



ARTS COUNCIL SPECIAL VIDEO MEETING

Tuesday, September 14, 2021 | 6:30pm

BOARD MEMBERS:

Vice Chair Amy Barnes
Board Members: Anumeha, Erik Gordon,
Elizabeth Mitchell, Rosemary Moore, Suzanne Skone
City Council Liaison: Salim Nice

LOCATION & CONTACT

Mercer Island City Hall – Zoom Meeting
9611 SE 36th Street | Mercer Island, WA 98040
Phone: 206.275.7706 | www.mercerisland.gov

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those requiring accommodation for meetings should notify the Staff Liaison at least 24 hours prior to the meeting at 206.275.7706.

Virtual Meeting Notice

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

Join by Telephone at 6:30 PM: To listen to the meeting via telephone, please call **253.215.8782** and enter Webinar ID **815 8159 6132** and Password **370163** when prompted.

Join by Internet at 6:30 PM: To watch the meeting over the internet via your computer, follow these steps:

- 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 **815 8159 6132**; Enter Password **370163**

For the safety and wellbeing of the public and staff, the City strongly recommends that community members attend the meeting by viewing the live feed on Zoom or watching the recording of the video conference on the City's [YouTube Channel](#), which will be available approximately 24 hours after the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL, 6:30 PM

NEW MEMBER WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

PUBLIC APPEARANCES

REGULAR BUSINESS

1. Approval of Minutes: July 14, 2021, Regular Video Meeting
2. 2021 PROS Plan Update
Recommended Action:
 - 1) Review and provide feedback on PROS Plan Chapter 4 (Goals and Objectives) and Chapter 7 (Recreation, Arts & Culture).
 - 2) Assign an Arts Council member to serve as the liaison to the Parks and Recreation Commission to represent Arts Council interests in the ongoing review and development of the PROS Plan.
3. Luther Burbank Docks and Waterfront Renovation Project: Public Art/Placemaking Components
Recommended Action: Discuss opportunities for Handsome Bollards and additional integrated artwork as part of the capital project.
4. 2021 Arts Council Officer Elections
Recommended Action: Elect a Chair and Vice Chair to serve until 2022 officer elections, on or about June 2022.
5. Arts Immediate Action Plan: Project Updates
Recommended Action: Receive Report

6. Arts Reset Plan: Planning & Policy Updates

Recommended Action: Receive the report and provide feedback as requested.

7. 2021 Arts Council Regular Meeting Schedule Changes

Recommended Action: Move to authorize staff to cancel the October Regular Meeting of the Arts Council.

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT



ARTS COUNCIL MINUTES

REGULAR VIDEO MEETING

Wednesday, July 14, 2021

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Chair Erin Vivion called the meeting to order at 6:35pm.

Amy Barnes, Erik Gordon, Suzanne Skone, and Gaylene Vaden participated remotely using Zoom (video teleconferencing platform).

City Council liaison Salim Nice, staff members Sarah Bluvas and Ryan Daly, and consultant Emily Moon also participated remotely via Zoom.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES

No public appearances.

STAFF REPORT

Sarah Bluvas, Economic Development Coordinator for the City, updated members on plans for returning to in-person meetings, the second round of recruitment for City boards and commissions, routine public art maintenance, and other arts community happenings.

REGULAR BUSINESS

1. Approval of Minutes – May 12 Regular Video Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Gordon, seconded by Barnes to:

Approve the May 12, 2021, Regular Video Meeting Minutes as amended.

Passed 5-0-1

FOR: Barnes, Gordon, Skone, Vaden, and Vivion

ABSENT: Anumeha

2. Arts Immediate Action Plan: *The Prairie of Possibilities* Interactive Arts Experience

James Gwertzman and Casey Marvin from The Moonlight Collective presented a proposal for *The Prairie of Possibilities*, a temporary, interactive arts experience, and staff reviewed several factors relevant to approving the project.

It was moved by Skone, seconded by Gordon to:

- **Pursue *The Prairie of Possibilities* as part of the 2021 Community Arts Project;**
- **Direct staff to negotiate a final project scope with The Moonlight Collective; and**
- **Utilize 4Culture Sustained Support funds to support this project.**

Passed 5-0-1

FOR: Barnes, Gordon, Skone, Vaden, and Vivion

ABSENT: Anumeha

3. Arts Immediate Action Plan: Timeline and Committee Updates

Consultant Emily Moon and staff plan to bring a draft recreation budget to the Parks & Recreation Commission in September, which will include an organizational plan for staff support for the Arts Council.

4. 2021 Arts Council Bylaws Review

Mercer Island Arts Council Special Video Meeting – 09.14.21

Approval of Minutes: July 14, 2021, Regular Video Meeting

The board postponed the 2021 Bylaws Review due to time constraint.

5. 2021 Meeting Schedule

The board canceled the September 8 Regular Meeting and scheduled a Special Meeting to take place on Tuesday, September 14, at 6:30pm via Zoom.

6. 2021 Volunteer Hours

Staff reminded board members to report any additional volunteer hours outside of regular meetings, which she will already track on behalf of members.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business.

ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Video Meeting adjourned at 8:37pm.



ARTS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Item 2
September 14, 2021
Regular Business

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

TITLE: RECOMMENDED ACTION:	2021 PROS Plan Update: Review Chapter 4 & 7, assign Arts Council Liaison Review and provide feedback on PROS Plan Chapter 4 (Goals and Objectives) and Chapter 7 (Recreation, Arts & Culture). Assign an Arts Council member to serve as the liaison to the Parks and Recreation Commission to represent Arts Council interests in the ongoing review and development of the PROS Plan.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
STAFF: COUNCIL LIAISON: EXHIBITS:	Jessi Bon, City Manager Salim Nice 1. Draft: PROS Chapter 4 – Goals & Objectives 2. Draft: PROS Chapter 7 – Recreation, Arts & Culture	

SUMMARY

The City is in the process of updating the Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan. The project team is seeking feedback from the Arts Council to inform further development of the following documents:

1. Draft: PROS Chapter 4 – Goals & Objectives (Exhibit 1)
2. Draft: PROS Chapter 7 – Recreation, Arts & Culture (Exhibit 2)

Arts Council members are encouraged to share specific edits/revisions and to provide suggestions on other ways these documents can be improved. These recommendations will be forwarded to the Parks and Recreation Commission for consideration in preparing the final PROS Plan draft for handoff to the City Council in early 2022.

The project team is also seeking an Arts Council member to serve as the liaison to the Parks and Recreation Commission to represent Arts Council interests in the ongoing review and development of the PROS Plan. The Arts Council liaison will be invited to attend all Parks and Recreation Commission meetings where PROS plan items are reviewed, which is likely to be a commitment of four or five meetings between now and the end of 2021.

The first complete draft of the PROS Plan will likely be available in early November and will be shared with the Arts Council for review and feedback.

BACKGROUND

As directed by the City Council in September 2019, the Parks & Recreation Department, in collaboration with the Parks & Recreation Commission (PRC), began the process of updating the PROS Plan. The previous PROS plan expired at the end of 2019.

The PROS Plan is a six-year plan that anticipates the programming and capital infrastructure investments necessary to meet the community's need for parks, recreation, open space, trails, arts, and cultural events. Conservation Technix was selected as the consultant to manage the process, including providing a baseline analysis of existing conditions and community needs, facilitating a community engagement process, and developing a draft framework for the final PROS Plan.

Work was suspended on the PROS Plan update in April 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the end of 2020, the staff and consulting team resumed the planning process for the PROS Plan, with an initial focus on assessing the work that was already completed, adjusting the project timeline, and modifying the scope of work to reflect the need for virtual engagement strategies.

To date, work that has been completed on the PROS Plan includes a review of existing conditions, completion of a capital facilities assessment, numerous board and commission meetings, the completion of a community survey, and a Virtual Open House. More than half of the PROS Plan is currently drafted and in the process of internal review. A second community survey was released in August 2021 and the results are pending. A second virtual public meeting is planned on September 28, 2021.

The PROS Plan is intended to complement the Arts and Culture Plan adopted in 2018.

1. REVIEW DRAFT: CHAPTER 4 – GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

At the heart of the PROS Plan is the establishment of goals and objectives that provide strategic direction for the Mercer Island Parks and Recreation system. The goals and objectives are included in Chapter 4 of the PROS Plan (see Exhibit 1) and once adopted, will be appended to the Citywide Comprehensive Plan during the next update process.

The Chapter 4 draft includes eight strategic goals:

Goal 1 – Planning, Acquisition & Access: Provide a high quality, welcoming, and inclusive parks and recreation system that meets community needs now and in the future.

Goal 2 – Maintenance & Operations: Provide the Mercer Island community with safe, well-maintained parks and recreation facilities.

Goal 3 – Environment & Sustainability: Provide a high quality, diversified open space system that preserves and enhances urban forests, critical habitat, and other environmental resources. Incorporate sustainability practices into operations, maintenance, and planning.

Goal 4 – Trails: Develop and promote an interconnected community through safe, accessible, and attractive trails and pathways easily accessed by a variety of trail users.

Goal 5 – Recreation Facilities & Programming: Provide a variety of recreation programs, services, and facilities that promote the health and well-being of residents of all ages and abilities.

Goal 6 – Arts & Culture: Facilitate and promote comprehensive and engaging arts and culture experiences.

Goal 7 – Community Engagement & Partnerships: Encourage and support community engagement and pursue collaborative partnerships to strengthen and grow parks and recreation programs and services.

Goal 8 – Administration & Fiscal Sustainability: Provide leadership and sufficient resources to maintain and operate a welcoming, efficient, safe, and sustainable parks and recreation system.

Accompanying each goal is a list of objectives that describe a means or an outcome to achieve the stated goals

This is the initial look at the draft of Chapter 4, with the understanding that it was prepared prior to receiving the results of the second community survey and prior to hosting the second virtual public meeting. With support from the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Arts Council, and the Open Space Conservancy Trust, the staff will review outcomes of both public engagement opportunities and further refine the recommended goals and objectives.

For the purposes of this meeting, the project team is interested in receiving feedback from the Arts Council on the draft goals and objectives, with a focus on Goal 6 - Arts & Culture.

The Chapter 4 draft has been reviewed once by the Parks and Recreation Commission and most of their recommended changes are reflected in this version. Areas still under development are highlighted in yellow. The Open Space Conservancy Trust will also review Chapter 4 later this month.

2. REVIEW DRAFT: CHAPTER 7 – RECREATION, ART & CULTURE

Chapter 7 (see Exhibit 2) is a background chapter covering recreation, arts, and culture. It is included in the PROS Plan to provide information on current day happenings and generally describes the future vision for these programs and services. The strategic direction, themes, and priorities identified in Chapter 7 are reflected in the goals and objectives in Chapter 4.

The project team is interested in receiving feedback from the Arts Council on the Chapter 7 draft.

3. ARTS COUNCIL LIAISON TO SUPPORT PROS PLAN REVIEW PROCESS

The project team is seeking an Arts Council member to serve as the liaison to the Parks and Recreation Commission to represent Arts Council interests in the ongoing review and development of the PROS Plan. The liaison will be invited to attend all Parks and Recreation Commission meetings where PROS plan items are reviewed, which is likely to be a commitment of four or five meetings between now and the end of 2021.

NEXT STEPS

The first complete draft of the PROS Plan will likely be available in early November and will be shared with the Arts Council for review and feedback.

Work will continue on the PROS Plan through the end of 2021, with a hand-off to the City Council anticipated in early 2022.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 1) Review and provide feedback on PROS Plan Chapter 4 (Goals and Objectives) and Chapter 7 (Recreation, Arts & Culture).
- 2) Assign an Arts Council member to serve as the liaison to the Parks and Recreation Commission to represent Arts Council interests in the ongoing review and development of the PROS Plan.

Mercer Island PROS

Goals & Objectives

Chapter 4

READER'S NOTE: This chapter was drafted prior to the September 28, 2021 Virtual Public Meeting and prior to receiving results from the second community survey. With support from the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Arts Council, and the Open Space Conservancy Trust, the staff will review outcomes of both public engagement opportunities and further refine the goals and objectives in this chapter.

Includes in this chapter and at the heart of the PROS Plan is the establishment of goals and objectives that provide strategic direction for the Mercer Island Parks and Recreation system. The goals and objectives from past plans have been reorganized, enhanced, and arranged to align with the common themes noted by the community during the planning process. These goals and objectives will guide the delivery of parks and recreation services for the next six years and beyond.

Goals & Objectives

The Growth Management Act (GMA), adopted by the Washington State Legislature in 1990, provided a foundation for land use planning in selected cities and counties throughout the state, including King County and the City of Mercer Island. The GMA's purpose is to help communities deal efficiently with growth challenges to ensure long-term sustainability and a high quality of life. The GMA identifies 14 planning goals to guide the creation of comprehensive plans and development regulations (codified in Chapter 36.70A of the Revised Code of Washington). Four of these goals directly affect the development and implementation of this plan.

