

AGENDA ARTS COMMISSION May 8, 2025

Hybrid Meeting In-person and via Zoom



Join Zoom Meeting

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Meeting ID: 869 4889 2921

Passcode: 8765309

One tap mobile +12532158782,,86948892921# US (Tacoma)
+12532050468,,86948892921# US

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

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**CITY OF ELLENSBURG
ARTS COMMISSION AGENDA
Council Chambers
501 North Anderson Street
Ellensburg, WA 98926
And remotely via Zoom
Thursday, May 8, 2025
4:00 PM - Regular Meeting**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call of Members

1.A Member Roll Call: Commissioner Eyre, Commissioner Dougherty, Commissioner Kooser, Commissioner Marchand, Commissioner Oostra, Commissioner Scheffer, Commissioner Snedeker, Council Member Miller

2. Approval of Agenda (No Public Comment)

2.A Motion to approve the May 8, 2025 Ellensburg Arts Commission meeting agenda as presented.

3. Approval of Minutes

3.A Motion to approve the April 10, 2025, Ellensburg Arts Commission meeting minutes as presented.

4. Budget/Financial Report

4.A YTD 2023 Arts Commission Budget Update

5. New Business

5.A Call for Artists: Bus Shelters

5.B 2026 Project Grant Application Process

6. Unfinished Business

6.A Arts Treasure and Arts Advocacy Nomination Information Form

6.B Reappointment and Appointment Process and Timeline

6.C **City Art Policy Review: Assignments:**

Edits will be as follows:

Review/update policy by corresponding subcommittee:

Focus Area 1: Public Art: Will be reviewed by: Jerry Dougherty, Jeff Snedeker, and Alex Eyre.

Focus Area 2: Community Engagement: This section is a combination of Art Walk, Advocacy, and Awards & Distinction. Will be reviewed by: Marie Marchand, Jill Scheffer, Jerry Dougherty, Jeff Snedeker and Erin Oostra.

Focus Area 3: Arts Enrichment: Grants Funding: Marie, Marchand, Jerry

Dougherty, and Jill Scheffer.

Focus Area 4: Ellensburg Creative District: Staff will add Focus Area 4: Ellensburg Creative District. Once written, this will be reviewed by Brian Kooser, Jeff Snedeker, and Alex Eyre. Staff will review/update the document.

Action Items:

- Chairs of subcommittees set up subcommittee meetings to review document/edits between now and March 13, 2025, Arts Commission meeting.
- Staff will review entire document and create a redline version for editing.
- Staff: Subcommittee edits will be compiled into the Master document by staff.

6.D Poet Laureate Program Outline: Revised April 2025

6.E *Harmonize*, by Crista Ann Ames Progress Report

7. Subcommittee Business

7.A

1. Funding & Advocacy: Jerry/Jill/Marie:
2. First Friday Art Walk: Jill/Erin/Brian:
3. City Art/Public Art: Jerry/Jeff/Alex:
4. Awards & Distinctions: Marie/Jeff/Alex:
5. Ellensburg Creative District: Jeff/Brian/Alex/Staff

8. Citizen Comment

9. Staff Update/Discussion Items

10. Commission Representative Update

11. Adjournment



For more information on the Ellensburg Arts Commission, contact Arts & Economic Development Manager Kelle Vandenberg at 509-962-7149.

The Contents of this agenda have been photocopied on recycled paper.



CITY OF ELLENSBURG
Meeting Date of Meeting
Start Time of Meeting
Place of Meeting

Arts Commission Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2025
4:00 PM
Council Conference Room, City Hall

1. Call to Order and Roll Call of Members

1.A Chair Eyre, Commissioner Oostra, Commissioner Snedeker, Commissioner Kooser, Commissioner Scheffer, and City Council Member Miller
Absent: Commissioner Marchand-excused, Commissioner Dougherty, excused
Welcome guest: Matt Wenz

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve April 10, 2025, Arts Commission meeting agenda as presented.
By: Commissioner Scheffer
Seconded: Commissioner Snedeker
In Favor: All in favor
Opposed: None
Abstain: None
Motion Carries

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve March 13, 2025, Arts Commission meeting minutes as presented.
By: Commissioner Oostra
Seconded: Commissioner Scheffer
In Favor: All
Opposed: None
Abstain: None
Motion Carries

4. Budget/Financial Report

4.A 2025 Arts Commission Budget Update
Staff gave brief overview of 2025 Arts Commission budget in agenda packet including status of Art Walk Venue payments for 2025.

