

ARTS COMMISSION - 2026/27 Work Plan

During 2026/27, the Arts Commission will hold full meetings on the second Thursday of each month. In addition to full committee meetings, project-specific subcommittees may meet at other times.

Section 1 - 2026/27 Policy and Program Recommendations to City Council

Consistent with past practice, committee recommendations are forwarded to the Community Livability and Public Safety Committee and/or full Council as part of the staff report for relevant Council agenda items, as an attached memo authored by the Chair or committee and/or presentation by the Chair at a Council meeting. Staff estimates that there is sufficient professional and administrative staff time to accomplish the policy recommendation staff support to the committee in 2026/27.

Professional staff liaison for the Arts Commission is Stephanie Johnson.

Estimated Percent of Overall Committee Effort: 52%

Title Description	Committee Lead & Commitment	Staff Commitment	Schedule	Budget Implications
	<i>Committee hours, not individuals.</i>	<i>Hours reflect working with the committee, not total project staff time.</i>	<i>Estimated completion.</i>	
<p>1.1 2026 Municipal Art Plan to City Council Description: As part of the 2026 Work Plan process, recommend plan for 2026 \$1 per capita funds and any potential capital projects where 1% for Art funds might apply. Deliverable: Recommend 2026 Municipal Art Plan to City Council, along with 2026 Work Plan.</p>	2 hours	2 hours	March	Municipal Art Fund

<p>1.2 Commission Retreat/Work Session Description: Spring retreat to welcome new members, and fall retreat for work plan review and development. Deliverable: Complete the retreats</p>	4 hours	4 hours	June/October	None
<p>1.3 Public Art Projects Individual and ongoing projects seeking Council approval as described more fully in the Municipal Art Plan, including (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percival Plinth Project • Olympia Art Crossings • Murals in Parks Pilot • Traffic Box Wraps • Squaxin Island Tribal Representation • Poet Laureate • Artist in Residence Program • Grass Lake Nature Park • Kaiser Woods Park • Daley Arts Center Public Art • Gifts of Art <p>Deliverable: Engage the community through the arts around transformative topics. Strive to address City issues such as equity and climate engagement through the arts and/or through the public art process.</p>	6 hours	6 hours	Ongoing	See Municipal Art Plan

Section 2 - 2026/27 Arts Program Support

Arts Commission members provide valuable volunteer assistance to accomplish the City’s annual arts program. Also, as programs are implemented and administrative procedures developed, staff often consults with Commissioners for their input and perspective. Input from the Commission is considered by staff in implementing the program or policy.

Unless noted under “Budget Implications,” there is sufficient staff time/resource available in 2026/27 to accomplish or advance these items.

Estimated Percent of Overall Committee Effort: 26%

<i>Title Description</i>	Committee Lead and Commitment	Staff Commitment	Schedule	Budget Implications
	<i>Committee hours, not individuals.</i>	<i>Hours reflect working with the committee, not total project staff time.</i>	<i>Estimated completion.</i>	
2.1 Arts Walk Spring and Fall 2026 Description: Provide ongoing support for Arts Walk event. Support efforts to include arts and artists in the downtown strategy area. Making spaces for art available to all people by encouraging development of community relationships to make space accessible to the creative community. Deliverable: Provide feedback and assistance as required. Approve Arts Walk cover artist recommendations.	2 hours	2 hours	April and October	General Fund and Municipal Art Fund - \$2000

<p>2.2 Music Out Loud Description: Honoring past musicians and celebrating today's performing artists, this project pairs sidewalk mosaics in downtown Olympia with performances in association with LoveOly. Deliverable: Summer 2026 performances.</p>	1 hour	1 hour	TBD	Municipal Art Fund - \$3,000
<p>2.3 Park Development Public Art Support Description: For identified large design/build projects when a public artist is included in the design team, provide feedback on developing public art components for projects such as Yelm Highway Community Park, West Bay Park, Rebecca Howard Park and Percival Landing. Per the Municipal Art Plan, funds stay in the project budgets, and the public art components move along with the entire development process, including community meetings and Council approval. Deliverable: Provide feedback and assistance as required.</p>	3 hours	3 hours	Ongoing	1% for the Arts project funding

Section 3 - 2026/27 ARCH Support

The Olympia Arts Commission works to support the City's efforts to strengthen the Arts, Cultures and Heritage (ARCH) components of our community.

Unless noted under "Budget Implications," there is sufficient staff time/resource available in 2026/27 to accomplish or advance these items.

Estimated Percent of Overall Committee Effort: 22%

Title Description	Committee Lead and Commitment	Staff Commitment	Schedule	Budget Implications
	<i>Committee hours, not individuals.</i>	<i>Hours reflect working with the committee, not total project staff time.</i>	<i>Estimated completion.</i>	
3.1 ARCH Overview and Update Description: Update on general staff Arts, Cultures & Heritage efforts. Update on Creative District and Indie Music History project efforts. Deliverable: Provide greater understanding of Arts, Cultures & Heritage support across the City and follow projects as they move into the community.	2+ hours	2+ hours	Ongoing	None
3.2 Daley Arts Center Description: Support City in development of the Daley Arts Center. Deliverable: Provide feedback and assistance as requested.	1 hours	1 hours	Ongoing	None

<p>3.4 Inspire Olympia Description: Support public funding that sustains a healthy, visible, welcoming, and inclusive nonprofit cultural and science sector, making creative cultural experiences accessible for everyone in Olympia. Deliverable: Provide feedback and assistance as requested.</p>	1 hour	1 hour	Ongoing	None
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