- “Encourage the retention of open space and development of recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks.” RCW 36.70A.020(9)
- “Protect the environment and enhance the state’s high quality of life, including air and water quality, and the availability of water.” RCW 36.70A.020(10)
- “Identify and encourage the preservation of lands, sites, and structures, that have historical or archaeological significance.” RCW 36.70A.020(13)
- “Carry-out the goals of the Shoreline Management Act with regards to shorelines and critical areas.” RCW 36.70A.020(14)

Furthermore, the Mercer Island Comprehensive Plan, previous parks and recreation plans, other City plans, and county-wide planning policies provide a framework for this PROS Plan.

Goals and Objectives

A goal is a general statement that describes the overarching direction for the parks and recreation system. Objectives are more specific and describe an outcome or a means to achieve the stated goals. Recommendations are specific and measurable actions intended to implement and achieve the goals

and objectives and are contained in the Needs Assessment and Capital Planning chapters of the PROS Plan. Action items not related directly to capital projects are prioritized and adopted as part of the City of Mercer Island biennial budget.

A summary of the PROS Plan goals is provided below.

Goal 1 – Planning, Acquisition & Access: Provide a high quality, welcoming, and inclusive parks and recreation system that meets community needs now and in the future.

Goal 2 – Maintenance & Operations: Provide the Mercer Island community with safe, well-maintained parks and recreation facilities.

Goal 3 – Environment & Sustainability: Provide a high quality, diversified open space system that preserves and enhances urban forests, critical habitat, and other environmental resources. Incorporate sustainability practices into operations, maintenance, and planning.

Goal 4 – Trails: Develop and promote an interconnected community through safe, accessible, and attractive trails and pathways easily accessed by a variety of trail users.

Goal 5 – Recreation Facilities & Programming: Provide a variety of recreation programs, services, and facilities that promote the health and well-being of residents of all ages and abilities.

Goal 6 – Arts & Culture: Facilitate and promote comprehensive and engaging arts and culture experiences.

Goal 7 – Community Engagement & Partnerships: Encourage and support community engagement and pursue collaborative partnerships to strengthen and grow parks and recreation programs and services.

Goal 8 – Administration & Fiscal Sustainability: Provide leadership and sufficient resources to maintain and operate a welcoming, efficient, safe, and sustainable parks and recreation system.

Planning, Acquisition & Access

Goal 1: Provide a high quality, welcoming, and inclusive parks and recreation system that meets community needs now and in the future.

Objectives:

- 1.1. Retain publicly owned parks and open spaces in perpetuity. Actively pursue options to permanently protect parks and open space areas through conservation easements, zoning changes, or other strategies. Evaluate the transfer of some or all open space areas to the Open Space Conservancy Trust.
- 1.2 Update the Parks, Recreation & Open Space (PROS) Plan periodically and approximately every six years to ensure facilities and services meet current and future community needs and maintain eligibility for State grants. Incorporate the PROS Plan as an appendix to the Citywide Comprehensive Plan during the next update process.

- 1.3 Periodically review and update level of service standards for parks, trails, open space areas, playgrounds, and athletic fields. Include accompanying standards for maintenance and operations.
- 1.4 Identify and prioritize the need for master plans to guide all significant park development projects, achieve cohesive designs, and ensure phasing of projects is efficient and in alignment with community needs and priorities. Utilize management plans or other adopted strategies to guide the stewardship and maintenance of parks, open space areas, and trails.
- 1.5 Update the six-year Capital Improvement Plan at least every two years and use prioritization criteria, financial guidelines, and other factors to sequence projects. Maintain and publish a companion twenty-year capital project list at least every two years to capture long-term capital project needs and to guide the development of long-term funding strategies.
- 1.6 Design and maintain parks and facilities to offer universal accessibility for residents of all physical capabilities, skill levels, and ages as appropriate and in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards for Accessible Design. Seek opportunities to eliminate barriers at existing facilities and address goals identified in the Citywide ADA Transition Plan.
- 1.7 Strive to provide a distributed network of parks, such that all Mercer Island residents live within one-half mile of a developed neighborhood or community park.
- 1.8 Pursue and implement strategies to maximize use of existing park and recreation assets.
- 1.9 Prepare a Land Acquisition Strategy to prioritize property acquisition to meet the future parks, trails, open space, and facility needs of the Mercer Island community.
- 1.10 Maintain a minimum standard of XX acres of developed neighborhood or community park land per 1,000 residents. [Objective under review, per PRC direction.]
- 1.11 Partner with public, private, and non-profit organizations and donors to acquire land for park and recreation needs.
- 1.12 When evaluating the vacation of any right-of-way, consider its appropriateness for use as public park or open space.
- 1.13 Plan for a range of play types, universal access, and a phasing plan when replacing or upgrading playground equipment. Identify partnerships, grants, sponsorships, and other funding opportunities for playground replacement projects.
- 1.14 Improve and upgrade developed and undeveloped street ends where appropriate to enhance public access to waterfront facilities. Identify opportunities where achieving ADA access is feasible and improve parking options.
- 1.15 Ensure public safety is included in all development and planning projects by coordinating with police and fire services and applying crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) techniques.

- 1.16 Integrate public art and park design from the onset of facility planning to create compelling, engaging, and captivating public places. Prioritize experiences that are interactive and allow for dynamic sensory exploration.

Maintenance & Operations

Goal 2: Provide the Mercer Island community with safe, well-maintained parks and recreation facilities.

Objectives:

- 2.1 Maintain all parks and facilities in a manner that keeps them in a safe and attractive condition.
- 2.2 Continue to improve the City's comprehensive risk management program to ensure regular safety inspections and assess the likelihood and consequence of the failure of its assets in terms of financial, community, and environmental impact.
- 2.3 Track and monitor costs of maintaining parks and recreation facilities, including quantity, location, condition, and expected useful life. Utilize data to inform maintenance and capital investment decisions, including the timing of asset replacement.
- 2.4 Estimate the maintenance costs and staffing levels associated with land acquisition, development, or renovation of facilities, parks, open space areas, or trails, and ensure adequate ongoing funding is available prior to action.
- 2.5 Provide amenities at parks, trails, open space areas, and facilities where appropriate and when feasible to improve the user experience and access.

Environment & Sustainability

Goal 3: Provide a high quality, diversified open space system that preserves and enhances urban forests, critical habitat, and other environmental resources. Incorporate sustainability practices into operations, maintenance, and planning.

Objectives:

- 3.1 Preserve and protect open space areas with significant environmental features such as wetlands, forests, steep slopes, and plant and animal habitats from development impacts.
- 3.2 Provide appropriate public access (e.g., trails, viewpoints, and wildlife viewing areas) within open space areas to support passive recreation. Provide environmental education

opportunities in open space areas with creative and interactive interpretation strategies, such as hands-on displays, self-guided walks, and other engaging experiences.

- 3.3 Incorporate sustainable practices into management, maintenance, and operations activities. Maintain equipment in good working order, purchase green equipment when feasible (e.g., battery-powered or low-emissions), replace existing lighting with high-efficiency fixtures, and keep systems (irrigation, lighting, HVAC, etc.) updated and fully functional for maximum performance. Pursue pilot programs to field test sustainable alternatives and to implement demonstration projects.
- 3.4 Pursue sustainable design alternatives and include in the project scope of work for construction projects and major maintenance activities, when feasible and appropriate.
- 3.5 Continue to support the Open Space Conservancy Trust and the planning, development, and management of Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space.
- 3.6 Actively work to improve the condition of City-owned parks, trails, and open space areas through invasive species removal, planting of native species, and restoration of urban forests, creeks, wetlands, and other habitat areas. Pursue opportunities to limit or reduce impervious surfaces. Anticipate climate trends and foster climate-resilient landscapes in parks and open space areas. Seek opportunities for community education on invasive species and their safe removal to help reduce their spread on Mercer Island. Maintain an Integrated Pest Management Program that maximizes ecological benefits while minimizing environmental, social, and economic impacts.
- 3.7 Develop a Citywide Urban Forestry Management Plan to articulate a long-term strategy for tree protection, urban forestry management, and public education and outreach. Include forest health, canopy replacement, wildfire, climate change, and general risk planning for City parks and open space areas as part of the overall strategy. Continue to gather and maintain Island-wide data on tree canopy coverage.
- 3.8 Encourage conservation opportunities to buffer and enhance the built environment. Pursue low-cost and non-purchase options to preserve open space, including the use of conservation easements and development covenants. Promote and encourage private property owners to enroll in the King County Current Use taxation programs, emphasizing properties contiguous to existing open space areas.
- 3.9 Promote and expand recycling opportunities at all park facilities and in association with all public and private special events. Include composting options at special events when food vendors are present.
- 3.10 Conserve and reduce water use through sustainable landscape design and maintenance practices.
- 3.11 Design and restore parks, trails, and open space areas to naturally capture and filter stormwater to improve water quality, increase water infiltration and recharge, and promote a healthy watershed and lake environment. Where feasible, coordinate park,

trail, and open space projects with stormwater and utility projects for efficiency and to reduce environmental impacts.

- 3.12 Steward waterfront and shoreline properties with the goal of protecting and enhancing critical shoreline habitat while preserving safe water access for recreational use.
- 3.13 Maintain Tree City USA designation with continued review of tree policy and management. Ensure that City-owned properties are viewed as leading proponents of the Tree City USA designation.
- 3.14 Continue to facilitate volunteer programs that enhance park improvement and restoration efforts, promote environmental education, support ongoing maintenance efforts, and engage the community in stewardship opportunities.
- 3.15 [Impervious surface/sustainability objective under development per PRC direction.]

Trails (Section 4 to be revised and condensed per PRC Direction)

Goal 4: Develop and promote an interconnected community through safe, accessible, and attractive trails and pathways easily accessed by a variety of trail users.

Objectives:

- 4.1 Develop and implement a trail system hierarchy to accommodate different user types and different user experiences. Publish an Island-wide map of City trails.
- 4.2 Support the planning and prioritization of Transportation Improvement Program projects for pedestrian and bicycle connections and improvements that safely link parks to other city destinations including other parks, schools, neighborhoods, the library, transit stops, the Eastlink Light Rail Station, commercial areas, and regional trail networks.
- 4.3 Expand and link the pedestrian and bicycle circulation system by acquiring rights-of-way and easements for trails and trail connections. Prioritize project implementation to address gaps between existing paths, create longer, more usable connections, improve safety, and coordinate trail projects with utility and transportation projects.
- 4.4 Integrate the siting of proposed trail segments into the development review process; require development projects along designated trail routes to be incorporated as part of the development project.
- 4.5 Utilize and implement park or open space site master plans to guide the development of trails within existing properties to provide maintenance and recreational access and to connect to external trail networks.
- 4.6 Design and construct new trails with consideration of and attention to users' safety and a priority to accommodate multiple trail uses.
- 4.7 Develop clear and consistent wayfinding signage and information materials for trails and associated facilities.
- 4.8 Continue to support use of non-motorized small craft along the Mercer Island shoreline via the "water trail." Seek opportunities to integrate and enhance water trail use through upgrades to access points, including at street ends.

Recreation Facilities & Programming

Goal 5: Provide a variety of recreation programs, services, and facilities that promote the health and well-being of residents of all ages and abilities.

Objectives:

- 5.1 Refine the City's role as a provider of recreation programs and services by implementing the Recreation Reset Strategy's cost recovery and resource allocation philosophy. Revisit and update business planning goals at least every six years to address changing community needs and to revisit performance goals. Provide annual updates on work progress and implementation.
- 5.2 Enhance the diversity of recreation programs offered, focusing on programs that are in high demand or serve a wide range of users and adhere to the guidelines established in the Recreation Reset Strategy.
- 5.3 Expand service offerings for water-oriented .
- 5.4 Continue work to restore and expand youth and teen programs to provide engaging, affordable, enriching, inclusive, and safe options for children on Mercer Island. Identify programs and activities that provide for whole-family participation.
- 5.5 Identify and address recreation and service accessibility barriers (socio-economic, language, physical, mental health, geographic, transportation). Seek to reduce access barriers and expand inclusive opportunities. Implement diversity, equity and inclusion policies and a priority matrix to guide the allocation of resources to address known service gaps over time.
- 5.6 Work to restore and expand opportunities for seniors to engage in social, recreational, educational, nutritional, and health programs designed to encourage social connections, independence, physical fitness, and overall well-being.
- 5.7 Review and establish a funding strategy for the Mercer Island Community and Event Center to sustain annual operating needs to include periodic review of the fee policy for programs, indoor facility uses, and rental rates to meet operational requirements and cost recovery goals.
- 5.8 Maintain and enhance program scholarships and other mechanisms to support and promote recreation access for low-income community members.
- 5.9 Evaluate the City's role and function in community events and pursue sponsorships, partnerships, and outside funding to support existing or additional events and festivals.
- 5.10 Leverage City resources by forming and maintaining partnerships with other public, non-profit, and private recreation providers to deliver recreation programs and services and secure access to existing facilities for community recreation.
- 5.11 Conduct periodic evaluations of program offerings. Utilize data to inform program and service planning decisions.

