

11-10-25 Arts Commission Minutes

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Arts Commission**

6:30 PM

November 10, 2025

MINUTES

COMMISSION AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Commissioners:

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

Administration/Staff:

Amy Dukes, Cultural Arts Manager

Guests:

Christina Bruning, DIA

CALL TO ORDER

HAYS called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

CRAVEN moved to approve the minutes of October 13, 2025, with the correction of public commenter Corby Casler’s name spelling corrected. HAYS seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Christina Bruning gave updates on DIA’s arts and culture programming and thanked the Commission for its support.

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CHAIR REPORT

Tina Hays informed the commission that Co-Chair Rachel Wright would be stepping down from her role as Co-Chair, effective immediately, but would continue on as a commissioner for the remainder of her term which ends in May 2026. Hays read a statement from Wright about her reasons for stepping down from her arts commission leadership position. Wright will continue to serve on the City's Lodging Tax Committee.

Hays also spoke about the responsibility of reviewing applications for the arts grant program and acknowledged the challenges of the granting budget but also the exciting opportunities of funding unique community cultural programs that would have a meaningful impact.

STAFF REPORT

Amy Dukes reported on the relocation of Craig Breitbart's sculpture "River Run" to Salmon Run Park. She also announced a new artist RFQ for a welcoming art piece for the City's Miyawaki Forest project. Additionally, she let commissioners know that the Creative District Capital Grant application was submitted for a lighting plan and installation along Rainier Trail.

AGENDA ITEMS

- A **2025-26 Municipal Art Fund Budget Review (I)**
Amy Dukes shared a year to date budget for 2025 and adopted budget for 2026 for the Municipal Art Fund. While admission tax revenues are still well below pre-pandemic levels, they are steady and more predictable than in recent years.
- B **2026 Arts Grants Initial Application Review (D)**
Commissioners discussed the overall granting process in context with the 39 applications received and the \$125,000 available for funding. Commissioners will continue to review grants at their December 8 and January 12 meetings, making the final funding recommendations at the January meeting. Recommendations will then be forwarded to City Council for approval in January or early February.
- C **Arts Commission Vice Chair Election (A)**
Commissioners discussed the desire to elect a Vice Chair given Rachel Wright's departure as Co-Chair. Chris Craven self-nominated for the Vice Chair position. Tracie Mahadeo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.