



THURSDAY, January 8, 2025

**REDMOND ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION**

VISION: A community Inspired and Connected by Arts and Culture  
 MISSION: Be a Catalyst for Redmond’s Diverse and Inventive Community

**Meeting Agenda: 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm**  
 Commissioners and Staff Participating in-person  
 At City Hall, Council Conference Room, #149  
 Or Remotely via MS Teams

Public can listen to meeting by dialing +1 206-800-4590, passcode: 611935394# at 6:30pm

	Item	Time	Lead Speaker
I.	<b>Call to Order/Welcome/Approval of Agenda</b>	8 min (6:30 - 6:38)	Kathy O’Keefe, <i>Commission Chair</i>
II.	<b>Items from the Audience</b> <i>(3 min per individual, no comments during meeting)</i> Public is able to submit comments in advance to <a href="mailto:cweber@redmond.gov">cweber@redmond.gov</a>		Kathy O’Keefe, <i>Commission Chair</i>
III.	<b>Approval of Minutes for November 13, 2025 Meeting</b>		Kathy O’Keefe, <i>Commission Chair</i>
IV.	<b>New Business &amp; Guests (as needed)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Public Art Intensive Call Motion-to-Approve)</li> <li>b. Poet Laureate Recap</li> <li>c. Asphalt Art Introduction</li> <li>d. Cultural Arts workplan Intro</li> </ul>	<b>80 min</b> 20 min (6:38 – 6:58) 20 min (6:58– 7:18) 20 min (7:18 – 7:38) 15 min (7:38 – 7:53)	Hannah Coleman, <i>Cultural Arts Coordinator</i> Hannah Coleman, <i>Cultural Arts Coordinator</i> Chris Weber, <i>Cultural Arts Supervisor</i> Chris Weber, <i>Cultural Arts Supervisor</i>
V.	<b>Old Business</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Public Arts Master Plan Update</li> <li>b. Redmond Lights Recap</li> <li>c. Staff Report</li> </ul>	<b>30 min</b> 10 min (7:53 -8:03) 10 min (8:03 -8:13) 10 min (8:13 -8:23)	Chris Weber, <i>Cultural Arts Supervisor</i> Chris Weber, <i>Cultural Arts Supervisor</i> Chris Weber, <i>Cultural Arts Supervisor</i>
VI.	<b>Commission Updates / Discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Talk Time</li> </ul>	5 min (8:23 - 8:28)	Kathy O’Keefe, <i>Commission Chair</i>
VII.	<b>Adjourn</b>	2 min (8:28 - 8:30)	Kathy O’Keefe, <i>Commission Chair</i>

**Next Meeting & Upcoming Events**

Date, Time	Topic	Location
<b>February 12, 2026</b>	Arts and Culture Commission Meeting	City Hall, Conference Center #149
<b>March 12, 2026</b>	Arts and Culture Commission Meeting	City Hall, Conference Center #149
<b>April 9, 2026</b>	Arts and Culture Commission Meeting	City Hall, Conference Center #149
<b>May 14, 2026</b>	Arts and Culture Commission Meeting	City Hall, Conference Center #149
<b>June 11, 2026</b>	Arts and Culture Commission Meeting	City Hall, Conference Center #149
<b>July 9, 2026</b>	Arts and Culture Commission Meeting	City Hall, Conference Center #149
<b>August 13, 2026</b>	Arts and Culture Commission Meeting	City Hall, Conference Center #149
<b>September 10, 2026</b>	Arts and Culture Commission Meeting	City Hall, Conference Center #149
<b>October 8, 2026</b>	Arts and Culture Commission Meeting	City Hall, Conference Center #149
<b>November 12, 2026</b>	Arts and Culture Commission Meeting	City Hall, Conference Center #149

Audiotapes of regular meetings are available at the Parks & Recreation Office. If you are hearing or visually impaired, please notify the Parks & Recreation office at 556-2311 one week in advance of the meeting in order to be provided assistance. Sign language and communication material in alternate formats can be arranged given sufficient notice. Washington Relay Service: 1-800-833-6384.

