

# BREMERTON ARTS COMMISSION

## REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes of January 14, 2025

Approved

Hybrid Meeting: In person at Sheridan Park Community Center w/ virtual option.

**Commissioner's Present:** Lynn Horton, Cynthia Davis-Engelgau. (In Person)  
Michael Laughlin, Susan Blackburn, Betsy Hagedstedt, Asia Renee (Remote)

**Staff Present:** AJ Williams (AC Liaison) Sarah Steinke (Poet Laureate)

**Public Present:** None

**Absent:** Emerald Lessley

**I. Meeting Called to Order** at 5:31 PM by Chair, Lynn Horton.

**II. Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made to approve the minutes with changes for the December 10, 2025, meeting. (Betsy Hagedstedt / Michael Laughlin). (1BH/2ML). A motion was made to approve the minutes without changes for the December 15, 2025, meeting. (Susan Blackburn / Michael Laughlin). (1SB/2ML).

**III. Public Comment:** No Public Present

**IV. Business:**

**Art Submissions:** No Art Submissions

**Social Media Intern:** A discussion was held regarding the creation of a social media role to support the upcoming gala. The conversation centered on the feasibility of labeling the role as an intern due to city and college guidelines, legal considerations, branding restrictions, and budgeting concerns. Alternatives such as offering a stipend, contractor payment, or mini-grant through the Arts Commission or West Sound Arts Council were discussed. The group noted challenges with differentiating between paid and unpaid internships, determining eligibility for college credit, and defining time as an expense in grants. Concerns were also raised about the use of city or college logos and the need to avoid accessibility and branding requirements that would limit flexibility.

The group aligned on the preferred approach of creating an independent brand and social media account for the gala and related arts community programming. This would prevent direct affiliation with either the city or Olympic College and remove restrictions related to official logos and communications policies. AJ will consult with legal and finance staff regarding whether city funding or involvement is possible. Lynn and Susan will research criteria for relevant mini-grants and project support grants for a social media role. The topic will continue next month to review findings and determine next steps for implementation and funding.

**V: Sub Committees Reports**

**Master Plan:** The master plan discussion included an initial brainstorming session focused on a "Wishlist for Arts in Bremerton." Key ideas included the development of an arts center, increased festivals and public art, especially in underserved neighborhoods and the addition of more free music programming such as concerts, buskers, and steel drum performances. Other suggestions included expanding food-related offerings through food trucks and vendors to support events, placing pianos in parks despite noted

logistical challenges, and exploring the concept of an amphitheater at Gold Mountain Golf Course for post-golf concerts.

Members emphasized collaboration, accessibility, and the desire to expand arts initiatives throughout the community. A wish list conversation will continue at future meetings as part of master plan development, with all members encouraged to contribute additional concepts and priorities.

**Literary Arts:** The Literary Arts Report was presented by Sarah Steinke, who shared two upcoming engagements: a workshop and reading at the Port Orchard Library in April and participation as a judge for the Poetry Out Loud state finals in March. As details continue to develop, Sarah will provide additional information regarding these events.

**Gallery of Arts/Maintenance:** Progress was reported on the Gallery of Arts and Maintenance work. AJ is compiling an inventory of public sculptures and murals, documenting their condition, and photographing each piece. Photographing and assessing artwork throughout Bremerton, including installations not owned by the city. It was also noted that the mosaic at Bremerton High School has not been removed from Washington Staes public art page. Cyn is to investigate its current status and potentially request its removal from state art listings if it's no longer present. Cataloging efforts are ongoing as the full inventory is being assembled.

**Support and Grants:** No submission currently

**Creative District Update:** The Creative District provided an update on ongoing planning and project development. A new executive committee member is leading a media strategy centered on four art disciplines, visual, performing, culinary, and literary arts, with an emphasis on economic viability and public engagement. Website development continues. Several upcoming events are in progress, including the Lantern Parade on March 6 in Quincy Square as part of First Friday, a spring Garden Tour fundraiser in Manette, a Plein Air art event at the Roxy Theater in June, and a fiber and textile art exhibit tentatively planned for June at the Kitsap Museum pending space availability. Coordination is also underway with Ballast Books to collaborate on their May Writers' Fest rather than hosting a competing event.

The Creative District is additionally developing a 15 to 20 minute BCAT program featuring segments across the four art disciplines, with Terrie Battuello from the Creative District serving as producer and two segments anticipated each quarter. Work continues to compile interview subjects and determine potential hosts for future episodes. The committee will also continue exploring logistics related to event supplies, prize structures, call for artists, fundraising components, and future program scalability. The Lantern Parade flyer will be circulated to Lynn for posting once approved. March 6th at 6 PM in Quincy Square (part of First Friday). Commissioners can pick up supplies from AJ at Bremerton Parks and Recreation.

## **VI. Staff Reports/Updates:**

**Art Wrap Update:** No update currently

**Art Panels:** Six new art panels were delivered to Bremerton Parks and Recreation. AJ secured funding to complete two additional panels for the 2025 exhibition and added three more to be produced for 2026. All panels were sent to the printer and waiting on production, AJ will coordinate installation with Public Works. Coronation with the selected artists is underway and an unveiling event was being considered depending on the installation timeline.

## **VII. Chair Report:** No report.

**VIII. Commissioner Reports, Comments and Questions:** Commissioner Reports were shared. Susan reported that Collective Visions has welcomed her as new board member. Collective Vision is interested in partnering with other arts organizations, particularly around the concept of an arts center. She also noted that the CVG Show opens this Saturday, January 17, 2026. Betsy reported that applications for Wayzgoose are now open and that a printmaking class is scheduled for the end of the month. Cyn confirmed that the Lantern Parade will take place on March 6 at 6 PM in Quincy Square as part of First Friday.

**IX. Announcements:** None

**X. Adjournment:** 6:50 PM by Chair Lynn Horton.