- 5.12 Coordinate facility scheduling, in partnership with other public and private organizations, to maximize usage and programming of limited recreational assets (e.g., athletic fields, gymnasiums, sport courts, etc.) Develop and implement indoor and outdoor facility use and scheduling protocols and policies based on principles of fairness and equity, supporting diverse and emerging uses, reflecting good stewardship and sustainability principles, and adhering to cost recovery goals. [Objective under review, per PRC direction.]

Arts and Culture

Goal 6: Facilitate and promote comprehensive and engaging arts and culture experiences.

Objectives:

- 6.1 Foster the City's role as a convenor of artists, arts organizations, and community groups to facilitate collaboration and efficiently serve the community through arts and culture programs and experiences.
- 6.2 Support the priorities of the Mercer Island Arts Council and the goals and initiatives of the Comprehensive Arts & Culture Plan.
- 6.3 Identify and implement opportunities for integrating arts and culture into parks and open space areas, including through permanent and temporary public art installations, interpretive strategies, and other dynamic expressions. Collaborate with diverse groups to ensure incorporation of any art in public space occurs through a lens of diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- 6.4 Partner with the community and local organizations to foster a variety of cultural events and support community cultural celebrations.
- 6.5 Develop a long-range project plan for the 1% for Art in Public Places Fund that articulates the City's vision for the public art program and includes integration with the Capital Improvement Program, strategies for engaging the community in public art acquisition, and updated policies for public art acquisition, siting, security, maintenance, and deaccession.
- 6.6 Encourage private contributions and donations for the arts, consistent with City gift and donation policies, and the City's pursuit of grant funding to enhance widespread public access to arts, culture, and heritage.
- 6.7 Encourage the collaboration of arts and culture marketing and communication efforts through shared event calendars, social media management, and other cohesive strategies.

Community Engagement & Partnerships

Goal 7: Encourage and support community engagement and pursue collaborative partnerships to strengthen and grow parks and recreation programs and services.

Objectives:

- 7.1 Involve the community in system-wide planning and site design. Use a variety of communication tools and engagement strategies to solicit community input, facilitate project understanding, and build community support.
- 7.2 Enhance and strengthen the Mercer Island School District partnership, seeking opportunities to collaborate on facility use, maintenance, programs, and other services. Review and update existing Interlocal Agreements regularly, approximately every two years.
- 7.3 Identify and implement partnerships with other public, private, and non-profit organizations to support capital projects, community events, programs, and other special initiatives.
- 7.4 Support the Parks & Recreation Commission as the forum for public discussion of parks and recreation issues and ensure collaboration with the Open Space Conservancy Trust and the Arts Council. Conduct periodic joint sessions between the Parks & Recreation Commission, other standing City boards, and the City Council to improve coordination and discuss policy matters of mutual interest.
- 7.5 Provide informative, timely and consistent communication, informational materials, and signage to help community members connect with and fully utilize the many parks and recreation facilities, programs, and services. Maintain a consistent brand identity through marketing campaigns, social media presence, and other communication mediums. Adapt community outreach efforts to ensure a broad reach.
- 7.6 Track and evaluate recreation trends, park use patterns, and park user needs.

Administration & Fiscal Sustainability

Goal 8: Provide leadership and sufficient resources to maintain and operate a welcoming, efficient, safe, and sustainable parks and recreation system.

Objectives:

- 8.1 Promote a welcoming and inclusive environment, seeking opportunities to address barriers and expand program and service offerings to meet a diverse audience. Provide diversity, equity, and inclusion training opportunities for staff, volunteers, and appointed officials.

- 8.2 Plan for and recommend sufficient resources to maintain, preserve, and protect the parks and recreation system consistent with best practices and established levels of service and to protect the public investment. [Objective under review, per PRC direction.]
- 8.3 Pursue alternative funding options and dedicated revenues for the acquisition and development of parks and facilities.
- 8.4 Periodically review and update the Park Impact Fee rates and methodology approximately every 5 to 7 years and utilize impact fees to accommodate growth through the expansion of the parks system.
- 8.5 Develop a recommendation for City Council consideration to renew the Parks Maintenance and Operations Levy, scheduled to end in 2023.
- 8.6 Collaborate with the Community Planning and Development Department on economic development initiatives and other opportunities to support local businesses. Seek opportunities to buy-local when procuring services and other opportunities to partner with Mercer Island small businesses in the delivery of programs and services. [Objective under review, per PRC direction.]
- 8.7 Stay abreast of best practices in technology and implement systems and tools to improve customer service and support efficient operations.
- 8.8 Continue to use part-time, seasonal, and contract employees for select functions to meet peak demands and respond to specialized or urgent needs. Maintain flexibility in the staffing structure to address changing program and service needs.
- 8.9 Promote volunteerism to involve individuals, groups, organizations, and businesses in the development and stewardship of the park and recreation system.
- 8.9 Promote professional development opportunities that strengthen the core skills and engender greater commitment from staff, advisory board members, and volunteers. Include trainings, materials, and/or affiliation with the National Recreation & Park Association (NRPA), Washington Recreation & Park Association (WRPA), and others.

Mercer Island PROS

Recreation, Arts, and Culture

Chapter 7

The City's recreation, arts, and culture programs enhance physical and mental health, provide educational value, build social connectedness, and are highly valued by the community. Recreation, arts, and culture programming assume many forms such as classes, athletics, camps, gymnasium, drop-in programs, performances, special events, social groups, and more. The City is fortunate to host these activities in a variety of indoor and outdoor venues, including the Mercer Island Community and Event Center (MICEC), which is a critical facility to the Recreation Division's delivery of services. This facility provides active recreational space, community gathering opportunities, and serves as a local and regional venue for private events, meetings, and athletic rentals.

RECREATION AND ARTS TRENDS

Various resources have been assembled and summarized to offer a comprehensive overview of current recreation trends, market demands, and agency comparisons. The following national and state data highlights some of the current trends in recreation and arts and may frame future considerations in program and activity development. Additional trend data is provided in Appendix I.

- 77% of respondents to the American Engagement with Parks Survey indicate that having a high-quality park, playground, public open space, or recreation center nearby is an essential factor in deciding where they want to live. ⁽¹⁾
- Nearly all (93%) of park and recreation agencies provide recreation programs and services. The top five most commonly offered programs include holiday or other special events (65%), educational programs (59%), group exercise (59%), fitness programs (58%), and day or summer camps (57%). ⁽²⁾
- Just over half of Americans ages 6 and older participated in outdoor recreation at least once in 2019, the highest participation rate in five years. (Note: This trend may be higher in 2020 and 2021 given the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.) The number of outings per participant declined, however, in 2019 continuing a decade-long trend and resulting in fewer total recreational outings. ⁽³⁾
- Youth aged 6 to 17 were active outside far less in 2019 than in previous years; the average number of outings per child dropped 15% between 2012 and 2019. ⁽³⁾
- Nearly all park and recreation providers in the U.S. experienced declines in revenue in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As early as May 2020, most providers had to close facilities temporarily in accordance with health and safety directives. Nearly half of the providers also furloughed or laid off staff due to the funding and facility impacts of the pandemic. ⁽⁴⁾

- When it comes to costs and revenues, the percentage of costs recovered depends on the type of organization. On average, respondents to the 2020 Managed Recreation Industry survey said they recovered nearly 50% of their operating costs. Only a few facilities reported that they covered more than 75% of their operating costs via revenue. For public organizations, 45% of costs are recovered, up slightly from 42% in 2019. ⁽⁴⁾
- Research from the US Bureau of Economic Analysis shows that arts and culture drive 4.2% of the US gross domestic product (GDP), generating \$736.6 Billion in 2015. In Washington State, this sector beats the national GDP, providing 7.8% of the State’s GDP. Both in Washington and nationally, arts and culture surpass construction and education services in contribution to GDP. ⁽⁵⁾
- 28% of the nation’s approximately 4,500 Local Arts Agencies (LAAs) are government agencies, departments, programs, facilities, or other associations. Of those LAAs, 80% are affiliated with municipalities. LAAs promote, support, and develop the arts at the local level, ensuring a vital presence for arts and culture throughout America’s communities. ⁽⁶⁾
- 84% of LAAs present their own cultural programming to their community. These programs include after-school arts education programs, public art, free concerts in the park, exhibitions, heritage and preservation efforts, festivals, and special events. ⁽⁶⁾
- 53% of LAAs said the general public’s perceived value of the arts has increased since the onset of the pandemic. ⁽⁶⁾
- The pandemic disproportionately impacted the cultural sector. It will be among the last sectors to fully reopen, in part due to social distancing requirements. ⁽⁷⁾
- After eight consecutive years of increases, the average size of the LAAs budget (income/revenue) declined 10.0% in 2020 and is anticipated to decline another 10.6% in 2021. ⁽⁸⁾
- People who say their neighborhood has easy access to quality arts and cultural activities tend to be more satisfied, identify more with local lifestyle and culture, and invest more time and resources in their communities. ⁽⁹⁾
- Arts activities increase residents’ interest in getting involved in local issues and projects. 86% of civic engagement participants want to be involved in future projects. After their involvement, people living where projects occurred were more than twice as likely to be civically engaged as those whose blocks did not have projects. ⁽¹⁰⁾

Sources: (to be footnoted)

(1) American Engagement with Parks Survey (Need date)

(2) 2020 NRPA Agency Performance Review

(3) 2020 Outdoor Participation Report

(4) 2020 State of the Industry Report

(5) US Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2015

(6) AFTA 2020 LAA Profile http://surveys.americansforthearts.org/r/391676_60549cd4741a42.54488835

(7) ArtsWA <https://www.arts.wa.gov/wa-covid-recovery-survey/>

(8) AFTA LAA COVID-19 Impacts

https://www.americansforthearts.org/sites/default/files/2Pager_ImpactOfCOVIDPandemicOnLAAs_Wit hBudgetHistory.pdf

(9) Knight Foundation Community Ties survey [Community-Ties-Final-pg.pdf \(knightfoundation.org\)](#). Builds off Soul of Community Longitudinal Study (2008-2010) conducted by the Knight Foundation found key drivers of community attachment to be social offerings, openness, and aesthetics. <https://knightfoundation.org/sotc/overall-findings/>

(10) Nicodemus, A., Engh, R., & Mascaro, C. (2016). Adding it Up: 52 Projects by 30+ Artists in 4 Neighborhoods. Metris Arts

Recreation Reset Strategy

The City of Mercer Island’s recreation and arts and culture programs were significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic as facilities were closed, revenues declined, and staffing was reduced in March 2020. The City’s leadership took the opportunity during the pandemic to think strategically about how to “reset” the Recreation Division for a successful future. The pause in the provision of most services led to the development of a new strategic approach for delivering recreation, arts, culture, special events, and MICEC programs and services. The adopted Reset Strategy, which is included as Appendix E, provides guidance for the purposeful allocation or investment of City resources into recreation and arts & culture programs and services. The Reset Strategy also guides the long-term work and offerings of the Recreation Division, targeting resources and efforts toward:

- Service and program offerings that are aligned with community values and goals.
- Financial sustainability that ensures stewardship and accessibility that benefits all.
- A purposefully planned balance between community investment and individual benefits.

As the City moves forward with implementing the Reset Strategy, it will focus on balancing competing needs and priorities, and determining the best way to maximize or optimize benefits using limited resources. The Reset Strategy’s cost recovery framework (where some programs receive a greater share of tax dollars, and some programs subsidize others) will help the City be deliberate about offering services where it is the best or most appropriate and concentrate support toward core services and programs of the Recreation Division. Core and desirable services are defined below.

Social Good or Public Good Core Services

These programs and services are those that may benefit all members of the community, are typically offered through tax support (rather than user/participant fees), and may focus on health, safety, equity, or access. These programs and services will receive the greatest share of community investment.

Business Sustainability Core Services

These programs and services produce revenue for the City that covers some of the indirect costs of programs or reduces the need for tax support for other programs. These programs and services are designed to meet the market’s needs and are offered with market rates in mind.

These programs typically benefit individuals or specific groups. They are financially supported by the beneficiaries of the service.

Desirable Services

Many programs and services could be labeled as desirable, and this categorization includes those programs and services that simply do not fall into either the social/public good core or the business sustainability core. Desirable programs offered by the City should meet these criteria:

- The program is likely to generate sufficient revenues to offset its costs and meet cost recovery targets.
- Hosting the program at a City facility will not adversely affect the City's ability to offer social/public good or business sustainability core services.
- High demand exists.
- The program will serve a large population or significant, identified community need.

Recreation and Arts Programs

The City has, in the past and will continue to offer in the future, a wide range of programs and activities to diverse participants in a multitude of settings. This commitment is consistent with residents' stated desire for the City to offer programs for various ages and abilities. As the Reset Strategy is implemented, the Recreation Division will initially focus on providing programs and services categorized as "core" and expand offerings in response to community needs and as resources allow. The strongest demand for recreation programs has been for:

- Youth summer camps.
- Drop-in sports, such as pickleball.
- Field and gymnasium rentals for sports programs and leagues.
- Meeting and event room rentals.
- Organized, instructor-led fitness programs.

