



# ARTS COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

Zoom Virtual Platform  
8236 SE 24th St | Mercer Island, WA 98040  
Phone: 206.275.7706 | [www.mercerisland.gov](http://www.mercerisland.gov)

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## BOARD MEMBERS:

Chair Erin Vivion  
Vice Chair Amy Barnes  
Board Members: Anumeha, Erik Gordon,  
Xixi Shakes, Suzanne Skone, Gaylene Vaden  
City Council Liaison: Salim Nice

## LOCATION & CONTACT

Mercer Island City Hall – Zoom Meeting  
9611 SE 36<sup>th</sup> Street | Mercer Island, WA 98040  
Phone: 206.275.7706 | [www.mercerisland.gov](http://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

## PUBLIC APPEARANCES

## STAFF REPORT

## REGULAR BUSINESS

1. April 14, 2021 Minutes
2. *The Tipping Point Project* – Jill Drrllevich, Joy Hagen, and Franchesca Vargas Smith
3. Arts Reset Planning - Update on Reset Planning Process and Identify Next Steps for Working Groups
4. Arts Reset Immediate Action Plan - Mostly Music in the Park
5. 2021 Officer Position Extensions
6. Public Art Updates

## OTHER BUSINESS

7. 2021 Meeting Schedule

8. Submit 2021 Volunteer Hours for [January](#), [February](#), [March](#), and [April](#)

**ADJOURNMENT**



# ARTS COUNCIL MINUTES

## REGULAR VIDEO MEETING

April 14, 2021

### CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Chair Erin Vivion called the meeting to order at 6:33pm.

Anumeha, Erik Gordon, Xixi Shakes, and Suzanne Skone participated remotely using Zoom (video teleconferencing platform).

Staff member Sarah Bluvas, Councilmember Salim Nice, and consultant Emily Moon also participated remotely via Zoom.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Skone, seconded by Shakes to:

**Approve the March 10, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.**

Passed 5-0-2

FOR: Anumeha, Gordon, Shakes, Skone, and Vivion

ABSENT: Barnes and Vaden

### PUBLIC APPEARANCES

*No public appearances.*

### REGULAR BUSINESS

#### 1. Arts Reset Planning: Update on Reset Planning Process and Review of 2021 Arts Reset Plan

Sarah Bluvas, Economic Development Coordinator for the City, and consultant Emily Moon updated the board on the Reset Planning Process and plans to present the reset strategy to City Council on April 20. Bluvas also presented the draft of the 2021 Arts Reset Plan and requested feedback from the board.

It was moved by Skone, seconded by Gordon to:

**Approve the 2021 Arts Council financial resourcing plan as recommended by staff and endorse staff's recommendation to include the request of \$20,000 from the Recreation Recovery Plan Startup Funding appropriation request being made at City Council on April 20, 2021.**

Passed 5-0-2

FOR: Anumeha, Gordon, Shakes, Skone, and Vivion

ABSENT: Barnes and Vaden

#### 2. 2021 Officer Positions Extension

It was moved by Skone, seconded by Shakes to:

**Extend current Officer positions to May 2021.**

Passed 5-0-2

FOR: Anumeha, Gordon, Shakes, Skone, and Vivion

ABSENT: Barnes and Vaden

#### 3. Public Art Updates

Bluvas updated the board on the Xing Hua development art element, a forthcoming presentation by artists Jill Drilevich and Joy Hagen about a temporary art project called *A Tipping Point*, and several other items related to public art and Outdoor Gallery maintenance.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Chair Vivion reminded Board members to report their Q1 2021 volunteer hours.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Regular Video Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

## **Project Overview – *The Tipping Point***

**Presented by Jill Drlleovich, Joy Hagen, and Franchesca Vargas Smith**

### **THE TIPPING POINT PROJECT**

Have you ever experienced a pivotal moment or tipping point in your life? A moment that was unpredictable and without a doubt changed your life? A point when you've experienced something so profound that it changes not only who you are but also who you need to be. Tipping points can come in the form of trauma or hitting rock bottom, or they may even be a positive experience that impacts your soul so deep it changes your life completely.