**CITY OF REDMOND**  
**ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES**

**Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**Commissioners and Staff Participating In-Person and Remotely via MS Teams**

Public can listen to meeting by dialing +1 206-800-4590, Conference ID: 155454164#

**6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

*“Voice the views of the community to Mayor and City Council in reference to all cultural endeavors.”*

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**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

Kathy OKeefe – Chair

Cari Scotkin

Michael Heavener

Pamela Waters

Viktoriya Leyfman-Frenkel

**COMMISSIONERS PARTICIPATING REMOTELY:**

Latha Sambamurti – Vice Chair

Menka Soni

Neelam Chahlia

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED:**

Anna Zanella

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Chris Weber, Cultural Arts Supervisor

Hannah Coleman, Cultural Arts Coordinator

**VISITORS:**

Kelly Carlson and Brian Runberg, Overlake Commons

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**I. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME**

Chair Kathy OKeefe called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

**II. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

Jenny Lisk – shared current and future plans for building a stronger literary community in Downtown Redmond.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion to approve the October 2026 minutes made and seconded. Motion carries.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS & GUESTS**

**a. Old Fire House Teen Center Update**

**a.** Chris Weber shared an update, around the Old Firehouse Teen Center process.

**b. Overlake Commons Project**

**a.** Kelly Carlson and Brian Runberg introduced the Overlake Commons project, and their goals around future privately developed public art. They asked for and received feedback from Commissioners and will return in 2026 for approval.

- c. Rotating Art Exhibits Call (Motion-to-Approve)
  - a. Motion Approved
  
- d. Public Art Master Plan Update
  - a. Chris Weber shared an update, around the Public Art Master Planning process.
  
- e. Cancel the December Meeting of the Redmond Arts & Culture Commission (Motion-to-Approve)
  - a. Motion Approved

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Staff Report

**VI. COMMISSION UPDATES & DISCUSSION**

- a. Talk Time

Upcoming Meetings & Events shared with Commissioners.

**VII. ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn made and seconded. All commissioners present vote to adjourn the meeting. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 7:40p.m.

**UPCOMING MONTHLY MEETING**

Hybrid Meeting

Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.



**MEMO TO:** Arts & Culture Commission

**FROM:** Hannah Coleman, Cultural Arts Coordinator

**DATE:** January 8, 2026

**SUBJECT:** 2026 Public Art Intensive Eastside Participants

I. **PURPOSE**  For Info Only  Future Motion Item  Motion Requested

II. **RECOMMENDATION**

Seeking Approval on the Call for Artists for the 2026 Public Art Intensive Eastside

**Proposed Motion:**

Approve the 2026 Public Art Intensive Eastside Call for Artists

III. **DEPARTMENT CONTACTS**

Loreen Hamilton, Director Parks and Recreation, 425-556-2336

Zach Houvener, Deputy Director Parks and Recreation, 425-556-2306

Brittany Pratt, Recreation Business Manager, 425-556-2315

Chris Weber, Cultural Arts Supervisor, 425-556-2316

Hannah Coleman, Cultural Arts Coordinator, 425-556-2351

IV. **DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND**

The City of Redmond is invested in training the next generation of public artists, who can create culturally relevant artworks that represent the diverse population of Redmond. Public Art Intensive Eastside is a FREE three-day basic training for visual artists who wish to develop their work for the public realm, but may have some or no public art experience. Topics covered in the workshops include, contracting, fabrication, maintenance, design concepts, and social practice. Participants will have an opportunity to apply to create a temporary public art project for the City of Redmond.

The Call for participants will be advertised regionally for 6 weeks. Cultural Arts staff will review the applications and all candidates that meet the will be brought to the March 12, 2026 Redmond Arts & Culture Commission for approval. Public Art Intensive Eastside will take place on Saturday, May 2, 9 and 16.

**TIME CONSTRAINTS**

Staff is seeking Commissioner approval for the Call for Participants to start advertising to stay ahead of the production schedule, and to give more time for outreach.

V. **LIST OF ATTACHMENTS**

A. Public Art Intensive Eastside Call for Participants



# 2026 REDMOND PUBLIC ART INTENSIVE EASTSIDE

## 2026 REDMOND PUBLIC ART INTENSIVE EASTSIDE, WORKSHOP

**DEADLINE:** Sunday, March 1, 2026, at 11 P.M. PST

**FUNDING:** \$100 stipend for participants that complete the workshop and homework

### SCHEDULE:

- **Sunday, March 1, 2026** Applications due, 11 p.m. PST
  - **Monday, March 16, 2026** Selection announced
  - **Saturdays, May 2, 9, & 16, 2026** Workshop dates\*
    - 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. on May 2 & 9
    - 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. on May 16
- \*Location: Redmond City Hall

### OPPORTUNITY:

Public Art Intensive Eastside is a three-day basic training sponsored by the City of Redmond and open to visual artists who have an interest in exploring the presentation of their work in public settings, community-building or enhancing the built environment. This training provides a high-level overview of a variety of topics including contracting, fabrication, maintenance, and social practice. Plan to spend an additional 8-12 hours outside of the workshops to develop a public art concept for homework.

