

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.	Call to Order/Welcome/Approval of Agenda		Pamela Waters, <i>Commission Chair</i>
II.	Items from the Audience <i>(3 min per individual, no comments during meeting)</i> <i>Public is able to submit comments in advance to</i> cweber@redmond.gov	8 min (6:30 - 6:38)	Pamela Waters, <i>Commission Chair</i>
III.	Approval of Minutes for February 12, 2026 Meeting		Pamela Waters, <i>Commission Chair</i>
IV.	New Business & Guests (as needed) a. Public Art Intensive Participants (Motion-to-Approve) b. Downtown Redmond Art Walk Calls (Motion-to-Approve)	40 min 20 min (6:38 – 6:58) 20 min (6:58– 7:18)	Chris Weber, <i>Cultural Arts Supervisor</i> Chris Weber, <i>Cultural Arts Supervisor</i>
V.	Old Business a. Staff Report b. Legacy Signage Update	40 min 20 min (7:18 -7:38) 20 min (7:38 -7:58)	Chris Weber, <i>Cultural Arts Supervisor</i> Chris Weber, <i>Cultural Arts Supervisor</i>
VI.	Commission Updates / Discussion a. Talk Time	30 min (7:58 - 8:28)	Pamela Waters, <i>Commission Chair</i>
VII.	Adjourn	2 min (8:28 - 8:30)	Pamela Waters, <i>Commission Chair</i>

Next Meeting & Upcoming Events

Date, Time	Topic	Location
March 31, 2026	Committee and Commission Celebration	Redmond Senior & Community Center, Senior Lounge
April 4, 2026	Old Fire House Celebration	Old Fire House Teen Center
April 9, 2026	Arts and Culture Commission Meeting	City Hall, Conference Center #149
May 14, 2026	Arts and Culture Commission Meeting	City Hall, Conference Center #149
June 11, 2026	Arts and Culture Commission Meeting	City Hall, Conference Center #149
July 9, 2026	Arts and Culture Commission Meeting	City Hall, Conference Center #149
July 24 & 25, 2026	Derby Days	Municipal Campus
August 13, 2026	Arts and Culture Commission Meeting	City Hall, Conference Center #149
September 10, 2026	Arts and Culture Commission Meeting	City Hall, Conference Center #149
September 17, 2026	Downtown Redmond Art Walk	Downtown Park
September 22, 2026	Joint Meeting with City Council	City Hall, Council Chambers
October 8, 2026	Arts and Culture Commission Meeting	City Hall, Conference Center #149
November 12, 2026	Arts and Culture Commission Meeting	City Hall, Conference Center #149

CITY OF REDMOND
ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION
MINUTES

Thursday, February 12, 2026

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.”

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Kathy OKeefe – Chair

Anna Zanella

Cari Scotkin

Michael Heavener

Pamela Waters

COMMISSIONERS PARTICIPATING REMOTELY:

Latha Sambamurti – Vice Chair

Viktoriya Leyfman-Frenkel

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED:

Neelam Chahlia

STAFF PRESENT:

Chris Weber, Cultural Arts Supervisor

VISITORS:

None

ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

None

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I. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chair Kathy OKeefe called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. on February 12, 2026.

II. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

IV. NEW BUSINESS & GUESTS

- a. Operating Support Grant (Motion-to-Approve)
 - a. Motion Approved
- b. Cultural Arts Workplan (Motion-to-Approve)
 - a. Motion Approved
- c. Poet Laureate Workplan
 - a. Chris Weber shared the activations planned as part of the Poet Laureate's workplan for 2026.

V. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Staff Report
 - a. Chris Weber shared highlights from the Staff Report which details ongoing projects.

- b. Ongoing projects: World Cup Legacy Project
 - a. Chris Weber shared updated designs on the World Cup Legacy Project, and received feedback from Commission.

- c. Leadership Elections
 - a. Commission unanimously voted to elect Pamela Waters as Chair, and Michael Heavener as Vice-Chair.

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 8:05 p.m.

UPCOMING MONTHLY MEETING

Hybrid Meeting

Thursday, March 12, 2026

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.



MEMO TO: Arts & Culture Commission

FROM: Chris Weber, Cultural Arts Supervisor

DATE: March 12, 2026

SUBJECT: 2026 Public Art Intensive Eastside Participants

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

II. **RECOMMENDATION**

Seeking Approval for the 2026 Public Art Intensive Eastside Participants

Proposed Motion:

Approve the 2026 Public Art Intensive Eastside Participants

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 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 for a temporary public art project for the City of Redmond.