5. New Business

5.A Arts Treasure Discussion: Awards & Distinction Subcommittee will meet prior to the next EAC meeting (May) to review nomination form/process and timeline and present at the May meeting. Proposed timeline:

- Press release on May 15, 2025
- Application/nomination opens June 1st
- Application/nomination closes on Aug. 31.
- Review submission(s) and recommendations at September meeting
- Award/Announce Sept. 15th
- Ceremony/celebration date TBD

There was further discussion regarding making the distinction honorary vs. a stipend and the additional work required to fulfill the stipend utilizing public funds. Additionally, Commissioner Eyre discussed commissioning a local artist to create the award, which led to further discussion of allocating additional funds from stipend to the commissioning of the award.

6. Unfinished Business

6.A Shakespeare in the Park Update: Staff related status of project through special permitting process with Parks & Recreation. Project is moving forward but not as part of the Arts Commission program.

6.B City Arts Policy Review & Update Timeline:

Action Item: Staff to send out assignments to the commission

7. Subcommittee Business:

- 7.A
1. Funding & Advocacy: Jerry/Jill/Marie: Reviewing Subcommittee work
 2. First Friday Art Walk: Jill/Erin/Brian: Commissioner Oostra will get quotes on sidewalk signs for 2026 budgeting purposes.
 3. City Art/Public Art: Jerry/Jeffy/Alex: Not had a meeting. Will set up meeting and review inventory list.
 4. Awards & Distinctions: Marie/Jeff/Alex: Arts Treasure see above
 5. Ellensburg Creative District: Jeff/Brian/Alex/Staff: See staff updates below.

8. Citizen Comment

No citizen comments

9. Staff Update/Discussion Items:

- ArtsWA Pending Visit to Ellensburg on April 28, 2025
- EACA will hosted free Grant Writing Workshop on April 9, 2025.
- Terms Ending & Recruitment: Appointment application received from Matt Wenz, Reappointment application received from Erin Oostra and Jerry Dougherty.
- Serenity Haiku Poetry Contest Update and launch on Monday, April 21, 2025.

10. Commission Representative Update: Coordinate arts efforts with sister city Sundi, Japan and raise awareness and share activities etc.

11. Adjournment Time 5:15 pm

DRAFT

DRAFT

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	PROPOSED 2025 EAC Spending Plan		2025 BUDGET	2025 ACTUALS	Outstanding Balance		NOTES
2	REVENUES:						
3							
4	100-162-308-41-00-000-000	Beginning Fund					
5							
6							
7							Invoices went out 3/3/25 to all venues
8	100 162 347 90 00	Artwalk					
9		The Clymer Art Gallery	\$ 50.00		\$ 50.00		
10		D&M Coffee Downtown	\$ 50.00		\$ 50.00		
11		Ellensburg Rodeo Hall of Fame	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ -		
12		Gallery One	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ -		
13		Gard Vintners	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ -		
14		Kittitas County Historical Museum	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ -		
15		The Mule	\$ 50.00		\$ 50.00		
16		NuWave Gallery	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ -		
17		The Palace Gallery	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ -		
18		Hotel Windrow	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ -		
19		The INK	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ -		
20		Pearl Street Books	\$ 50.00		\$ 50.00		
21		The Studio by EDE	\$ 50.00		\$ 50.00		
22		Valo Cellars	\$ 50.00		\$ 50.00		
23		The Fitterer's Blding/Woodin Enterprises	\$ 50.00		\$ 50.00		
24					\$ -		
25					\$ -		
26					\$ -		
27					\$ -		
28		TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 750.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 350.00		
29							
30							
31							
32	EXPENDITURES:			2025 ACTUALS			
33	100 162 573 20 31	Operating Supplies					
34		Artwalk Annual meeting supplies	\$ 100.00		\$ 100.00		
35		Arts Treasure Award Engraving/Art Plaques	\$ 200.00	\$ 43.44	\$ 156.56		Engraving services
36		Treasure Award Ceremony Supplies	\$ 75.00		\$ 75.00		
37		Arts Treasure Award	\$ 250.00		\$ 250.00		
38		Arts Treasure Stipend	\$ 500.00		\$ 500.00		
39							
40							
41		Poet Laureate Supplies	\$ 1,500.00		\$ 1,500.00		
42							
43							
44							
45		Total Operating Supplies	\$ 2,625.00	\$ 43.44	\$ 2,581.56		
46							
47	100 162 573 20 41	Professional Services					
48		Americans For the Arts membership	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ -		
49							
50							
51							
52							
53							
54							
55		Total Professional Services	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00			
56							
57	100 162 573 20 43	Professional Development-Travel					
58		Conferences-Travel					
59							
60	100 162 573 20 49	Professional Development-Misc					
61	100 162-573-20-44-013	Admin Services	\$ 13,000.00		\$ 13,000.00		
62		Total Professional Development	\$ 13,050.00	\$ -	\$ 13,050.00		
63							

