

# AGENDA

## ARTS COMMISSION

### January 8, 2026

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

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

+12532050468,,86948892921# US

Accessibility

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- 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.

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**CITY OF ELLENSBURG  
ARTS COMMISSION AGENDA  
Ellensburg Downtown Association Offices  
109 E. 3rd Street  
Ellensburg, WA 98926  
And remotely via Zoom  
Thursday, January 8, 2026  
4:00 PM - Regular Meeting/Commission Retreat**

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call of Members**

1.A Roll Call: Commissioner Eyre, Commissioner Dougherty, Commissioner Snedeker, Commissioner Wenz, Commissioner Young, Commissioner Lopez

**2. Approval of Agenda (No Public Comment)**

2.A Review and approve the January 8, 2026, Arts Commission agenda as presented.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

3.A Review and approve the December 11, 2025, Arts Commission meeting minutes as presented.

**4. Budget/Financial Report**

4.A 2026 Proposed Budget Review and Commissioner Budget Approval

**5. New Business**

5.A 2025 Annual Report

5.B 2025 Project Grant Annual Report

**6. Unfinished Business**

6.A Arts Commission Annual Retreat Items:

1. Public Art Policy
2. Creative District Priorities
3. Review 2026 Awards/Celebrations and Timing
4. Digital Public Art Library
5. Vacant Store Fronts/Public Art Loan
6. New Art Walk Signs

6.B Review the updated resubmitted budget for Jane Orleman's 2026 Project Grant

6.C Bus Shelter Art Update

**7. Subcommittee Business**

7.A

- Funding & Advocacy: Jerry/Alex
- First Friday Art Walk: Jerry/Alex
- City Art/Public Art: Jerry/Alex
- Ellensburg Creative District: Staff/Jeff/Alex

7.B New Commissioners Subcommittee Selection

**8. Citizen Comment**

**9. Staff Update/Discussion Items**

9.A 2026 Project Grants Update

**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**  
**Dec. 11, 2025**  
**4:00 PM**  
**City Hall, Council Conference Room**

### **1. Call to Order and Roll Call of Members**

1.A Chair Eyre, Commissioner Dougherty, Commissioner Snedeker, Commissioner Wenz, Commissioner Young, Commissioner Lopez, Councilmember Miller  
Absent: None  
Welcome guest: Richard Coleman

### **2. Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve Dec. 11, 2025, Arts Commission meeting agenda, with the following correction to Item 6.A changing the word schematic to rendering.  
By: Commissioner Dougherty  
Seconded: Commissioner Snedeker  
In Favor: All in favor  
Opposed: None  
Abstain: None  
Motion Carries

### **3. Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve Nov. 13, 2025, Arts Commission meeting minutes with the following correction to item 5.C changing the word schematic to rendering wherever it appears.  
By: Commissioner Snedeker  
Seconded: Commissioner Dougherty  
In Favor: All  
Opposed: None  
Abstain: None  
Motion Carries

### **4. Budget/Financial Report**

4.A YTD 2025 Budget and 2026 Arts Commission Budget  
Staff reviewed YTD 2025 budget and reviewed the proposed line item 2026 budget for commission review.  
**Action Item:** Staff requested that Commissioners review the proposed 2026 budget and discuss any edits/changes at the January 8, 2026, meeting/retreat for a vote.

## 5. New Business

### 5.A Jane Orleman Scope of Work Change Request

Commission discussed the requested change the Scope of Work. Tabled to January meeting pending receipt of the breakdown of the revised budget.

**Action Item:** Staff reach out to Jane Orleman for a second request of an updated project budget breakdown.

### 5.B 2026-2028 Poet Laureate Year One Programming

Staff updated on contract and reviewed Poet Laureate 2026 Programming

No further action needed.

### 5.C New Sidewalk Sign Options

Good discussion on buying generic signs, the weatherization, and sign options. Further discussion regarding if we need sidewalk signs, moving to window clings that are up all month. Discussed options, including QR codes, posters. Commissioners decided to bring this topic to the venue meeting in January for further discussion and get venue input. Table conversation until after the venue meeting.

**Action Item:** Commissioner Eyre will reach out to Ellensburg Music Festival to see if the Arts Commission can recycle their venue signs.

### 5.D New Commissioner Onboarding

Staff briefly reviewed next steps in onboarding for new commissioners:

1. Set up city email address, as provided by city IT Department.
2. Take online OMPA certification training as provided by city staff.
3. In person onboarding meeting with city staff in January.

**Action Item:** Staff will reach out with potential dates for onboarding.

## 6. Unfinished Business:

### 6.A Bus Shelter Rendering Review

Commissioners reviewed the submitted renderings for the bus shelters with the art. Two of the artists submissions were usable, one will need revisions.

**Action Item:** Commissioner Eyre will reach out to the artist to adjust the artwork to work within the framework of the bus shelter rendering.

Artist/Location: Justin Gibbens-Rotary Park

Artist/Location: Sue Wright-Behind Les Swab

Artist/Location: Erin Oostra-Ruby Street downtown

**2026 Action Item:** Commissioners will review the Bus Shelter Call for Artist to give the artist more specifics, including a template, file submission size limitations and/or utilizing another platform that would accept large art files.

**Action Item:** Staff will send each artist instructions on submitting invoice for payment and any required documentation necessary to process payment.

#### 6.B 2025 Project Grants Update/Discussion

- Open remaining projects
- Scope of Work Change Request

Motion to approve the Scope of Work change request as presented by the Ellensburg Dance Ensemble for the 2025 Project Grant

By: Commissioner Snedeker

Seconded: Commissioner Dougherty

In Favor: Commissioner Eyre, Commissioner Lopez, Commissioner Young, Commissioner Snedeker

Opposed: None

Abstain: Commissioner Dougherty and Commissioner Wenz

Motion Carries

**Action Item:** Staff will inform Ellensburg Dance Ensemble that their request was approved.

### 7. Subcommittee Business:

7.A Funding & Advocacy: Jerry/Alex: Looking forward to working on formatting for the Change of Scope Work requests to bring some standardization to the request.

First Friday Art Walk: Matt/Alex: Matt suggested opening art walk to performance art as well as. Table discussion for venue meeting.

City Art/Public Art: Jerry/Alex/Jeff: Discussed setting up meeting to build 2026 priorities list.

Awards & Distinctions: Jeff/Alex/Staff: Alex will work on design for the 2026 Arts Treasure and Advocate award.

