CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Arts Commission

6:30 PM
May 13, 2024

MINUTES

COMMISSION AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Commissioners:
Bridget Agabra
Rachel Brannon
Chris Craven
Tina Velazquez Hays
Treasure Hinds
Kimberly Kapustein
Tracie Mahadeo
Eric Morgret
Caroline Thienes
Albert Wang
Rachel Wright

Administration/Staff:
Amy Dukes, Cultural Arts Manager
Tina Eggers, Chief of Staff

Guests:
Victor Bello, Sister Cities Commissioner
Corby Casler, DIA
Dani Franich, Village Theatre
Leslie Moore Pflug, Creative District

CALL TO ORDER

MAHADEO called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

CRAVEN moved to approve the minutes of April 15, 2024. KAPUSTEIN seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Corby Casler gave arts and culture program updates from DIA.

CHAIR REPORT

MAHADEO welcomed new arts commissioners – Rachel Brannon and Caroline Thienes to the commission.
WRIGHT reported on community and economic vitality commission support for partnering with ISD on use of the high school performing arts center.

STAFF REPORT

DUKES reported on the site visit sign up process for 2024. She also gave information about the Chalk Art Festival scheduled for 7/23/24 and Wooden O Shakespeare scheduled for 7/25/24.

AGENDA ITEMS

A **Welcome New Arts Commissioners**
All arts commissioners introduced themselves and welcomed new commissioners.

B **Visiting Moroccan Artists Funding Request (A)**
Tina Eggers, City of Issaquah Chief of Staff and liaison to the Sister Cities Commission gave a presentation requesting funding to bring two Moroccan artists to Issaquah during Salmon Days in October. Artists would share their artmaking with the community during Salmon Days and also provide workshops for ISD students during school hours. Commissioners expressed interest in establishing the artist visits as an International Artists in Residence Program. WRIGHT moved to recommend $8,500 to support the Moroccan artist residency in October 2024. CRAVEN seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

C **Arts in the Schools Grant Review and Recommendations (A)**
Arts Commissioners reviewed three applications for funding: Clark Elementary ($2,500 for multi-media art projects), Cougar Mountain Middle School ($2,500 for a textile arts program), Issaquah Valley Elementary ($2,500 for art materials for the student art program). HINDS moved to recommend $2,500 in support for each of the three arts grant applications. THIENES seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

D **Issaquah Creative District Update (I)**
Leslie Moore Pflug, Creative District Program Consultant, gave a presentation to update arts commissioners on the Creative District program. In 2024, the program is focusing on developing a mural program, and creative use of spaces for arts as well as artist pop ups. Issaquah will seek recertification in 2025, and Moore Pflug briefly outlined that process.

E **Arts Commission Chair and Vice Chair Elections (A)**
Dukes gave an overview of the roles of the chair and vice chair and opened the floor for nominations. Commissioners discussed their interest and availability and also recommended co-chairs versus chair and vice chair roles. CRAVEN nominated MOHADEO and WRIGHT to serve as arts commission co-chairs for 2024-25. HINDS seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Craven invited commissioners to attend the June 5 artist networking pop in and workshop at Pickering Barn, presented by Issaquah Arts and the City of Issaquah Economic Development Program.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53pm.