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
64		100 162 573 20 44	Advertising					
65			NPR- for contract year	\$ 1,920.00	\$ 1,920.00	\$ -		
66								
67			Total Advertising	\$ 1,920.00	\$ 1,920.00	\$ -		
68								
69			Ellensburg Creative District					
70								
71		100-162-558-70-31-558-000	Ellensburg Creative District Supplies	\$ 9,500.00	\$ 1,152.89	\$ 8,347.11		Art Walk Maps & Posters, Wayfinding Design Services
72								
73		100-162-558-70-35-558-000	Ellensburg Creative District-Small Tools/Eqgmt	\$ 500.00		\$ 500.00		
74								
75		100-162-558-70-41-558-000	Ellensburg Creative District-Prof. Services			\$ -		
76								
77		100-162-558-70-42-558-000	Ellensburg Creative District-Communication & Marketing			\$ -		
78								
79			Total Ellensburg Creative District	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 1,152.89	\$ 8,847.11		
80								
81			TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 27,645.00	\$ 5,136.33	\$ 22,508.67		
82								
83			Grant Dispersement	2025 BUDGET	2025 ACTUALS	Balance		
84		100 162 573 20 40	2025 Art Grants					
85								
86		ECR	Gustfest	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00		
87		Gallery One	Artist in Action in the Park	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00		
88		PIE	Poetry in Ellensburg	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00		
89		Valley Theatre Company	Rising Star Productions: Disney's Frozen Jr.	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00		
90		EDA	Busker's in the Burg	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00		
91		Ellensburg Dance Ensemble	A Charlie Brown Christmas	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00		
92		Michael Gallagher	Tiny Stage Concert Series	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00		
93		Robin Mayberry	Pyrocene-Visual Arts	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00		
94		KCHM, Inc	Display of Historic Epherma in KCHM Collection	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00		
95		Make Music Ellensburg	Strum-Along	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00		
96		Discovery Lab of Ellensburg	Strub Steppe Musical	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00		
97								
98								
99								
100			Total Art Grants	\$ 24,500.00	\$ -	\$ 24,500.00		
101								
102			Capitol/Public Art	2025 BUDGET	2025 ACTUALS	Balance		
103		100 162 573 20 40	Capital/Public Art					
104			City Permanent Acquisition	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 2,000.00		1-27-25: Bus Shelter Call for Artist Pay Out: Jane Orleman
105								
106			Poet Laurate	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00		
107								
108			Total Capitol/Public Art	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 500.00			
109								
110			Total Budget	\$50,000.00	\$ 57,145.00	\$ 5,636.33		
111								
112			UNITY PARK PAYMENTS:					
113			Art Aquisition Payments:	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 25,000.00		2nd draw from Crista Ames in April 2025
114			Beginning Fund Balance					
115								
116								
117								
118								

ELLENSBURG ARTS COMMISSION FUNDING REQUEST CALL FOR ARTISTS AND ARTS ORGANIZATIONS

The **Ellensburg Arts Commission (EAC)** invites **artists and organizations** to submit a request for funding for art projects **FOR 2025** in the City of Ellensburg. All artistic disciplines are welcome to apply for grants between \$1,000 and \$2,500.