Ellensburg Creative District: Jeff/Alex/Staff: Update on Creative District landing page being built on MyEllensburg.com

**8. Citizen Comment:** Richard Coleman remarked that he has interest in joining the Arts Commission at a future date.

**9. Staff Update/Discussion Items:** No update given

**10. Commission Representative Update:** No update given

**11. Adjournment Time:** 5:21 pm

DRAFT

DRAFT

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	<b>PROPOSED 2026 EAC Spending Plan</b>			<b>2026 BUDGET</b>	<b>2026 ACTUALS</b>	<b>Outstanding Balance</b>		<b>NOTES</b>
2		<b>REVENUES:</b>	<b>DRAFT BUDGET WORKBOOK</b>					
3								
4		<b>100-162-308-41-00-000-000</b>	<b>Beginning Fund</b>					
5								
6								
7								
8		<b>100 162 347 90 00</b>	<b>Artwalk</b>					
9		<b>Will invoice in Feb. 2026</b>	The Clymer Art Gallery	\$ 50.00		\$ 50.00		
10			Ellensburg Rodeo Hall of Fame	\$ 50.00		\$ 50.00		
11			Gallery One	\$ 50.00		\$ 50.00		
12			Gard Vintners	\$ 50.00		\$ 50.00		
13			Hotel Windrow	\$ 50.00		\$ 50.00		
14			IQOF	\$ 50.00		\$ 50.00		
15			Kittitas County Historical Museum	\$ 50.00		\$ 50.00		
16			NuWave Gallery	\$ 50.00		\$ 50.00		
17			Pearl Street Books	\$ 50.00		\$ 50.00		
18			Rock-n-Roll History Presents	\$ 50.00		\$ 50.00		
19			Royal Junction	\$ 50.00		\$ 50.00		
20			The INK	\$ 50.00		\$ 50.00		
21			The Mule	\$ 50.00		\$ 50.00		
22			The Palace Gallery	\$ 50.00		\$ 50.00		
23			Valo Cellars	\$ 50.00		\$ 50.00		
24			The Fitterer's Blding/Woodin Enterprises	\$ 50.00		\$ 50.00		
25						\$ -		
26						\$ -		
27						\$ -		
28						\$ -		
29		<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>		<b>\$ 800.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 800.00</b>		
30								
31								
32								
33		<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>		<b>2026 Budget</b>	<b>2026 ACTUALS</b>			
34		<b>100 162 573 20 31</b>	<b>Operating Supplies</b>					
35			Artwalk Annual meeting supplies	\$ 100.00		\$ 100.00		
36			Artwalk Sidewalk Signs	\$ 1,500.00		\$ 1,500.00		(\$1,000.00/signs \$500.00 Printing posters)
37			Arts Treasure Award Engraving/Art Plaques	\$ 100.00		\$ 100.00		
38			Treasure Award Ceremony Supplies	\$ 75.00		\$ 75.00		
39			Arts Treasure/Advocate Awards (creation of award)	\$ 500.00		\$ 500.00		
40			Poet Laureate Supplies	\$ 1,500.00		\$ 1,500.00		
41								
42								
43								
44			<b>Total Operating Supplies</b>	<b>\$ 3,775.00</b>		<b>\$ 3,775.00</b>		
45								
46		<b>100 162 573 20 41</b>	<b>Professional Services</b>					
47			Americans For the Arts membership	\$ 50.00		\$ 50.00		
48			Inspire Washington Membership	\$ 100.00		\$ 100.00		
49								
50			<b>Total Professional Services</b>	<b>\$ 150.00</b>		<b>\$ 150.00</b>		
51								
52		<b>100 162 573 20 43</b>	<b>Professional Development-Travel</b>					
53			Conferences-Travel					
54								
55		<b>100 162 573 20 49</b>	<b>Professional Development-Misc</b>					
56		<b>100 162-573-20-44-013</b>	<b>Admin Services</b>	\$ 13,000.00		\$ 13,000.00		
57		<b>Total Professional Development</b>		<b>\$ 13,150.00</b>		<b>\$ 13,150.00</b>		
58								
59		<b>100 162 573 20 44</b>	<b>Advertising</b>					
60			NPR- for contract year	\$ 1,920.00		\$ 1,920.00		
61			ArtWalk Maps/Posters	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00		
62		<b>Total Advertising</b>		<b>\$ 2,920.00</b>		<b>\$ 2,920.00</b>		
63								
64		<b>Ellensburg Creative District</b>						

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
65								
66		100-162-558-70-31-558-000	Ellensburg Creative District Supplies	\$ 4,000.00		\$ 4,000.00		
67								
68		100-162-558-70-35-558-000	Ellensburg Creative District-Small Tools/Eqpmt			\$ -		
69								
70		100-162-558-70-41-558-000	Ellensburg Creative District-Prof. Services			\$ -		
71								
72		100-162-558-70-42-558-000	Ellensburg Creative District-Communication & Marketing			\$ -		
73								
74		<b>Total Ellensburg Creative District</b>		<b>\$ 4,000.00</b>		<b>\$ 4,000.00</b>		
75								
76		<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>\$ 23,995.00</b>		<b>\$ 23,995.00</b>		<b>(UP TO \$24,000 FOR OPERATIONS/CREATIVE DIST.)</b>
77								
78		<b>Grant Dispersement</b>		<b>2026 BUDGET</b>		<b>Balance</b>		
79		<b>100 162 573 20 40</b>	<b>2026 Art Grants</b>					
80								
81		CWU Sarah Spurgeon Gallery	Ferrous Exhibition	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00		
82		Make Music Ellensburg	Strum-Along	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00		
83		Ellensburg Community Radio	GustFest	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00		
84		Calliope Arts	Shakespeare in Unity Park	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00		
85		LHAF dba Valley Theatre Company	Rising Star: Tuck Everlasting	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00		
86		Central Washington Dance Academy	Peter Pan	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00		
87		Ellensburg Dance Ensemble	2026 Dance Season	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00		
88		Jane Orleman	Totem Restoration	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00		
89		Discovery Lab of Ellensburg	Shrub Steppe The Musical	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00		
90		Nuwave Gallery	UNIFY: The Art of Coming Together	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00		
91						\$ -		
92								
93		<b>Total Art Grants</b>		<b>\$ 22,000.00</b>		<b>\$ 22,000.00</b>		
94								
95		<b>Capitol/Public Art</b>		<b>2026 BUDGET</b>		<b>Balance</b>		
96		<b>100 162 573 20 40</b>	<b>Capital/Public Art</b>					
97			City Permanent Acquisition	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00		
98			Public Art Plaquards	\$ 1,500.00		\$ 1,500.00		
99								
100								
101		<b>Total Capitol/Public Art</b>		<b>\$ 4,000.00</b>				
102								
103		<b>Total Budget</b>		<b>\$50,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 49,995.00</b>			
104								
105								
106								
107		<b>Beginning Fund Balance</b>						
108								
109								
110								
111								
112								



