

AGENDA

ARTS COMMISSION

September 18, 2025

Hybrid Meeting In-person and via Zoom



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**CITY OF ELLENSBURG
ARTS COMMISSION AGENDA
Ellensburg Downtown Association
109 E. 3rd Street
Ellensburg, WA 98926
And remotely via Zoom
Thursday, September 18, 2025
4:00 PM - Regular Meeting**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call of Members

1.A Commissioner Roll Call: Commissioner Eyre, Commissioner Dougherty, Commissioner Marchand, Commissioner Snedeker, Commissioner Wenz, Council Member Miller

2. Approval of Agenda (No Public Comment)

2.A Review and approval of the September 18, 2025 Arts Commission Meeting Agenda as presented.

3. Approval of Minutes

3.A Review and approval of the June 12, 2025, Arts Commission Meeting Minutes as presented.

4. Budget/Financial Report

4.A YTD 2025 Arts Commission Budget Update

5. New Business

5.A CWU Creative District/Art Walk Open House @ CWU President's Residence

5.B 2026 Project Grant Applications-Review

5.C Resignation of Commissioner Marchand

6. Unfinished Business

6.A Harmonize Sculpture: Final Report from Crista Ann Ames

6.B Pollinator Mural at Wippel Park Discussion and Planning

7. Subcommittee Business

7.A 1. Funding & Advocacy: Jerry/Marie/Alex:
2. First Friday Artwalk: Matt, Alex, Staff:
3. City Art/Public Art: Jerry/Jeff/Alex:
4. Awards & Distinctions: Marie/Jeff/Alex: Reviewed and determined Arts Treasure and Arts Advocate Nominee
5. Ellensburg Creative District: Jeff/Alex/Staff:

8. Citizen Comment

9. Staff Update/Discussion Items

- 9.A 1. Bus Shelter Call Update
2. Creative District Update

- a. Wayfinding Signs Up
- b. FY25 Annual Report complete and submitted to ArtsWA
- c. FY26 Strategic Planning in process
- d. Sister District Update
- e. Sales Tax Rev. Tracking/Forecast for Arts/Entertainment/Recreation
- f. Meeting with WA State Dept. of Commerce Director Nguyen

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
June 12, 2025
4:01 PM
Council Conference Room, City Hall

1. Call to Order and Roll Call of Members

1.A Chair Eyre, Commissioner Dougherty, Commissioner Marchand, Commissioner Snedeker, Commissioner Wenz, and City Council Member Miller
Absent:
Welcome guest: No guest

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve June 12, 2025, Arts Commission meeting agenda as presented.
By: Commissioner Snedeker
Seconded: Commissioner Marchand
In Favor: All in favor
Opposed: None
Abstain: None
Motion Carries

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve May 8, 2025, Arts Commission meeting minutes as presented.
By: Commissioner Snedeker
Seconded: Commissioner Dougherty
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.

5. New Business

5.A Resignation of Jill Scheffer from the Arts Commission
Commission reviewed resignation letter from Scheffer in agenda packet.
Letter will be presented to City Council

6. Unfinished Business

6.A Arts Treasure & Arts Advocate Update

Staff update: Nomination is open. One nominee for Arts Advocate submitted thus far. Commissioners discussed promotions of the open nomination.

6.B Open Arts Commission Positions & Recruitment

Commissioners discussed current needs regarding artistic disciplines represented on the Arts Commission. Open positions posted online. Commissioners will reach out to other artistic organizations and boards to inquire about potential new members.

6.C Bus Shelter Call for Artist

Staff reviewed final draft of the Call for Artist and will open the call first week of July. Invite past participants to apply. **Staff action item.**

6.D 2026 Project Grant Application—Edits

Commissioners reviewed the Project Grant Application for final edits prior to opening on June 15, 2025. Staff sent edits to City PIO and edits were completed prior to opening. **Staff action item.**

6.E Finalize Award Discussion for Arts Treasure

The award is in process/complete and artist Maria Cristalli will update with information specific to the 2025 Awardee, as part of the work from 2024.

For 2026: Discussion/Decision: Put out Call for Artist to design one master design for the actual physical award that can be standardized for future awards. The design will have a designated space to adhere a placard for awardee recognition.

Commissioner Eyre will lead the subcommittee work with staff assistance to develop the call for artist and bring it back to the full commission for review/revision. **Staff action item.**

7. Subcommittee Business:

7.A 1. Funding & Advocacy: Jerry/Marie: Reviewed Inspire WA recent presentation at Gallery One. Staff and two members of commission attended, as did Representative Alex Ybarra.