Statement of Purpose

Projects that involve community members or organizations in the design, concept, or creation of artwork are enhanced through the support of the EAC. Through project support, artists and organizations are encouraged to apply for project funding on an annual basis. Awards are granted based on budget feasibility, experience of the candidate(s), artistic merit, and public benefit. Grants are part of the annual budget of the EAC and approved by City Council.

Request Guidelines and Information

1. Incomplete forms will not be considered.
2. The Commission may request one representative from the sponsoring party to give a brief explanation of the project or event at the September 2024 Arts Commission meeting.
3. Grants are designed to provide financial support for arts programs and projects in Ellensburg that merit public funding. Because EAC Grants are supported with public tax dollars, the EAC places a priority on those programs that best reflect the EAC's mission and core values, and serve the residents of Ellensburg. The Commission invites artists and organizations annually to submit requests for funding. Funding may be awarded for grants between \$1,000 (individual artist) and \$2,500 (arts organizations). Projects supported include:
 - The development of new artwork
 - Arts-related events
 - Interpretation of existing artwork
 - Presentation of new artworks or collection of artworks
4. Funds disbursed by the City of Ellensburg must meet at least one of the following guidelines:
 - The funds must be expended for a legitimate municipal purpose (an event or project which benefits the community in accordance with the Arts Commission's statement of purpose).
 - The transaction must be an equal exchange (a tangible benefit to the community for funds spent).
 - Funds may be spent to commission or purchase artwork for public benefit or to sponsor performances that are open to the public.
5. The Commission requires that each sponsored project or event acknowledge the funding by including the Commission logo in publicity and event-related collateral.

Who Can Apply

Applicants **MUST**:

- Be an individual artist, group of artists or arts organization in the fields of performing or visual arts
- Be 18 years of age or older at the time of application

Although not necessary, priority will be given to applicants living within city limits.

The Ellensburg Arts Commission acknowledges that commissioners are often active artists. Current Ellensburg Arts Commission members and organizations of which they serve as board members or principals may apply for grant funding under the following conditions:

- They may not apply during their first year of service
- They may only apply every other year while in service

The deadline to submit applications is 5 PM August 30, 2024.

Application Process

There are **four parts** to this application. Please complete all parts via the online application and press submit. *You will receive an email verification that your application was submitted.*

Questions - Send an email to - ellensburgarts@ci.ellensburg.wa.us or contact Kelle Vandenberg at (509) 962-7149.

Examples of eligible expenses

- Professional development of an artist (e.g. workshop, conference, residency)
- Rental or purchase of materials that further the applicant's project
- Promotional and marketing materials (i.e. design and printing of posters, flyers, programs, etc.)

Examples of ineligible expenses

- Tuition and cost-of-living expenses for matriculated students in any degree program
- Projects in which fundraising is a primary purpose
- Paid advertising (e.g. newspaper, radio, broadcast tv, social media, etc.)

Public Benefit Requirement

The Arts Commission receives its funds from the City of Ellensburg. Because of this, artists and organizations funded through this program must provide public benefit to the citizens of the City of Ellensburg. The following are examples of services that meet the public benefit:

- Free/discounted admissions to project event: performances, exhibitions, workshops, screenings, readings, etc.
- Free distribution of resources and publications to residents of the city of Ellensburg.

Review Process

Applications are reviewed by the Ellensburg Arts Commission for eligibility, accuracy, and comprehensiveness. The Ellensburg Arts Commission, comprised of seven Commissioners, will select and recommend the most highly qualified projects for funding based on the following criteria:

1. Commitment of the applicant to see the project through to completion: This can be demonstrated by past work, in a resume, in narrative form, or in the inclusion of a plan that details the project objectives and outcomes.
2. The public benefit of the project: This can be demonstrated by projected attendees, the visibility of the project, and/or other means.
3. Artistic significance: Discuss how will this work impact the community and its cultural relevance.
4. Budget feasibility: This can be demonstrated by an articulated budget of the project, clearly identifying the income sources and expenses, including the amount requested of the EAC.

Award Process

Once accepted, recipients receive funds through reimbursement. To apply for reimbursement a recipient must submit an invoice, originals of receipts, and an IRS W-9 with tax ID or social security number. At the project's end, a final report is required clearly stating how funds were spent and assessing the success of the project. Funds must be spent and invoiced by December 31, 2025, in accordance with the details outlined in the award agreement.


