needed:
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Receive staff report	☐ Motion☐ Ordinance☐ Resolution
STAFF:	Katie Herzog	
COUNCIL LIAISON:	Ted Weinberg	
EXHIBITS:	N/A	

SUMMARY

The purpose of this staff report is to provide an update on the status of completion for the 2023-2024 City Arts and Culture Workplan as the Recreation Division progresses into the 4th quarter of 2024.

BACKGROUND

The City Arts and Culture Workplan is designed to guide staff work and initiatives related to arts and culture. The workplan is endorsed by the Arts Council and reflected in the approved biennial budget.

PROGRESS ON ARTS AND CULTURE WORKPLAN ITEMS

The Arts Council received an initial update on the 2023-2024 City's Arts and Culture Workplan on October 25, 2023. Since that meeting, staff have diligently continued to work towards the objectives stated within the workplan. Below is an updated report on staff progress entering the 4th quarter of 2024.

Priority 1: Strengthen community awareness of and support for Mercer Island's arts and culture ecosystem.

- 1.1 Develop and facilitate communication tools to easily share arts and culture events with the Mercer Island community. (80% Complete)
 - Evaluated current systems and practices and reviewed how arts and culture event information is currently shared on Mercer Island.
 - Determined that the functionality of facilitating desired communication tools for the community would be limited and labor intensive through the City.
 - Collaborated with the Chamber of Commerce to implement and populate a community calendar on their website enabling the community to post and view events and activities for the Mercer Island community.

Next steps:

- Further implement and expand functions of the STQRY app and promote to the Mercer Island community.
- Collaborate with the Chamber of Commerce to develop communication and marketing procedures to further educate the community regarding opportunities to post and view community events on Mercer Island.

1.2 Create presence and exposure at events for the Arts Council to engage with the community. (100% Complete)

- Collaborated with the Arts Council Events Committee determining that Mostly Music in the Park would provide the best opportunity for members to attend and engage the community.
- For the 2023 event schedule, two Arts Council members signed up and attended concerts this summer.
- Developed a slate of community events and communicated opportunities for 2024 to Arts
 Council members for engagement. Opportunities included: Mostly Music in the Park, Summer
 Celebration, MIVAL Gallery Receptions, Juneteenth, and Pride in the Park.

Next steps:

Continue to empower and encourage Arts Council Members to be present at City events.

1.3 Maintain long-term perspectives on sustainability for arts and culture events and programming. (This work is ongoing)

- Coordinated with the Sustainability Manager to identify improvements in sustainability
 practices and requirements for both City-Coordinated and 3rd Party arts and culture events
 and programming.
- Developed the following guidelines for arts and culture event and program vendors and partners for immediate implementation:
 - Use of commercially compostable food packaging, such as trays, plates, bowls, utensils, straws, and napkins will be required.
 - Beverages must be provided in marked compostable cups, unless sold in recyclable aluminum cans, glass, or plastic bottles will be required.
 - Compost and recycling bins will be provided throughout all events.
 - The Mercer Island Community and Event Center (MICEC) will add additional compost bins and related signage.

Next steps:

- Evaluate and develop opportunities through facility capital projects to enhance sustainability efforts.
- Further update existing materials; establish and further implement event permitting requirements.

Priority 2: Invite new dialogues and partnerships to support emerging arts and culture themes in the community.

2.1 Engage in partnerships to expand activities for people of all ages within existing community arts and culture events. (This work is ongoing)

Staff cultivated the following partnerships:

- MIVAL: Fine art sales at City events; free arts and crafts at Mostly Music in the Park (MMIP); Island Lanterns community art project; local art exhibits at the Mercer Island Gallery at MICEC; Community art project at Summer Celebration; art classes, Gallery openings and receptions; promotion of First Friday Art Walks
- Mercer Island Chamber of Commerce: Art Uncorked; Women's Day of Wellness; Holiday Market; Town Center Trick or Treating.
- Mercer Island Community Fund: Funding partner for various arts and culture events.
- Seattle Shakespeare Company: New summer camp offerings.
- 4Culture: Funding partner for MMIP; Shakespeare in the Park; and other projects/events.
- ArtsWA: Funding partner for Island Lanterns community art project.
- National Endowment for the Arts: Funding partner for Island Lanterns community art project.
- Youth Theater NW: New summer camp offering at the MICEC.
- Penguin Productions: Youth-based organization that held productions at/during City events.
- Local Artist Community: Summer Celebration hosted 15 arts and craft vendors in 2023 and 24 arts and craft vendors in 2024.
- Emerald Ballet Theater: Youth ballet classes.
- Music Together: Parent-child music classes.
- Mercer Island Chinese Association: Lunar New Year; Mid-Autumn Festival; Friday social hourin conjunction with Community Coffee at MICEC.

Next Steps:

- Further identify service area gaps and partnership opportunities.
- Communicate and solicit future partnership opportunities.