Participants that attend all three dates and complete the homework will receive a \$100 stipend and be eligible to apply for an exclusive paid temporary public art project for the City of Redmond.

### SELECTION CRITERIA

Artists will be selected through a panel process based on the strength of their application and must meet the below qualifications:

- Must be 18 years old or older
- Must live in King County or surrounding areas
- Able to participate in-person at all three workshop dates
- Has not received a temporary or permanently sited public commission with a total budget of over \$5,000
- Has not previously completed the Public Art Intensive Eastside program

The City of Redmond affirms its commitment towards a culturally inclusive community and seeks artists comprised of a diverse working group in terms of cultural experiences, backgrounds, ethnicities, sexual identity, gender identity and abilities, etc.

## APPLICATION

To apply, each artist must prepare the following materials and submit their application online by clicking [here](#).

1. **Artist Bio** (not to exceed 300 words)
2. **Letter of Interest** (not to exceed 500 words) including:
  - What interested you in the field of public art generally?
  - Why do you want to move towards a public art practice?
  - How will this benefit your career?
3. **Images of Past Work**
  - Up to 5 images of similar previous work
  - An image list or caption with the following information for each photo: title, year made, dimensions, medium and short description.
  - Video substitutions are accepted:
    - Links to online video sharing platform, no file attachments
    - Video settings should be set to public
    - Should not exceed 1 minute run time

Applications are due **Sunday, March 1, 2026, at 11 P.M. PST**

## QUESTIONS?

Email [CulturalArts@Redmond.Gov](mailto:CulturalArts@Redmond.Gov)



**MEMO TO:** Arts & Culture Commission  
**FROM:** Chris Weber, Cultural Arts Administrator  
**DATE:** **January 8, 2026**  
**SUBJECT:** Poet Laureate 2025 Recap

**I. PURPOSE**  For Info Only  Future Motion Item  Motion Requested

**II. RECOMMENDATION**  
2025 Poet Laureate Recap

**III. DEPARTMENT CONTACTS**

Loren Hamilton, Director Parks and Recreation, 425-556-2336  
Zach Houvener, Deputy Director Parks and Recreation, 425-556-2306  
Brittany Pratt, Recreation Business Manager, 425-556-2315  
Chris Weber, Cultural Arts Supervisor, 425-556-2316

**IV. DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND**

The Redmond Poet Laureate Program builds a more literate and understanding community through poetry and the literary arts by broadening the awareness of poetry and expressing the spirit of Redmond culture through poetry.

Established in 2008 by Ordinance 2444, the Poet Laureate program produces a variety of programming and community engagement opportunities offered to Redmond residents and visitors. Their work can be seen in everything from poetry that appears in the rain, engraved on bridges, to the inscriptions in our master-plans and the presence of poetry put-put mini golf...not to mention commissioned poetry, poetry talks, readings, exhibits and workshops.

A call for the 2024/25 Poet Laureate was approved by the Arts & Culture Commission at the June 8, 2023 meeting. On September 18, 2023 a selection panel consisting of former Arts & Culture Youth Advocate, Arya Nair, as well as poets Rachel Kessler and former Poet Laureate Laura Da' met and selected 3 Poets to interview on October 5, 2023. At this interview finalist, Ching-In Chen was selected to move forward to the Arts & Culture Commission for approval, followed by individual interviews with the Mayor and City Council. Redmond City Council appointed Ching-In Chen as Redmond's Poet Laureate at the November 6, 2023 meeting.

Ching-In Chen is a lifelong educator, community organizer, poet and the author of *The Heart's Traffic* (Arktoi/Red Hen Press, 2009) and *recombinant* (Kelsey Street Press, 2017). They are an Assistant Professor teaching creative writing and performance classes at the University of Washington Bothell and the current Poet-in-Residence at Hugo

House. They are also a community organizer, specifically in Asian American communities in coalition with other communities of color and LGBTQIA\* communities.

The 2025 Poet Laureate workplan detailed a year's worth of programming and community engagement, centered around *Read Local Eat Local*, a program encouraging community members to feel empowered to use poetry as a way to engage with their local communities and ecosystems and to develop and nurture their local networks and connections, especially in unexpected places. Poet Laureate Ching-In Chen gathered community members' poems to print and distribute via the local food system such as restaurants, cafes and other organizations such as community gardens, community cooking classes or food distribution such as food banks.