# Ellensburg Arts Commission

# Annual 2025 Report



Prepared By :

**Kelle Vandenberg**

Arts & Economic Development Manager



City of

**Ellensburg**  
WASHINGTON

# 2025 Ellensburg Arts Commissioners



**Alex Eyre**, *Chair*, Term expires May 31, 2029

Focus: Ellensburg Creative District, Awards & Distinctions, Public Art

*A former New York ballet dancer and accomplished artist, Alex has led the Arts Commission for the City for 13+ years with a focus on enhancing quality of life through the arts. Actively involved in the arts at the state level, Alex continues to bring artistic opportunities to Ellensburg.*



**Jerry Dougherty**, *Commissioner*, Term expires May 31, 2029

Focus: Funding & Advocacy and Public Art

*Senior Lecturer and Production Manager at CWU, Commissioner Dougherty has an MFA in Theatre Design and Technology and has served the Arts Commission since 2010. Commissioner Dougherty has brought practical efficiencies to the Project Grant program and helps with advocacy statewide.*



**Jeffrey Snedeker**, *Commissioner*, Term expires May 31, 2026

Focus: Ellensburg Creative District and Awards & Distinctions

*Horn Professor, Dr. Jeffrey Snedeker is a Washington State Music Educators Hall of Fame inductee, published author, and recording artist. In addition to teaching serves as Principal Horn with the Yakima Symphony and is active in several national and international organizations.*



**Marie Marchand**, *Commissioner*, Term ended November 2025

Focus: Awards & Distinctions

*Inaugural City of Ellensburg Poet Laureate, Commissioner Marchand is a professional and published poet, Marie's career spans 35 years of capturing beauty in language to help people heal.*



**Matthew Wenz**, *Commissioner*, Term expires May 31, 2029

Focus: First Friday Art Walk

*Professional graphic designer and senior lecturer at Central Washington University, Commissioner Wenz is the owner of Wenz Creative design house and is passionate about creating space for digital art. He has helped highlight new art walk opportunities in the Creative District.*

**2026 New Commissioners:**  
*pending Council approval*

**Jensen Lopez**

Professional Contemporary  
and Ballet Dancer,  
Choreographer, and Educator

**Therese Young**

CWU Tenured Dance  
Professor of 24 years,  
*Retired*



Building community through the arts.

# The Creative Economy

## 2025 Update

The City of Ellensburg

### 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.

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

	2022	2024
Number of Creative Jobs	708	729
Total Industry Earnings	\$34.3 M	\$43.4M
Total Industry Sales		\$136.1M
Cultural Arts Nonprofit Earnings	\$725.6K	\$1.8M



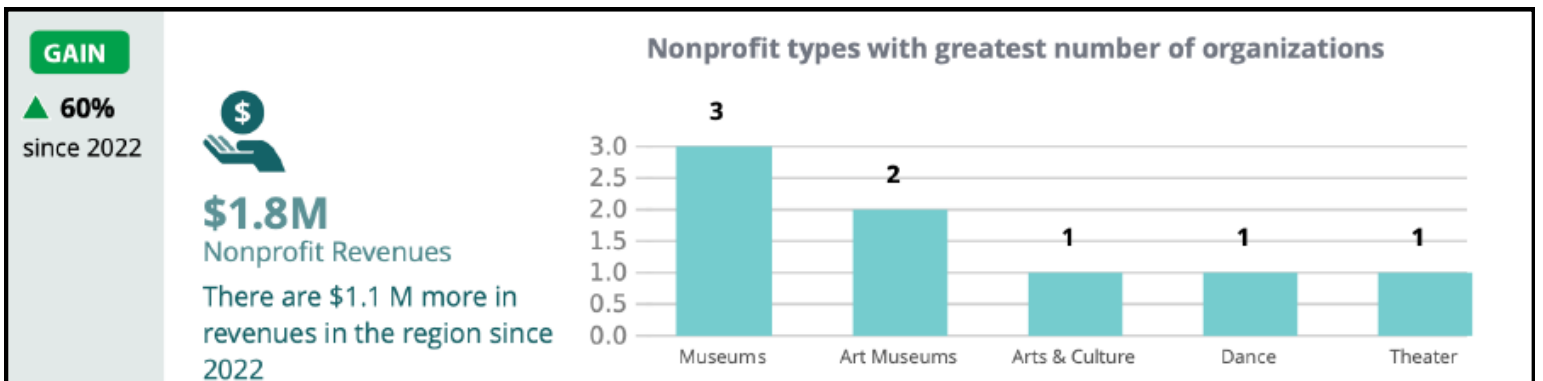
1. Washington Department of Commerce, Commerce News Press Release, March 13, 2024  
 2. All Creative Industry Numbers provided by Creative Vitality Suite, 2022 Report and 2024.3 Report

# The Creative Economy

## 2025 Update

### The City of Ellensburg

(Data from Q3/2024)



# Quality of Life & the Arts

## The Impact of the Arts on the economy from the Arts & Economic Prosperity 6 Report



1. **Arts and culture drives commerce to local businesses.** *Event attendees on average spend \$38.46 per person, per event outside of the event supporting local commerce.*
2. **The arts and culture build more livable communities.** *86% surveyed say that “art and culture are important to their community’s quality of life and livability.*
3. **A vibrant arts and culture community keeps residents spending locally.** *51% of those surveyed said they would have traveled to a different community or region had local events not been available.*
4. **Pride in community.** *89% of those surveyed agreed that arts & cultural activities and events was a source of pride.*

1. Arts & Economic Prosperity 6 impact study, <https://aep6.americansforthearts.org/>

“The AEP6 report also finds that arts and cultural productions are economic drivers for local economies by spurring consumer spending at restaurants, hotels, and other local businesses. Simply put, investment in arts and culture continues to deliver a positive economic return for American communities.” — JENNIFER DORNING, President, Department for Professional Employees, AFL-CI

“As a banker, I have visited businesses in almost every city and town in my state. There is a visible difference in places with a vibrant arts community. I see people looking for places to park, stores staying open late, and restaurants packed with diners. The business day is extended and the cash registers are ringing.” — KEN FERGESON, Chairman, NBC Oklahoma, Past Chair, American Bankers Association

# Arts Commission Programs



**Calls & Grants**  
**First Friday Art Walk**  
**Awards & Distinctions**  
**Ellensburg Creative District**  
**Public Art/City Art Collection**

As the creative industry has expanded in Ellensburg, so has the work of the Arts Commission

# Calls & Grants Data

**6**

The number of separate calls for nomination and/or applications for artists projects and honors created by the Arts Commission in 2025.

