

AGENDA ARTS COMMISSION November 13, 2025

Hybrid Meeting In-person and via Zoom



Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86948892921?pwd=TnE2QjM3MnQySFZueG9iZlhraTlsUT09>

Meeting ID: 869 4889 2921

Passcode: 8765309

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

+12532050468,,86948892921# US

Accessibility

The City of Ellensburg strives to make our services, programs, and activities readily accessible.

- Closed Captioning is available to Zoom viewers. To enable closed captioning, you will need to click on the "CC" button at the bottom of your Zoom screen and then select either "Show Subtitle" or "View Full Transcript."
- Members of the public who do not speak English or who have limited proficiency may request an interpreter if they wish to participate in public meetings.
 - The City will provide reasonable accommodation for members of the public with disabilities.

Please submit requests for language assistance or reasonable accommodation to the HR Director/ADA Coordinator by calling (509) 962-7222 or by email at ADACoordinator@ellensburgwa.gov. Five (5) business days' notice is appreciated.

**CITY OF ELLENSBURG
ARTS COMMISSION AGENDA
Council Chambers
501 North Anderson Street
Ellensburg, WA 98926
And remotely via Zoom
Thursday, November 13, 2025
4:00 PM - Regular Meeting**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call of Members

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

2. Approval of Agenda (No Public Comment)

2.A Review and approve the November 13, 2025, Arts Commission agenda as presented

3. Approval of Minutes

3.A Review and approve October 16, 2025, Arts Commission meeting minutes as presented

4. Budget/Financial Report

4.A YTD 2025 Arts Commission Budget Update and review of 2026 Spending Plan

5. New Business

5.A Discuss 2026 Arts Commission Retreat Dates and Planning

5.B 2026 Arts Commission Proposed Schedule

6. Unfinished Business

6.A Review and move to recommend applicants for City Council approval to serve on the Ellensburg Arts Commission:
Jensen Lopez
Therese Young

6.B Bus Shelter Art Review and Selection

7. Subcommittee Business

7.A 1.Funding & Advocacy: Jerry/Alex
2.First Friday Art Walk: Matt/Alex:
3.City Art/Public Art: Jerry/Alex
4.Awards & Distinctions: Jeff/Staff--Arts Treasure & Arts Advocate Award update | Poet Laureate update
5.Ellensburg Creative District: Staff/Jeff/Alex

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
Oct. 16, 2025
4:09 PM
EDA Office, 109 E. 3rd Street, Ste. 1

1. Call to Order and Roll Call of Members

1.A Chair Eyre, Commissioner Dougherty, Commissioner Snedeker,
Commissioner Wenz
Absent: Council member, David Miller
Welcome guest: Heidi Wixson

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve Oct. 16, 2025, Arts Commission meeting agenda as presented.
By Commissioner Dougherty
Seconded: Commissioner Snedeker
In Favor: All in favor
Opposed: None
Abstain: None
Motion Carries

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve September 18, 2025, Arts Commission meeting minutes with
correction to Commissioner Snedeker's name.
By: Commissioner Dougherty
Seconded: Commissioner Snedeker
In Favor: All
Opposed: None
Abstain: None
Motion Carries

4. Budget/Financial Report

4.A 2025 Arts Commission Budget Update
Staff gave brief verbal overview of 2025 Arts Commission budget and
2025 Project Grant reimbursement status.

Action Item: Staff will send out reminders to all remaining 2025 Project Grant awardees that
have not yet submitted reimbursement reports, to remind them of the EOY deadline. Staff will
continue to send out reminders through the fourth quarter.

5. Subcommittee Business

5.A

1. Funding & Advocacy: Jerry/Alex: No report as of now
2. First Friday Art Walk: Matt/Alex: Matt gave an update on the First Thursday, CWU/Creative District progress. October Art Walk had a great turn out.
3. City Art/Public Art: Jerry/Alex; Jeff talked about the art map in Seattle near the Seattle Rep. Map has the QR Code. Explore this idea for the ArtsWa Capital Grant. Jeff will send over the photos. Jerry discussed the idea of a walking public art/state art tour on campus. Guest, Heidi Wixson suggested a location close to campus, like the nexus intersection of Wildcat Way and University Way.
4. Awards & Distinctions: Jeff/Alex/Staff:
The date of Nov. 12, 2025, was selected for the Arts Treasure and Arts Advocate awards ceremony at starting at 5:00 pm at the INK with the actual ceremony at 5:30.

