



ARTS COUNCIL SPECIAL VIDEO MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

Zoom Virtual Platform
8236 SE 24th St | Mercer Island, WA 98040
Phone: 206.275.7706 | www.mercerisland.gov

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

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 **865 2522 8682** and Password **005571** 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 **865 2522 8682**; Enter Password **005571**

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

REGULAR BUSINESS

1. Arts Reset Planning Workshop #2 - Immediate Action Plan

ADJOURN

CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

www.mercerisland.gov



Arts Council February 23, 2021 Arts Reset Workshop #2

To: Arts Council

From: Sarah Bluvas, Economic Development Coordinator; Emily Moon, consultant

Date: February 23, 2021

Tonight's meeting is the second Arts Council "reset planning" workshop. The objectives of the workshop are:

1. To discuss responses to the Arts Council member survey, which was distributed to members during the February 10 regular meeting
2. To review and seek input on alternatives for the Immediate Action Plan (i.e., the programs, services and actions the Arts Council wishes to pursue through the end of 2021 and while the pandemic's effects may still be concerns)
3. To discuss the feasibility of potential Immediate Action Plan proposals and their various resource needs
4. To create an Immediate Action Plan proposal for City Council's consideration

Questions posed in the Arts Councilmembers' survey:

- What does the community need now from the Arts Council?
- How can you support that need as the Arts Council (given the current conditions of the City and the pandemic)?
- What are the three most important objectives the Arts Council needs to accomplish during this year? What should the focus be for 2021?
- As you look past 2021 and the pandemic, how should the Arts Council measure its success?

The complete survey results are attached for the Arts Council's use. (See Exhibit 1.) In addition, Exhibit 2 depicts a synthesis of the answers to the question, "What are the three most important objectives the Arts Council needs to accomplish during this year? What should the focus be for 2021?" Exhibits 2 and 3 (a categorized list of potential Immediate Action Plan projects) will serve as starting points for the Arts Council's workshop discussion. As the Arts Council discusses the survey results, members will be asked to:

- Help refine ideas
- Apply Immediate Action Plan criteria to each idea:
 - Be responsive to COVID realities
 - Be able able to be designed and implemented by this summer/fall
 - Consider availability of resources
 - Be consistent with where the Arts Council may be headed with its vision and long-term goals
- Contemplate subsequent questions that require answers to better understand how to implement the ideas
- Identify resources that would be needed for implementation

Ideas that do not meet the Immediate Action Plan criteria or that simply need more time to develop can be included in the Arts Council's longer-term "Reset Roadmap." City Council has requested both – recommendations for how to start a few, feasible Arts Council activities, programs, or services (Immediate Action Plan), and recommendations for which additional priorities should be phased in over the next two years (longer-term Reset Roadmap).

Following the workshop, Emily and Sarah will collate the Arts Council's ideas and input into a draft Immediate Action Plan and a draft Reset Roadmap. These plans will be reviewed by the Arts Council in March and forwarded to the City Council in April for their consideration.

Exhibits

1. Arts Councilmembers' survey results
2. Synthesis of survey results
3. Categorized list of potential Immediate Action Plan projects

