



# Meeting Minutes

## Arts Commission

City Hall  
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Olympia, WA 98501

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**Thursday, May 14, 2015**

**6:00 PM**

**Room 112**

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### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jennings called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

#### 1.A ROLL CALL

**Present:** 7 - Chair Marygrace Jennings, Vice Chair Stacy Hicks, Commissioner Susan Aurand, Commissioner Britta Echte, Commissioner Diana Fairbanks, Commissioner Katie Nelson, and Commissioner Rick Perry

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Ron Hinton

[15-0457](#) Public Hearing - Music Out Loud Names

Ms. Johnson began by reviewing the Music Out Loud Project, and the visual and performing arts components. She explained the process used to solicit and determine names was modeled after the Park-naming process. She noted a packet of the nine nominations was included with the Commission agenda for the evening, and that following the public hearing, the Commission would deliberate on the three names to recommend to General Government Committee.

Chair Jennings opened the public hearing at 6:07 p.m.

Mr. Michael Olson spoke to his nomination of Bert Wilson. Mr. Wilson composed approximately 200 songs in his lifetime and had a profound influence on Olympia's jazz community and educated musicians around the world. He commanded a seven-octave range on the tenor sax and developed multi-phonetic chords on the instrument. Wheelchair-bound from polio, Mr. Wilson's students traveled to him in Olympia, and also engaged with local musicians. Mr. Olson considers Mr. Wilson to have been an amazing genius.

Mr. Joshua Grice expressed general support of the project and appreciated the Commission's interest in Olympia's vibrant music history.

Chair Jennings closed the public hearing at 6:20 p.m.

Commissioners thanked Mr. Olson and Mr. Grice for their participation and reviewed all nominations and selection criteria. Every member shared responses to the nominations. The group came to consensus on Steve Munger for mastery of diverse styles within his own music, Verne Eke as a pivotal figure in Olympia's music history,

and Bert Wilson for his significant contribution to music and the community. Chair Jennings added that Jan Stenz was also a strong nomination, and wished they had been able to add a fourth. Their recommendation will go to General Government Committee, along with the Call for Art for review.

**The report was approved and referred to the July 15, 2015 General Government Committee under file 15-0687.**

## 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

## 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[15-0459](#) Approval of April 9, 2015 Arts Commission Minutes

The minutes were approved as presented.

## 4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioners introduced themselves to Kathy Murray, who will be recommended by General Government to the Council to replace the position vacated by Commissioner James.

## 5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioners shared information on past and upcoming events.

## 6. BUSINESS ITEMS

[15-0464](#) Percival Plinth 2015 Sculpture Recommendation

Ms. Johnson shared the recommendation of the jury for the 2015 Plinth Project, composed of Commissioners Hinton, Fairbanks and Hicks. Commissioners shared appreciation for the work of the jury, and unanimously agreed to forward the recommendation to Council.

**The report was approved and referred to the City Council May 25, 2015 under File 15-0502.**

## 7. REPORTS

[15-0460](#) Commission Items

1.11 Commission Retreat/Work Session - Commissioners finalized plans to meet May 21.

1.12 City Action Plan - See notes under file 15-0463.

1.13 Park Plan - Jonathon Turlove will attend the Arts Commission meeting on June

- 11 to present all feedback received to date through the Park Plan process.
- 2.c Public Art Assessment - Commissioners returned Public Art Condition Report binders.
- 2.d Arts Day at the Capitol - No report.

**The report was received.**

[15-0463](#)          Action Plan Briefing and Discussion

Community Planning and Development Senior Planner Stacey Ray provided a brief overview of the Action Plan as a tool for Council, Staff and Advisory Committees and as a guide to the annual budgeting process. Ms. Ray asked for input on the Draft Action Plan, both as Arts Commissioners and as citizens. She asked that they share the word about the opportunity to respond to the plan and think about community partners/resources to carry out the actions in the plan. Ms. Ray noted the Action Items were drawn from the Imagine Olympia (Comprehensive Plan) process, and asked Commissioners to think about "what's missing" from the list that would help move the Comprehensive Plan forward. Chair Jennings noted the request would be a good topic for the upcoming retreat. Commissioners are asked to review the Action Plan in advance.

**The report was received.**

[15-0461](#)          Community Events & Outreach Committee Report

- 1.3 Music Out Loud - No report.
- 1.7 Artspace/Arts Center Support - No report.
- 1.9 Define Theater District - No report.
- 1.10 Music in the Neighborhoods - No report.
- 1.14 Downtown Strategy - No report.
- 2.a Arts Walk 50 & 51 - Commissioner Perry shared that the Community Events & Outreach reviewed Arts Walk evaluations to date, and took a look at the image for the fall cover. Commissioners shared highlights of the 50th Arts Walk and Ms. Johnson noted only six cars were towed from the Procession route, down from eight in 2014.
- 2.b Art Ambassador Program - No report.
- 2.3 Area Arts Promotion - No report.

**The report was received.**

[15-0462](#)          Art in Public Places Committee Report

- 1.1 2015 Municipal Art Plan (MAP) - Chair Jennings recapped the MAP presentation to General Government Committee and noted Councilmembers were supportive of all the proposed projects with the exception of the Artspace funds. She proposed postponing that item until 2016, and Commissioners agreed.
- 1.2 Traffic Box Wrap - Ms. Johnson reported she toured the boxes with Public Works staff and will have a map showing recipient boxes at the June Art in Public Places Committee meeting. She noted she had 14 application packets to date - most providing designs for both downtown and West Olympia.
- 1.4 Percival Plinth Project - No report.

1.5 Harrison/Black Lake Tree Guards - No report.

1.6 City Gateways - No report.

1.8 Guidelines for Temporary Display of Art at City Hall - Ms. Johnson will set a meeting with Commissioners Echtle and Fairbanks and Communications Manager Cathie Butler to get staff feedback on the project.

**The report was received.**

[15-0479](#) Staff Report

Ms. Johnson noted a general orientation for Advisory Board and Commission members will be held in early June, and she will provide a date as soon as she receives one. Regarding Councilmember Selby's concern with the Dragon Boat Races and Arts Walk sharing the same date, Ms. Johnson reported that, on behalf of the City Council, the Mayor has made contact with St. Martin's University (host of the races).

**The report was received.**

**8. OTHER TOPICS - None**

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.