



ARTS COUNCIL

REGULAR HYBRID MEETING

Wednesday, January 21, 2026 | 5:30pm

BOARD MEMBERS:

Chair: Jonathan Harrington

Vice Chair: Suzanne Skone

Councilors: Irene Rajagopal, Hannah Youn,
Pam Rock, Katie Kratzer

LOCATION & CONTACT

MICEC – Slater Room Council Chambers

and via Zoom

8236 SE 24th Street | Mercer Island, WA 98040
Phone: 206.275.7600 | www.mercerisland.gov

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

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

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

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

Join by Internet at 5:30 PM:

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

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

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL - 5:30 PM

PUBLIC APPEARANCES

STAFF LIAISON REPORT

1. **Staff Liaison Report and Planning Schedule**

REGULAR BUSINESS

2. **Approve the minutes of the October 15, 2025 Regular Hybrid Meeting**

Recommended Action: Approve minutes.

3. **AC 26-01: Guiding Documents Workshop**

Recommended Action: Receive Report.

4. **AC 26-02: MICEC Gallery Viewing & Reception**

Recommended Action: View the Indoor Gallery in the MICEC- engage with community members.

OTHER BUSINESS

5. **Absences**

ADJOURNMENT



Department Report

[Placeholder]

Coming soon



ARTS COUNCIL

2026 PLANNING SCHEDULE

Items are not listed in any particular order.
Agenda items & meeting dates are subject to change.

REMINDER: NO MEETINGS IN AUGUST

FEBRUARY 18, 5:30 PM *SPECIAL MEETING*		STAFF WORK TUE	AGENDA GO LIVE WED
Absences:			
TIME/TOPIC		STAFF	
ACXX-XX: Update on Public Art Donation Proposal – Hokusai 20 by Jeffrey Laudenslager		Sarah Bluvas	
ACXX-XX: Gateway Installation Update		Sarah Bluvas	

APRIL 15, 5:30 PM		STAFF WORK TUE	AGENDA GO LIVE WED
Absences:			
TIME/TOPIC		STAFF	
ACXX-XX: Art in Public Places 6-Year Spending Plan		Sarah Bluvas	
ACXX-XX: Deane's AIPP Opportunities		Shelby Perrault	
ACXX-XX: Mercerdale Pergola Plaques and Maintenance Plan		Ryan Daly	

JULY 15, 5:30 PM		STAFF WORK TUE	AGENDA GO LIVE WED
Absences:			
TIME/TOPIC		STAFF	
Chair & Vice Chair Elections			
ACXX-XX: Clarke & Groveland Master Plans		Sarah Bluvas	
ACXX-XX: 2025 Recreation Division Annual Report		Katie Herzog	
ACXX-XX: 2027-2028 City Arts & Culture Workplan Priorities		Katie Herzog	

OCTOBER 21, 5:30 PM		STAFF WORK TUE	AGENDA GO LIVE WED
Absences:			
TIME/TOPIC		STAFF	
ACXX-XX: Update Arts & Culture Comprehensive Plan			
ACXX-XX: 2025-2026 Workplan Update		Katie Herzog	
ACXX-XX: AIPP Annual Update		Sarah Bluvas	
ACXX-XX: GHOSG Activation Plan Kick-Off		Sarah Bluvas	



ARTS COUNCIL MINUTES

REGULAR HYBRID MEETING

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

Item 2.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Harrington called the meeting to order at 5:35pm.

ROLL CALL

Chair Jonathan Harrington, Vice Chair Suzanne Skone, and Councilors Pam Rock, Katie Kratzer, and Britta Echtle were present. Council Liaison Mayor Salim Nice was present.

Chief of Operations Jason Kintner, Recreation Supervisor Katie Herzog, Capital Parks Manager Shelby Perrault, CIP Project Manager Sarah Bluvas, Parks Operations Manager Sam Harb, and Recreation Specialist Raven Gillis were present.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES

Robert Harper, Mercer Island resident, addressed the Arts Council regarding the Standing Strong Veterans Pergola at Mercerdale Park.

