

9-8-25 Arts Commission Minutes

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Arts Commission**

6:30 PM
September 8, 2025

MINUTES

COMMISSION AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Commissioners:

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

Administration/Staff:

Amy Dukes, Cultural Arts Manager

Guests:

Ali Marcus, Art Commons
Christina Bruning, DIA

CALL TO ORDER

HAYS called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

HAYS moved to approve the minutes of June 9, 2025. CRAVEN seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ali Marcus provided information on the upcoming Art Commons Studio Tour on September 20. She also gave information about the Creative Summit series starting in November.

Christina Bruning gave updates on DIA programming downtown.

CHAIR REPORT

Tina Hays welcomed youth representative Praya Athi to the arts commission. Arts Commissioners and Praya introduced themselves.

Tina and Chris Craven provided an overview of the Issaquah Film Festival that took place in August. Hosting the festival in the Longman Performing Arts Center enabled the audience capacity to increase five-fold. Partnership with Cascade PBS really enhanced the festival this year. Tina also provided information about a potential collaborative project with the Sister Cities Commission and the City's sustainability program to bring a community solar/art project to Issaquah and Chefchaoeun Morrocco.

STAFF REPORT

Amy Dukes invited all commissioners to attend the Pedestrian Park/Senior Center Plaza ribbon cutting event on September 15 at 5pm. Artist June Sekiguchi will be making remarks about her artwork in the plazas.

AGENDA ITEMS**A Bloomberg Connects – Public Art App (I)**

Amy Dukes shared information about the Bloomberg Connects project. Over the course of the next 4 months, the City will be setting up a new app experience for the Issaquah public art collection. Bloomberg Connects is a very robust app and is also free to use and administer. Updates as the project progresses will be shared with the commission. Amy invited any commissioners who would like to participate in the Bloomberg Connects project to contact her.

B 2026 Arts Grant Program Planning (D)

Commissioners discussed possible updates to the 2026 Arts Grant Application. Commissioners decided to keep the 2026 grant criteria and guidelines the same as 2025, including allowing applicants to submit up to three applications for separate projects.

The online platform for submission is transitioning to CAFÉ this year. This should improve the experience for applicants as well as commissioners reviewing applications.

C Public Art Updates (I)

Amy Dukes provided an overview of recent/ongoing public art projects including June Sekiguchi's artwork at Pedestrian Park and Senior Center Plaza which will be unveiled at a ribbon cutting on September 15; the Jake Wagoner asphalt mural at Three Trails Crossing to be installed late September and utility box art wraps to be installed in October.

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OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38pm.