Action Items:

Staff will:

- Alert all nominees and create promotional SM material.
- Invite past award recipients, Art Walk venues, commissioners, and reach out to partners for promotion.
- Contact Wild Jo for the creation of the Arts Treasure placard
- Create certificates

Alex will:

- Contact the Ink and secure venue
- Work with staff on arranging light beverage/ hors d'oeuvres

Jeff/Alex updated on Poet Laureate selection
Staff gave update on contract revisions.

Motion: Commissioner Dougherty moved that we accept the recommendation regarding the Poet Laureate for 2026-2028 and present recommendation to City Council for approval.

By: Commissioner Dougherty

Seconded: Commissioner Wenz

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carries

5. Ellensburg Creative District: Staff/Jeff/Alex: No update at this time.

6. New Business No new business to report at this time.

7. Unfinished Business:

7.A New Arts Commissioner Applications: Two applicants have applied for the open positions on the Arts Commission. Both have met the meeting attendance requirement. Commission has instructed staff to schedule interviews for both applicants and the interview subcommittee will be Alex, Jerry, and staff.

Action Item: Staff schedule interviews

7.B 2026 Project Grant Application and Recommendation
Commissioners reviewed and discussed the applications-\$25,000 available for award.

Motion: Commissioner Dougherty moved to approve the selected ten 2026 Project Grant applications for a total \$22,000 and present recommendations to City Council for approval, with a strongly worded letter to EDE regarding the necessity of honoring required timelines in the process.

By: Commissioner Dougherty

Seconded: Commissioner Snedeker

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carries

Action Item(s):

- Staff will go through application/budget and list expenses as part of contract and reimbursement to support their expenses.
- Staff will create report for council meeting with commission recommendations.
- Staff will work with legal and risk manager to finalize contracts that include specific budget items as noted. Nuwave: Art materials and supplies \$500/\$400/\$100.00 (go through budget on application)
- Staff will prep the 2026 Project Grant:
 - Tracking spreadsheet
 - Round one paperwork, including vendor form and W-9 for new awardees)
 - Grant onboarding for new recipients

8. Citizen Comment:

9. Staff Update/Discussion Items:

10. Commission Representative Update:

11. Adjournment Time: 6:00

	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					Invoices went out 3/3/25 to all venues Reminders to two remaining unpaid went out 6/11/25
9			The Clymer Art Gallery	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ -		
10			D&M Coffee Downtown	\$ 50.00		\$ 50.00		Cancel venue location for 2026
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	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 50.00		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	\$ 19,794.79	\$ 7,850.21		
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	\$ 2,491.23	\$ 8.77		Reimbursement forms submitted for processing 9/16/25
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	\$ -		Reimbursement forms submitted 9/23/25
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	\$ -		Reimbursement forms submitted for processing 9/16/25
93								
94								
95								
96		Total Art Grants		\$ 24,500.00	\$ 8,491.23	\$ 16,008.77		
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	\$ 28,786.02			
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 Date: November 17, 2025
City of Ellensburg
City Council Agenda Report

Agenda Subject: Arts Commission 2026 Project Grants and Spending Plan (Public Comment Opportunity)
Submitted by: Kelle Vandenberg, Arts & Economic Development Manager
Department: Arts Commission

Suggested Motion/Action:

1. Consider the award recommendation and authorize the 2026 grant funding awards in the amount of \$22,000.00 for the 2026 Ellensburg Arts Commission Project Grants.
2. Move to approve the 2026 Arts Commission Spending Plan as presented in staff report.