Commissioner Dougherty proposed that the Arts Commission become a member of Inspire WA given the current funding for the arts & culture challenges. Membership would help keep the commission informed of new legislation affecting the arts.

Motion to authorize staff to secure membership to Inspire WA on behalf of the Arts Commission. Cost is \$100.00 annually and budgeted. No financial impact.

By: Commissioner Dougherty

Seconded: Commissioner Marchand

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carries

2. First Friday Art Walk: Matt/Alex/Staff: Reviewed Ignite the Arts to help promote and bring attention to the FFAW for July, as it falls on the 4th of July. Potential new Art Walk Venue: Royal Junction. Commissioner Wenz agreed to chair the subcommittee.

3. City Art/Public Art: Jerry/Jeffy/Alex: Met to review inventory list and will work with staff to update. Commissioner Eyre reported that the donated piece from artist Renee Adams has been given to the City.

Staff action item: Determine appropriate documentation for receiving donated public art.

4. Awards & Distinctions: Marie/Jeff/Alex: Reported updates regarding Arts Treasure and Arts Advocate Award.

5. Ellensburg Creative District: Jeff/Alex/Staff: See staff updates below.

8. Citizen Comment

No citizen comment.

9. Staff Update/Discussion Items:

- Ignite the Arts planning update
- *Harmonize* installation and unveiling planning update
- Wayfinding signage update
- Pending Creative District Planning Meeting (setting date—in process)
- Creative District Convening: June 6 & 7th
- IGNITE the ARTS: July 4th Update
- Summer schedule discussion: Commission will not meet July and August.

10. Commission Representative Update:

11. Adjournment Time 5:20 pm

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
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								
8		100 162 347 90 00	Artwalk					<i>Invoices went out 3/3/25 to all venues</i>
9			The Clymer Art Gallery	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ -		<i>Reminders to two remaining unpaid went out 6/11/25</i>
10			D&M Coffee Downtown	\$ 50.00		\$ 50.00		Cancel venue location?
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								
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		\$ 700.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 50.00		
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			Total Professional Services	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00			
52								
53		100 162 573 20 43	Professional Development-Travel					
54			Conferences-Travel					
55								
56		100 162 573 20 49	Professional Development-Misc					
57		100 162-573-20-44-013	Admin Services	\$ 13,000.00		\$ 13,000.00		Should have been pulled out in July. Have not seen
58		Total Professional Development		\$ 13,050.00	\$ -	\$ 13,050.00		Aug. budget.
59								
60		100 162 573 20 44	Advertising					
61			NPR- for contract year	\$ 1,920.00	\$ 1,920.00			
62								
63		Total Advertising		\$ 1,920.00	\$ 1,920.00	\$ -		