2.2 Work with event partners to engage in environmentally friendly efforts. (Ongoing)

- Evaluated 2023 events, recognized consistency issues with compliance by partners regarding the use of compostable materials and one-time use giveaways.
- Increase composting at the Community Center and public events.
- Hosted Leap For Green in April 2023/April 2024 to promote environmentally friendly efforts.
- Limited one-time use giveaways at City events.

Next steps:

- Engage partners for promotion and support on environmentally friendly efforts.
- Further develop and document requirements to partner with the City.
- Collaborate with Sustainability Manager to update requirements and education.

2.3 Foster communication between arts and culture providers to enrich the community. (This work is ongoing)

- Reorganized Recreation Division staffing model to better identify opportunities for collaboration between organizations.
- Collaborated with Chamber of Commerce to implement and populate a community calendar on their website.
- Promoted the Arts Council as a forum for community input and engagement and utilized citycoordinated events to bring collaboration between various organizations, including: MIVAL, MI Chinese Association, 4Culture, JCC, Chamber of Commerce, City Lifestyle Magazine, and various art vendors, entertainers, and performers.

Next steps:

- Facilitate opportunities for the Arts Council to further engage with the arts and culture community.
- ➤ Identify an Arts Council member to attend Eastside Culture Coalition meetings.
- > Identify a staff member and Arts Council member to attend 4Culture LAA network meetings.

2.4 Welcome arts and culture work that promotes sustainability, equity, diversity, and inclusion. (This work is ongoing)

- Cultivated partnerships with community organizations, such as the Mercer Island School
 District (various clubs), OneMI, Stroum Jewish Community Center, Friendship Circle, MI Pride,
 and the Mercer Island Chinese Association to enhance and expand program offerings.
- Developed partnership opportunities that focus on sustainability, equity, diversity, and inclusion are prioritized.
- Implemented Special Event Sponsorship policy to reduce barriers for organizations to host public events in parks.
- Developed new partnerships and collaborations to access city facilities to promote and implement diverse arts and culture events and activities for the Mercer Island community. Examples of new and expanded partnerships include Mercer Island Chinese Association, MI Pride+, MIHS Black Student Union, Russian Chamber of Music, Chamber of Commerce – Women's Day Out, Chabad Mercer Island, Stroum Jewish Community Center.

Next steps:

- Communicate opportunities for partnerships with the City.
- Provide ongoing review of current policies and development of new policies to enhance access to City facilities for arts and culture programming, events, and partnerships.

Priority 3: Complete two major City arts and culture policy projects:

Update the Comprehensive Arts & Culture Plan (appendix to the Citywide Comprehensive Plan)
Staff have confirmed that the Comprehensive Arts and Culture Plan will be included in the proposed Parks and Open Space Element update to the City's Comprehensive Plan, which is currently under

public review. An update of the Comprehensive Arts and Culture Plan is anticipated as part of the work plan in the following biennium.

Develop a Six-Year Spending Plan for the 1% for the Art in Public Places Fund

Staff educated the Arts Council on the 1% for Art in Public Places Fund, including how it is funded and how dollars may be used. Staff have conducted several Special Meetings with the Arts Council to develop the Six-Year Spending Plan. Staff anticipate this work to be completed in Q1 of 2025.

Priority 4: Deliver high-quality arts and culture programming to the Mercer Island community.

4.1 Work with partners to bring ongoing, diverse programming to the community, including a wide range of cultural and artistic themes. (This work is ongoing)

Staff coordinated the following programs and events in collaboration with community partners:

- Stroum Jewish Community Center- Summer Camp offerings; Sukkot at Mercerdale; Illuminate MI.
- Chabad Mercer Island- Menorah at Mercerdale.
- Cultural Recreation Rental Partners- Tai Chi; Naginata; Kendo; Salsa; Seattle Folk Dance.
- MIVAL: Fine art sales at City events; free arts and crafts at MMIP; art classes; Island Lanterns
 community art project; local art exhibits at the Mercer Island Gallery at MICEC; artist
 selection panel for Luther Burbank Park Waterfront Improvements Art in Public Places (LBWI
 AIPP) project.
- Nancy Stewart: Family Sing-Alongs; drop-in guitar.
- Mercer Island Chamber of Commerce: Art Uncorked; Women's Wellness; Holiday Market.
- Local businesses: Live entertainment at Town Center events; First Friday Art Walks; Town Center Trick or Treating
- Youth Theatre Northwest: Various summer camp offerings.
- Mercer Island Historical Society: Coordination for heritage and cultural components / funding for LBWI capital project.
- Mercer Island Sister City Association: Lectures and French films, support of student exchange activities.
- Music Together: Family music classes.
- Seattle Shakespeare Company: Shakespeare in the Park / Wooden O; summer camp offerings.
- Movie Star and Cartooniversity, YTN, Incrediflix: Summer camp offerings.
- OSHER Lifelong Learning Institute: Senior lectures.
- 4Culture: Funding partner for MMIP, Shakespeare in the Park, and other projects/events.
- ArtsWA: Funding partner for Island Lanterns community art project.
- National Endowment for the Arts: Funding partner for Island Lanterns community art project.
- Mercer Island Chinese Association: Mid-Autum Festival; Lunar New Year.
- Emerald Ballet Theater: youth classes.