Background/Summary:

The Arts Commission is dedicated to promoting and funding artistic endeavors through the City grant application cycle. The Ellensburg Arts Commission supports artists, creators, innovators, and organizations throughout the community to create and enrich the arts and drive the creative economy in Ellensburg. To further these goals, the EAC solicited and received grant applications to support artist-led projects with a community benefit. Submitted applications were due back to the City by the August 30, 2025, advertised deadline. The Art Commissioners reviewed each proposed project against the eligibility requirements and have recommended awards for Council's consideration.

Previous Council Action:

In 2016, the Ellensburg City Council designated 10% of construction sales tax revenue to community art, with an annual minimum of \$25,000.00 and a maximum of \$50,000.00. Additionally, previous council action to support recommended grant awardees has created an avenue to advance the arts in Ellensburg, contributed to an elevated quality of life, and grown the creative economy in the community.

Analysis:

The selection of projects in the attached report cover a wide array of disciplines and age groups. The Arts Commission reviewed all the submissions and scored them based on artistic merit, public benefit, and the ability to see the project through to completion, with supporting documentation and budgets. The 2026 Arts Commission Project Grant award recommendations represent \$22,000.00 in funding and include projects with an emphasis on artistic youth programming, the exploration of new projects, and projects that celebrate our regional artistic cultural history.

Financial Impact:

The 2026 Project Grants total \$22,000.00, and are included in the Council's proposed 2026 Arts Commission Spending Plan:

Operations	\$20,000.00
Project Grants	\$22,000.00
Creative District	\$ 4,000.00
Public Art	\$4,000.00

Budget Adjustment: No

Attachments:

1. 2026 ELLENSBURG ARTS COMMISSION PROJECT GRANTS COUNCIL REPORT



2025 ELLENSBURG ARTS COMMISSION PROJECT GRANTS: Overview

Organization/Indv.	Project	Award	Category
Calliope Arts/dba Ellensburg Shakespeare Project	Shakespeare in Unity Park	\$2,500.00	All ages/historical theatre/outdoor theatre
Central Washington Dance Academy	Peter Pan	\$2,500.00	Youth/dance
CWU Sarah Spurgeon Gallery	Ferrous Exhibition	\$2,500.00	Professional artists
Discovery Lab of Ellensburg	The Wonders of the Shrub Steppe	\$2,500.00	Youth/multi-age/music/theatre
Ellensburg Community Radio	GustFest	\$2,500.00	Music/cultural preservation
Ellensburg Dance Ensemble	2026 Dance Season	\$2,500.00	All ages/dance
Jane Orleman	Totem Renovation	\$1,000.00	Cultural preservation
LHAF dba: Valley Theatre Company	Rising Star Production: Tuck Everlasting	\$2,500.00	Youth/theatre
Make Music Ellensburg	Strum-Along	\$2,500.00	Youth/multi-age/music
Nuwave Gallery	UNIFY: The Art of Coming Together	\$1,000.00	Youth/multi-age art

Ellensburg Arts Commission Grants: Historical Overview

8 YR TOTAL AWARD	\$191,366
TOTAL NUMBER OF AWARDS	109
AVERAGE \$ PER AWARD (8 YR)	\$1,932.99

The numbers above include 2026 grant cycle.

TOTAL AWARDED TO ORGANIZATIONS	\$ 167,133.00
TOTAL AWARDED TO INDIVIDUALS	\$ 24,233.00

The numbers above include 2026 grant cycle.



**2025 ELLENSBURG ARTS COMMISSION PROJECT GRANT
DETAILED REPORT**

Organization/Individual	Project Name	Recommended Funding
Calliope Arts/dba: Ellensburg Shakespeare Project	Shakespeare in Unity Park	\$2,500.00

Project Description: Newly formed Calliope Arts is producing free outdoor performances of one of Shakespeare’s classic plays in Unity Park. As demonstrated by our 2025 production, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, a successful and free production of outdoor Shakespeare brought many people to the park on multiple occasions during the week in the evening. Expanding on the production’s success in 2025, Calliope Arts will again produce, teach, and stage classic Shakespeare theatre in downtown Ellensburg at Unity Park. It is an opportunity to enrich not only those who are involved in the production, but for all those who come to the performances and experience Shakespeare in an outdoor theatre as intended. Our auditions are open to everyone 14 years old and older, providing opportunities for intergenerational collaboration. In 2025, we had an exceptionally strong cross-over between CWU students, staff, and faculty with other Ellensburg residents, building community through a shared experience.