**V. TIME CONSTRAINTS**

None

**VI. LIST OF ATTACHMENTS**

None



**MEMO TO:** Arts & Culture Commission

**FROM:** Chris Weber, Cultural Arts Administrator

**DATE:** January 8, 2026

**SUBJECT:** 2026 Work Plan

**I. PURPOSE**  For Info Only  Future Motion Item  Motion Requested

**II. RECOMMENDATION**  
Briefing

**III. DEPARTMENT CONTACTS**

Loreen Hamilton, Director Parks and Recreation, 425-556-2336

Zach Houvener, Deputy Director Parks and Recreation, 425-556-2306

Brittany Pratt, Recreation Business Manager, 425-556-2315

Chris Weber, Cultural Arts Supervisor, 425-556-2316

**IV. DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND**

The Community Strategic Plan provides the work plan for the City and provides guidance, strategic initiatives and reflects the budgeting by priorities process that was derived from community input. In addition, parks staff members annually prepare a draft work plan for the Arts & Culture Commission that correlates to City Budget and the Public Art Plan. This plan is also a place to prioritize Commission proposed activities and initiatives such as joint meetings, field trips, outreach or similar activities. The work plan is a guiding document and revisions will be needed throughout the year to provide flexibility to best serve the community.

In 2026, some signature projects include: finalizing revisions to the Public Art Master Plan; the return of the Downtown Redmond Art Walk, projects by the 2026/27 Poet Laureate, the seventh outing of the Public Art Intensive Eastside, and approving concepts for private developed public art projects. New projects include Asphalt Art.. Please bring Commission ideas forward for consideration at this meeting.

**V. TIME CONSTRAINTS**

Staff will request approval in February to work towards implementation of new and ongoing projects.

**VI. LIST OF ATTACHMENTS**

2026 Cultural Arts Work Draft Plan

**Arts & Culture Commission**  
**2026 Work Plan**



<b>Work Plan Item</b> (Feedback, Discussion or Motion)		<b>Commission Role</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>
2026 Work Plan		Approve Commission Workplan (Motion)	*			
<b>Public Art Projects</b> (Feedback, Discussion or Motion)			<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>
Asphalt Art		Briefings, feedback, opening ceremony	*	*	*	*
Privately Developed Public Art Proposals		Approve concepts	*	*	*	*
Future/Potential Public Art Opportunities		Briefings, feedback, approve call, artist, concept				
<b>Arts / Artist Programs</b> (Feedback, Discussion or Motion)			<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>
Poet Laureate		Briefings	*	*	*	*
Art Exhibits (RSCC)		Approve goals, call, selection	*	*	*	*
Temporary Art (Redmond Lights, DRAW, etc...)		Approve call, artist, concept	*	*	*	*
<b>Artist Support Programs</b> (Feedback, Discussion or Motion)			<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>
Grant Program (operational Grants, possible Micro Grants)		Approve call, awards.	*	*	*	*
Public Art Intensive Eastside		Approve calls, awards.	*	*	*	
Office Hours		Briefings	*	*	*	*
<b>Events</b> (Feedback, Discussion or Motion)			<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>
Downtown Redmond Art Walk		Approve calls, awards, input	*	*	*	
Derby Days		Briefings	*	*	*	

**Arts & Culture Commission  
2026 Work Plan**



Redmond Lights	Briefings, Approve art call, artist, concept	*		*	*
<b>Planning &amp; Policy</b>		<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>
Arts Master Plan	Briefings, recommendations	*	*	*	*
Public Art Funding Ordinance Revision	Briefings, recommendations		*	*	*
<b>Informational Updates (Written OR Presentations)</b>		<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>
Internal or External Visitors	Potential updates by internal staff, artists or cultural partners	*	*	*	*
Signature Event Updates	Briefings, input	*		*	
<b>Outreach &amp; Engagement</b>		<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>
Derby Days	Opportunity to volunteer, engage community and gather feedback.			*	
Downtown Redmond Art Walk	Opportunity to volunteer, engage community and gather feedback.			*	
Redmond Lights	Opportunity to volunteer, engage community and gather feedback.				*
<i>Other</i>	Opportunity to volunteer, engage community and gather feedback.				
<b>Commission Collaboration &amp; Enrichment</b>		<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>
Leadership Transition (February)	Annual elections of chair/vice-chair.	*			
City Council Joint Meeting	Annual joint-meeting with City Council to discuss priorities and accomplishments.			*	
Potential Joint Meeting(s) <i>RYPAC, Parks &amp; Trails Commission, Planning Commission, Senior Advisory Committee</i>	Information sharing, opportunity to discuss possible collaborations				

# City of Redmond – Public Art Plan Update

## Progress Update #2

### Overview

- This is the second progress update to the Council on the City of Redmond Public Art Plan Update.
- The project has moved from research and coordination into deeper **community engagement, benchmarking, and policy alignment**.
- The plan reinforces Redmond’s vision to make **art and creativity integral to civic life**—supporting local artists, fostering identity, and aligning with **Redmond 2050** goals.