Next steps:

Staff will continue to seek partners, promote rental space, and solicit opportunities to bring new programming to the Mercer Island community for participants of all ages.

2023-2024 Work Plan Next Steps:

Staff will continue to progress on workplan items as identified through the end of the year. Staff will present the 2024 Recreation Annual Report at a future Arts Council meeting to inform of 2024 workplan outcomes.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

No Action Required



ARTS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Item (6) October 16, 2024 Regular Business

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

TITLE:	2025-2026 City Arts and Culture Workplan	☐ Discussion Only	
		□ Action Needed:	
RECOMMENDED	Review and endorse the 2025-2026 Arts and Culture		
ACTION:	Workplan	☐ Ordinance	
		☐ Resolution	
STAFF:	Katie Herzog		
COUNCIL LIAISON:	Ted Weinberg		
	1. 2025-2026 City Arts and Culture Workplan (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 (Exhibit 1) which includes both the workplan priorities and objectives.

BACKGROUND

The City Arts and Culture Workplan is designed to guide staff work and initiatives related to arts and culture over the biennium and its priorities are included as part of the Recreation Division's overall workplan which is approved by the City Council as part of the biennial-budget process.

The Arts and Culture Workplan is the composition of two elements- the priorities and the objectives for the biennium. Priorities shape the direction, focus, and impact of cultural policies and initiatives within the community over a 2-year span. Objectives (aligned with each priority) provide an outcome-based measure to ensure that arts and culture efforts are strategically implemented, well-supported, and aligned with the broader community goals for arts and cultural development.

At the <u>July 17, 2024</u> meeting, the Arts Council reviewed and endorsed the 2025-2026 City Arts and Culture Workplan Priorities, and staff committed to return with attainable objectives for Arts Council review and endorsement at a future meeting.

DISCUSSION

Staff have developed a draft 2025-2026 City Arts and Culture Workplan (Exhibit 1) which include the Arts Council endorsed priorities and proposed objectives for the 2025-2026 biennium. Tonight, staff request that the Arts Council review and if desired, endorse the 2025-2026 City Arts and Culture Workplan.

NEXT STEPS

• Once the workplan is endorsed, staff will begin prioritizing objectives for completion over the 2025-2026 biennium.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Endorse the 2025-2025 Arts and Culture Workplan.

DRAFT

2025-2026 City Arts and Culture Workplan

1. Deliver high-quality arts and culture programming to the Mercer Island community.

- 1.1 Implement three different arts and culture recreation program activities by Q4 2026.
- 1.2 Collaborate with partners to implement six arts and culture focused events by Q4 2026.
- 1.3 Develop two ongoing drop-in arts and culture focused activities by Q4 2025.
- 1.4 Maintain the service level for arts and culture programming from the previous biennium.

2. Facilitate and promote comprehensive and engaging arts and culture experiences which promote diversity, equity, and inclusion.

- 2.1 Coordinate with the Parks and Recreation Commission to review and develop policies to further promote access to city facilities by Q3 2026.
- 2.2 Collaborate with local community organizations to implement diverse community events annually in park spaces through the application of the Special Event Sponsorship Policy- ongoing.
- 2.3 Utilize the city's communication methods in collaboration with third party organizations to promote arts and culture experiences ongoing.
- 2.4 Implement 6-Year Workplan for Art in Public Places and maintain a dynamic list of public art opportunities, identify new funding strategies, and engage the community throughout the public art ongoing.

3. Encourage and support community engagement through collaboration and partnerships to expand arts and culture programs with a focus on performing arts.

- 3.1 Identify and establish relationships with two performing arts groups to expand performance opportunities by Q2 2025.
- 3.2 Contract with resident performing artists and organizations to perform at three existing community events by Q4 2025.
- 3.3 Provide opportunities for performing arts organizations to further engage with the Mercer Island community at city-coordinated events ongoing.

4. Incorporate principles of sustainability into the City's arts and cultural practices.

- 4.1 Implement procedures to incorporate principals of sustainability into preservation of public artongoing.
- 4.2 Provide composting and recycling at all city-coordinated events by Q4 2025.
- 4.3 Engage the Mercer Island Historical Society to provide opportunities to increase historical knowledge of Mercer Island by Q2 2026.
- 4.4 Evaluate current art and culture programs and identify needs for a sustainable funding model for the following biennium by Q3 2026.
- 4.5 Enhance and establish sustainability requirements for organizations to partner with the City for cultural events and programs.

5. Complete two major City art and culture projects:

1. Update the Comprehensive Arts & Culture Plan

DRAFT

Item 6.

2. Collaborate with the Parks and Recreation Commission to update the Department's "Gift Acceptance Policy" to include works of art.