Application Process

There are four parts to this application. Please complete all parts via the online application and press submit. After you click submit you will be directed to a screen with a link to a printable receipt for your records. You will also receive an email receipt with a copy of your submission.

Questions

Send an email to - ellensburgarts@ci.ellensburg.wa.us.

Date Submitted *

1. CONTACT INFORMATION

First Name *

Last Name *

Organization name (if applicable)

Tax ID Number/EIN (required for organizations)

Street Address *

Address Line 2

City *

State *

Zip Code *

Phone Number *

Email Address *

2. PROJECT INFORMATION

Name/Title of Event/Project: *

This application is for an: *

Individual - \$1,000

Organization - \$2,500

What is the total budget for this event/project? *

Brief description of event/project: *

Is your event: *

One day event

Multiple day event (e.g. Thursday thru Saturday)

Multiple dates over time (e.g. every Saturday in October, once per quarter, etc.)

Event/project Start date *

Event/project End date *

Event/project location or venue *

What is the target audience(s) for this event/project? *

Please explain how this event/project will benefit OR IMPACT our community and describe how this will be measured in the project's final report. *

What will Arts Commission funding be used for? *

Will admission be charged? (Organizations Only)

- Yes
- No

If admission is charged, how much? (Organizations Only)

Are revenues anticipated? (Organizations Only)

- Yes
- No

How do you plan to acknowledge the Arts Commission? *

3. BUDGET

What is the total budget of this event/project? *

Funding amount requested from the Arts Commission? *

Enter \$1,000 for individual or \$2,500 for organization

What are the Arts Commission Eligible expenses related to this project? The total should equal either \$1,000 for individuals or \$2,500 for organizations. NOTE: Some categories may not be applicable to your project.

	Description of Expense	Amount	Sources of funds
Artist Fees			
Professional Services			
Rental			
Promo/Marketing			
Supplies			
Other			

Is this project dependent on funding from the Ellensburg Arts Commission to proceed? *

Yes

No

What other sources of funding do you have for the project? *

What happens to the project/event if you don't receive funding from the Arts Commission? What happens if you receive a partial award? *

4. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Please describe your supporting documents and how they relate to the project (examples of art work, publicity materials, resumes, etc.). The full budget for the proposed project/event must be attached. If possible, combine documents into one .pdf file (max 20 MB). Two file upload areas are provided on this form, if needed. * ?

0/1000 characters

Upload supporting documents

Upload supporting documents 2

Choose File

No file chosen

Choose File

No file chosen

Thank you for presenting this proposal. The Arts Commission appreciates your interest and involvement in encouraging the growth of arts within our community.



Celebrating community through the arts.

THE AWARD

City of Ellensburg Arts Treasure Award

The City of Ellensburg Arts Treasure award may be given annually to a local artist in recognition for significant contributions and/or service to the Ellensburg Arts community. The Arts Treasure will be recognized at a special community reception.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Nominees must be a resident of Kittitas County who has contributed substantially to the growth and development of the creative arts in the Ellensburg community.

SELECTION PROCESS & CRITERIA

- The Ellensburg Arts Commission will solicit and collect nominations of eligible artists each year.
- After all nominations have been received, the Arts Treasure will be selected at a scheduled public meeting of the Commission.
- The Arts Treasure will be decided by majority vote of the Commission.

The Commission will take the following criteria into consideration:

- The nominee's impact and/or historical contributions to the creative arts in Ellensburg.
- The nominee's professional background.

NOMINEES MAY NOT BE:

- Employees of the City of Ellensburg
- City of Ellensburg Arts Commissioners or their relatives

THE AWARD

City of Ellensburg Arts Advocate Award

The City of Ellensburg Arts Advocacy award may be given annually to an individual, group, organization, or business in recognition of significant contributions to, advocacy for, and/or support of the arts or arts education in Ellensburg. The Arts Advocate will be recognized at a special community reception.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Individual nominees must be residents of Kittitas County. Groups, organizations, or businesses must be located in Ellensburg.



Celebrating community through the arts.

SELECTION PROCESS & CRITERIA

- The Ellensburg Arts Commission will solicit and collect nominations of eligible nominees each year.
- After all nominations have been received, the Arts Advocate will be selected at a scheduled public meeting of the Commission.
- The Arts Advocate will be decided by majority vote of the Commission.