STAFF LIAISON REPORT

1. Staff Liaison Report & Planning Schedule Update

Katie Herzog, Recreation Supervisor, reported on the following:

- Updates
 - Mostly Music in the Park – Six weeks of FANTASTIC concerts!
 - Summer Events recap
 - Summer Camp Success
 - Mid-Autumn Festival
- Upcoming Programs/Events
 - MIVAL Art Classes at the MI Community & Event Center
 - Rotary Mercer Island – Rake & Roll Leaf Art event
 - MIVAL Community Photography Show & Annual Holiday Show at the MI Community & Event Center
 - Autumn Programs & Indoor Playground for younger kiddos
 - Open Art Studio
 - Town Center Trick-or-Treating
 - December Special Events
- Arts Council Planning Schedule

REGULAR BUSINESS

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the July 16, 2025, Regular Meeting

It was moved by Rock; seconded by Echtle to:

Approve the minutes from the July 16, 2025, Regular Meeting.

Passed: 5 – 0

3. AC25-05: Deane's Children's Park Site Plan – Public Art Opportunities

Shelby Perrault, Capital Parks Manager, presented. Councilors asked questions and provided feedback.

Item 2.

4. **AC25-06: Standing Strong Veterans Pergola – Improvements and Operational Guidelines**
Katie Herzog, Recreation Supervisor, presented. Councilors asked questions and provided feedback.
5. **AC 25-07: Public Art Donation Proposal – Hokusai 20 by Jeffrey Laudenslager**
Sarah Bluvas, CIP Project Manager, presented. Councilors asked questions and provided feedback.
Donor Robert Muglia was also present and offered Councilors input on the art piece.
6. **AC 25-08: 2025-2026 City Arts and Culture Workplan Update: Q4 2025**
Katie Herzog, Recreation Supervisor, presented. Councilors received the report.
7. **Recognition of Council Liaison Mayor Nice**
As this was the last meeting Mayor Nice would attend as Council Liaison, Chair Harrington expressed the Arts Council's gratitude for his service and support over the years.

OTHER BUSINESS

8. **Absences**
No future absences were mentioned.

Chair Harrington asked for a motion to excuse Councilor Rajagopal and Council Youn's absence.

It was moved by Kratzer; seconded by Echtle to:

Excuse Councilor Rajagopal and Council Youn's absence from the meeting

Passed: 5 – 0

ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Hybrid Meeting adjourned at 7:07pm.



ARTS COUNCIL CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

AC 26-01
January 21, 2026
Regular Business

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AC 26-01: Guiding Documents Workshop	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Overview and discussion on Arts Council's Guiding Documents	<input type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Recommendation

STAFF:	Katie Herzog, Recreation Supervisor Ryan Daly, Recreation Manager
EXHIBITS:	1. n/a

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to provide the Arts Council (AC) with a presentation the arts and culture related guiding documents, to reaffirm and clarify the roles and responsibilities of this board, and to provide a workshop style forum for the board to discuss ways to better utilize these tools in support of the arts community on Mercer Island.

- The Arts Council was established as an advisory board with a mission to nurture, promote, and support high quality arts and culture activities for the community.
- The Council's role, priorities, and practices have evolved in response to community needs, City policies, and the growing recognition of arts and culture as essential to civic vitality.
- Serving in an advisory capacity, the Arts Council continues to help guide public art, cultural planning, and arts-related initiatives that enrich Mercer Island.
- The board, which was once focused on the delivery of specific programs/events, transitioned to a model which identifies community needs and establishes priorities to enable the City and community organizations to better serve the diverse needs of the Mercer Island community.

The Arts Council utilizes a set of guiding documents, including the [Bylaws](#), [the Comprehensive Arts and Culture Plan](#), the [City Arts and Culture Workplan](#), and the [Art in Public Places 6 -Year Plan](#) to inform how they execute their responsibilities.

BACKGROUND

The Arts Council [was established](#) in 1985 as an advisory board with the purpose of advising and making recommendations to the City Council and any other board or commission of the City on arts and culture related matters with a mission to nurture, promote, and support high quality arts and culture activities for the community.

Over the 40-year history of the Arts Council there has been an evolution in how the arts and culture priorities of Mercer Island are best served. The board, which was once focused on the delivery of specific programs/events, transitioned to a model which identifies community needs and establishes priorities to enable the City and community organizations to better serve the diverse needs of the Mercer Island community.