In addition to advocating for popular, recurring programs, residents have expressed interest in the City offering more of the following:

- Outdoor classes and activities.
- Aquatics programming such as swimming, water safety, and boating.
- Educational classes.

Going forward, recreation staff will pilot new programs to explore the demand for trends such as e-sports, intergenerational activities, and engagement with the outdoors. As an island community the demand is high for water-oriented activities, and the Recreation staff will pursue enhanced programming opportunities at the City's waterfront locations. There is strong community support for the City to avoid duplication of services and to partner with other providers as a way to satisfy demand, enrich the variety of offerings, and efficiently use City resources.

Recreation Facilities

The City of Mercer Island hosts recreation and arts and culture programs in its parks and in several municipal buildings, most notably the Mercer Island Community and Event Center (MICEC). The day-to-day management, ongoing maintenance, and long-term reinvestment in these facilities are crucial to the success of the City's programs. Additionally, efficient scheduling and use of the facilities help to ensure that cost recovery, diversity, equity and inclusion, program lifespan vitality, and other goals are met. The City should continue to coordinate with the other facility providers on Mercer Island, such as the Mercer Island School District, the Boys & Girls Club, Mary Wayte Pool, and the Stroum Jewish Community Center, among others, on program offerings and scheduling.

When residents were asked to state how they would prioritize the use of MICEC space, they indicated the following were top priorities:

- Activities for youth
- Activities for seniors
- Adaptive or therapeutic recreation
- Fitness programs,
- After school or school break programs.

Additionally, there is strong support for the MICEC to serve as a gathering place for spontaneous play and socialization, one-time activities, and special events, and to showcase local art. The City can leverage the facility as an event center by maximizing private use on evenings and weekends. Also, the future use and function of the North Annex at the MICEC should be guided by a focused master planning effort to examine the community needs and program options suited for that space while also identifying options to replace the aging infrastructure.

Special Events

The Recreation Division is responsible for the overall coordination of community and special events. These public events provide gathering opportunities, celebrations, inspiration, remembrance, activation of Town Center and city parks, entertainment, and education. Special events draw the community together and also attract off-Island visitors. Some recurring, multi-day community events of the recent past included Summer Celebration, Mostly Music in the Park, Friday Night Films, Leap for Green, Shakespeare in the Park, and Illuminate MI. The City has also hosted or supported numerous one-time or single-day events.

Community gathering and special events should continue to be an area of emphasis; however, the overall number and breadth of City-sponsored special events should be carefully managed to align with the availability of resources and impacts to general park and facility use. Upcoming policy and budget deliberations will guide the City in the number and extent of the special events through the allocation of dedicated resources. A structured approach will help the City manage the growth of these popular offerings; ensure high-quality, adequately resourced events; and enlist community sponsorships, partnerships, and support.

Opportunities to connect and embrace life are clearly crucial to Mercer Island residents, particularly as the community emerges from the global pandemic. Recent surveys showed strong community support for spending “some tax dollars on a few special events open to all community members,” a desire for more “community events for those without children,” and an interest in “performing arts such as community theater or concerts.”

Arts and Culture

The City of Mercer Island embraces the critical role it plays in supporting and sustaining the community’s rich and diverse cultural and arts identity. This responsibility is upheld largely through the ongoing work of the Recreation Division and Arts Council, which is more fully described in the City’s Comprehensive Arts and Culture Plan (adopted in November 2018 and provided in Appendix F).

As the City’s official Local Arts Agency (LAA), the Arts Council strives to:

- Advocate for the arts, artists, and arts organizations on Mercer Island.
- Stimulate and promote community awareness, education, and enjoyment of the fine arts.
- Support performing, visual, and literary arts programs, projects, and events.

These goals have been advanced through a range of one-time and ongoing activities, including oversight of the City’s public art collection, the Mercer Island Gallery, and the Greta Hackett Outdoor Sculpture Gallery; advocating for art experiences such as special programs and classes, concerts, film series, dances, and theater performances; fostering community art creation projects; and convening and cooperating with other arts organizations.

The Comprehensive Arts and Culture Plan describes a vision of assimilating “positive art experiences into everyday life for all community members” and areas of policy focus and actions to take to achieve that vision. The plan also names two barriers to achieving the vision: (1) a lack of coordinated cooperation among Mercer Island arts groups, and (2) a lack of space for arts activities and performances. The plan encourages enhancing alliances in the local arts community to improve availability of arts and culture resources and the ability to fulfill community needs.

The City’s PROS Plan community surveys reflect similar themes and is in alignment with the Arts and Culture Plan findings. Community members voiced a desire for the City to “explore partnerships” as a way to deliver program, event and facility-based “opportunities for all.” Community members see the City as playing a critical role in facilitating access to the diversity of arts and culture opportunities, regardless of whether or not the City is the primary provider of an event, activity, or facility.

As the City implements the Recreation Reset Strategy, it is redefining expectations for allocating City resources and the outcomes sought from using those resources. Work plans for the Arts Council, the Parks and Recreation Commission, and City staff identify the policies that need to be developed or

updated to enhance alignment with the Reset Strategy and implement program, events, and other experiences. The City will conscientiously target its arts and culture work efforts and devote energy to evaluating performance on named objectives.

Arts and Culture Programming

The Recreation Division and its community partners deliver arts and culture programming, with support from the Arts Council and community volunteers. Arts and culture opportunities have included visual arts classes and exhibits, dance performances and instruction, concerts, summer camps with various arts themes, and special events. As with the approach to other recreation programs, the City endeavors to provide a broad array of public art and community arts and culture programs encompassing literary arts, performing arts, educational topics, history, and diverse cultures accessible to people of all ages and abilities. Programming varies yearly based on demand, input from the Arts Council and community members, special occasions, availability of resources, and new opportunities.

Arts Venues & Assets

The City conducts arts and culture programs and events at the MICEC. The facility includes the Mercer Island Gallery, a dance room, an outdoor covered terrace, a gymnasium, classrooms, and a large event space. The City maintains a public art collection of more than 65 two- and three-dimensional works, which can be found in public parks and rights-of-way, municipal buildings, and at the Greta Hackett Outdoor Sculpture Gallery. Outdoor venues for arts and culture opportunities include the City's parks and an amphitheater. Other resources and assets include the City's 1% for the Art fund, which supports the public art collection, and digital tools like the Public Art Story Map and STQRY.

The City's arts and culture programming, venues and assets are augmented by those provided by Mercer Island arts organizations. A list of these critically essential partners and resources can be found in the Comprehensive Arts and Culture Plan (Appendix F).

FUTURE PROGRAMMING DIRECTIONS

Implementation of the Recreation Reset Strategy will take a few years and will require ongoing collaboration between staff, the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Arts Council, the City Council, and the community. Phased implementation of the Reset Strategy was designed in response to the stipulations in the cost recovery and resource allocation philosophy, community input, and the near-term uncertainties of the pandemic.

The Reset Strategy is not designed to simply restart everything at once but to improve outcomes and align offerings to an overall community investment and prioritization structure. Program offerings will be considered based on several factors, including an assessment of trends and program life cycle stages, competition and duplication within the community, desired program outcomes, partnership and

cooperation possibilities, the commitment level of potential participants, availability of resources, and consistency with the cost recovery and resource allocation philosophy.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, it is an exciting time in the Recreation Division as programming and services resume with a robust business framework, in alignment with community priorities, and with an eye towards the future.



ARTS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Item 3
September 14, 2021
Regular Business

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

TITLE:	Luther Burbank Docks and Waterfront Renovation Project – Public Art/Placemaking Components	<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:	Discuss opportunities for <i>Handsome Bollards</i> and additional integrated artwork as part of the capital project.	
STAFF:	Paul West, CIP Project Manager Anna Spooner, Landscape Architect, Anchor QEA	
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a	
EXHIBITS:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Luther Burbank Dock and Waterfront Concept Design 2. 30% design sheet S-020 Overwater Stair Details 3. 30% design sheet G-021 Composite Site Plan 	

SUMMARY

The docks and adjacent waterfront at Luther Burbank Park were constructed in 1974. Inspection of the docks in 2014 revealed extensive rot and structural defects that would require major repairs. The cost estimate for these repairs represented a significant investment into a dock system that was not meeting the current public needs for boating and shoreline access. Instead, the City decided to pursue a redesign of the docks to better serve the current needs. (See more project information on [Let's Talk.](#))

In 2020, the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) was tasked with developing a conceptual design for the docks. They recommended to City Council a concept design that also included needed improvements to the adjacent waterfront (See Exhibit 1). The City Council approved this concept design in May 2021 and authorized development of a 30% design for review by the PRC. A preliminary 30% design is currently being reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Commission, which is expected to make a recommendation to City Council in fall 2021.

Tonight, staff will present an overview of the project to the Arts Council and seek input related to the *Handsome Bollards* installation as well as opportunities for integrating public art and/or placemaking elements into the final project using 1% for Art in Public Places funding generated by the project. The timeline for this project requires that an option for the *Handsome Bollards* be determined in the 30% design phase. However, the project is not expected to complete design until the end of 2023. This allows approximately two years to develop any new art element the Arts Council wishes to pursue. The project is expected to be constructed in 2024.

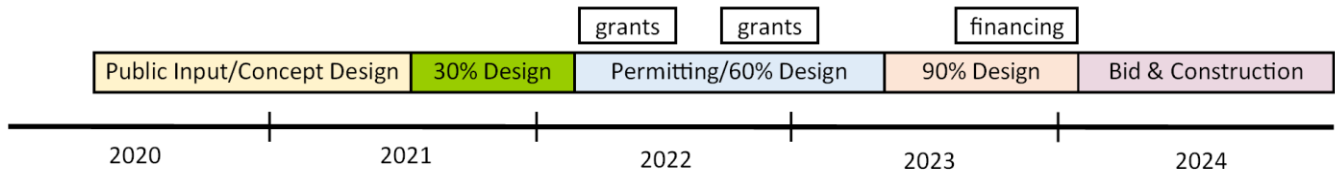


Figure 1: project timeline

HANDSOME BOLLARDS INTEGRATION

Handsome Bollards is a sculpture installation along the lake edge of the waterfront plaza at Luther Burbank Park. It consists of fifteen metal “hand” castings in aluminum and bronze mounted on steel posts with steel chain running between the hands. It was created by Tom Jay in 1971 and transferred to the City of Mercer Island during the acquisition of Luther Burbank Park. It was recently repaired in 2019-2020 after water and corrosion had weakened its structural attachment to the concrete bulkhead and damaged the surrounding masonry. A portion of these repairs were funded by the 1% for Art in Public Places (1% for Art) fund.



Figure 2: Handsome Bollards, looking north

During concept design for the waterfront plaza, the landscape architect predicted that permitting for plaza improvements could trigger the installation of a code-compliant railing on the edge of the bulkhead next to *Handsome Bollards*, which would have a significant visual impact on the installation. The landscape architect suggested that stairs down to the water from the bulkhead could avoid the need for the railing while providing seating and offer additional unprogrammed space to reduce congestion in the passage next to the Boiler Building. The stairs would function like bleacher seating for informal gathering. However, this element would increase the dock project’s overwater coverage and may not survive permitting.

The PRC liked the bulkhead steps in concept. However, commissioners wanted to understand how *Handsome Bollards* would function with the steps and to weigh the environmental impacts and costs involved. Their questions could not be answered without additional design work, and the Arts Council still needed to provide input related to the installation. It was agreed to keep the stairs in the concept plan and explore permitting and *Handsome Bollards* integration issues during 30% design development.

In the 30% design for the overwater stairs, the landscape architect proposes three 18-inch-wide treads constructed of fiberglass grating. The bottom step would be at the level of the lake during the high-water period from mid-May to early July (See Exhibit 2). The chain links in the *Handsome Bollards* installation would be removed in five locations to allow access to the stairs. However, each “hand” would continue to hold a chain, preserving a current function of the artwork.

If the City is unable to construct the overwater stairs, alternatives include repurposing the *Handsome Bollards* “hand” castings in a new location/function or conducting further risk assessment with the current configuration.

PUBLIC ART INTEGRATION

This capital project is expected to generate significant 1% for Art revenue (possibly in the range of \$30,000 to \$40,000) and offers a significant placemaking opportunity to add new public art to this park location. The 30% design currently identifies general opportunities that would be developed with further design (See Exhibit 3).



