

Chapter 3.55
MERCER ISLAND ARTS COUNCIL

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3.55.010 Established.

There is established a municipal arts council for the city of Mercer Island which shall be known as the “Mercer Island arts council.”

3.55.020 Purpose - Function and jurisdiction.

A. The purpose of the Mercer Island arts council is to advise and make recommendations to the city council and any other board or commission of the city on matters including, but not limited to those set forth herein.

B. In fulfillment of its purpose, the duties and responsibilities of the Mercer Island arts council shall be to:

1. Develop the arts and culture plan as a component of the city’s comprehensive plan and provide recommendations on periodic updates to the plan as directed by the city council.
2. Provide a forum for the community to express their views on arts and culture and serve as a central body to promote, develop, stimulate, and encourage arts organizations, artists and arts participation in the city.
3. Establish guidelines for the commissioning, selection and placement of permanent or temporary works of art in the city.
4. Review the suitability and advise on the acceptance of art works intended as gifts to the city.
5. Participate in the selection of artists and performers for programs and events sponsored by the Mercer Island arts council.
6. Support and foster an arts community that embraces the cultural diversity of its citizens and recognizes their contributions to the cultural landscape, including honoring and featuring local artists.
7. Explore opportunities to obtain private, local, state and/or federal funds to promote arts and cultural opportunities in the city.

8. Facilitate communication and cooperation with existing organizations including schools, businesses, non-profits, art organizations, foundations and other community groups to bring artists and audiences together.

9. Advise on other matters as directed by the city council.

3.55.030 Membership.

A. Qualifications.

1. Applicants who have an interest in the performing, visual, literary and other arts, culture, and heritage programs, projects, and/or events as evidenced by training, experience or actions will be given preference for appointment; however, a broad mix of occupational backgrounds and experiences is desired.

2. An intent of the appointment process shall be to evenly represent the areas of interest as stated above, as well as provide a geographic balance among the members. Appointed members shall represent the public interest and not specific interest groups and reflect the city's diverse community.

B. Members

1. Number. The Mercer Island arts council shall consist of nine members.

2. Residency. City residency is required.

3. Terms. The term of each member is four years and expires on May 31 of the last year of the term or until the member's successor is appointed and qualified. The year of expiration of the terms of the positions shall be staggered with the following groups of positions expiring in successive years: Positions 1, 2 and 3; Positions 4 and 5; Positions 6 and 7; Positions 8 and 9.

4. Term Limits. No member shall serve more than two consecutive terms. If a member is appointed to a vacancy with two or more years remaining on the term, that term will be deemed a full term. If a member is appointed to a vacancy with less than two years remaining in the term, that term will not count toward the two-consecutive term limit.

5. Staff Liaison. The city manager shall appoint a staff liaison to assist with support services for the Mercer Island arts council. Such staff support shall include, but not be limited to, the development of work plans and schedules, guidelines and procedures, correspondence, and agenda preparation and distribution.

6. Council Liaison. The mayor and deputy mayor shall annually designate one councilmember to serve as a liaison between the city council and the Mercer Island arts

council.

C. Appointment. Members shall be appointed by the mayor and deputy mayor subject to confirmation by the city council. Members shall be appointed and confirmed without respect to political affiliations and shall serve without compensation.

D. Removal. Members may be removed by the mayor and deputy mayor, with the concurrence of the city council, for neglect of duty, conflict of interest, malfeasance in office, or other just cause, or for unexcused absence from more than three (3) consecutive regular meetings. The decision of the city council shall be final and there shall be no appeal therefrom. Members finding themselves unable to regularly attend meetings are expected to resign and notify the chair and staff liaison.

E. Vacancies. Vacancies occurring other than through the expiration of terms shall be filled for the unexpired terms in the same manner as described previously herein.

3.55.040 Meetings – Organization.

The Mercer Island arts council shall determine the time and place of its meetings and other rules and regulations, which shall be on file with the city clerk.

3.55.040 1% for art in public places fund.

The Mercer Island arts council shall recommend projects to the city council, using appropriations from qualifying capital improvements projects that are pooled into the 1% for art in public places fund, in accordance with MICC 4.40.200(F) and (H).