We all have untold stories, unable to find the power within us to let our voices be heard. The purpose of *The Tipping Point Project* is to facilitate an artistic outlet for those who are finally ready to tell their stories and raise their voices through artistic expression. The brainchild of Project Director Jill Drlleovich, The Tipping Point Project artists will create sculptural installation pieces using the never-used cooling tower fan blades manufactured for the failed Satsop Nuclear Power Plant Project in Elma, Washington. Artistic expression is a powerful way to tell stories and connect with the viewer in a way that may not have been possible otherwise. It can evoke empathy and compassion and presents another way of looking at the world around us. Art itself can become a tipping point for change. We hope to not only provide a release for the unheard, muffled voices of those creating the art but also to move the viewer to allow their true voices to sing out their own stories.

### **THE TIPPING POINT CURATORS**

**JILL DRILLEOVICH** – *The Tipping Point* is the brainchild of Jill Drlleovich. Born in 1950 in Brooklyn, New York, she was raised in Long Island by parents who instilled the value of education, critical thought, and hard work.

Jill came of age just as the veneer of the conformist 1950s gave way to the counterculture movement of the 1960s. She became aware and active during this politically explosive era, participating in sit-ins and protests. As a young mother in the 1970s, it was this background that prompted Jill to stage a dramatic protest against the building of a nuclear power plant in Shoreham, New York. Along with other protesters, she was able to forestall the building of the power plant. It was a powerful victory and an early example of grassroots organizing in her life. Although she did not know it at the time, a similar story was playing out across the country in Washington state.

After running a small art gallery in New York in the 1970s, Jill moved to Washington state. She quickly became involved with local art communities and started working on large-scale sculptures. Part of her process involved visiting old scrap and metal recycling yards to hunt for intriguing materials. It was during one fateful visit that Jill discovered the castoff fan blades for the defunct Satsop Nuclear Power Plant project in Elma, Washington, and *The Tipping Point Project* was born. These blades make up the base material for *The Tipping Point*, an artistic outreach project that seeks to link activist artists across generations and movements. Jill will be taking this project one step further with *Blades of Change*, a book documenting the development and culmination of the various *Tipping Point* installations. Jill is our Project Director.

**JOY HAGEN** – The daughter of a forester, Hagen's early childhood was spent living in the jungle in the Philippines. It also offered the opportunity to live in Panama. Returning to Seattle, summertime always involved hiking and camping deep in the forests and exploring old logging roads around the Pacific

Northwest. Art was an ever-present childhood activity, and she has been drawing and painting ever since. Joy currently works out of her home studio in Kirkland.

After three years running a children’s shop in Bellevue and Kirkland, and 15 years running her own decorative painting business, Joy began her fine art career in 2000. Along the way, she chaired juried shows, curated exhibitions, served as Art Docent with the Lake Washington School District, and served as Evergreen Association of Fine Arts (EAFA) Gallery manager at the Seattle Design Center for five years. She is currently Grants Manager for EAFA. She co-founded and currently manages Studio 103 in Seattle’s Pioneer Square and serves as curator of Slash & Burn, a collaborative endeavor which has, thus far, exhibited at Kirkland Arts Center, Sammamish City Hall, Green River Community College, and Seattle City Hall. Her work can be found in the permanent collections of the Cities of Kent, Kenmore, and Seattle; with Swedish Medical Group in Everett and Redmond; and at the Swedish Medical Center Cancer Institute in Edmonds. Joy will be serving as project manager and organizer with Franchesca Vargas Smith.

**FRANCHESCA VARGAS SMITH** – Local Activist and community leader with the City of Renton. Vargas is invested in seeing her community prosper and be trailblazers in the world of art and activism. Mother of four and daughter of immigrants, she has unique insights into the struggles of the disenfranchised and underprivileged communities she has grown up in. She will be using her knowledge working with cities to oversee project management, public relations, and fundraising efforts.

