



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

Arts Commission Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2026
4:02 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 Beauchamp
Absent:
Welcome guest:

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve February 12, 2026, Arts Commission meeting as presented.
By: Commissioner Snedeker
Seconded: Commissioner Lopez
In Favor: All in favor
Opposed: None
Abstain: None
Motion Carries

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve January 8, 2026, Arts Commission meeting minutes as presented.
By: Commissioner Snedeker
Seconded: Commissioner Wenz
In Favor: All
Opposed: None
Abstain: None
Motion Carries

4. Budget/Financial Report

4.A 2026 Proposed Budget Review and Commissioner Budget Approval
Staff presented budget YTD updates for 2026 for Commissioners.

5. New Business

5.A Admission Tax Presentation

Commissioner Dougherty gave presentation on history of the Admission Tax to the Art Commissioners.

Commissioners discussed the effect the tax is having on smaller organizations that are awarded project grants and other creative businesses and organizations in the community. Tax has not been updated since creation in 1994.

Staff will continue to keep this on the agenda as Unfinished Business.

Next Steps:

1. Set up a meeting with the City Manager to discuss the tax overall and how it is managed and suggest:

- a. Discuss potentially raising the threshold
- b. How it is affecting orgs. and grant awardees
- c. Options for how it is managed/collected

2. Arts Commission:

- a. Change language on project grant application to note that grants cannot be used to pay admission tax.
- b. Work with community organizations on education of the tax and how to track/pay (if applicable)

Action Item:

1. Staff set up meeting with City Manager, Finance Dept., and Art Commissioners.
2. Request 2025 Admission Tax report from Finance Dept.

5.B America 250 Planning Update and 4th of July Event

Staff updated Commission on the America 250 planning and discussed a potential 4th of July Community Picnic in Unity Park to honor county veterans. The picnic will be from 2:00-6:00 pm and cross promote the Cle Elum Fireworks Show. The itinerary would include live music, art in the park, speakers, and be the Creative District event for the year. Staff is looking for help planning the event.

5.C Genevieve Tuck Painting Donation

Staff showed the Commissioners the latest piece in the public art collection, a Genevieve Tuck painting, donated by her foundation. It is a painting of a building in downtown Ellensburg. It will be hung at City Hall.

6. Unfinished Business:

6.A Subcommittee Scope of Work Documents

Scope of Work documents for the subcommittees will need updating for 2026 based on the recent EAC retreat.

Have drafts for two of the five subcommittees: First Friday Art Walk and Awards & Distinctions.

The other three subcommittees are in process.

6.B Arts Commission Applicant: Anne Pflug Discussion

Applicant attending January Arts Commission meeting and commissioners would like to move her application to the interview process.

Action Item: Staff will set up applicant interview.

7. Subcommittee Business:

7.A Project Grant Funding & Advocacy: Jerry/Alex/Staff/Jensen

First Friday Art Walk: Matt/Therese/Jensen/Staff

Discussed two new venues for FFAW

Discussed the need for updating signs for FFAW

City Art/Public Art: Jerry/Alex/Jeff (Matt)

Awards & Distinctions: Jeff/Therese/Alex/Staff

Discussed the upcoming Poet Laureate events

Ellensburg Creative District & Advocacy: Staff/Jeff/Alex/Jensen/Therese

Action Item for all subcommittees:

- Set up subcommittee meetings.
- Review and/or create committee scope of work document.

8. Citizen Comment: No citizen comment given

9. Staff Update/Discussion Items: No staff update beyond previous items

10. Council Representative Update: No report given

11. Adjournment Time: 5:25 pm