**50 %**

The average of the overall budget that the Arts Commission dedicates for project grants every year.

**\$24K**

The average total amount of grants given each year by the Arts Commission to support artistic projects in Ellensburg.

**\$1.9K**

The average single award amount given for each project.

**109**

Number of project grants awarded in the last eight years by the Arts Commission.

**\$191K**

Total number amount of funding awarded in grants for the last eight years by the Arts Commission.

Calculated comparing 2019-2026 Ellensburg Arts Commission Project Grant Data



# Program Highlights

## First Friday Art Walk

- 15 Venues
- Ignite the Arts Event
- New Bi-Annual Thursday Night Art Walk at CWU
- Partnered with EDA and Chamber to expand event promotions
- Annual vendor planning

## Public Art/City Art

- Installation of, *Harmonize* by Crista Ann Ames for Unity Park.
- Formation of the Ellensburg Mural Society
- Began researching public art catalog options

## Awards & Distinctions



### **Sarita Dasgupta**

Award-winning, professional writer, playwright, and poet, Sarita will serve as the Poet Laureate from 2026-2028



### **Kara Hunnicutt**

Accomplished musician, educator, and innovator, Kara was selected as the 2025 Arts Treasure for the City of Ellensburg.



### **Mike McCloskey**

Honored for his long-time service to the arts and as an educator, Mike was selected as the 2025 Arts Advocate for the City of Ellensburg.

## Ellensburg Creative District

- Ellensburg Creative District Phase I Wayfinding signage completed
- Building campus-wide awareness for district promotions and impact
- Completed Ellensburg Creative District Strategic Plan with community partners, including RACI chart that outlines initiatives, responsibilities, and accountability
- Completed and submitted Creative District Annual Report to ArtsWA
- Working with partners on the implementation of the Ellensburg Community Calendar (estimated completion Dec/Jan)
- Building Sister-City Marketing Regional Campaign

# 2026 Arts Commission Priorities

- Launch Ellensburg Community Calendar
- Continue to work with partners on the implementation and development of the Ellensburg Creative District, including regional marketing campaign
- Continue to explore updated catalog system for City's Public Art Collection
- Support and develop the newly formed Ellensburg Mural Society
- Expand resources for artists and art entrepreneurs
- Continue to develop data analysis for Arts Commission programming
- Install new bus shelter artwork for three new bus shelters
- Implementation of Phase II of Ellensburg Creative District Wayfinding
- Support Poet Laureate program and expansion of literary arts in the community

# 2026 Project Grants and Spending Plan

Organization/Individual	Project	Award	Discipline
Calliope Arts/dba Ellensburg Shakespeare Project	Shakespeare in the Unity Park	\$2,500.00	Theatre/all ages
Central Washington Dance Academy	Peter Pan	\$2,500.00	Dance/youth
CWU Sarah Spurgeon Gallery	Ferrous Exhibition	\$2,500.00	Fine Art/student
Discovery Lab of Ellensburg	The Wonders of the Shrub Steppe	\$2,500.00	Musical Theatre/ youth/multi-age cultural
Ellensburg Community Radio	GustFest	\$2,500.00	Cultural Music Preservation
Ellensburg Dance Ensemble	2026 Dance Season	\$2,500.00	Dance/all ages
Jane Orleman	Totem Restoration	\$1,000.00	Public Art Preservation
LHAF dba Valley Theatre Company	Rising Star Production: Tuck Everlasting	\$2,500.00	Theatre/youth
Make Music Ellensburg	Strum-Along	\$2,500.00	Music/multi-age
Nuwave Gallery	UNIFY: The Art of ComingTogether	\$1,000.00	Fine Art/multi-age

## 2026 Arts Commission Spending Plan

Operations:	\$20,000.00
Project Grants:	\$22,000.00
Public Art:	\$ 4,000.00
Creative District:	\$ 4,000.00
<b>2026 Total:</b>	<u>\$50,000.00</u>

# THANK YOU!





PRYROCENE by Robin Mayberry

# 2025 PROJECT GRANTS

## Ellensburg Arts Commission

Annual Report



# STATISTICAL GRANT OVERVIEW 2019-2026

# OVERVIEW

**\$191K**

Awarded by the Ellensburg Arts Commission in Project Grants over the last eight years.