Figure 3: existing waterfront plaza with the boiler building on the right and restrooms on the left

Tonight, staff seek input on the public art element for this capital project. To begin this process, the design team asks the Arts Council to consider the following:

1. Types of art/media: Pursue “integrated public art” rather than stand-alone sculptures for this site. Examples of “integrated public art” that could apply are:
 - a. Sculptural elements that define entrances to the site and pertain to themes (outlined below)
 - b. Paving treatments with embedded materials and text
 - c. Use of tile with images or other designs integrated into seawalls or building walls
 - d. Functional elements such as custom benches, shade structures, an information kiosk etc., that express boating or sailing building techniques

2. Art themes:
- a. Water/Island maps in paving: Mercer Island, Lake Washington, Central Puget Sound/Lake WA/Lake Sammamish and connecting waterways with public access points
 - b. Human-powered boat construction as an artform: sails, paddles/oars, boat/canoe/kayak/rowing shell hulls
 - c. Local history/heritage pertaining to boat types, boat transportation including stories and landing sites on Mercer Island to surrounding cities: Mosquito fleet; stories of how locals use non-motorized boats as transportation in the past, including tribes, and pioneers/early settlers; history of the former/proposed waterfront features, such as the Calkins Hotel and the 1905 Olmsted proposed park plan
 - d. Local natural history: the big earthquake that resulted in Lake Washington’s “sunken forest”; changes to the lake; historic vs. present lake level, fluctuations, and contributing watershed changes (Note the south shoreline trail adjacent to this project will include art/interpretation related to salmon out-migration through Lake Washington.)

Any combination of options listed above could be developed in one of three ways:

- The current design team develops creative elements, treatments, or components as they develop the design.
- An artist is selected to join the design team and works in tandem as the design moves forward.
- An artist is selected to work semi-independently using the landscape plan to develop a chosen conceptual theme.

The type of art and the theme may influence which process we utilize. For example, functional elements would likely be more successful if the design team has some direct involvement with the creative process.

NEXT STEPS

The design team will take Arts Council input on these two topics. Through this input, a few options may emerge for further consideration. Staff will summarize the meeting results and report back to Arts Council later this fall on the status of the 30% design. The next engagement period will be to determine final direction in the 60% design phase. There will be two or three meetings in 2022 and 2023 where concept and process will be further developed.

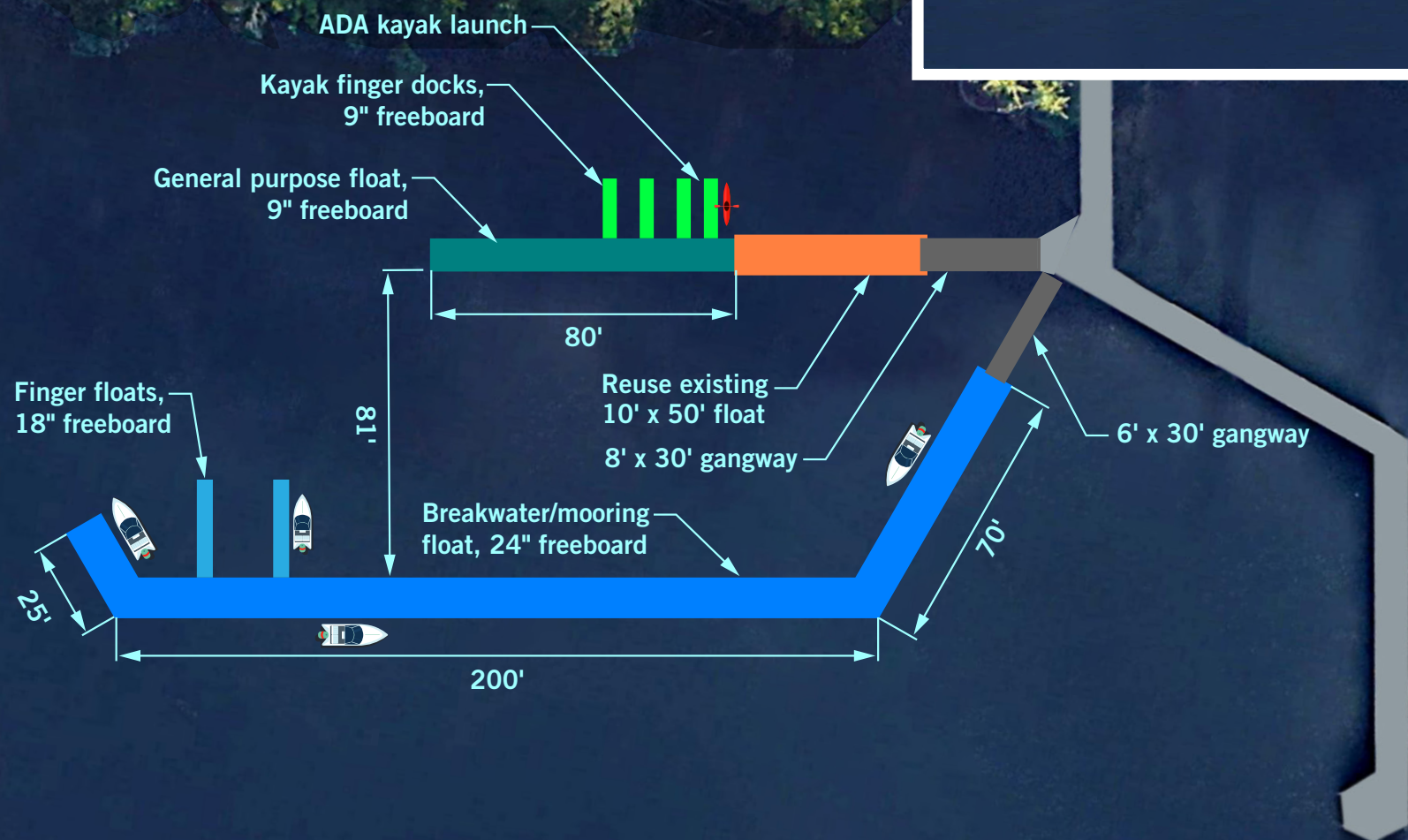
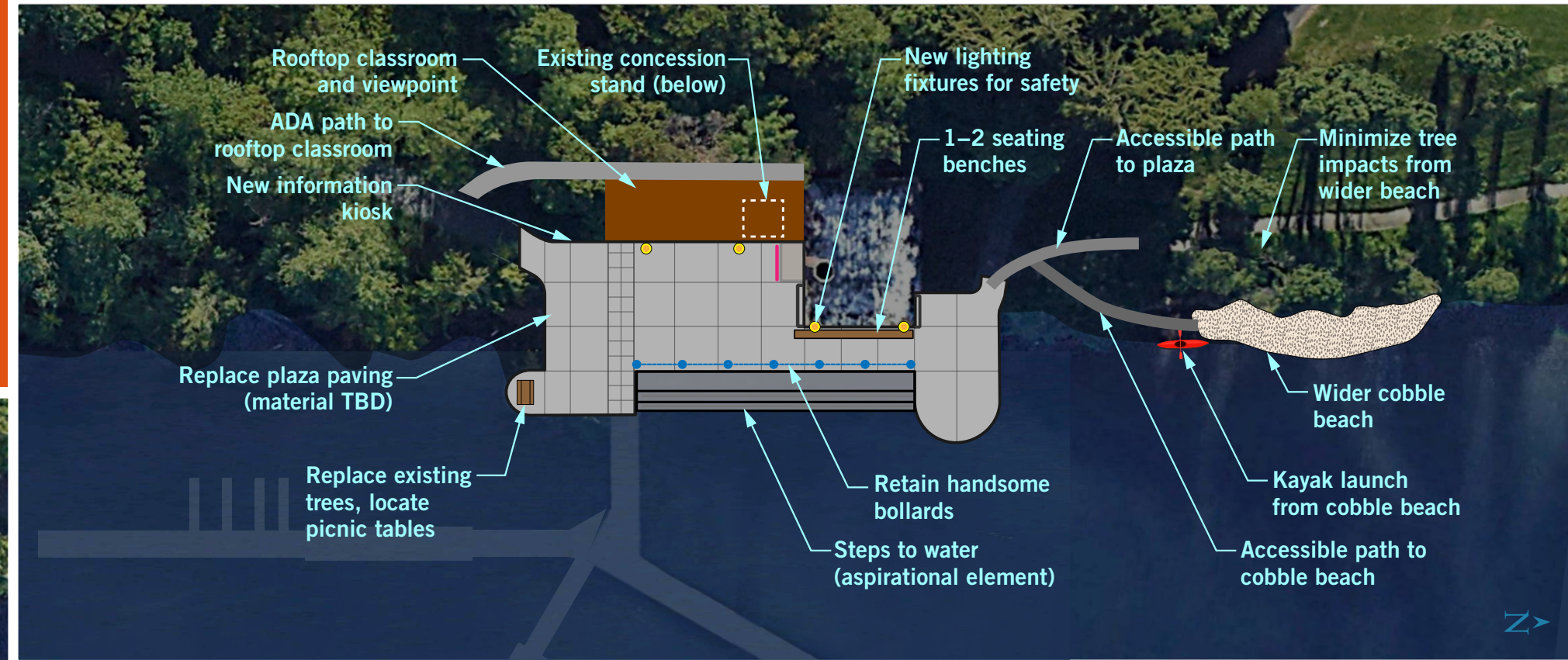
RECOMMENDED ACTION

Discuss opportunities for *Handsome Bollards* and additional integrated artwork as part of the capital project.

Luther Burbank Dock and Adjacent Waterfront Concept Design



Item 3.



NOTES:

Additional Plaza Elements

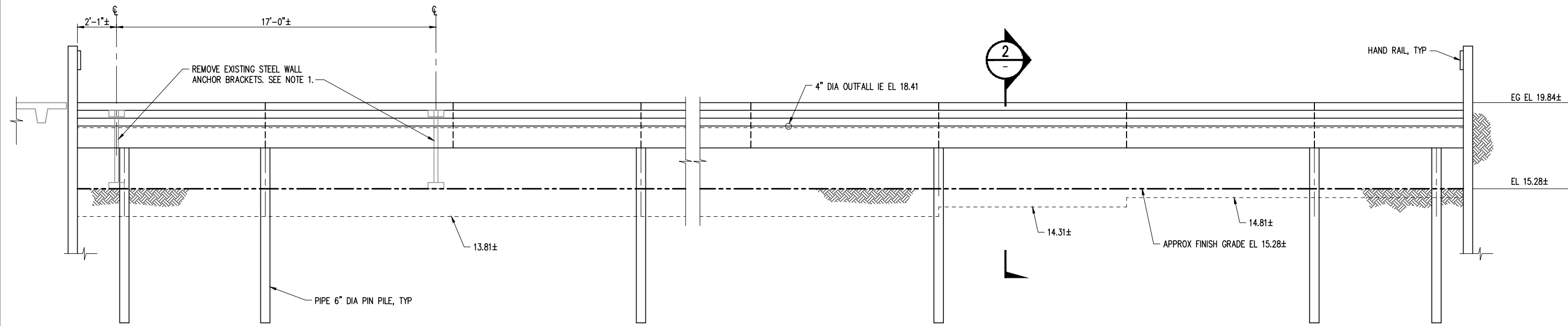
- Reuse / repurpose "boiler building" (separate project).
- Add wayfinding and 1-2 interpretive signs in unobtrusive location, consistent with styles in the rest of the park.
- Remove existing kiosk, replace with new style in unobtrusive location.
- Provide lighting for safety only. No intent to have evening programs.
- Provide planters and hanging baskets as an operational program.

Additional Beach Elements

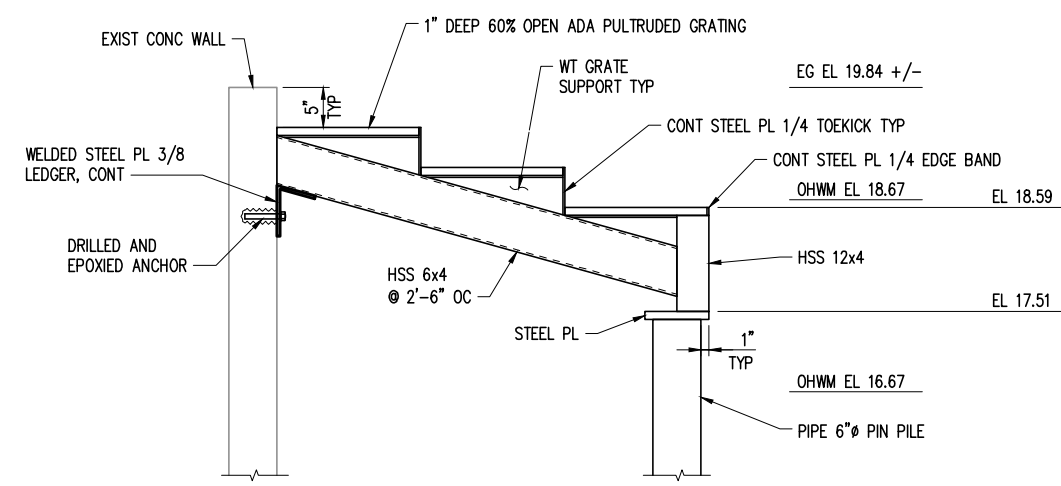
- Provide movable mats at cobble beach for seasonal water access.
- Locate naturalistic seating (e.g., log) at beach.

Scale: 1" = 50'

Removed overwater structures: 4,950 SF
New overwater structures: 4,945 SF



EAST ELEVATION 1
SCALE: 3/8" = 1'-0" S-03



SECTION 2
NTS

NOTES:
1. BRACKETS ARE ATTACHED TO WALL W/ (3) 5/8" STEEL BOLTS. REMOVE BRACKET AND CUT AND GRIND BOLTS FLUSH TO WALL SURFACE.

