

3-9-26 Arts Commission Minutes

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH  
Arts Commission**

6:30 PM

March 9, 2026

**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:*

Laurelle Graves, PTSA Council

Mick Holsbeke, Culture Tug

**CALL TO ORDER**

HAYS called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

HAYS introduced the minutes, which were included in the agenda materials. The minutes were approved as presented by unanimous consent.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**CHAIR REPORT**

Tina Hays reminded the commission that the April meeting has been cancelled and the next meeting will be May 11. New arts commissioners will be joining at that time. She thanked everyone who is rotating off the commission for their service and expressed appreciation for the meaningful work they had shared.

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## STAFF REPORT

Amy Dukes presented appreciation gifts to the commissioners rotating off the commission. She also gave an update on the July 4<sup>th</sup> mosaic project which will have two community artmaking opportunities – one at the May 9 Artwalk and one during a Farmers Market, date tbd.

## AGENDA ITEMS

### A **2026 Arts Commission Workplan (D), (A)**

Arts Commissioners reviewed the workplan for 2026 which includes arts granting, public art projects, policy work and partnership with the Sister Cities Commission on visiting artist(s). HAYS moved to approve the 2026 Issaquah Arts Commission Workplan as presented. CRAVEN seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### B **Art in the Schools Granting Program Discussion (D)**

HAYS gave an overview of the commission's Art in the Schools Granting Program which is currently on hiatus. In its most recent form, the program supported arts projects in any medium at ISD schools located within the Issaquah city limits with \$2,500 grants. Challenges of the program include staff and volunteer capacity and turnover as well as funding timing, among other issues. The commission discussed the possibility of a more targeted grant program with larger grants to title I schools or making a large grant to a service organization like the PTSA Council of Issaquah School Foundation for better distribution of the funding and a larger impact. Laurelle Graves from the PTSA Council board participated in the discussion to give an idea of how the PTSA Council can support the arts commission in its desire to provide impactful funding to support arts education in schools with significant need. HAYS made a motion to explore a pilot program with the PTSA council for arts education funding in the 2026-27 school year. KAPUSTEIN seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The commission will continue the discussion at the May meeting to develop criteria for the art in the schools pilot program with the PTSA Council.

### C **2026 Aire Craft Festival (I)**

Mick Holsbeke, Founder of Culture Tug, gave a presentation about the inaugural Aire Craft paragliding and street arts festival to take place in August. Culture Tug is building a legacy, annual community event that will be unique to Issaquah and bolster cultural tourism.

## OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioners shared information about arts and cultural events they had recently attended in Issaquah.

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28pm.