Arts Reset Planning: Commission Member Survey Results, February 2021

What does the community need now from the Arts Council?	How can you support those needs as the Arts Council given the current conditions of the City and the pandemic?	What are the three most important objectives the Arts Council needs to accomplish during this year? What should the focus be for 2021?	As you look beyond 2021, how should the Arts Council measure its success?
Leadership, Vision and Continuity	<p>I'd like to continue connecting people and projects in our city and region during the pandemic. For example, I would love to support the high school diversity mural. I'd like to see it at the basketball courts on the Aubry Davis Parkway since it will have the most impact (bikers, visiting ball players) and I think the Community Fund would help sponsor and the Chamber. I personally am willing to donate for a lift to create a tall mural like a banner being unfurled from the tennis court level to the ground.</p> <p>I can also work on long term planning for the use of our 1% for Art. And I'd like to see the art council explore at least one art element in each new major city project like the docks at Luther Burbank to optimize costs around construction and infrastructure and getting the best project for a particular location. All new city projects should be passed through the Arts Commission for their design suggestions just as we do with commercial projects through the Design Commission. Not that every project will have an arts project but perhaps the Arts Council can offer suggestions that with little or no cost will make art more accessible in these locations in the future, for example outdoor electrical plug ins.</p>	<p>For 2021 support the high school mural and one other outdoor visual installation. Although we could launch a literary/poetry community engagement project commemorating and acknowledging Covid-19 positive impacts on our lives. Like responding quirky questions like "after Covid-19 I'll never go back to.... "the best thing about the pandemic was....." we could figure out how to engage the community and share the writings. I think we can continue to invite the community to enjoy the art we have -like press releases/stories about some art we already have.</p>	<p>We should probably go back to our programming from the past by starting with events that the community has expressed a lot of support for like summer outdoor concerts. We should evaluate each program as to how much work goes into supporting it, what the cost is and how many people are reached by the program.</p> <p>Looking beyond 2021 the arts commission should learn more about the desires of the community probably by surveying. So then the arts council can deliver what the community wants-that would be the measure. It would take quite a bit of time to develop a good survey that would help us with long term arts programming.</p>
Engagement and opportunity to break away from indoors and enable arts interaction socially distanced.	<p>Now that we are in Phase 2, the easiest way is to offer an Open Studio in the Community Center that allows patrons to sign-up for an hr. or two every week. Open Studio is meant to offer safe socially distanced dedicated time and space for winding down through art. Patrons can bring projects from home to work on in a relaxed, stress-free atmosphere. Those needing inspiration can be provided the project assignments, instructions, and materials list prior to their Open Studio appointment. Later, we can also start minimal art classes as needed while adhering to social distancing and capacity requirements as required.</p> <p>I am happy to take a lead on this initiative should this be selected by the Arts Council.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deliver an arts/culture outlet or experience for the public that is catered towards both mental health and belongingness of community and artists 2. Increased partnership with Council, local businesses, partners, and artists as an ongoing mechanism to cater to all members of the community and continuously improve on them 3. Adopt a sustainable funding policy that does not depend solely on City's budget 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increased community engagement from zero in 2020 to at least 50% of pre-covid times 2. Increased and holistic partnership across the board that is equitable and inclusive 3. Independent funding, budgeting, and resourcing capability for the Arts Council to be able to deliver its mission
The artists need encouragement/publicity/funding. The public needs respite from stress through connection to art. We need to protect our art collection and promote its continuing development.	<p>We could share info about opportunities for artists. We could seek funding from the various COVID relief arts opportunities. We could convene to brainstorm and create events that are COVID friendly, low cost, low city staff effort and/or grant supported. I note that none of these questions addresses budgeting for the arts/arts council.</p>	<p>Protect assets. Engage community in the arts. Support MI artists. Focus- create one community event to support/encourage arts engagement, perhaps with monetary options to create a fund for a project to be created by a local artist.</p>	<p>At this time the City government does not seem to value the arts as a priority. This minimizes the Council's ability to engage/entertain/support the community of artists and art lovers, as well as to build and maintain an arts collection. It would be great to see more buy-in by the city government, which would help to support the needs of our community.</p>
Presence, to show that we are still here to reincorporate arts back into the community.	<p>Start small, bring back a single event. Clean up/revamp bylaws that allow for more influence with the city and other commissions.</p>	<p>Protecting and maintain the public art collection. Bringing attention to the public art collection with interactive activities. Programming an arts experience, to provide a diversion and opportunity to reconnect as a community, and with collaborating with MIVAL and other organizations..</p>	<p>How many events/services we were able to bring back to the community.</p>
As much arts focused distraction, diversion, connection, and inclusion we can generate safely.	<p>Outdoor programming and activities designed for small groups or individuals. Arts Council could consider online programming, but that is less desirable with all the activities already forced online. Any art maps or guides should be inclusive for people with physical challenges and seniors.</p>	<p>Protecting and maintain the public art collection. Bringing attention to the public art collection with interactive activities. Programming an arts experience, to provide a diversion and opportunity to reconnect as a community, and with collaborating with MIVAL and other organizations..</p>	<p>The lowest bar is if we are still operating as a council and have provided at least one arts focused project for the community. Beyond that this feels like a question that should be iterative and refined as we move forward.</p>

Most Important and Immediate Objectives

What are the three most important objectives the Arts Council needs to accomplish during this year? What should the focus be for 2021?

- A Support the high school community/unity mural project
- B Explore COVID-19 impacts on our lives in arts-focused ways
- C Invite the community to enjoy the public art collection (press releases, stories, etc., about existing art)
- D Deliver an arts/culture outlet or experience for the public that is catered towards both mental health and belongingness of community and artists
- E Adopt a sustainable funding policy that does not depend solely on City's budget
- F Protect assets
- G Engage community in the arts
- H Support MI artists
- I Create one community event to support/encourage arts engagement, perhaps with monetary options to create a fund for a project to be created by a local artist.
- J Protect and maintain public art collection
- K Raise awareness of public art collection with interactive activities
- L Program an arts experience to provide a diversion and opportunity to reconnect as a community
- M Collaboration - with MIVAL, etc.
- N Increased partnership with Council, local businesses, partners, and artists as an ongoing mechanism to cater to all members of the community and continuously improve on them
- O Devise a short to medium range plan of reasonable projects and goals to address immediate needs of community due to pandemic crisis. (Ancillary to this would be to review current outdated policies that may impede goals and revise.)
- P Present plan to City Council to re-establish a budget.
- Q Accomplish 1-2 targeted projects.
- R To develop and firm up a reset plan for development of arts & culture programs beyond 2021 once we have budget and staff allocated

Potential Project Ideas

Public Art	Program/Event	Policy	Collaboration	Funding
Support MIHS Community/Unity Mural	Open Studio Sessions at Community Center	1% for Art planning	Convene local artists and arts groups to brainstorm	Seek funding for local artists/projects
Interactive activities to engage in public art collection	Outdoor programming	Capital projects process/policy		Develop sustainable funding model to not rely solely on City funding
Stories/news releases about public art collection	COVID-19 literary/poetry project	Program evaluation		
Take steps to protect public art assets				