The Commission will take the following criteria into consideration:

- The nominee's impact and/or historical contributions as an advocate for the creative arts in Ellensburg.

NOMINEES MAY NOT BE:

- Employees of the City of Ellensburg
- City of Ellensburg Arts Commissioners or their relatives
- Groups, Organizations, Businesses directly connected to Ellensburg Arts Commissioners

TIMELINE:

June 1, 2025:	Nomination applications open
August 31, 2025:	Nomination period closes
September 15, 2025:	Award Announcements
September/October:	Community Celebration

QUESTIONS:

Please contact:

Kelle Vandenberg
Arts & Economic Development Manager
Ellensburg Arts Commission
501 N. Anderson Street
Ellensburg WA 98926
Phone: 509-962-7149 Email: ellensburgarts@ci.ellensburg.wa.us



Building community through the arts.

THE CITY OF ELLENSBURG: Poet Laureate Program

The Ellensburg Arts Commission (EAC) will designate a local poet as the official Poet Laureate of the City of Ellensburg. Over a specified term, the Poet Laureate will act as an official ambassador of Ellensburg's vibrant literary community in celebration of the written word. The primary role of the Poet Laureate is to enhance the presence and appreciation of poetry and the literary arts in Ellensburg.

The City of Ellensburg Poet Laureate title honors accomplished poets who call the Ellensburg community home. This prestigious designation includes a financial award and the opportunity to serve as a literary leader, creating and engaging in community events supported by the EAC and the City of Ellensburg. Poet Laureates are selected through a nomination process.

Terms and Responsibilities

The Poet Laureate term of service is one calendar year (January to December) and is renewable for a second consecutive year. The Ellensburg Arts Commission values the work of artists and believes they should be fairly compensated. Since public funds support this award, the City of Ellensburg Poet Laureate is expected to organize and/or contribute to community events in three key areas:

National Poetry Month Leadership

The Commission proudly supports National Poetry Month and the Poet Laureate plays a vital role in celebrating this annual observance. Each April, they are expected to lead in developing, organizing, and executing at least one event to honor poetry's impact within the community.

Participation in Civic Events

Poetry enriches public life, and the Commission encourages its presence in municipal events. The Poet Laureate will be invited by the City of Ellensburg to compose and present original works for civic gatherings, adding a unique artistic voice to these occasions.

Engagement in Community Activities

Poetry has the power to connect and inspire. Beyond formal events, the Poet Laureate will be invited to contribute to various community events throughout the year, sharing their craft to enhance the cultural fabric of Ellensburg.



Building community through the arts.

The Poet Laureate will work closely with the City of Ellensburg Arts and Economic Development Manager and the EAC via the EAC's Community Awards and Recognitions subcommittee to shape the Poet Laureate's activities related to each of the areas above. Financial support is available for expenses related to these activities. Periodic reports, including an annual report to City Council, are expected, with support from staff and the EAC. Travel within Kittitas County is required.

Nomination Process

The EAC believes that poetry belongs to everyone, and as such, the ideal candidate is experienced, community-minded in thought and actions, and openly writes, presents, and participates in the regional poetry community. Nominations should speak to the quality of the nominee's work, experience as a poet and in public speaking/engagement.

The nomination must be accompanied by a letter or email from the nominee stating that, if selected, they will serve in and fulfill the responsibilities of the position. Nominees will participate in an interview process with the EAC Community Awards and Recognitions subcommittee prior to final selection by the Ellensburg Arts Commission.

Eligibility Criteria for Nominees:

Nominee Eligibility Requirements:

- Must be at least 18 years old.
- Must reside in Kittitas County, Washington.
- Should have demonstrated experience as a poet.
- Must possess public speaking experience and provide examples of community engagement.
- Should have a background in planning or organizing events.

Poet Laureate Award and Compensation:

The City of Ellensburg Poet Laureate will receive the following financial support to honor their work and ensure the success of the program:

- Up to \$2,500.00 for each full calendar year served. Compensation eligibility is determined by activity. If service is less than a full calendar year, eligible compensation will be adjusted proportionally.
- Up to \$1,000.00 to support program activities and expenses. All expenses must be preapproved by the Arts and Economic Development Manager. Any expenses not previously reviewed and approved will not be considered for reimbursement.



