

5-19-25 Arts Commission Minutes

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Arts Commission**

6:30 PM
May 19, 2025

MINUTES

COMMISSION AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Commissioners:

Rachel Brannon
John Conlon
Chris Craven (excused)
Tina Velazquez Hays
Treasure Hinds
Kimberly Kapustein
Tracie Mahadeo
Tom McDonald
Caroline Thienes
Albert Wang
Rachel Wright

Administration/Staff:

Amy Dukes, Cultural Arts Manager

Guests:

Christina Bruning, Board President, DIA
Marisol Visser, City of Issaquah

CALL TO ORDER

WRIGHT called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

WANG moved to approve the minutes of March 10 and April 28, 2025. HAYS seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Christina Bruning gave updates on DIA programming downtown.

CHAIR REPORT

Rachel Wright gave creative district updates as well as noted that Burgermaster submitted the Triple X Rootbeer sign for landmark designation through the Development Commission. Rachel has also been helping local arts groups conduct

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tours of the Issaquah High School performing arts center and there is general excitement about its potential use for community performances.

STAFF REPORT

Amy Dukes reminded new members about the board and commission orientation at Pickering Barn, May 20 at 5:30pm. She also shared information about the upcoming YAAS art exhibit – Friendship is the Heartbeat of Global Peace - at Issaquah KCLS library. The exhibit of student artwork will be shown May 31 – June 16 in partnership with the Sister Cities Commission.

WELCOME NEW ARTS COMMISSIONERS

Commissioners introduced themselves and welcomed two new members – John Conlon and Tom McDonald.

AGENDA ITEMS**A Culture Fest Updates (I)**

Marisol Visser gave a presentation about Culture Fest 2025 and asked for commissioners input on arts activities for the event. Commissioners shared ideas for community arts engagement projects. Tina Hays offered to volunteer for the community arts activity.

B Creative District Recertification Update (I), (D)

Amy Dukes shared an updated presentation on the Creative District recertification process. The Issaquah Creative District was officially recertified earlier in May. She shared the new 5-year workplan with the commission, including goals under placemaking, cultural tourism, creative community and workforce development and policy development. ArtsWA will be making a site visit to Issaquah's creative district on May 30.

C Arts Commission Chair and Vice Chair Elections (A)

Arts Commissioners discussed a desire to continue with two co-chairs versus a chair and vice chair. WRIGHT nominated Tina Hays as an arts commission co-chair for a 2025-26 term. WANG seconded. Motion passed unanimously. CONLON nominated Rachel Wright as co-chair. HAYS seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

none

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.