Organization/Individual	Project Name	Recommended Funding
Central Washington Dance Academy	Peter Pan	\$2,500.00

Project Description: The project will present a full dance adaptation of Peter Pan. Auditions are open to all dance students from the local community and neighboring areas. Artistic direction is provided by Jane Venezia, with choreography by Cindy Bruns and Taylor Bir. The production is designed to engage the entire Ellensburg community and audience members of all ages. In addition, extending its reach across Kittitas County. Other target audiences will include the cities of Selah, Yakima, and Wenatchee. This event will offer creative opportunities for local dancers and broaden access to the arts within Kittitas County and other towns within a 45 minute to one hour drive to Ellensburg.

Organization/Individual	Project Name	Recommended Funding
CWU Sarah Spurgeon Gallery	Ferrous Exhibition	\$2,500.00

Project Description: Curated by Renee Adams, Ferrous will be a three-week exhibition scheduled to be shown at the Sarah Spurgeon Gallery on the CWU campus January 15 – February 7, 2026, and featuring 15 artists from across the US who transform iron into sculptural works of art. In conjunction with the exhibition, a curator talk will be scheduled at 4pm in CWU’s Randall Hall just before the opening on January 15 and a later in-person talk will be held on campus (time and location to be determined) by Lisa Geertsen, one of the founding members of the Society of Inclusive Blacksmiths. Following the talk, a panel of artists from the exhibition will join Lisa on Zoom to answer questions and discuss their work and vision as contemporary artists working in iron.



Organization/Individual	Project Name	Recommended Funding
Discovery Lab of Ellensburg	The Wonders of the Shrub Steppe	\$2,500.00

Project Description: Due in part to a grant from the Ellensburg Arts Commission, we now have a completed musical "The Wonders of the Shrub Steppe" written. In 2026, we would like to procure all the requirements for performance, including backdrops, props, choreography, direction, and production. Our intention is to put the show on live in the Summer of 2026 at Morgan Middle School (with Hal Holmes as a backup). Participation in the show will be open to all community members and at least one show will be pay what you can. The target audience for this project is community members in Ellensburg of all ages. The musical has many parts for children and adults in performance and production. We envision this show being enjoyed by people of all ages. It is entertaining, informative, and helps shed light on some often-overlooked flora and fauna from the Ellensburg region in a fun, fantastical story.
 *Note: In 2025, the Discovery Lab completed the writing and composing of the music and of the script, performing in a Readers Theatre style production.

Organization/Individual	Project Name	Recommended Funding
Ellensburg Community Radio	GustFest	\$2,500.00

Project Description: Ellensburg Community Radio stages Gustfest in collaboration with the Kittitas County Historical Society, Inc.(DBA Kittitas County Historical Museum), the Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce, the Ellensburg Downtown Association, Make Music Ellensburg and the city of Ellensburg. The event brings together musicians and artists in a one-day event to celebrate the performing and visual art and unique sound of Ellensburg at the Kittitas Valley Event Center. In its second year, the event drew more than 500 spectators over the course of the day, many from out of the region, and featured eight bands with 26 musicians, almost entirely from Kittitas County. The musicians spanned genres and age ranges, reflecting, and celebrating the history of the local music scene while spotlighting contemporary artists and their work. The event's success enabled organizers to double the pay promised to musicians. The event makes good use of the facilities at KVEC, with space for local vendors inside and outside the buildings. The main stage provides the reliability needed for a June event while allowing traffic to filter outside. Attendees came from across the region, drawing many people with local ties back to the community, creating a reunion feel to the event.