CA Rubini PLOT DATE: Aug 30, 2021-08:46am
 PAL 000291 (Luther Burbank Pier Repairs)\02_Design (v2019)\LBPR_S-05.dwg



NO.	DATE	BY	REVISION

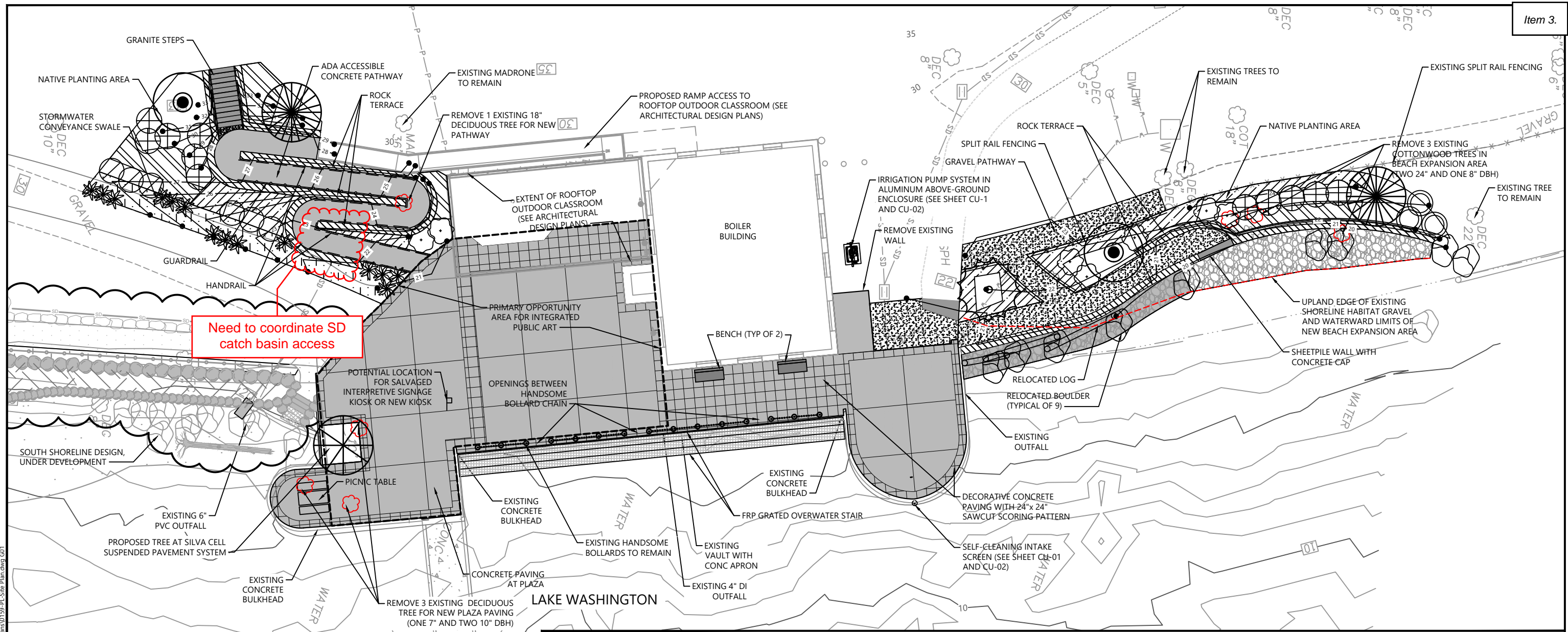


LUTHER BURBANK PARK PIER REPAIR
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

OVERWATER STAIR DETAILS

DRAWN: SQ	PROJECT NO.: 2000291
DESIGN: IDF	SCALE: AS SHOWN
CHECKED: AKB	DATE: 09/01/2021
DRAWING NO.	S-020
SHEET NO.	## OF ##

30% SUBMITTAL




Need to coordinate SD catch basin access

LEGEND:



--- EXISTING CONTOUR	●●● EXISTING BOLLARD AND CHAIN TO REMAIN	●●● PROPOSED TREE
☁ EXISTING TREE TO RETAIN	▨ HABITAT GRAVEL	●●● PROPOSED SHRUBS/GROUNDCOVERS
☒ EXISTING TREE TO REMOVE	▨ GRAVEL OF COBBLE	▨ RIPARIAN SHRUBS
- - - EXISTING UPLAND EDGE OF SHORELINE HABITAT GRAVEL	▨ ROCK TERRACE	▨ GROUNDCOVER
⬢ EXISTING BOULDER TO RETAIN	▨ GRATED WATER ACCESS STEPS	▨ STORMWATER CONVEYANCE PLANTING
- - - PROPOSED CONTOUR	— GUARDRAIL	▨ SALVAGED INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE KIOSK/NEW KIOSK
▨ DECORATIVE CONCRETE PAVING WITH 24"x 24" SAWCUT SCORING PATTERN	— HANDRAIL	
▨ CONCRETE PAVING WITH SAWCUT JOINT SCORING	— SPLIT RAIL FENCING	
▨ GRAVEL PATHWAY	▨ PICNIC TABLE	
	▨ BENCH	
	— EXISTING LARGE WOODY DEBRIS RELOCATED	

NOTES:

- HORIZONTAL DATUM: WASHINGTON STATE PLANE NORTH ZONE, NAD83 (2011), U.S. SURVEY FEET
- VERTICAL DATUM: NAVD88


 0 10 20
 SCALE IN FEET

30% DESIGN SUBMITTAL - NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

		<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="5">REVISIONS</th> </tr> <tr> <th>REV</th> <th>DATE</th> <th>BY</th> <th>APP'D</th> <th>DESCRIPTION</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> </tbody> </table>	REVISIONS					REV	DATE	BY	APP'D	DESCRIPTION																					DESIGNED BY: <u>A. SPOONER</u> DRAWN BY: <u>T. GRIGA/C.WEE</u> CHECKED BY: <u>P. HUMMEL</u> APPROVED BY: <u>A. SPOONER</u> SCALE: <u>AS NOTED</u> DATE: <u>MONTH YYYY</u>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">MERCER ISLAND LUTHER BURBANK DOCK REPAIR</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">COMPOSITE SITE PLAN</p>	<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.5em; color: red;">G-02</div> <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold; color: red;">G-021</div> <p>SHEET # 2 OF #</p>
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ARTS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Item 4
September 14, 2021
Regular Business

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

TITLE:	2021 Chair and Vice Chair Elections	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Elect Chair and Vice Chair to serve through the end of 2021.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
STAFF:	Sarah Bluvas, Economic Development Coordinator	
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a	
EXHIBITS:	1. Arts Council Bylaws	

SUMMARY

Article III, Section 2 of the Arts Council Bylaws stipulates that the board elects a Chair and Vice Chair at the Arts Council's December meeting each year. However, due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on City board operations, the Arts Council postponed 2021 officer elections. Tonight, the Arts Council must elect a Chair and Vice Chair to lead the board through the end of the year.

TIMELINE OF OFFICER DISCUSSIONS & ACTIONS

- December 9, 2020: The Arts Council voted to postpone 2021 officer elections and extend the terms of Chair Erin Vivion and Vice Chair Amy Barnes to April 2021.
- April 14, 2021: The board extended the officer terms again to May 2021.
- May 12, 2021: Chair Vivion and staff discussed the need to resolve the issue by electing 2021 officers but no action was taken.
- June 1, 2021: Mercer Island City Council approved Resolution No. 1598 appointing members to fill vacancies on the City's advisory boards and commissions. The Arts Council had four open positions but no timely applications, so the City Council did not appoint new members to the board.
- June-August 2021: Per [MICC 3.55.030 \(B\)\(3\)](#), which stipulates that a member can continue to serve until a qualified successor is appointed to the position, Chair Vivion continued serving in Position 7 and in her capacity as Chair, and the City reopened the board and commission recruitment process.
- August 31, 2021: The City Council appointed new Arts Council members to Positions 6 and 7.

OFFICER DUTIES

To conduct board operations through 2021, the Arts Council must elect a Chair and Vice Chair to serve until 2022 officer elections are held in December. As the leader of the board, the Chair:

- Facilitates Arts Council meetings in a fair, efficient, productive, and informative manner.
- Acts as the primary Arts Council representatives to City Council.
- Serves as the primary line of communication to City staff.
- Works with City staff to schedule meetings and develop meeting agendas.
- Appoints committee chairs.

The Vice Chair attends meetings with staff and the Chair and fulfills the duties of the Chair in the Chair's absence.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Elect a Chair and Vice Chair to serve until 2022 officer elections, on or about June 2022.

CITY OF MERCER ISLAND MERCER ISLAND ARTS COUNCIL

BYLAWS

The Mercer Island Arts Council (“Arts Council”) is an advisory board to the Mercer Island City Council (“City Council”) as established by Ordinances No. A-40 and A-41, passed by the City Council August 12, 1985, and codified as MICC 3.55. These bylaws constitute a supplement to said documents, providing further statements of the organization, procedures, activities, and objectives of the Arts Council. In any instance in which these bylaws might be interpreted to be contrary to said documents, the latter shall govern.

ARTICLE I – MISSION STATEMENT

The Arts Council's mission is to nurture, promote, and support quality arts and culture activities for the community of Mercer Island.

ARTICLE II – DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The Arts Council’s purpose is to advise and make recommendations to the City Council and other boards and commissions on matters related to arts and culture on Mercer Island.

The Arts Council goals are to:

- Advocate the arts, artists, and arts organizations of Mercer Island.
- Stimulate and promote community awareness, education, and enjoyment of the fine arts.
- Support performing, visual, and literary arts programs, projects, and events.

As an advisory board, the Arts Council recommends policies related to arts and culture, allocates funding from the Arts Council operating budget, and proposes arts and culture projects and initiatives. All recommendations are subject to City Council approval and staff capacity.

The Arts Council’s duties and responsibilities are to:

- Develop the arts and culture plan as a component of the city of Mercer Island’s comprehensive plan and provide recommendations on periodic updates to the plan as directed by City Council.
- Provide a forum for the community to express their views on arts and culture and serve as a central body to promote, develop, stimulate, and encourage arts organizations, artists, and arts participation in Mercer Island.
- Establish guidelines for and advise other boards and commissions on the commissioning, selection, and placement of permanent or temporary works of art in Mercer Island. Develop recommendations to City Council for use of the 1% for Art in Public Places fund (MICC 4.40.200).

- Review the suitability and advise on the acceptance of art works intended as gifts to the city of Mercer Island.
- Participate in the selection of artists and performers for programs and events sponsored by the Arts Council.
- Support and foster an inclusive arts community that embraces the cultural diversity of its citizens and recognizes their contributions to the cultural landscape, including honoring and featuring local artists.
- Explore opportunities to obtain private, local, state, and/or federal funds to promote arts and cultural opportunities in Mercer Island.
- Facilitate communication and cooperation with existing organizations including schools, businesses, nonprofits, art organizations, foundations, and other community groups to bring artists and audiences together.
- Advise on other matters as directed by City Council.

ARTICLE III – ORGANIZATION

1. MEMBERSHIP

The Arts Council consists of nine persons recommended by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and subject to appointment by the City Council. Members serve a term of four years and may serve no more than two consecutive terms. Each member's term shall expire on the last day of May.

2. OFFICERS

The elected officers of the Arts Council shall consist of a Chair and Vice Chair. The term of office for Chair and Vice Chair is one year. Each officer may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms.

Officer terms take effect beginning with the regular January meeting and the election cycle is repeated annually.

If the Chair or Vice Chair vacates the position, the Arts Council will nominate and vote for a current member to fill the position at the Arts Council's next regular meeting.

Election Process

At the Arts Council's December meeting, the following process is conducted to elect new officer positions:

- Place motion to elect Chair and Vice Chair on the agenda.
- Take nominations for the position of Chair from the floor.
- Nominations do not require a second vote.
- If no further nominations, the Chair declares nominations closed.
- Voting takes place in the order nominations are made.
- If there is only one nomination, board members will vote on that nomination by a voice vote.

- If there is more than one nomination, each will be voted on separately by a roll-call vote of the members present.
- Once a nominee receives a simple majority vote, the nominee is declared elected to the position.
- If none of the nominees receive a majority vote, nominations are requested again, and the process is repeated until a candidate receives a majority vote.
- The process is repeated for Vice Chair.

Officer Duties

- Facilitate Arts Council meetings in a fair, efficient, productive, and informative manner.
- Act as the primary Arts Council representatives to City Council.
- Serve as the primary line of communication to City staff.
- Work with City staff to schedule meetings and develop meeting agendas.
- Appoint committee chairs.
- The Vice Chair attends meetings with staff and the Chair and fulfills duties of the Chair in the Chair's absence.