**\$167K**

Awarded to organizations

**\$24K**

Awarded to individuals

**\$23.9K**

Average annual total of funding awarded by Arts Commission

**\$1,823.82**

Average Project Grants Award

## TOP THREE ARTISTIC MEDIUMS AWARDED:



MUSIC



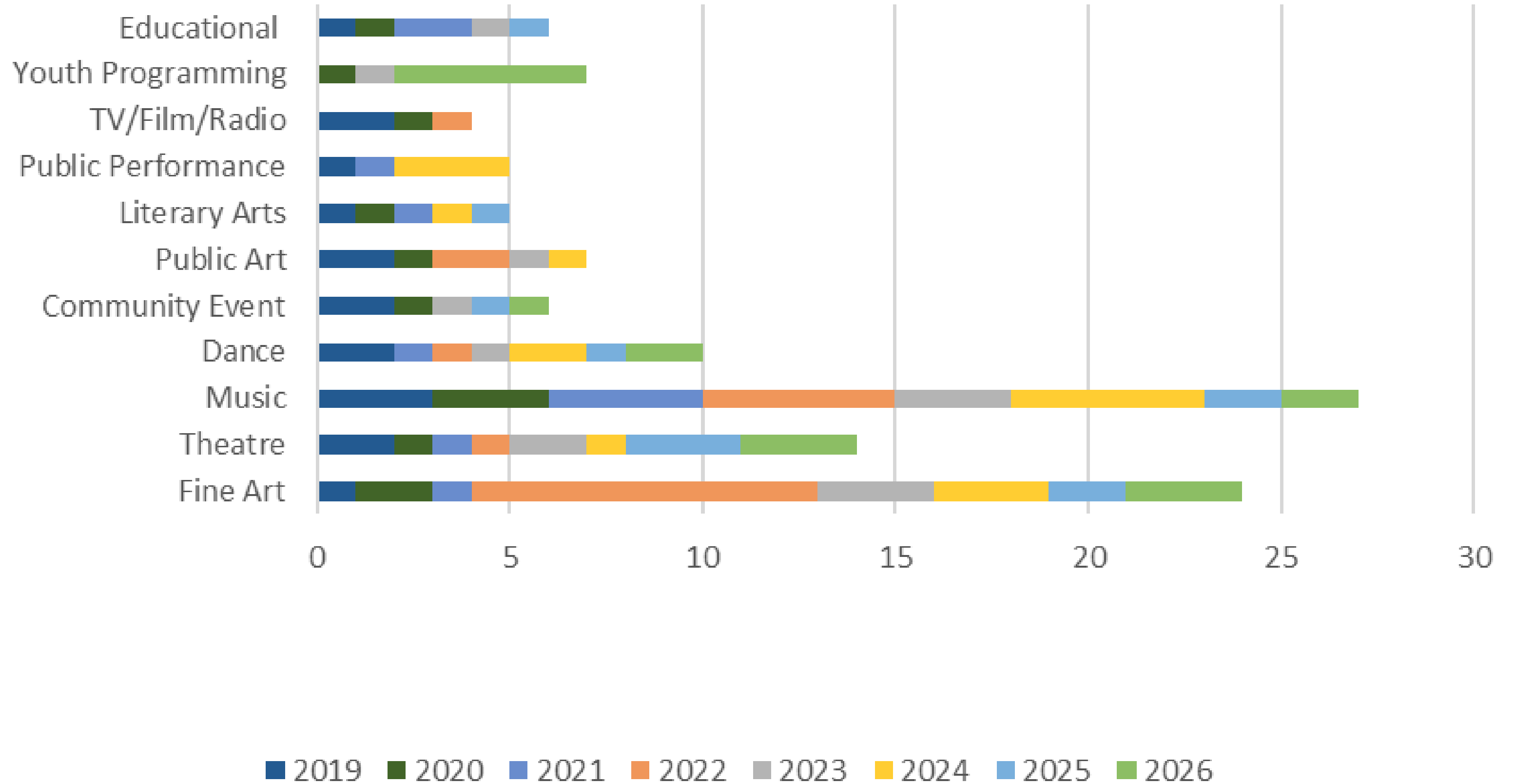
FINE  
ARTS



THEATRE



## Funding by Artistic Discipline/Benefit



In 2025, the Ellensburg Arts Commission presented 11 Project Grants to City Council for approval totaling \$24,500.

\$ 24,500.00	<b>AWARDED</b>	<b>90.9%</b>	<b>2025 PROJECT COMPLETION RATE</b>
\$ 21,991.23	<b>REIMBURSED</b>		
\$ 2,508.77	<b>ROLL OVER TO PUBLIC ART</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>2024 PROJECT COMPLETION RATE</b>

## THE PROJECTS

Discovery Lab of Ellensburg  
 Ellensburg Community Radio  
 Ellensburg Dance Ensemble  
 Ellensburg Downtown Association  
 Gallery One  
 Ellensburg Community Radio  
 Robin Mayberry  
 Valley Theatre Company  
 Inland Poetry  
 Make Music Ellensburg

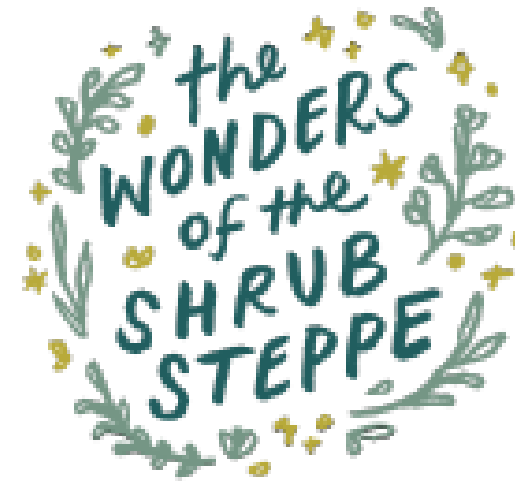
**SHRUB STEPPE THE MUSICAL**  
**GUSTFEST**  
**'T WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS**  
**BUSKERS IN THE BURG**  
**ARTISTS IN ACTION IN THE PARKS**  
**TINY STAGE CONCERT SERIES**  
**PYROCENE**  
**DISNEY'S FROZEN JR.**  
**POETRY in ELLENSBURG**  
**STRUM-ALONG**

Kittitas County Historical Society  
**A DISPLAY OF HISTORIC EPHERMA**

- No Reimbursement Packet submitted by KCHS
- Could not find record of event online

# SHRUB STEPPE THE MUSICAL

## Project Overview



# DISCOVERY LAB OF ELLENSBURG

What began as an ambitious new musical adventure celebrating and educating about the beauty of the surrounding shrub steppe of this region, developed into a two-part, two-year project that has an already growing fan base. Below is an excerpt from the project report:

Between January and September 2025, we spent over 200 hours writing and creating the music for “The Wonders of the Shrub Steppe”, an original musical highlighting one of our most vulnerable local ecosystems. We shared a complete version of our work in a Reader’s Theater format at Iron Horse Brewery in late August 2025. This work wouldn’t have been possible without the generous grant from the Ellensburg Arts commission as it funded just over half of the project.

This cycle of grant funding paid for the writing of the musical and as we shared our work with people over the course of the project, we found many who were really excited about the musical and are committed to helping us bring it to the stage in 2026. We found that children and adults were very invested in the work and had many people volunteering to participate in the Reader’s Theater, share feedback and even had two 11 year olds participate in the songwriting and recording process. The EAC grant funding helped us produce a high quality musical that not only entertains but helps its audience members learn more about the incredible diversity and value of the shrub steppe ecosystem.



# GUSTFEST

## Project Overview

GustFest, led by community members who are dedicated to preserving Ellensburg's musical history, gives an opportunity for all musicians in the region to come together and celebrate their craft and honor those who have come before.