Image Examples



Design Mock-Up for one potential sculpture



Jill Drlevich with an installation of the fan blades in Pioneer Square



Example of a painted fan blade



# ARTS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Item 2  
May 12, 2021  
Regular Business

## AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

<b>TITLE:</b>	Arts Reset Planning: Update on Reset Planning Process and Identify Next Steps for Working Groups	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
	<b>RECOMMENDED ACTION:</b> 1. Receive the presentation by staff and consultant; and 2. Discuss next steps for working group activities.	
<b>STAFF:</b>	Sarah Bluvas, Economic Development Coordinator	
<b>COUNCIL LIAISON:</b>	Salim Nice	
<b>EXHIBITS:</b>	1. 2021 Arts Reset Plan	

## SUMMARY

At the Regular Arts Council Meeting on April 14, the Arts Council endorsed the 2021 Arts Reset Plan, which included supporting a financial request of \$20,000 to support two items outlined in the Immediate Action Plan:

- Present a limited Mostly Music in the Park concert series in late summer 2021
- Reopen the Mercer Island Gallery at the Mercer Island Community and Event Center (pending)

Board members also volunteered for working groups that will assist in accomplishing the activities outlined in the 2021 Arts Reset Plan. Staff updated the 2021 Arts Reset Plan (Exhibit 1) to reflect these volunteer roles.

During tonight’s meeting, the staff and consultant Emily Moon will update the Arts Council on the Reset Plan Process and discuss next steps for organizing the working groups and beginning to address needs for each.

## RECOMMENDATION

1. Receive the presentation by staff and consultant; and
2. Discuss next steps for working group activities.



## 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” approach<sup>1</sup> 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 Arts Council work plan and resource needs. This document outlines the program offerings and long-term planning needs the Arts Council plans to mount in the second half of 2021 as well estimated 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 in the long-term. The reset planning team is assisting the Arts Council with quantifying the staff resource need(s), with the goal of securing sustainable staff support by the end of 2021.

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

## 2021 Program Offerings

As the Arts Council continues to plan for the long-term reset of City arts programs and services, the board will focus on providing limited offerings of its two most well-known and well-supported programs: Mostly Music in the Park and the Mercer Island Gallery. Additionally, the board aims to engage residents in a community arts project suitable for all ages.

### MOSTLY MUSIC IN THE PARK (LATE SUMMER 2021)

Mostly Music in the Park (“MMIP”) was the Arts Council’s longest-running program prior to the pandemic, attracting 300-400 participants each week to enjoy music in Town Center’s Mercerdale 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 Arts Council requests resources to produce a limited series of no more than three (3) concerts in August or September. The Arts Council will form a committee to plan the series in partnership with staff and/or a contracted event coordinator. Additionally, staff support will be needed for marketing assistance and day-of concert operations, including being on-site for sound and band setup, setting up/taking down necessary COVID-19 safety measures, emptying trash receptacles, etc.

#### Operating 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
<b>Total Operating Budget</b>	<b>\$15,000.00</b>

#### Staff Assistance Required

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

#### Arts Council Working Group Volunteers (as of 05.10.21)

- Erik Gordon

MERCER ISLAND GALLERY (PENDING REOPENING OF MICEC)

Prior to the pandemic, the Arts Council mounted seven exhibits at the Mercer Island Gallery (indoor gallery) and generated \$10k-\$12k in sales annually. Reopening the gallery during the phased reopening of MICEC not only provides 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, so the Arts Council suggests contracting with the Mercer Island Visual Arts League (MIVAL) to curate, install/deinstall, promote, and coordinate other needs for a maximum of three (3) exhibits in 2021. Additionally, staff support will be needed to facilitate installation days, conduct gallery sales, etc.

**Operating Budget Proposal**

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

**Staff Assistance Required**

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

**Arts Council Working Group Volunteers (as of 05.10.21)**

- Amy Barnes
- Erik Gordon

COMMUNITY ARTS PROJECT (THROUGH END OF 2021)

Arts and artmaking have long been used as tools for creating connection, inspiring optimism, and promoting healing during dark and difficult times. As the community continues to navigate the pandemic, the Arts Council hopes to document residents’ individual experiences through a community arts project. This project will be suitable for all ages, open to the entire community, and coordinated in partnership with other community organizations (e.g. MIVAL, YTN, SJCC). It could also culminate in a future major public art project that tells the Mercer Island COVID-19 story and provides space for community members and visitors to remember and reflect. (Note: Any ideas for a future public art project would be explored in the long-term reset planning and would not be intended to be completed in 2021.)

