



Meeting Minutes

Arts Commission

City Hall
601 4th Avenue E
Olympia, WA 98501

Contact: Stephanie
Johnson
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Thursday, April 9, 2026

6:00 PM

Room 112

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dorgan called the meeting to order at 6pm.

1.A ROLL CALL

Jess Dolezal and child were also in attendance.

Present: 8 - Chair Kathryn Dorgan, Commissioner Sergio Garcia, Commissioner Elizabeth Lord, Commissioner Mara Orenstein, Commissioner Katherine Ransom, Commissioner Andrew Repcik, Commissioner Jay Spivak and Commissioner Lauren Thompson

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Coral Garey

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Dorgan asked if there were changes to the agenda. Hearing none, the agenda was approved.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[26-0256](#) Approval of March 12, 2026 Arts Commission Meeting Minutes

Attachments:

[3.12.26 OAC Minutes](#)

Chair Dorgan asked if there were changes to the minutes. Hearing none, the minutes were approved.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jess Dolezal shared that they attended the meeting to learn more about the Arts Commission.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioners shared information about past and upcoming arts events.

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

[26-0257](#) Welcome New Arts Commissioners

Attachments: [Advisory Body Guidebook](#)

[Proposed 2026 Arts Commission Work Plan](#)

[Proposed 2026 Municipal Art Plan](#)

Commissioners introduced themselves and shared a bit about what brought them to serve on the Arts Commission. Ms. Johnson share an overview of the Arts, Cultures and Heritage programs in the City. She also provided a high level overview of the Arts Commission Work Plan and Municipal Art Plan, Parks, Arts & Recreation Plan, the Comprehensive Plan, and Olympia Performance Metrics to provide context about how the Commission's work fits within the larger City government. Commissioners had time to ask questions. Ms. Johnson noted it takes time to get settled and encouraged new Commissioners to reach out to Chair Dorgan or herself if they had further questions.

Information only. No action requested.

[26-0195](#) Artist in Residence Update

Ms. Johnson shared that she reached out to a number of residences housing under served community members. She either received no response or a decline from most, but Billy Frank Jr. Place was very excited about the opportunity to host drumming workshops. She also reached out to the instructor who was to teach the second workshop series, and who had piloted the initial workshops in 2023. They reached out to Community Youth Services, who felt their Haven House crisis residential shelter for youth would be a good match.

Commissioners determined to continue the project at Haven House for the second series of workshops and at Billy Frank Jr. place for the third. Commissioners intend to review the project at the end of the year, with discussion opening considerations of artistic media and audience.

Information only. No action requested.

7. REPORTS

Ms. Johnson reminded Commissioners that Board and Commission surveys are due April 15. She noted that the Traffic Box Wrap applications are open, there are upcoming Poet Laureate events in April, and the Welcome Figure dedication was expected to take place early June. She shared that Arts Walk maps had gone out with assistance from City staff - she noted that she could use help chalking the Arts Market vendor spaces on Percival Landing for Arts Walk - Chair Dorgan, Vice-Chair Ransom and Commissioner Garcia volunteered. She also asked for a volunteer to assist the Olympia Downtown

Alliance (ODA) in their summer music series selection as noted by agreement for the Music Out Loud project. Commissioners Repcik and Garcia both volunteered. Ms. Johnson noted she would reach out to the ODA to get more information on the process.

8. OTHER TOPICS

Chair Dorgan shared that the Commission had been considering moving all meetings to in-person, but was waiting to hear from the new members. Currently, the majority of meetings are held virtually, with quarterly in person meetings held January, April, July and October. Commissioner Thompson left the meeting early, but had communicated to staff that in person would work. Commissioners Orenstein and Lord noted they preferred in-person meetings, and the remainder of the Commissioners in attendance agreed. The Commission will begin to meet regularly in person, beginning with their May 2026 meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8pm.

Upcoming

Accommodations