Organization/Individual	Project Name	Recommended Funding
Ellensburg Dance Ensemble	2026 Dance Season	\$2,500.00

Project Description: Ellensburg Dance Ensemble is the region's only nonprofit dance company, dedicated to creating high-quality, original productions that showcase local talent and inspire audiences of all ages. The Studio by EDE serves as our home for dance education, offering classes for children and adults in a variety of styles, from ballet to musical theatre, in an inclusive and welcoming environment.



Ellensburg Dance Ensemble is seeking support for the enchanting 2026 season filled with artistry, storytelling, and the joy of dance. Our year will feature two original ballet productions, each offering audiences a unique blend of timeless literature and EDE’s signature choreography.

Spring 2026 – The Little Prince

Winter 2026 – A New Holiday Ballet

Organization/Individual	Project Name	Recommended Funding
Jane Orleman	Totem Renovation	\$1,000.00

Project Description: There are 24 totem poles along on the North side of Dick & Jane's Spot. This is part of a 10' easement granted by the City of Ellensburg to create a tourist walkway so that viewers could safely walk around the Spot and not be in the parking area. Over time (approximately 20 years) these totems have degraded due to natural weathering. Proposed is a project to restoration and/or recreate 6 most degraded totems on the North side of Dick & Jane's Spot.

Organization/Individual	Project Name	Recommended Funding
LHAF dba: Valley Theatre Company	Rising Star Production: Tuck Everlasting	\$2,500.00

Project Description: Valley Theatre Company’s (VTC) Rising Stars is a project developed to serve as an expressive and artistic outlet for area youth. VTC gives students an introduction to acting and a foundation of skills they can use in future plays or musicals. Participants gain communication skills, discipline, and the confidence to perform publicly within a safe, nurturing environment—building not only stage presence but a lasting love of theatre. Under the direction of CharRé Burnum, the program also includes a curriculum and workbook with lessons in theatre basics, memorization, character development, puppetry, makeup, improv, and stagecraft. High school drama students also participate behind the scenes, taking on leadership roles and mentoring younger cast members. In Spring 2026, Rising Stars will present Tuck Everlasting, adapted from Natalie Babbitt’s beloved novel. Students in grades 3–8 will bring to life the story of Winnie Foster, a curious 10-year-old whose encounter with the Tuck family sparks powerful questions about life, mortality, and choice, and what it truly means to grow up.

Organization/Individual	Project Name	Recommended Funding
Make Music Ellensburg	Strum-Along	\$2,500.00

Project Description: The Ellensburg Strum-Along is a free, drop-in jam session for musicians of all kinds led by a core group of professionals. Strum-Along meets every six to eight weeks, with most sessions multiple ages, for hobby players through experienced performers. We cater to guitar & ukulele, but have regular bass guitarists & vocalists as well as random other instruments join us - violin, percussion, mandolin, banjo, etc. Make Music Ellensburg is always striving to bring people together, across all political, socio-economic, age, cultural, racial, & other divides. We create a safe & welcoming environment for all people to play music together,



which is an incredible way to build stronger communities & happier people.

Organization/Individual	Project Name	Recommended Funding
Nuwave Gallery	UNIFY: The Art of Coming Together	\$1,000.00

Project Description: UNIFY: The Art of Coming Together is a two-month art exhibition and public art initiative held at Nuwave Gallery during March and April 2026. The show will feature collaborative artworks created by pairs or groups of artists—highlighting how creativity can be a bridge between people, experiences, and communities. During Ellensburg’s March and April First Friday Art Walks, the public will be invited to take part in interactive mural-making stations. These community-created murals will be completed with inspiring quotes painted by Erin Oostra and donated to the Ellensburg Downtown Association to be displayed publicly. The project also includes student art takeovers of Nuwave Gallery’s Community Wall, providing a platform for youth to showcase their work in a professional setting.



Building community through the arts.

2026 Proposed Arts Commission Meeting Schedule

All Arts Commission meetings are on the second Thursday of each month.

