

9-9-24 Arts Commission Minutes

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Arts Commission**

6:30 PM
September 9, 2024

MINUTES

COMMISSION AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Commissioners:

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

Administration/Staff:

Amy Dukes, Cultural Arts Manager

Guests:

Corby Casler, DIA
Dani Franich, Village Theatre

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

WRIGHT moved to approve the minutes of August 12, 2024. HAYS seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Corby Casler gave arts and culture program updates from DIA and thanked the arts commission for its grant support.

CHAIR REPORT

WRIGHT reported on the Issaquah School District potentially opening up rental space of its performing arts centers. She also gave information on Jakob Two Tree's birthday celebration on September 6 which was well attended and included a huge birthday card signing, free cupcakes as well as a lantern making demo and take home DIY kit by Issaquah Arts.

STAFF REPORT

DUKES provided information about the city's Strategic Plan Update process and HAYS and THIENES volunteered to attend the session on September 19 for board and commission members. She reported about Culture Fest/Welcoming Week which was well attended and

9-9-24 Arts Commission Minutes

featured wonderful arts performances. She also notified arts commissioners that the November 11 meeting would need to be rescheduled due to Veteran's Day observances.

AGENDA ITEMS**A Visiting Moroccan Artists (I)**

Arts Commission reviewed information about the two Moroccan artists scheduled to visit Issaquah the first week of October. A reception for the artists will be held at the Providence Point Town Hall on Wednesday, October 2. Sister Cities Commission will be sharing a volunteer sign up sheet so that arts commissioners may help out with school visits and attend the reception and dinners that are being planned.

B Issaquah Arts Grant Program: 2025 Application Planning Discussion (Part Two) (D)

Arts Commissioners continued discussions about the arts grant application process and budgeting in 2024. Some suggested items to focus on for the 2025 arts grant guidelines and application process are:
performance/program space as an alternative/compliment to funding; clarifying guidelines about the number of applications an organization can submit; providing better guidance on budget development/budget notes; need for explanation of how the project ties to the applicant's mission; clarity about what the arts program prioritizes for support (e.g. artist fees, art materials and supplies); more clarity about who can apply for arts partnerships support (arts versus heritage organizations); exploration of a "nimble fund" to help address off-cycle requests; use of final reports from previous years in evaluation of applications from the same organizations. Commissioners discussed the need to survey arts applicants before the next meeting to understand their funding priorities and other needs. The grant application is slated to be released in mid-October, after the next arts commission meeting.

C Arts Site Visit Reports (I) Arts commissioners reported on site visits made to funded programs including the Open Studio Tour and the mini gallery opening at So There.**OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Issaquah Arts invited commissioners to attend the Labrynth of Lanterns Harvest Moon event on September 17 and the Autumnal Equinox event on September 22.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33pm.