The Arts Council utilizes a set of guiding documents, including the [Bylaws](#), [the Comprehensive Arts and Culture Plan](#), the [City Arts and Culture Workplan](#), and the [Art in Public Places 6 -Year Plan](#) to inform how they

execute their responsibilities. These documents serve as the foundation for Council operations and decision-making. Periodic review ensures that all members are familiar with these documents and that the Council continues to function effectively in alignment with City goals, policies, and the Open Public Meetings Act.

[Bylaws](#) – The Arts Council Bylaws were restructured in collaboration with the City Clerk to align with other City boards and commissions. This document, adopted in January of 2024, defines how the Arts Council is governed and how it carries out its work.

[Comprehensive Arts and Culture Plan](#) – Developed in 2016 through significant community input and extensive collaboration between staff and the Arts Council, this document provides a long-term framework to support, develop, and integrate arts and culture into the community

[City Arts and Culture Priorities and Work Plan](#) – Adopted by the City Council as part of each biennial budget, this document establishes the two-year priorities set by the Arts Council. Staff then develop work plan items, based on available resources, to address the Arts and Culture priorities through actionable steps.

[Art in Public Places 6-Year Plan](#) – This living document is updated annually and outlines the City's strategy for commissioning, acquiring, and maintaining public art over a six-year period. Items from the 6-Year plan are submitted to the City Council as recommendations by the Arts Council for funding through the 1% for Public Arts Fund.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

The January meeting will be conducted in a workshop format. Recreation Division staff, with support from the City Clerk, will provide an overview of key guiding documents to strengthen the Arts Council's understanding and support the effective execution of its duties.

The workshop will also address compliance and best practices for public communications; review operational procedures, expectations, and protocols; discuss communication and attendance at events and activities; explore ways Council members can be better involved and engaged with the community and with one another; and provide an opportunity for members to ask clarifying questions.

NEXT STEPS

Staff encourage Arts Council members to review and maintain knowledge of these documents to be utilized as tools to most efficiently and effectively execute their duties as Arts Council Members.

Staff will provide periodic updates and highlight opportunities for revisions and updates to the documents as appropriate or as recommended by the Arts Council in alignment with the biennial Arts and Culture Priorities and Work Plan.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Receive Report.



ARTS COUNCIL CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

AC 26-02
January 21, 2026
Regular Business

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AC 26-02: MICEC Gallery Viewing & Reception	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	View the Indoor Gallery in the MICEC- engage with community members.	<input type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Recommendation

STAFF:	Katie Herzog, Recreation Supervisor
EXHIBITS:	1. n/a

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As part of the January meeting, at approximately 6:30pm, Arts Council members will visit the Mercer Island Community & Event Center (MICEC) indoor art gallery to view the current exhibition and participate in the public gallery reception. This visit provides an opportunity for Council members to engage with the City's public exhibition space, observe current gallery operations, and connect with community members attending the reception. The full extent of this agenda item will be open to the public.

BACKGROUND

The Mercer Island Community & Event Center's indoor art gallery is managed by the City of Mercer Island as a public exhibition space intended to enhance public access to the arts and enrich the Community Center environment.

The city partners with the Mercer Island Visual Arts League (MIVAL) to coordinate six exhibitions each year. This partnership complements the City's management of the gallery while strengthening connections to the local arts community. MIVAL schedules the exhibitions and is responsible for artwork installation and de-installation, artist communication, and gallery and reception marketing.

The Community Center gallery is currently featuring a collection of artwork and Island photography owned by the City of Mercer Island. The exhibition highlights work from the City's collection and is on display through February 27, 2026.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

At approximately 6:30pm, as part of the Arts Council meeting, members will tour the gallery exhibition and attend the reception with light refreshments. This agenda item is informational and provides an opportunity for Council members to engage with the exhibition and community and ask staff any questions they may have about the Gallery.

The full extent of this agenda item will be open to the public, and engagement with Arts Council members is appropriate and encouraged.

NEXT STEPS

N/A

RECOMMENDED ACTION

View the Indoor Gallery in the MICEC- engage with community members.