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
64								
65		Ellensburg Creative District						
66				\$ 7,500.00				Additional grant from ArtsWA FY26 for Wayfinding
67		100-162-558-70-31-558-000	Ellensburg Creative District Supplies	\$ 9,500.00	\$ 2,711.35	\$ 6,788.65		Art Walk Maps & Posters, Wayfinding Design Services, sign costs, and WSDOT signs (1st invoice)
68								
69		100-162-558-70-35-558-000	Ellensburg Creative District-Small Tools/Eqpmt	\$ 500.00		\$ 500.00		
70								
71		100-162-558-70-41-558-000	Ellensburg Creative District-Prof. Services		\$ 100.00	\$ (100.00)		Inspire Washington Annual Membership
72								
73		100-162-558-70-42-558-000	Ellensburg Creative District-Communication & Marketing			\$ -		
74								
75		Total Ellensburg Creative District		\$ 10,000.00	\$ 2,811.35	\$ 7,188.65		
76								
77		TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$ 27,645.00	\$ 6,794.79	\$ 20,850.21		
78								
79		Grant Dispersement		2025 BUDGET	2025 ACTUALS	Balance		
80		100 162 573 20 40	2025 Art Grants					
81								
82		ECR	Gustfest	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00		Requested Reimbursement form
83		Gallery One	Artist in Action in the Park	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00		
84		PIE	Poetry in Ellensburg	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00		
85		Valley Theatre Company	Rising Star Productions: Disney's Frozen Jr.	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -		Reimbursement forms submitted for processing 7/24/25
86		EDA	Busker's in the Burg	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00		
87		Ellensburg Dance Ensemble	A Charlie Brown Christmas	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00		
88		Michael Gallagher	Tiny Stage Concert Series	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00		
89		Robin Mayberry	Pyrocene-Visual Arts	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00		
90		KCHM, Inc	Display of Historic Epherma in KCHM Collection	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00		
91		Make Music Ellensburg	Strum-Along	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00		
92		Discovery Lab of Ellensburg	Strub Steppe Musical	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00		Requested reimbursement form
93								
94								
95								
96		Total Art Grants		\$ 24,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 22,000.00		
97								
98		Capitol/Public Art		2025 BUDGET	2025 ACTUALS	Balance		
99		100 162 573 20 40	Capital/Public Art					
100			City Permanent Acquisition	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 2,000.00		1-27-25: Bus Shelter Call for Artist Pay Out: Jane Orleman
101								
102			Poet Laureate	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00		
103								
104		Total Capitol/Public Art		\$ 5,000.00	\$ 500.00			
105								
106		Total Budget	\$50,000.00	\$ 57,145.00	\$ 9,794.79			
107								
108			UNITY PARK PAYMENTS:					
109			Art Aquisition Payments:	\$ 46,500.00	\$ 46,500.00	\$ -		PO: 141516 \$10,000.00 1/13/25
110		Beginning Fund Balance						PO: 0143073 \$10,000 4/14/25
111								PO: 0144511 \$10,000 07/11/25
112								PO: 0144808 \$15,000 08/01/25
113								PO: 0140032 Gregg Schlander \$500.00 10/11/24
114								PO: 0140032 Gregg Schlander \$500.00 10/11/24
115								PO: 0140033 Crista Ann Ames \$500.00 10/11/24

Meeting Discussion: Open House for CWU Creative District at University House

Date: Thursday, August 7, 2025

In Attendance: Dania Cochran, Lauren Zeutenhorst, Maia Chachava, Matthew Wenz, Kelle Vandenberg

Today's meeting was to explore the idea of an Open House at the University House (President's residence) twice a year in the fall and spring to feature student art and give students an opportunity to showcase their work professionally at an art opening.

Items discussed:

1. Holding it the evening before the First Friday Art Walk allows the opportunity to cross-promote, but does not compete with FFAW, allowing more community involvement.
2. Utilizing these two events to promote and celebrate CWU's Creative District.
3. In addition to student art, programming could include additional departments (wine program, brewing program, music students or 88.1, etc,) to create a multi-disciplinary programming that highlights additional disciplines within CWU and the Creative District, plus has the added benefit of pushing out to a larger promotional pool, increasing potential community attendance. [Question: Is there a way to also incorporate theatre/film department? Even if it is to be in attendance with perhaps a little area with information?](#)
4. This will be a collaborative partnership between CWU, Ellensburg Arts Commission, Ellensburg Creative District, and the Ellensburg Downtown Association (help with pushing out event information)

Where we landed:

Event: CWU Creative District Open House
Hosted at the University House
Free event

Dates: Thursday, November 6, 2025 5:30-7:30 pm
Thursday, April 2, 2026 5:30-7:30 pm

Project Task Assignments:

Open House Programming:

- Art pieces: Maia/Matt
 - paintings, ceramics, graphic design, sculpture etc.
 - working with students to determine:
 - how information about each piece will be conveyed in the program
 - will art be available for purchase
- Multi-faceted Programming: Dania/Loren's office
 - wine program
 - brewing program
 - music (either small student group live or 88.1 the burg)
 - what else?
- Light hor d' oeuvres: Dania/Loren's office

Marketing/Promotions: Kelle/Matt/EDA staff

- Design marketing pieces: Matt
 - Work with Maia to get images for programming
- Create marketing campaign: Kelle
- Event Promotion: Kelle/EDA/CWU

Dania will coordinate meetings and send out invites for the next meetings.

Dear Kelle and Fellow Commissioners,

I wanted to let you know that I will be moving to Pasco, WA, on September 15th. As a result, I will be resigning from my service on the Ellensburg Arts Commission. I have enjoyed working with you in my roles as a commissioner and before that as the poet laureate. I will remain on the Arts Commission past October 15th so that I can review the poet laureate nominations and help make a recommendation to City Council. Hopefully it will work for me to join via Zoom for those meetings.

Thank you so much for your support and camaraderie in celebrating art, including the literary arts. I will miss you!