### Progress to Date

#### 1. Plan and Policy Review

- Completed review of the **Public Art Plan, PARCC Plan, and Comprehensive Plan** to identify where arts and culture intersect with infrastructure, parks, and development policies.
- This alignment ensures **public art is integrated across City systems**, not treated as a standalone effort.

#### 2. Cross-Department Coordination

- Collaborated with **Parks, Cultural Arts, Planning, and Economic Development** to review funding, collection management, and deaccessioning processes.
- Continued coordination with the **Planning Committee** to align with citywide initiatives such as growth centers, trails, and downtown improvements.

#### 3. Benchmarking and Best Practices

- Studied peer cities—**Bellevue, Portland, Santa Clarita, Fort Collins, and Arlington**—some of these programs are successfully housed under Parks & Recreation.

#### 4. Community Engagement

- Conducted **25 stakeholder interviews, 5 focus groups, and 3 Steering Committee meetings**.

- Hosted two public events—**Derby Days** and the **Redmond Art Walk**—to gather direct community input.
- Launched a **citywide questionnaire** (nearly 450+ responses to date, open through Nov. 14).
- Held the **Redmond Creative Economy Forum (Nov. 3)**, connecting creative businesses and cultural organizations to explore art, innovation, and workforce development.

## 5. Emerging Themes

- Broader access and inclusion in how public art is commissioned and experienced.
- Increased opportunities for **local and emerging artists**.
- Art as a connector—reflecting diversity and linking neighborhoods.
- Growing interest in **digital and interactive storytelling** to share Redmond’s history and identity.

## Next Steps (Jan 2026 – March 2026)

- **Synthesize all engagement findings** into a comprehensive report.
- **Develop the draft plan framework**—including policy, funding, and governance recommendations.
- **Map potential art locations** across Downtown, Overlake, and Marymoor Village.
- Present **draft recommendations** to the Internal Steering Committee and Arts & Culture Commission (Q1).
- Complete the **final Public Art Plan Update in early 2026**, featuring:
  - A **5-year implementation roadmap** with funding priorities.
  - **Equity-driven investment strategies**.
  - **Maintenance and sustainability** recommendations for Redmond’s art collection.



**MEMO TO:** Redmond Arts & Culture Commission

**FROM:** Chris Weber, Cultural Arts Supervisor

**DATE:** January 8, 2026

**SUBJECT:** Redmond Lights Update

**I. PURPOSE**  For Info Only  Future Motion Item  Motion Requested

**II. RECOMMENDATION**

Recap Commission on 2025 Redmond Lights

**III. DEPARTMENT CONTACTS**

Loreen Hamilton, Director Parks and Recreation, 425-556-2336

Zach Houvener, Deputy Director Parks and Recreation, 425-556-2306

Brittany Pratt, Recreation Business Manager, 425-556-2315

Chris Weber, Cultural Arts Supervisor, 425-556-2316

**IV. DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND**

The City of Redmond produces two annual signature events.

**Derby Days** is Redmond's signature historic town festival. Rooted in the spirit of friendly competition, Derby Days started in 1939 as a bike derby and parade for the community and continues each year as an opportunity to bring together Redmond's diverse community in celebration. In 2026 Derby Days will be held on July 24 & 25. The event takes place primarily on City Hall's municipal campus and features parades, carnival rides, live music, food, drone show and more.

**Redmond Lights** is a month-long celebration of light and art in Redmond's Downtown Park. This celebration is intended to create a sense of our connected, culturally-diverse community and provide residents with a unique exposure to diverse art during the month of December. Prior to the Pandemic, Redmond Lights was traditionally held over two days during the first weekend of December. In 2025, the event continued the model created in 2020 expanding the event into a month-long installation experience from December 5, 2025 – January 5, 2026, but also featured a kick-off event for one night on Saturday, December 6th from 4-8pm.