



Meeting Minutes

Arts Commission

City Hall
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Olympia, WA 98501

Contact: Stephanie
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Thursday, May 14, 2026

6:00 PM

Room 112

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Ransom called the meeting to order at 6pm.

1.A ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Commissioner Sergio Garcia, Commissioner Elizabeth Lord, Commissioner Mara Orenstein, Vice Chair Katherine Ransom, Commissioner Andrew Repcik, Commissioner Jay Spivak and Commissioner Lauren Thompson

Absent: 2 - Chair Kathryn Dorgan and Commissioner Coral Garey

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice Chair Ransom asked to amend the agenda to include an introduction to Hummingbird Studio by Amy Briggs. Hearing no additional changes, the agenda was approved as amended.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[26-0354](#) Approval of April 9, 2026 Arts Commission Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [4.9.26 OAC Minutes](#)

Vice-Chair Ransom asked if there were changes to the minutes. Hearing none, the minutes were approved.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioners shared information about past and upcoming arts events.

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

[26-0353](#) Arts Walk Recap

Attachments: [Arts Walk website](#)

Arts Program Specialist Jessica Strauss Tomy shared information about Arts Walk attendance and an overview of information collected to date from Arts Market vendors. She noted that the Luminary route was new this spring as was the Arts Market on Percival Landing. She noted the official Arts Walk survey would be coming out soon.

Commissioner Garcia noted a lack of participation by BIPOC artists, Jessica will work with him to find ways to get the word out to a wider audience. In addition to the planned food trucks for the fall event, Commissioner Thompson wondered about encouraging local restaurants to offer grab and go items. Ms. Johnson will look into it.

Information only. No action requested.**26-0352** Review of Traffic Box Wrap image proposals

Ms. Johnson shared the 100 images out of 111 submissions that met the formatting criteria for the Traffic Box Wrap project. She reached out to artists to offer assistance and had some success in helping artists learn how to meet the requirements. The next step is the public vote in June. Commissioners noted they liked the RankedVote platform used for the Percival Plinth Project. Ms. Johnson noted that she was not able to confirm that all 100 applications submitted had submitted a 300dpi high-res image, and that her plan was to provide 24 hours for the top 10 applicants to provide, and if not, she would move to the next name on the list. In July, the top 10 images come to the Arts Commission for review and recommendation. Council approval is scheduled for July 28.

Commissioner Garcia moved to approved the images presented to public vote, seconded by Commissioner Thompson, the motion was approved.

ADDED DURING THE MEETING**26-0390** Introduction to Hummingbird Studio

Amy Briggs, Program Coordinator with Hummingbird Studio shared that their program is an open art studio providing 6 sessions a week, Tuesdays and Thursdays, hosting 50-60 clients a day for artists of all abilities, focusing on what we have in common rather than our differences.

She shared her excitement about Hummingbird Studio being an Anchor Partner for the Daley Arts Center, both utilizing the second floor south wing spaces for the art studio, but also the cafe in the basement level, offering coffee, ice cream and workforce development, with proceeds going to fund the art studio.

Commissioners asked question and engaged in discussion to learn more about the program.

7. REPORTS

Ms. Johnson shared that Grass Lake Nature Park had won a Washington Recreation and Parks Association award for trail systems in communities under 100k, and that project artist Abe Singer was in the audience for the awards. reported on the Artist in Residence program; the first workshop at Haven House included all 7 residents and two adult counselors. The location of the Mission Creek sculpture has been relocated after meeting with park stewards and interested park users. The Welcome Figure dedication is coming up June 4, the Hands On Childrens' Museum artwork will be cleaned next week and *Ring Dance* on Franklin Street has been removed for repair.

Vice-Chair Ransom spoke to her experience at the Chairs meeting to discuss and collect feedback on draft recommendations for Council on Advisory Bodies and enhancements to the City's Community Engagement.

8. OTHER TOPICS

Commissioner Orenstein offered that she knows of two local press groups, Severed Branches and Hyldr, and asked what the group knows about local book fairs. Commissioners shared what they knew.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:49pm.

Upcoming

Accommodations