With over 500 people in attendance, this relatively new event has already become something that people look forward to. From the reimbursement report:

GustFest 2025 was a one-day music and cultural preservation event held at the Kittitas Valley Event Center, Umtanum Hall, to celebrate and showcase American roots music, local artistry, and traditional storytelling. The event provided free access to high-quality performances, educational + artistic vendors, and artisan food trucks. The event celebrated the rich musical heritage of Kittitas County and informed attendees about the importance of history and music preservation in our county. The event had a broad community impact, leaving attendees and vendors eager for next year.



# ELLENSBURG COMMUNITY RADIO



# 'Twas the Night Before Christmas

## Project Overview

The original application was for "A Charlie Brown Christmas", however, unable to secure the rights for a ballet adaptation, the company created 'Twas the Night Before Christmas ballet, that showcased many local dancers of all ages to a combined audience of over 600 community members.

From the reimbursement report:

Ellensburg Dance Ensemble (EDE) successfully presented 'Twas the Night Before Christmas, an original holiday ballet inspired by A Visit from St. Nicholas. The production ran December 11–14, 2025, at Morgan Performing Arts Center and featured five performances. The ballet showcased original choreography created by local and CWU-affiliated choreographers and was performed by a cast of 34 community dancers, ages 8 through adult.

The project achieved its goals of expanding access to the performing arts, engaging local artists, and offering a high-quality cultural experience for residents and visitors to Ellensburg during the holiday season. The performances not as well attended as we would have liked, but they were warmly received, reinforcing the community's strong support for locally produced arts programming.



# ELLENSBURG DANCE ENSEMBLE



# BUSKERS IN THE 'BURG



# ELLENSBURG DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION

## Project Overview

A community-favorite event, Buskers in the Burg is the traditional close of summer celebration in Ellensburg, with an estimated over 500 visitors each year. While the EDA will not be the lead organization for the event moving forward, the Buskers Planning Committee is strong and are already planning next year's event.

Here is an excerpt from the reimbursement report:

Buskers in the Burg is an annual celebration of the eccentric, eclectic, and purely entertaining talents of performance artists. In 2025, we welcomed hundreds of local residents and visitors to Unity Park for live stage performances, larger-than-life puppets by Blue Bear Puppet Lab, vendors, and activities. Buskers, or street performers, were stationed throughout the downtown core, and competed to be crowned the crowd-favorite performer.

Ellensburg Arts Commission grant funds were used to procure our main entertainment, Blue Bear Puppet Lab. Blue Bear Puppet Lab is a state-wide recognized producer of eclectic and macabre puppets, featured in festivals like the Fremont Solstice Parade. The puppets have become synonymous with Buskers in the Burg, and the funds allowed us to honor the tradition and expectation of having these puppets in Ellensburg.



# ARTISTS IN ACTION IN THE PARK

## Project Overview

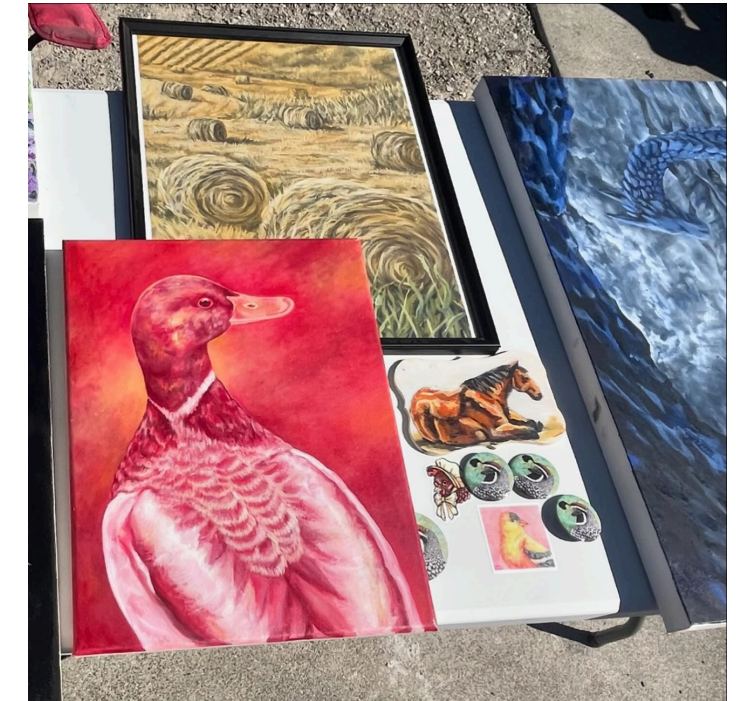
Gallery One is a long-standing artist hub in the community and this year's project utilized Unity Park as the backdrop for creativity.

From the reimbursement report:

Grant funds were used exclusively to compensate local artists who provided live painting demonstrations in Unity Park on selected Saturdays from May–October 2025. Artists set up outdoor workspaces where the public could observe, ask questions, and learn about a variety of painting techniques. The project offered accessible arts engagement while directly supporting the economic health of our local arts community.

## Project Outcomes

- Increased public understanding and appreciation of artistic processes.
- Direct financial support and increased visibility for participating local artists.
- Strengthened connections among Ellensburg visitors, residents, artists, and Gallery One.
- Enhanced community awareness of the partnership between Gallery One and the Ellensburg Arts Commission.



# TINY STAGE CONCERT SERIES

## Project Overview

Ellensburg Community Radio's Tiny Stage Concert series featuring local musicians who were compensated via the Arts Commission Grant. The successes of this project included coordination with bands, as well as introducing the INK as a new venue to the community. Attendees got to experience the joy of live music and local bands were given exposure via social media and in-person. The impact on young musicians was noticeable, giving many first-time performance opportunities. On one occasion multiple attendees inquired about volunteering for ECR and proposing being a band for The Tiny Stage Concert Series. The challenges were minimal, mostly focused on event planning logistics. This led to ECR establishing an events committee to address these challenges, such as sound set up, building access, and space maintenance. The funds received from the city enhanced the number of bands we were able to book and allowed us to explore what events like Tiny Concert Series in The INK could look like in the future.

The measurement for the success was defined in the number of attendees and social media exposure for each band. We had over 450 attendees who all enjoyed themselves and each artist that was featured voiced that they would perform on the stage. Local musicians and community members became aware of the space and our bookings and events increased by 50% from March 2025 to November 2025.