Building community through the arts.

Timeline

The following is the typical timeline for the selection process. Nominations received after the deadline noted below will be deemed ineligible and not be considered.

July 15	Nomination Process Opens
September 15	Deadline for Nomination Submission
October 1	Selection of top three candidates
October 15	Candidate interviews (top three) by EAC Community Awards and Recognitions subcommittee
November 15	Finalist recommended to EAC for approval
December 1	EAC staff report recommendation of finalist for City Council approval
January 1	New Ellensburg Poet Laureate term begins

To nominate a community poet for the position of City of Ellensburg Poet Laureate go to <<insert link>>.

The Ellensburg Arts Commission supports artists, creators, innovators, and organizations throughout the community to create and enrich the performing arts, visual arts, and literary arts, and drive economic growth of the creative industry in Ellensburg.

We are committed to fostering a culture that values and respects diverse backgrounds, identities, and perspectives. We strive to ensure equitable access, opportunities, and representation for all individuals. Our goal is to create an inclusive environment where everyone feels welcome, supported, and empowered to contribute and thrive.

In November I began collecting source images and doing some basic mathematics for scaling up the work from the model of the piece Harmonize. Clay shrinks so to ensure that the piece is 6 feet tall after firing I calculated the shrink rate for the clay body (6%). From that I found that the wet piece needed to be at least 78.26" tall and then using my model as reference I calculated my exact number for scaling the work up (5.25). I make a template for the base of the sculpture and constructed the custom cart with built in drying holes that the sculpture would be built and transported on. After ordering clay materials in January from Tacoma Clay Art Center, I traveled to the University of Montana to begin making the piece.

I began building the piece by first making a large waster slab that I placed atop layers of sand and sheetrock. The waster slab is used and sheetrock on sand to both help with in the shrinking and loading process of the work later. I then make the base plate for the sculpture with 10 holes with a beveled edge to accommodate the weld bead and bolts on the final metal mounting plate (figure 1). Once the base plate had firmed up enough to flip it over, I was ready to start coil building off the plate the arms of the sculpture. When building the piece up, I took reference measurements off the model for each inch on the model, and used tape to show what level on the model I was building to (figure 2). I also began carving in the fauna and flora onto the sculpture as I went, stopping every few feet on the sculpture to project an image of the model onto the sculpture surface and then trace a map of where each plant and animal should be placed in relation to one another (figure 3). While building I created an interior structure for the piece that would hold the load of the hands at the top and help balance the work during building, drying, and firing of the work (figure 4). Once I started building the piece the timing of the drying was very important, I had to build quickly so everything could be drying at the same rate. As I got to the top of the sculpture, creating the hands, and closing the top I began working back down the piece carving in more details, finishing the surface and removing any sharp edges. I would spend hours lost in the carving of each plant and animal, making sure that their individual character was represented while still fitting into of the overall feeling of the work (figure 5). I stayed true in representing all species present on the model: Big Sagebrush, Camas, Bitterroot, Arrowleaf balsamroot, Rock Lupine, Spreading phlox, Fragile onion, Ponderosa pine, Douglas' buckwheat, Blue elder, Northern leopard frog, Pygmy short-horned lizard, Northern Desert Nightsnake, Chinook salmon, Red-tailed hawk, Greater sage-grouse, Sagebrush sparrow, Burrowing Owl, Elk, Coyote, American badger, Great Basin pocket mouse, Black-tailed jackrabbit, Townsend's big-eared bat, Western eyed Sphinx Moth, Morrison bumblebee (figure 6 and 7). Once I finally reached the point where I felt the piece was done being built in the greenware stage, I carefully covered the sculpture with two layers of cotton cloth and a thin layer of plastic. Over the last two months I have been slowly drying the piece, controlling this drying by removing the plastic and cotton layers at different times and pulling the plastic covering from the holes at the bottom of the cart. Harmonize will be dry enough to fire next week at which time I will be loading the sculpture into the 8.5' car kiln at the university to begin the process of firing and glazing the work. The making of Harmonize has been moving along right on schedule for our unveiling on August 1st 2025.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7