

5-11-26 Arts Commission Minutes

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Arts Commission**

6:30 PM

May 11, 2026

MINUTES

COMMISSION AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Commissioners:

Rachel Brannon

John Conlon (excused)

Chris Craven (excused)

Tina Eggers

Randi Evans

Treasure Hinds

Tracie Mahadeo

Tom McDonald

Ojasvi Sinha

Caroline Thienes

Albert Wang

Praya Athi, Youth Rep (excused)

Administration/Staff:

Amy Dukes, Cultural Arts Manager

Guests:

Serena Narisawa, The Garage Teen Café

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Serena Narisawa, The Garage Teen Café Program Manager shared information about the Garage's upcoming Art Gallery Night taking place on May 29 from 6 to 8pm. She distributed a flyer for the event and extended an invite to the arts commission.

CHAIR REPORT

Tracie Mahadeo explained that she was filling in the chair role for the meeting as previous chair, Tina Hays, rotated off the arts commission at the end of her term and vice chair Chris Craven is travelling out of the country this month. She welcomed new arts commissioners Tina Eggers, Randi Evans and Ojasvi Sinha. All commissioners introduced themselves.

STAFF REPORT

Amy Dukes gave updates about the community mosaic project to celebrate America's 250th. The mosaic making, led by artist Cheryl Smith, took place during the May 9 Artwalk and is also scheduled for the May 23rd farmers' market. She also gave updates on the Creative District's ArtUp! Issaquah program. Through the program, nine artists/makers/creatives are meeting for an eight-week professional development series, led by Happy Time Studio.

AGENDA ITEMS**A Potential Park Bond Renewal (I)**

Parks and Community Services Director Jeff Watling shared a presentation about the possible park bond renewal that is being considered for the November ballot. Watling shared a list of possible projects which includes the restoration of the Ek House in Confluence Park, turfing of 3 elementary school fields, upgrades to trail connections, and new park amenities such as pickleball courts, a dog park and inclusive playground. Many of the proposed projects could include meaningful public art elements.

B Art in the Schools Granting Program Discussion (D)

Commissioners continued their discussion about making changes to the Art in the Schools grant program and partnering with the PTSA Council to administer the grants to schools in need of bolstering their arts curriculum and offerings to students. Commissioners discussed the desire to focus the program on schools with limited resources and in-city limit schools. Commissioners felt the grants should be open to all art mediums and wanted to have flexibility on amount of each grant and number of grants made per year. Priority would be on need and outcome.

C Chair and Vice Chair Elections (A)

Amy Dukes reviewed the staff memo regarding chair and vice chair elections for the arts commission. Treasure Hinds read a statement from Vice Chair Chris Craven. Tina Eggers nominated Chris Craven for Chair and Tom McDonald for Vice Chair of the Arts Commission for May 2026- April 2027. Treasure Hinds seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Treasure Hinds announced that she will be on a 6-month sabbatical, travelling and will miss arts commission meetings during her time away. Tina Eggers announced that she will be out of town for the July arts commission meeting. She also gave details about recent connections with Issaquah's sister city in Sundal Norway.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28pm.