# ELLENSBURG COMMUNITY RADIO



# PYROCENE

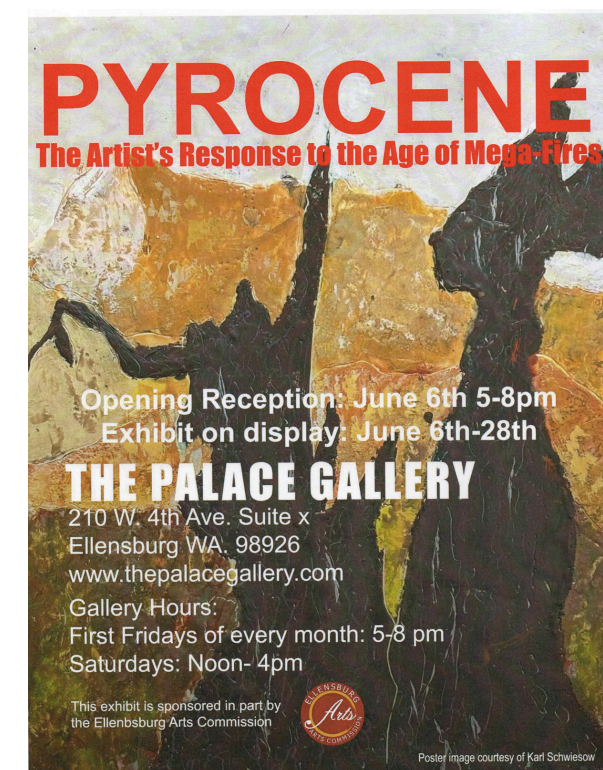
# ROBIN MAYBERRY

## Project Overview

Pyrocene is an invitational art exhibit created and curated by Robin Mayberry that explores the impact of the modern megafire season. It ran during the month of June 2025 at The Palace Gallery in Ellensburg. Artist, Robin Mayberry created two types of work for the exhibit: an installation of pieced, quilted fiber sculptures that represented a burned stand of trees, and encaustic paintings that depicted scenes of past burns.

The exhibit also featured work from fifteen other invited artists from the region. Work included a second large-scale installation, several sculptures, altered digital prints, and paintings in a variety of media all exploring the artists' response to fires and their related destruction and recovery. Viewers engaged in lively discussions about wildfire, ecology, climate change, and the collective and individual opportunities to create positive change and be of service. Viewers were moved and excited by the exhibit, and many commented on the high quality of the work that was shared in this show.

The exhibit was well received, with several viewers returning with friends and family to share the show with their community circles. The opening in particular was a beautiful example of the way that art brings people together, opens profound conversations and bonds us as a community of creative, thoughtful people who are willing to support each other and our world.



# 2025 RISING STAR'S PRODUCTION DISNEY'S FROZEN JR.



# VALLEY THEATRE COMPANY

## Project Overview

For years, Valley Theatre Company's (VTC) Rising Stars project has served as an expressive and artistic outlet for middle school students in our community. This year, we expanded the program to include youth from 3rd grade to 8th grade and invited high school students from Ellensburg High School's Thespian Troupe to assist in backstage leadership roles. The collaboration and organic mentorship between these older students and our younger cast members was inspiring to witness, and we plan to continue with this broader age range in future productions. Frozen Jr. was brought to life by 50 students, ages 8 to 18. Approximately 80% were students from the Ellensburg School District, with the rest coming from Kittitas, Cle Elum, and local homeschools. One highlight of this production was the lighting design by high school student Melissa Sargent. When paired with the flexible stage design, she played a key role in setting the emotional tone of the show—we were incredibly impressed with her work. The director incorporated a curriculum focused on foundational stage skills, emphasizing communication, discipline, and public performance in a supportive, confidence-building environment. We hope this experience sparks a lifelong love of theatre for these students.

Due to the show's popularity, we moved to Morgan Middle School's larger theatre. This greatly increased our capacity, and we averaged around 220 people per performance. The production drew an enthusiastic and diverse audience of 1,566 people, a 225% increase over last year. About 15% of attendees came from outside Kittitas County. We were also supported by 20 adult staff, and over 70 parents who assisted with various aspects of the production. Additionally, we increased our show sponsorships, in-kind sponsorships and business advertising in our program. The EAC grant was instrumental in making this production possible. It helped cover key expenses, including additional royalties due to the increased attendance, program and poster printing, and portions of our facility rental and set materials expenses—core costs that are often difficult to meet without outside support. This funding provided a vital cushion that allows VTC to continue investing in the future of our junior programming.



# P.i.E. (POETRY in ELLENSBURG)

## Project Overview

Inland Poetry is pleased with the impact of this literary project within the community. PIE offered local writers a stage and microphone to present their work; a welcoming atmosphere to gather with mentors, friends, and fans; and an opportunity to meet and engage with award-winning writers from outside the city. Poets attended from Ellensburg, Roslyn, Cle Elum, Yakima, Selah, Toppenish, Duvall, and beyond. One poet, visiting from San Francisco, was astonished by the vibrancy of our poetry community. Poets gathered at Club 301, 301 N Pearl Street, from 5pm until 9pm, at which time we were required to make way for karaoke. We had over 150 poets participating throughout the programming.

Inland Poetry has successfully completed its Project Grant Agreement to organize, promote, and host PIE [Poetry in Ellensburg], a monthly open mic poetry event, every First Thursday from January 2, 2025, to December 4, 2025. Expenses included venue rental, promotional materials, and administrative duties.

"I am personally very proud to be the spokesperson for this dedicated, amazing group of volunteers who believe in the beauty and power of language." *Joanna Thomas*



# INLAND POETRY



# STRUM-ALONG

## Project Overview



# MAKE MUSIC ELLENSBURG

With your support, we had another fabulous year of the Ellensburg Strum-Along series! As it has been since it began in 2019, it was free & open to all ages. I led each Strum this year with guitar & vocals, with most events having professional drummers also join us. I mostly kept the same binders of music from previous years, with the addition of a couple new tunes & a new packet for our holiday event.

This project is clearly filling a need in our community as people keep showing up, with many returning & new faces each time, & I always get asked when the next one is when I'm "behind" on scheduling or advertising! Several of our regular attendees have made it clear that they would not be able to afford a ticketed activity like this & are so grateful for the opportunity.