The Arts Council will form a committee to partner with community organizations and staff to coordinate this community project. Additional staff and volunteer support is needed to solicit participants, distribute supplies, etc.

**Operating Budget Proposal**

Operating Supplies	\$8,000.00
Marketing & Promotion	\$2,580.00
<b>Total Operating Budget</b>	<b>\$10,580.00</b>

**Staff Assistance Required**

- Project coordination and execution

**Arts Council Working Group Volunteers (as of 05.10.21)**

- Suzanne Skone
- Erin Vivion

## 2021 ARTS RESET PLAN

### Long-Term Reset: Programs, Policies, Public Art

The Arts Council will continue to develop a reset strategy for the long-term horizon (2022-2024) with the goal of recommending a flexible work plan to City Council in Q4 of 2021. This plan should address the following:

- Outline of programs/projects the Arts Council proposes to offer in 2022 and respective operating budget request
- Prioritized list of policies the Arts Council plans to update and/or develop to guide future arts-related work (e.g. 1% for Art guidelines, art in private development process, etc.)
- 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 plan

The Arts Council will use regular meeting time and/or assign a sub-committee to develop this flexible work plan as well as engage the local arts community and general residents in creating it.

#### Staff Assistance Required

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

#### Arts Council Working Group Volunteers (as of 05.10.21)

- Anumeha
- Suzanne Skone
- Erin Vivion



# ARTS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Item 3  
May 12, 2021  
Regular Business

## AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

<b>TITLE:</b>	Arts Reset Immediate Action Plan: Mostly Music in the Park	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only
<b>RECOMMENDED ACTION:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Receive staff presentation;</li> <li>2. Discuss Arts Council engagement in planning process and appoint MMIP sub-committee; and</li> <li>3. Confirm event dates.</li> </ol>	<input type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution

<b>STAFF:</b>	Sarah Bluvas, Economic Development Coordinator Ryan Daly, Operations Transition Team Manager	
<b>COUNCIL LIAISON:</b>	Salim Nice	
<b>EXHIBITS:</b>	N/A	

## SUMMARY

On [April 20](#), the City Council appropriated \$328,000 ([AB 5848](#)) to begin implementation of the Mercer Island Community and Event Center & Recreation Programs and Services Strategy. This appropriation included \$15,000 to support the coordination and implementation of a Mostly Music in the Park (MMIP) summer community concert series as part of the Arts Reset Immediate Action Plan.

Following the April 20 Council Meeting, the City Manager directed the Operations Transition Team Manager to develop an event framework, engage the Arts Council, and begin coordination of MMIP community concerts.

### PLANNING PROCESS

During tonight’s meeting, staff will discuss with the Arts Council desired outcomes of MMIP, the accelerated coordination timeline, and identify respective roles and responsibilities.

Ongoing collaboration, support, and communication between staff and the Arts Council will be critical to the expedited delivery of MMIP. For that reason, staff recommend that a sub-committee of the Arts Council be appointed to work alongside staff in the planning and implementation of MMIP.

City staff would be responsible for the elements of event coordination, budget oversight, staffing support, contracting needs, and ensuring adherence to COVID-19 Washington State [Reopening Guidance](#). Staff propose the Arts Council collaborate on marketing, event creativity, band selection, volunteer recruitment, and day-of volunteer support.

Given the reduced planning schedule and ongoing impacts of the pandemic, this year’s concert series may look different than past programs. Staff will have limited capacity to engage additional partners, lead a significant group of volunteers, or offer the flexibility of the past. This year’s goal should be to provide a series of free concert events that provide a sense of community and take advantage of the opportunity to safely

gather with neighbors. With this goal in mind, and understanding resource and timing limitations, staff propose 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
- 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.

**Immediate Next steps** (upon confirmation of dates and framework):

- Establish MMIP working group of staff and Arts Councilmembers.
- Confirm and contract sound engineers.
- Establish a process of soliciting and reviewing potential bands.
- Confirm and contract with bands/performers.
- Confirm staffing and volunteer needs.

## RECOMMENDATION

1. Receive staff presentation.
2. Discuss Arts Council engagement in planning process and appoint MMIP sub-committee.
3. Confirm dates of events.