January 8, 2026

February 12, 2026

March 12, 2026

April 9, 2026

May 14, 2026

June 11, 2026

July: No meeting

August 13, 2026

September 10, 2026

October 8, 2026

November 12, 2026

December 10, 2026

From: noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>
Sent: Friday, September 12, 2025 9:39 AM
To: Gretchen Delaford <delafordg@ellensburgwa.gov>
Subject: [Ext] Online Form Submittal: Application for Appointment



Application for Appointment

Application for Appointment

For volunteering to serve on a Board or Commission

Boards & Commissions	Arts Commission
Have you attended a meeting for the board or commission you are applying to?	No
Name of Applicant:	(Jensen) Vincent Michael Lopez
Address	[REDACTED]
Mailing Address (If Different)	Field not completed.
City	Ellensburg
State	WA
Zip	98926
Email Address	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Do you live within the city limits? Yes

ECC 1.12.120 Residency qualification. Except where a commission, board or committee specifically requires city residency as a condition of appointment, members of all other commissions, boards and committees shall maintain residency within the Kittitas County limits. "Residency," as used herein, means residing within the city or county limits, as applicable, both at the time of appointment and for at least 270 days within each calendar year for the duration of the member's term, but shall not include any period for which a member is absent due to military service.

Occupation Status and Background:

I have dedicated over 25 years to a professional career as a Contemporary Ballet Dancer, Choreographer and teacher. My performance history includes performances with Donald Byrd of Spectrum Dance Theater & Whim W'Him in Seattle WA as well as Wideman/Davis Dance, A national touring dance company.

In addition to performance,, I have pursued opportunities to advance cultural exchange and arts education. I completed a residency at the American School of Dhaka in Bangladesh, where I developed and led dance programing. During this time I also facilitated community residences, teaching dance to underprivileged youth across the city. These international experiences reinforced my commitment to the role of the arts as a vehicle for education, accessibility, lacrosse cultural dialogue.

Currently, I continue my artistic practice as a Photographer & cinematographer. My work remains rooted in the principles of movement, composition, and storytelling, allowing me to extend my artistic voice into new mediums while continuing to engage audiences throughout eh visual art.

Organization Affiliations:

Spectrum Dance Theater
Wideman/Davis Dance
Whim W'Him

Why are you seeking appointment?

I am seeking to serve on the City Arts Council to bring my perspective as a lifelong artist and cultural worker to the service of my community. I understand the arts as both a professional practice and a tool for connection. I want to help ensure that artists across disciplines have opportunities to

thrive and the arts remain an accessible and vital part of our city.

Will you be able to attend meetings regularly if appointed? Yes

If your first choice, as listed above, is not available, which other boards or commissions would you be interested in serving on?

Boards & Commissions Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Boards & Commissions Landmarks and Design Commission

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

From: noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2025 5:10 PM
To: Gretchen Delaford <delafordg@ellensburgwa.gov>
Subject: [Ext] Online Form Submittal: Application for Appointment



Application for Appointment

Application for Appointment

For volunteering to serve on a Board or Commission

Boards & Commissions	Arts Commission
Have you attended a meeting for the board or commission you are applying to?	No
Name of Applicant:	Therese Young
Address	[REDACTED]
Mailing Address (If Different)	Field not completed.
City	Ellensburg
State	WA
Zip	98926
Email Address	[REDACTED]
Phone Number	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Do you live within the city limits? Yes

ECC 1.12.120 Residency qualification. Except where a commission, board or committee specifically requires city residency as a condition of appointment, members of all other commissions, boards and committees shall maintain residency within the Kittitas County limits. "Residency," as used herein, means residing within the city or county limits, as applicable, both at the time of appointment and for at least 270 days within each calendar year for the duration of the member's term, but shall not include any period for which a member is absent due to military service.

Occupation Status and Background: Retired
CWU Tenured Dance Professor 24 years

Organization Affiliations: In transition from University related organizations to community based affiliations.

Why are you seeking appointment? I have time and knowledge to share.

Will you be able to attend meetings regularly if appointed? Yes

If your first choice, as listed above, is not available, which other boards or commissions would you be interested in serving on?

Boards & Commissions *Field not completed.*

Boards & Commissions *Field not completed.*

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)