

12-8-25 Arts Commission Minutes

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Arts Commission**

6:30 PM

December 8, 2025

MINUTES

COMMISSION AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Commissioners:

Rachel Brannon (excused)
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:

Corby Casler, DIA
Dorothy Hay, Issaquah Singers
Virginia Knight, Issaquah Singers
Ali Marcus, Happy Time/Art Commons
Linsey Pinkston, Highlands Council
Alicia Spinner, The Circle
Sarah Tribble, Art Commons/FLSSP

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

CRAVEN moved to approve the minutes of November 10, 2025. HAYS seconded.
Minutes were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dorothy Hay thanked the arts commission for its previous support and let commissioners know that Issaquah Singers will be celebrating their 50th anniversary in 2026.

Alicia Spinner thanked the arts commission for its previous support and spoke about the success of the Day of the Dead celebration as well as the challenges of the organization’s work in the current climate.

Corby Casler gave updates on upcoming DIA programming, including the Yuletide celebration.

Sarah Tribble reported about Art Commons’ Creative Summit Program in partnership with KCLS, North Bend Art and Industry and Friends of Lake Sammamish State Park.

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Ali Marcus reported on Happy Time Studios 2025 accomplishments, reaching over 200 students, and expanding classes to the Issaquah Community Center.

CHAIR REPORT

Chris Craven reported out about the success of Issaquah Dance Theatre's Nutcracker at the Longman Performing Arts Center at Issaquah High School. IDT sold approximately 2,800 tickets for 6 shows over the weekend, which was more than at their previous runs at Meydenbauer.

STAFF REPORT

Amy Dukes asked arts commissioners to state their conflicts of interest with the 2026 arts grant applications. Commissioners with conflicts do not score the applications for which they have conflicts or participate in the related discussion. Commissioners noted the following conflicts: Chris Craven – Issaquah Dance Theatre and Issaquah Arts; Tina Hays – Art Commons; Kimberly Kapustein – Highlands Council, Issaquah Dance Theatre; Albert Wang – Highlands Council.

AGENDA ITEMS**A 2026 Arts Grants Application Review (D)**

Commissioners discussed the overall granting process in context with the 39 applications received and the \$125,000 available for funding. Commissioners continued review of grant applications from their November 10 meeting. Commissioners will upload all application scores into the Café platform by January 5, 2026. Final funding recommendations will be discussed at the January 12 meeting. Recommendations will then be forwarded to City Council for approval in January or early February.

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.