3. COMMITTEES

The Arts Council includes six standing committees, and special or ad-hoc committees may be created as-needed. Committees are chaired by board members appointed by the officers, and committee members may be Arts Council members or other appropriate volunteers. Due to the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act (Chapter 42.30 RCW), a committee shall contain fewer members than a quorum of the whole Arts Council.

Standing Committees

The following are the standing committees of the Arts Council.

- Community Relations: Assists with coordinating efforts related to public relations and community outreach on behalf of the Arts Council and its programs.
- Gallery: Assists with programming the Mercer Island Gallery at the Mercer Island Community & Event Center and the Greta Hackett Outdoor Sculpture Gallery.
- Literary: Assists with fostering appreciation of literature in the community by coordinating literary programs and collaborating with literary groups.
- Performing Arts: Assists with coordinating music, theater, and other performing arts programs.
- Public Art: Assists with stewarding Mercer Island's public art collection.
- Special Projects: Assists with coordinating special programs and projects as they arise.

Detailed descriptions for standing committees are provided in the Arts Council Organization Manual.

Selection of Committee Chairs and Members

At the December meeting, staff will distribute Committee Interest Forms to board members. Members will return the forms to the Chair-elect. The Chair-elect, Vice Chair-elect, and staff liaisons will determine committee chair and member appointments and announce them at the January meeting. Committee chairs and members assume duties for one year beginning with the regular January meeting.

ARTICLE IV - OPERATIONS

1. MEETINGS

Regular & Special Meetings

Regular meetings of the Arts Council convene at 6:30 pm on the second Wednesday of each month at the Mercer Island Community & Event Center. Special meetings may be called by the Arts Council Chair, the Vice Chair, staff, or the mayor by giving at least 24 hours advance notice to members and the City's paper of record in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. The notice must specify the time and place of the special meeting and the business to be transacted at the special meeting.

Officer Meetings

The Chair, Vice Chair, and staff liaisons may meet at least one week in advance of the regular Arts Council meeting to determine the meeting agenda.

2. ATTENDANCE

Each board member should strive to attend all Arts Council meetings, to read materials beforehand, and to participate fully. Except in instances of sudden illness or other unforeseen hardship, members should advise the staff and the Chair/Vice Chair of their intended absence before 4:30 p.m. on the day prior to the regular meeting.

A board member shall forfeit his/her position by failing to attend three (3) consecutive regular meetings of the Arts Council without notifying the Chair and Vice Chair and otherwise participating in board work.

3. QUORUM

A quorum consists of a simple majority of the appointed members of the Arts Council. No formal action of the Arts Council may be taken at any meeting where a quorum is not present. If a quorum is not reached at the start of a meeting, the Chair may choose to excuse the meeting.

4. ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chair may adjust or amend the order of business as needed. The Arts Council's regular meetings normally use the following format:

- Call to Order

- Appearances
- Approval of Minutes
- Budget Report
- Agenda Items
- Other Business
- Adjourn

The Chair shall conduct meetings in an open, fair, and transparent manner. In the event of a procedural question, the Chair will refer to Robert's Rules of Order for guidance.

5. STAFF SUPPORT

The Mercer Island city manager shall appoint a staff liaison to provide support services for the Arts Council. Staff support shall include assistance with development of work plans and schedules, guidelines and procedures, correspondence, and agenda preparation and distribution.

Staff is also responsible for distributing all meeting notices and cancellations to the public as well as generating and updating the website calendar for upcoming Arts Council meetings.

ARTICLE V – CONFLICT OF INTEREST

If an actual or perceived conflict of interest exists that affects the work of the Arts Council, it is each board member's responsibility to openly describe the issue and refrain from any subsequent board participation, deliberation, or voting on the subject.

ARTICLE VI – PUBLIC REPRESENTATION AND STATEMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Any member of the board has the right to express personal views and opinions. However, statements representing the views or recommendations of the Arts Council must be authorized by a majority or consensus of the board. Consultation with staff on messaging is required.

ARTICLE VII – RESIGNATIONS

In an event that an Arts Council member wishes to vacate his/her term early, resignation should be tendered in writing to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. Existing Arts Council members, staff liaisons, and the City Clerk will then recruit for a new member to fill the vacancy through Mercer Island's established board/commission vacancy process.

ARTICLE VIII – RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BOARD

The goal of the Arts Council is to provide recommendations to the City Council. When a consensus cannot be reached, a majority vote is taken. Minority positions may be conveyed as well. To document the actions taken by the Arts Council, staff will prepare a written statement or memorandum, including the facts, findings, and rationale for the final recommendations.

The Chair in cooperation with the staff liaisons will present the recommendations to the City Council on behalf of the Arts Council.

ARTICLE IX – REVIEW OF BYLAWS

The Arts Council shall review bylaws annually at the Arts Council meeting in July. Proposed bylaw amendments must be approved by a majority of the Arts Council.

ARTICLE X: CODE OF CONDUCT

The Arts Council developed the following “group norms” to define the expectations for conduct by board members and the interaction among members. These are intended to be simple, self-explanatory, and self-enforced. The Chair is empowered to remind members as the need arises to employ these norms.

- Everyone contributes.
- Foster a collaborative environment.
- Hold each other accountable.
- Get to know each other and the community.
- Be transparent and accessible.



ARTS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Item #5
September 14, 2021
Regular Business

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

TITLE:	Arts Immediate Action Plan: Project Updates	<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:	Receive report.	

STAFF:	Ryan Daly, Operations Transition Team Manager
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	

SUMMARY

The Arts Council endorsed the 2021 Arts Immediate Action Plan during the [April 14, 2021](#) Regular Meeting. This endorsement included a limited workplan of three arts programs in 2021:

- Host a limited Mostly Music in the Park concert series in August and September
- Reopen the Mercer Island Gallery (as it aligns with the reopening of the Mercer Island Community & Event Center)
- Coordinate a Community Arts Project that reflects on and responds to Mercer Island's COVID-19 experience

To support this workplan, the City Council appropriated \$20,000 to the Recreation Division budget for Mostly Music in the Park and reopening the Mercer Island Gallery on April 20 ([AB 5848](#)) and accepted the 4Culture Arts Sustained Support grant of \$10,580 as part of the first quarter budget adjustment on May 18 ([AB 5874](#)). In coordination with the City Council appropriated funds, the Recreation Division assigned staffing resources to develop and implement the Arts Immediate Action Plan.

During the [July 14, 2021](#) Regular Meeting, the Arts Council received a presentation by The Moonlight Collective regarding a temporary art experience: *The Prairie of Possibilities*. After receiving the presentation, the Council moved to:

- Pursue *The Prairie of Possibilities* as part of the 2021 Community Arts Project;
- Direct staff to negotiate a final project scope with The Moonlight Collective; and
- Utilize 4Culture Sustained Support funds to support this project.

Tonight, staff will update the board on the implementation of the Arts Immediate Action Plan.

MOSTLY MUSIC IN THE PARK

This year's Mostly Music in the Park (MMIP) series was developed by a working group of staff and current/former Arts Council members and coordinated by the Recreation Division. The working group selected bands and developed the following MMIP event framework:

- Venue: The Pergola at Mercerdale Park, 77th SE & SE 32nd, Mercer Island, WA 98040
- Dates (3): Thursdays, August 19, 26, and September 2, 2021
- Performance time: 7-8:30 pm
 - 6pm-7:30pm on September 2
- Anticipated crowd size: 200-500 people
- Vendors and/or food trucks will not be permitted.
- Social distancing and applicable guidelines will inform the planning process.

The following bands were selected: Olson Bros Band (Aug. 19), Dynamite Supreme (Aug. 26), and LeRoy Bell and his Only Friends (Sept. 2).

August 19, 2021- Olson Bros Band

A crowd of approximately 300 patrons attended the kick-off MMIP concert on August 19. This was the first event coordinated and offered by the City of Mercer Island since December of 2019 and was extremely well received. Staff were on hand (and masked), reintroducing the Recreation Division and Arts Council to the community. Below are some staff/patron observations regarding the event:

- The park looked GREAT!
- It was an early arriving and diversely aged crowd.
 - People began staking out spots about an hour ahead of the show.
 - Staff spoke with new residents, who were very appreciative of the atmosphere and also perhaps surprised by the community feel.
- The band rocked!
- Many people brought local take-out food.
- Some attendees wore masks/some didn't. A few people grabbed masks from the free supply at the info booth.
 - Informational signage was posted throughout the event area and five (5) hand sanitizer stations were dispersed amongst the crowd.
 - Patrons seemed to be comfortable masked or not.
- Though the crowd was rather large, groups did a good job distancing.
- Community response and feel was outstanding and appreciative!
 - Staff expected to receive some criticism about either promoting masks or not requiring them to be worn. But that didn't occur.
- Mercer Island Thrift Shop staff was on hand cross-promoting with the event.
- Food trucks and vendors would be appreciated in the future.

August 26 and September 2 MMIP Concerts Canceled

A person present at the August 19 concert subsequently tested positive for COVID-19. Public health protocols were followed, and the individual was masked the entire time while at the event. However, with this information and recognizing the significant increase in regional COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations, and

with the best interests of community and staff health in mind, staff and City leadership decided to cancel the remainder of the series (Aug. 26 and Sept. 2).

MERCER ISLAND GALLERY

Throughout the summer, staff have worked with a working group of Arts Council members and Mercer Island Visual Arts League (MIVAL) representatives to explore the potential of hosting the MIVAL Holiday Show at the Mercer Island Gallery inside the Mercer Island Community and Event Center (MICEC). It is anticipated that the Holiday Show will be permitted to occur in the MICEC during general operating hours. Staff continue to work with MIVAL, City leadership, and the City's Emergency Management team to ensure the ability to offer safe public access to the MICEC as COVID-19 case counts and hospitalizations continue to climb. Staff plan to return to the next Arts Council meeting with an update on the status of hosting the MIVAL Holiday Show this year.

THE PRAIRIE OF POSSIBILITIES BY THE MOONLIGHT COLLECTIVE

Staff worked collaboratively with The Moonlight Collective to negotiate and develop a scope of work for *The Prairie of Possibilities* interactive arts installation. At the time of this staff report, The Moonlight Collective has signed and returned the services agreement. The scope of work for this installation includes the following project details:

The Prairie of Possibilities offers a dreamscape for Mercer Island residents to safely explore and experience together. Visitors will be invited to walk through a "field" of 1,512 glowing fiber-optic grass stalks that create a whimsical, ever-changing landscape of light and sound. Inspired by the natural cycle of four seasons, the installation features four 15-minute, distinct lighting patterns and accompanying music. The grasses attach to bases that will be arranged in a circle approximately 130' in diameter, with a 40' central clearing and 10' aisle providing through access (Figure 1). Each base will be clustered in groups of 24, with two cables for power and ethernet connecting back to a central control station, which will require 20 amps at 120V per light base or 1,400 watts total to power lights, speakers, and laptop.

This installation will be available for the Mercer Island community to view and experience at Mercerdale Park over a Friday to Sunday timeframe. Due to shipping and import challenges, dates of install and viewing are to be determined. Equipment is currently in transit, and it is anticipated that this installation will occur in mid-October; however the draft agreement remains valid through December 31, 2021.

Because the nature of this installation is interactive, The Moonlight Collective will adhere to and/or exceed local public health requirements to ensure the safety of patrons and staff. Masks will be required by attendees, and all marketing will be directed toward Mercer Island residents. Regional advertising will not be permitted.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Receive report.



ARTS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Item 6
September 14, 2021
Regular Business

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

TITLE:	Arts Reset Plan: Planning & Policy Updates	<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:	Receive report.	

STAFF:	Sarah Bluvas, Economic Development Coordinator	
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a	
EXHIBITS:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2021 Arts Immediate Action Plan 2. 2022 City Arts Work Plan – DRAFT 	

SUMMARY

On [April 14, 2021](#), the Arts Council created working groups to assist in accomplishing the 2021 Arts Immediate Action Plan (Exhibit 1). The Arts Reset Planning & Policy working group met with staff and consultant Emily Moon four times from June-September 2021 to further refine the priorities and work plan for 2022 City Arts Work.

Tonight, staff will preview the proposed 2022 City Arts Work Plan (Exhibit 2) and request that board members submit written feedback by October 13, 2021. This feedback will inform final edits to the draft plan, and staff will return at the October Arts Council meeting to discuss revisions and seek plan approval.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Receive the report and provide feedback as requested.

Background

The City of Mercer Island (“City”) needs tailored plans to help it emerge from a global pandemic that occurred while the municipality was already reducing programs and services. The reset plan gives the City an opportunity to apply a “zero-based” approach¹ to its programming and budget for recreation, the Mercer Island Community & Event Center (“MICEC”), and arts. The reset will allow the City to align the organizational and programmatic design to its strategic priorities and available resources.

As the emergency continues to evolve, the reset plans need to include ample flexibility. The plans also need to be reviewed periodically and adjusted as conditions and guidance change. The response to this emergency is not sequential. From time to time, the City, like all entities, may need to repeat or take backward steps. Iterative attempts may be required to find the right solution. The City will continue to move on this initial, interim path toward its future state of sustainable services, all while trying to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic.

