

1-12-26 Arts Commission Minutes

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH  
Arts Commission**

6:30 PM

January 12, 2026

**MINUTES**

**COMMISSION AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT**

*Commissioners:*

Rachel Brannon

John Conlon

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

Lindsey Pinkston, Highlands Council

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

CRAVEN moved to approve the minutes of December 8, 2025. HAYS seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Corby Casler gave updates on upcoming DIA programming, and shared information about the upcoming community survey.

**CHAIR REPORT**

Tina Hays thanked arts commissioners for their continued thoughtful review of the 2026 arts grant applications and stated the purpose of the meeting to finalize the recommendations to forward to council committee later in the month.

**STAFF REPORT**

Amy Dukes shared information about the upcoming city board and commission recruitment process. Hays, Kapustein, McDonald, Thienes and Wright all have terms that will expire in May 2026. Those commissioners wishing to reapply to the arts commission need to do so by February 15. Interviews are scheduled for March 12 between 5-8p. More information will be shared closer to that date. The April 13 arts commission meeting conflicts with ISD spring break. Clerks' office has suggested moving or cancelling the meeting. Commissioners agreed to cancel the April 13 meeting.

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

Commissioners continued review of grant applications from their December 8 meeting and finalized recommendations as follows:

<b>2026 Arts Grant Applicants</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Requested Amount</b>	<b>2026 Grant Recommendation</b>	
Village Theatre	Village Theatre 2026 Operations and Programs	\$25,000	\$	15,000
Literary Nights	Literary Nights 2026 Operations and Programs	\$10,000	\$	7,500
Culture Tug	Culture Tug 2026 Operations and Programs	\$25,000	\$	5,000
Issaquah History Museums	IHM 2026 Operations and Programs	\$6,500	\$	5,000
Master Chorus Eastside	MCE 2026 Operations and Programs	\$6,200	\$	5,000
Art Commons Downtown Issaquah Association	2026 Issaquah Open Studio Tour	\$5,000	\$	5,000
Association Downtown Issaquah Association	Gas Station Blues	\$5,000	\$	5,000
Friends of Issaquah Salmon Hatchery	Confluence Music Festival Salmon on Sunset Celebration	\$5,000	\$	5,000
Friends of Lake Sammamish State Park	FLSSP Art in Community Project (Arts Ed)	\$5,000	\$	5,000
Highlands Council	Art Gallery at Blakely Hall	\$5,000	\$	5,000

## 1-12-26 Arts Commission Minutes

Influence the Choice	Art with Influence Student Contest	\$5,000	\$	5,000
Issaquah Arts	Issaquah Film Festival 2026	\$5,000	\$	5,000
Issaquah Cultural Circle	Inclusive Circle	\$5,000	\$	5,000
Issaquah Cultural Circle	Day of the Dead Celebration/Celebración del Día de los Muertos	\$5,000	\$	5,000
Issaquah Dance Theater Ensemble	2026 Nutcracker	\$5,000	\$	5,000
Issaquah Philharmonic Orchestra	Issaquah Philharmonic Orchestra (IPO) operating support	\$5,000	\$	5,000
Issaquah Sister City Commission	Sister Cities Visiting Artists Program	\$5,000	\$	5,000
The Garage, a Teen Cafe	Arts Programming at the Garage	\$5,000	\$	5,000
Union Arts Center (formerly known as Seattle Shakespeare Company)	Wooden O, Free Shakespeare in the Park: Macbeth	\$5,000	\$	5,000
Downtown Issaquah Association	Music in the Streets	\$5,000	\$	2,500
Highlands Council	Summer Performance Art Free Concert for the Community, Family and Friends	\$2,500	\$	2,500
Issaquah Singers	Free Choir Concerts at Senior Living Communities in Issaquah and at the Issaquah Valley Senior Center	\$2,500	\$	2,500
Issaquah Singers	2026 Beyond the Frame (Blakely Hall Youth Arts Showcase)	in-kind rental		in-kind rental
Issaquah Youth Fair Arts Team		\$2,500	\$	2,500
Sadhana	Nritya lab 3.0 2026	\$5,000	\$	2,500
Blayne Fox	Landmarks & Legacies: Issaquah; A Historical Coloring Book	\$5,000	\$	-
Christy Caravaglio	Community Embroidered Fence	\$5,000	\$	-
Friends of Issaquah Salmon Hatchery	Heron Sculpture	\$5,000	\$	-
Friends of Lake Sammamish State Park	FLSSP Art in Community Project (Public Art)	\$5,000	\$	-
Issaquah Cultural Circle	Folklorico Dance Classes	\$5,000	\$	-

1-12-26 Arts Commission Minutes

Lake Washington Symphony Orchestra	Salmon on Sunset Flash Orchestra	\$5,000	\$	-
LockerGnome / MakerDeck	MakerDeck IRL 2026 Artist resection along	\$5,000	\$	-
Marzy Rahrovi	Nowruz	\$5,000	\$	-
Ryan Daniel Dobson	The Spoon Truck Paint Your Feelings –	\$5,000	\$	-
Sonali Bhasin	Healing Art Workshops	\$5,000	\$	-
Spandana Classical Arts	Hari Hara Samarpanam - The Triad Divine	\$4,050	\$	-
Up Up Up Inc.	Crane Truck Circus	\$2,500	\$	-
		<b>\$221,750</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>125,000</b>

**B 2026 Arts Grant Recommendations (A)**  
 Mahadeo motioned to approve the 2026 arts grant recommendations totaling \$125,000. Kapustein seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.