Each event has a slightly different feel, depending on where we are & who comes, of course. Each attendee gets to pick out a song for us to play. We had one notably "quiet" event that seemed studious (I think that one was at Gard Vintners, where, for the first time ever, nobody picked "Take Me Home Country Roads" by John Denver), & one notably raucous one (at Iron Horse Brewery, of course) with singers belting out "What's Up" by the 4 Non-Blondes for our closer. Each of our 8 events was attended by 14-28 hobby players & singers & brought these people into our local business & nonprofits whom I would also count as impacted by this grant. This year, we added a new venue that we really liked for acoustics, ambiance, & friendliness – NuWave Gallery/Fortuity Wine – so we ended up going there twice. Iron Horse Brewery, the Clymer, Gard, & Hearthstone Senior Living were all fabulous hosts as well.



*Thank you*

TO THE COMMUNITY  
ARTISTS, VOLUNTEERS,  
AND INNOVATORS FOR  
YOUR CREATIVE SPIRIT.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO  
THE 2026 PROJECT  
GRANTS

2025-2027 ELLENSBURG ARTS COMMISSIONERS

ALEX EYRE

JEFFREY SNEDEKER

THERESE YOUNG

MATTHEW WENZ

JERRY DOUGHERTY

JENSEN LOPEZ



Celebrating community through the arts.

## **CITY ARTS POLICY: 2025 REVIEW & UPDATE PLAN**

### **1. 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 entire document.

### **2. Next Steps:**

- a) Chairs of subcommittees set up subcommittee meetings to review document/edits.
- b) Staff will review entire document and create a redline version for editing.
- c) Staff: Subcommittee edits will be compiled into the Master document by staff.

### **3. Proposed Timeline:**

March-June:	Subcommittees and staff edit document(s) and get all edits to staff.
July:	Staff will compile all edits into one document for Commission review.
August-Sept.	Finalize all edits.
Oct.-Nov.	Recommend for Council review and approval.

# Ellensburg Creative District FY 26 Strategic Plan



<b>R</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	The person or people who are responsible for completing the task.
<b>A</b>	<b>Accountable</b>	The person who is accountable for the task being completed correctly and on time.
<b>C</b>	<b>Consulted</b>	They are subject matter experts/ stakeholders who need to provide input or approval.
<b>I</b>	<b>Informed</b>	The people who need to be informed after the task is completed.

## Goal 1: Establish the Ellensburg Creative District Community/Regional Presence

Initiative	ECD Steering Committee	Ellensburg City Council	Ellensburg Arts Commission	Ellensburg Arts & Cultural Alliance	EACA Marketing & Communications
Build ECD website/pages for local/regional/state-wide promotion	I	I	C	A	R
Create ECD Social Media Channels	I	I	C	A	R
Identify Target Audiences: Primary, Secondary, Tertiary	I	I	C	A	R
Create key messages that resonate with each audience segment.	I	I	C	A	R
Create brand kit and marketing materials for wide-spread use and campaign	I	I	C	A	R

# Ellensburg Creative District FY 26 Strategic Plan



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## Goal 2: Develop & Implement Ellensburg Community Calendar

Initiative	ECD Steering Committee	Ellensburg City Council	Ellensburg Arts Commission	Ellensburg Arts & Cultural Alliance	ECD City Administrator
Vet and Select vendor	<b>C</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>R</b>
Identify Existing Community Calendars & Tiers	<b>C</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>R</b>
Coordinate Teir 1 calendar teams and begin implementation	<b>C</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>R</b>
Work with Teir 2 calendar teams to upload events	<b>C</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>R</b>
Create comprehensive awareness and marketing campaign	<b>C</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>R</b>
Launch community calendar	<b>C</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>R</b>

# Ellensburg Creative District FY 26 Strategic Plan



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## Goal 3: Build & Host Grant Workshop Series

Initiative	ECD Steering Committee	Ellensburg City Council	Ellensburg Arts Commission	Ellensburg Arts & Cultural Alliance	ECD City Administrator
Regroup and utilize best practices from first workshop	<b>C</b>		<b>I</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>A</b>
Secure and confirm presenters	<b>C</b>		<b>I</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>A</b>
Identify dates for workshop(s)	<b>C</b>		<b>I</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>A</b>
Revise/Edit presentation content/material	<b>C</b>		<b>I</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>A</b>
Create/update workshop handouts	<b>C</b>		<b>I</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>R</b>
Create marketing materials and campaigns	<b>C</b>		<b>I</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>R</b>

# Ellensburg Creative District FY 26 Strategic Plan



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## Goal 4: Develop entrepreneurial training and business development workshop series for the creative sector: **ArtPreneurs: From Passion to Profits**

Initiative	ECD Steering Committee	Ellensburg City Council	Ellensburg Arts Commission	Ellensburg Arts & Cultural Alliance	ECD City Administrator
Select trainers/expert team and identify clear goals for what participants should achieve by the end of the series	<b>R</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>R</b>
Based on goals, develop curriculum for series that would include: business model generation, marketing strategies, financial literacy, intellectual property management, and digital presence.	<b>R</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>R</b>
Create workshop structure: format (in-person, online, evening/weekend) Identify specific workshop modules	<b>R</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>R</b>
Identify number of workshops, dates, number of desired attendees, and venue	<b>R</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>R</b>
Develop supporting materials and resources (workbooks, guides, toolkit tailored to creatives, post series contacts)	<b>R</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>R</b>
Create marketing and outreach campaigns	<b>R</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>R</b>
Create evaluation and feedback mechanism	<b>R</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>R</b>

-----**Proposal as submitted**

**Description of Expense**

Recreation of Totems

**Amount**

1800

**Professional Services**

**Rental**

**Promo/Marketing**

**Supplies**

**Description of Expense**

Paint & stuff

**Amount**

200

**Other**

**Description of Expense**

digging holes

**Amount**

200

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

No

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

Self-Funded

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

-----**Proposal as adjusted**

Description of Expense

Recreation of Totems

Amount \$1800 - break this down into components

Professional Services - build web site to promote the project and Dick & Jane's Spot \$550.00

Rental secure domain name & hosting site for one year

\$190.00

Promo/Marketing - document before & after & the process of creating totems

\$350.00

Supplies

Description of Expense

Paint & stuff - nails, screws, paint, wood, jello molds and other objects

\$260.00

Amount

\$200

Other - artists time creating totems

\$750.00

Description of Expense

digging holes and other heavy labor - moving large objects - nailing things to poles

Amount

\$200 added to artist time listed above

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

No

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

Self-Funded

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

**What happens if you receive a partial award?** Continue with described project with adjustments