City staff and the reset planning consultant are working with the Mercer Island Arts Council (“Arts Council”) to develop the arts element of the reset plan. Over four working sessions, the Arts Council identified areas where it would like to focus efforts through the end of 2021, both to provide arts-based programs to the community in the near-term and to plan for the long-term reset of the City Arts Work Plan and resource needs. This document outlines the program offerings and long-term planning needs the City plans to mount in the second half of 2021 as well as estimated and/or approved operating budget needs to accomplish this work.

Notably, this document outlines the potential staffing resources required to assist in executing the outlined programs and projects but does not specify from where those resources will come. Prior to the pandemic, the Arts Council was supported by a full-time Arts & Culture Coordinator, but that position was eliminated due to budget constraints caused by the pandemic. Currently, the City’s Economic Development Coordinator temporarily supports the Arts Council and will continue to do so through 2021. However, a more sustainable staff resource must be identified to support the Arts Council and execute the City Arts Work Plan in the long-term. The reset planning team continues to work to quantify the staff resource need(s), with the goal of securing sustainable staff support by the end of 2022.

Finally, the 2021 Arts Reset Plan is intended to be a flexible, working document. As projects are completed and/or conditions of the pandemic change, staff will update this document to ensure it accurately reflects the current course of action.

¹ In a “zero-based” budgeting approach, income equals expenses, meaning program costs are recovered by program revenue.

2021 Program / Project Offerings

As the reset team and the Arts Council continue to plan for the long-term reset of City arts programs and services, the board desired to provide limited offerings of two well-known and well-supported City arts programs: Mostly Music in the Park and the Mercer Island Gallery. Additionally, the board desired to engage residents in a community arts project suitable for all ages.

MOSTLY MUSIC IN THE PARK (LATE SUMMER 2021) – COMPLETED

Mostly Music in the Park (“MMIP”) was the City’s longest-running arts program prior to the pandemic, attracting 300-400 participants each week to enjoy music in Town Center’s Mercedale Park. As an outdoor event, MMIP provides the opportunity to reconnect community members with the arts while adhering to State restrictions on activities during the pandemic.

In 2021, the Recreation team received resources to produce a limited series of no more than three (3) concerts in August and September. The Arts Council formed a committee to develop the series, and Recreation staff executed the logistics, including contracting with bands, deploying marketing, running day-of concert operations, and more. The series was scheduled to take place on Thursdays, August 19-September 2. More than 300 residents attended the August 19 concert before the City canceled the remaining concerts due to heightened COVID-19 concerns.

Approved Budget Proposal

Performer Fees	\$3,600.00
Sound Engineering	\$3,000.00
Marketing & Promotion	\$4,000.00
COVID-19 Protocols	\$2,000.00
Contract Event Coordinator	\$2,400.00
Total Operating Budget	\$15,000.00

Staff Assistance Required

- Event planning and contracting
- Marketing and promotion
- Concert operations

Arts Reset Committee Members

- Erik Gordon
- Erin Vivion

MERCER ISLAND GALLERY

Prior to the pandemic, the City mounted seven exhibits at the Mercer Island Gallery (indoor gallery) and generated \$10k-\$12k in art sales annually. In early 2021, the City prioritized reopening the gallery as it aligned with the phased reopening of the Mercer Island Community and Event Center (MICEC). The City partnered with the Mercer Island Visual Arts League (MIVAL) to host the annual MIVAL Holiday Show from October to December 2021. Plans to present that exhibit are still moving forward. However, as the timeline for resuming MICEC programs and services continues to shift due to the ongoing pandemic, staff recommend refocusing on resuming indoor gallery programs in 2022. Reopening the gallery will not only provide a bright and creative atmosphere to welcome visitors back to MICEC but also will restore a valuable space for local artists to exhibit their artwork.

Managing the indoor gallery previously took considerable staff and volunteer time. The City will continue to explore options for partnering to curate and install exhibits, streamlining the promotion and sales process, and supporting gallery needs and operations with limited staff capacity.

Approved Budget Proposal

Contract Curator	\$3,000.00
Marketing & Promotion	\$1,500.00
Operating Supplies	\$500.00
Total Operating Budget	\$5,000.00

Staff Assistance Required

- Install and deinstall operations
- Marketing and promotion
- Gallery sales

Arts Reset Committee Members

- Amy Barnes
- Erik Gordon
- Carol Whitaker

COMMUNITY ARTS PROJECT: *THE PRAIRIE OF POSSIBILITIES* INTERACTIVE ARTS EXPERIENCE

The Prairie of Possibilities is a temporary, interactive arts experience designed by The Moonlight Collective, a Washington-based maker studio. The project will illuminate Mercedale Park in fall/winter 2021, bringing the community together after more than a year of being separated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

After more than a year of social distancing and separating due to the COVID-19 pandemic, *The Prairie of Possibilities* offers a dreamscape for Mercer Island residents to safely explore and experience together. Visitors will be invited to walk through a “field” of 1,512 glowing fiber-optic grass stalks that create a whimsical, ever-changing landscape of light and sound. Inspired by the natural cycle of four seasons, the installation features four 15-minute, distinct lighting patterns and accompanying music. The grasses attach to bases that will be arranged in a circle approximately 130’ in diameter, with a 40’ central clearing and 10’ aisle providing through access (Figure 1). Each base will be clustered in groups of 24, with two cables for power and ethernet connecting back to a central control station, which will require 20 amps at 120V per light base or 1,400 watts total to power lights, speakers, and laptop.

Operating Budget

The Moonlight Collective Fee	\$7,500.00
Marketing & Promotion /	\$3,080.00
Operating Expenses	
Total Operating Budget	\$10,580.00

Staff Assistance Required

- Project coordination and execution
- Parks Maintenance support
- Marketing and promotion

Arts Reset Committee Members

- Suzanne Skone
- Erin Vivion
- Carol Whitaker

Long-Term Reset: Programs, Policies, Public Art

Staff and the Arts Council will continue to develop a reset strategy for the long-term horizon (2022-2024) with the goal of approving a 2022-2024 Arts Reset Plan in Q4 of 2021. This flexible plan should include:

- 2022 City Arts Work Plan, which clearly outlines priorities and objectives for the year
- Planning roadmap for developing 2023-2024 City Arts Work Plan includes the priorities and objectives Outline of programs/projects the Arts Council proposes to offer in 2022 and respective operating budget request
- Prioritized list of policies to update and/or develop to guide future City arts work
- Prioritized list of public art needs (e.g. maintenance and collection safety updates, 1% for Art Fund 6-year spending plan, signage/interpretation plan, etc.)
- Staff resources required to execute the 2022-2024 Arts Reset Plan

A working group of staff and Arts Council members continues to meet to draft the plan, which will be presented to the full Arts Council for discussion at the October Arts Council meeting.

Staff Assistance Required

- Arts Council meeting preparation and facilitation
- Policy development
- Program evaluation and budget preparation
- Staff transition planning

Arts Council Reset Committee Members

- Anumeha
- Erik Gordon
- Suzanne Skone

2022 City Arts Work Plan - DRAFT

PRIORITY 1. STABILIZE ARTS COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP, VOLUNTEERSHIP, AND OPERATIONS TO SUPPORT CITY ARTS WORK.

1.1 Maintain a full and engaged board membership.

- Develop and deploy an “elevator pitch” that succinctly describes the Arts Council, City arts work, and community benefits of arts & culture.
- Promote membership at in-person and virtual arts programs presented by the City.
- Leverage networks of community partners, past Arts Council members, and others to recruit new board members and arts volunteers.
- Conduct administrative needs and board member training related to facilitating Arts Council meetings, communications, and collaboration.

1.2 Review, update, and/or develop Arts Council board operating procedures to facilitate efficient meetings, communications, recruitment, and participation, including:

- Conduct annual Arts Council Bylaws review.
- Reconvene the annual Arts Council planning retreat.
- Update and/or develop the rules of procedure related to board meeting management and communication.
- Update the board committee structure to increase volunteer participation and create a board member pipeline.

1.3 Review, update, and/or develop policies and procedures related to City arts work as defined and prioritized in the “Policy & Procedure Needs for City Arts Work” list ([Appendix XX](#)).

PRIORITY 2. CONTINUE PLANNING WORK TO DEVELOP 2023-2024 CITY ARTS WORKPLAN.

2.1 Articulate City arts priorities, workplan items, metrics of success, and resourcing needs for 2023-2024 biennium budget.

2.2 Evaluate, update, and/or retire pre-Pandemic City arts programs and services to align with 2023-2024 City arts priorities (as defined by work completed for 2.1). Where relevant, leverage existing survey and other data collected by the Recreation team and other City sources.

PRIORITY 3. GARNER COMMUNITY INPUT ON AND SUPPORT OF CITY ARTS WORK.

3.1 Deliver City arts programming to the community, including:

- Mostly Music in the Park concert series in Mercerdale Park
- Shakespeare in the Park in Luther Burbank Park
- Mercer Island Gallery exhibits
- Public Art Collection stewardship
- Other programs as resources and capacity allow

3.2 Deploy an interim process for reviewing and approving project ideas brought forth by Arts Council members, City staff, and/or the community in 2022. The process should align with the articulated City arts priorities and consider current capacity and resources. Develop a permanent process per the “Policy & Procedure Needs for City Arts Work” list (**Appendix XX**) to use beginning in 2023.

3.3 Convene Mercer Island arts & culture groups, artists, creative businesses, and other community organizations to discuss needs, identify gaps in program & service delivery, and recommend ways to increase collaboration in the local arts & culture ecosystem. Use outcomes to define the role the City will play in the Mercer Island arts ecosystem as part of the 2023-2024 City Arts Roadmap.

PRIORITY 4. STRENGTHEN CONNECTIONS WITH CITY COUNCIL, OTHER CITY BOARDS & COMMISSIONS, AND CITY STAFF TO STRENGTHEN CITY ARTS WORK.

4.1 Collaborate with the City Council liaison to the Arts Council to identify ways to engage the entire City Council in City arts work as well as demonstrate the benefits of arts & culture to the community, economic, and social vitality of Mercer Island. If desired, resume developing and delivering an annual City arts report.

4.2 Identify and articulate the desired communication and collaboration outcomes for working with other boards and commissions.

4.3 Clearly define the roles & responsibilities of staff in delivering City arts work; articulate the necessary resources in the 2023-2024 City Arts Work Plan.

Appendix XX: Policy & Procedure Needs for City Arts Work

Strategic Plans / Goals to Develop

- 2023-2024 City Arts Work Plan
- 6-Year Spending Plan for 1% for Art in Public Places
- Strategic Plan for Greta Hackett Outdoor Sculpture Gallery
- Citywide Comprehensive Plan Updates (Arts & Culture Plan)

Policies/Procedures to Review/Update/Develop

1% for Art in Public Places Fund

- Review and Update
 - Ordinance
 - Guidelines for Acquisition/Commission – Permanent and Temporary Installations
 - Deaccession Policy
 - Donation Policy
 - Artist Agreement

Greta Hackett Outdoor Sculpture Gallery

- Review and Update
 - Guidelines for Exhibiting
 - Exhibit Agreement

Mercer Island Gallery

- Review and Update
 - Guidelines for Exhibiting
 - Exhibit Agreement

Arts Programs & Special Events

- Develop
 - Program / Project Proposal Process

Community Arts Support

- Review and Update
 - Proposal Evaluation Rubric
 - Program Application
 - Partnership Agreement

Art in Private Development

- Develop
 - Review / Collaboration Process with Planning & Design Commissions



ARTS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Item 7
September 14, 2021
Regular Business

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

TITLE:	2021 Arts Council Regular Meeting Schedule Changes	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Cancel the October Regular Meeting of the Arts Council.	

STAFF:	Sarah Bluvas, Economic Development Coordinator Ryan Daly, Operations Transition Team Manager
COUNCIL LIAISON:	Salim Nice
EXHIBITS:	n/a

SUMMARY

In lieu of holding an October Regular Meeting, staff recommend focusing Arts Council member time and staff resources on the completion outstanding Immediate Action Plan items and onboarding new members. Staff encourage the prioritization of time previously dedicated to the preparation and participation at the October Regular Meeting to be focused on Arts Council working group work, review and participation in the PROS Plan process, and review and feedback on the 2022 Arts Council Work Plan.

As COVID-19 case counts and hospitalizations rise, the City Manager has elevated the City’s Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to a Level 2. This elevation will require additional staffing time to be dedicated to the overall City response. Staff members Ryan Daly (Operations Transition Team Manager) and Sarah Bluvas (Economic Development Coordinator) hold critical positions within the EOC as Operations Section Chief and Small Business Liaison.

Staff resources through the end of the year will remain focused on completion of the following Immediate Action Plan items:

- Coordination and reopening of the Mercer Island Art Gallery at MICEC, when possible.
- Implementation of *The Prairie of Possibilities* interactive temporary art installation.
- Finalizing development of the 2022 City Arts Work Plan and resource needs.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Move to authorize staff to cancel the October Regular Meeting of the Arts Council.