Warm regards,
Marie Marchand

In May I returned to the University of Montana to begin the process of firing and glazing 'Harmonize'. I started by making cone packs for the firings and preparing the kiln for loading. Cone packs are placed into the kiln during firing so that you can tell exactly when to shut the kiln off. Loading the work required organizing people and equipment to help move the work safely into the kiln. Six people helped me move the work out to the kiln yard. We then lined the cart up next to the car kiln floor and used a hydraulic cart under my custom cart to lift the work up to the height of the kiln floor. My helpers and I created a brick platform at this level for the cart to safely rest on while we all pushed the work into the kiln over a layer of sand by applying pressure only on the sheetrock under the work. Once the Sculpture was in the kiln, I stacked a guard wall of bricks around the base of the work to help protect the piece from direct flame and to help slow down cooling once the firing was finished (fig 1). This step helps to prevent imperfections caused in the firing like cracking or dunting. After a five-day bisque firing and cooling all the chemical water and organic material had been removed from the clay making the piece stable for glazing. I spent the following week layering oxide washes and colored washes to the piece to achieve the surface I desired (fig 2 and 3). After I was finished applied glaze material to the sculpture, I restacked my guard ring and placed new cone packs in the kiln for the second firing (fig 4 and 5). This glaze firing was to a higher temperature so that the surface fuses with the clay body. After the final firing was complete and cooled 'Harmonize' emerged better than I had expected, with the frames of the kiln providing subtle color shifts I had hoped for. One side of the piece now clearly representing dusk with some darker atmospheric tones while the other side is representing daylight with its vibrant colors. Again, I assembled a team of helpers for the unloading, using the same techniques from the loading but in reverse (fig 6). With firing complete it was time to get to work on the mounting plate. For this part of the piece, I hired Karl Schwiesow to fabricate the plate out of steel from my drawings and specifications (fig 7 and 8). The cutting, fitting, welting, and grinding are all complete, we are now just applying a protective coating and waiting for the plaque engraving to be finished so they can be attached to the plate. The last step before installation will be mounting the plate to the bottom of the sculpture. We are in the home stretch, making final adjustment and preparing for installation in Unity Park on July 30th.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7



Figure 8

ELLENSBURG

CREATIVE ECONOMY

UTILIZING THE CREATIVE SECTOR TO EXPAND AND STRENGTHEN RURAL ECONOMY

The Creative Industry is a vital component of a healthy economy. It is an economic driver that will increase tourism, bring new and innovative job creation, and establish Ellensburg and the region as a destination spot in the Pacific Northwest.



Grand Opening of Unity Park in downtown Ellensburg. The park was built utilizing ARPA funds.

Facts Sheet Ellensburg

\$35M²

Total Annual Creative Industry Earnings

The Creative Economy in Washington state is a significant economic contributor accounting for approximately 20% annually of the state's GDP.¹

A Creative Economy is

- A place where artists can live, work, and thrive.
- A hub for providing lifelong educational opportunities.
- An art-forward community bringing new tourism and economic development.
- A recognized destination to experience, create, and participate in artistic and cultural expression.
- Has creative-led innovation in government, business, and placemaking.

Ellensburg Creative Collaboration



In 2021, the City of Ellensburg partnered with several community organizations to create the Creative Industry Strategic Plan to work collaboratively with the Kittitas County Economic Development Plan. Key milestones of this collaboration include:

- Creation of the Arts & Economic Development Manager role with the City of Ellensburg
- Becoming a Certified Creative District, the only one in the state to include a university campus, only second in the nation
- Forming a 501c3 Alliance with all the partners
- Conducting a Performance/Production Space Feasibility Study
- Increased tourism efforts surrounding the creative sector
- Implementation of Creative District Wayfinding Signage
- Hosting free grant writing workshops for the community

CREATIVE JOBS

388

Creative jobs within the 98926 zip code, making the Creative Industry a significant employer within the region.

AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGES

\$68,600

Total Occupations that are Creative Jobs

34%

TOP CREATIVE OCCUPATIONS IN ELLENSBURG

- Software Developers
- Public Relations
- Chefs/Head Cooks
- Media Specialist/ Librarians
- Graphic Designers
- Photographers
- Marketing Managers
- Cabinetmakers/ Specialty Carpenters
- Floral Designers

1. Washington Department of Commerce, Commerce News Press Release, March 13, 2024

2. Creative Vitality Suite, Ellensburg/98926, 2022

3. Creative Job Market Statistics provided by the Thurston Economic Development Council Center for Business & Innovation, July 2025