The call for participants was advertised regionally for over 6 weeks. Cultural Arts staff received 39 applications and 29 of those candidates are being brought forward to the Redmond Arts & Culture Commission for approval. They include Alexandria Sommer, Bridget Beorse, Diana Xie, Ekta Gupta, Felix Paz, Fen Hsu, Garima Tripathi, Irina Kladova, Jacob Buys, Jae Hee Kim, Jessica Seymour, Jo Cosme, Josh Erickson, Julie Allen, Karen Woodburn, Katarzyna Plewa, Katelyn Ryckman, Kriss Jackson-Harper, Larine Chung, Mavaney Keel, Megan McDermott, Michael O'Dwyer, Nicole Ruggiero, Rheya Wren, Sam Clover, Sharon Swanson, Shubha Nambiar, Terri Muharsky, and Yiota Georgas. Public Art Intensive Eastside will take place on Saturdays, May 2, 9, and 16.

TIME CONSTRAINTS

Staff is seeking Commissioner approval to start contracting artists.

V. LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

A. Public Art Intensive Eastside Call for Participants



MEMO TO: Arts & Culture Commission

FROM: Chris Weber, Cultural Arts Supervisor

DATE: March 12, 2026

SUBJECT: Downtown Redmond Art Walk Calls

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

II. **RECOMMENDATION**

Seeking Approval for both Downtown Redmond Art Walk Calls

Proposed Motion: Approve both Downtown Redmond Art Walk Calls

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**

Downtown Redmond Art Walk is a fall celebration that highlights local artists and businesses and includes temporary art installations in Downtown Park sponsored by the City of Redmond.

The City is offering two temporary public art opportunities. One is an art call open to all regional artists to paint temporary murals live during the art walk. The other is for the participants of the 2026 Public Art Intensive Eastside program.

V. **TIME CONSTRAINTS**

Staff is hoping to begin advertising the art call this month in order to keep to the overall event schedule.

VI. **LIST OF ATTACHMENTS**

A. Downtown Redmond Art Walk Mural Call

B. Downtown Redmond Art Walk Temporary Art Call for Public Art Intensive Eastside



2026 DOWNTOWN REDMOND ART WALK CALL

2026 DOWNTOWN REDMOND ART WALK, TEMPORARY PUBLIC ART CALL

DEADLINE: Sunday, May 31, 2026 at 11 p.m. PST

FUNDING: Awards will be granted up to \$2,500

SCHEDULE:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Sunday, May 31, 2026 | Applications due, 11 p.m. PST |
| • Monday, June 15, 2026 | Selection announced |
| • Week of August 10, 2026 | 60% design review / studio visit |
| • September 14-16, 2026 | Installation Complete |
| • Thursday, September 17, 2026 | Downtown Redmond Art Walk |
| • Monday, September 21, 2026 | Deinstallation from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. |

OPPORTUNITY

Artists are invited to submit proposals to provide new or existing temporary artworks as part of the Downtown Redmond Art Walk in Redmond, Washington. Downtown Redmond Art Walk highlights local artists and businesses and includes temporary art installations in Downtown Park sponsored by the City of Redmond.

INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

- Installations can include two- or three- dimensional, multi-media works.
 - Any electrical must run off one regular 20 amp/120V circuit.
- Artwork must be waterproof and weatherproof. Downtown Redmond Art Walk takes place over one night, but installations must be able to remain installed through the weekend from September 17 - 21, 2026.
- Artwork must have no lasting physical impact on the site, leaving “no trace.”
- Artist is responsible for all installation and de-installation needs. Alternative accommodations will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Artwork must be free standing and stable (cannot be attached to parks infrastructure such as trees, benches, pavilion, etc.)
- Artwork requires little to no maintenance for the duration of the exhibit and is not dependent on event staff for maintenance.

BUDGET & RECOGNITION

- Awards will be granted **up to \$2,500**.
- If selected, artists will be required to provide a headshot and bio. Selected artists' names will be listed on on-site signage and promotional/outreach materials.



2026 DOWNTOWN REDMOND ART WALK CALL

SELECTION CRITERIA

Artwork will be selected through a panel process that will evaluate the proposals based on the below criteria:

- Prior experience working on and/or demonstrated ability to complete projects of similar scale.
- Proposed artwork can be executed within the budget and timeline, while meeting installation guidelines (see above).
- The submitted artwork must be appropriate for the location and event.
- Artistic merit, originality, and creativity.
- Artist or Team Lead has completed the 2026 Public Art Intensive Eastside.

REPRODUCTION

The City of Redmond reserves the right to reproduce accepted work through print, film or electronic media for documentary, educational and promotional purposes.

ARTIST RESPONSIBILITY

- Ongoing communication regarding project evolution and site needs.
- 60% design review / studio visit with event staff.
- Images of the completed artwork must be sent to event staff prior to installation.
- Artworks must be installed and/or ready to display on September 17, 2026. The installation must be removed between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. on September 21, 2026.

DISCLOSURE

- The City of Redmond reserves the right to alter the selection process or recommend non-funding should we deem these actions necessary.
- At the 60% design review, if the artwork has deviated significantly from the original proposal, it will be decommissioned if not re-approved at the next Redmond Arts & Culture Commission meeting.

SITE: Downtown Park - 16101 Redmond Way, Redmond, WA, 98052





2026 DOWNTOWN REDMOND ART WALK CALL

APPLICATION

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

1. **Statement of Interest** (not to exceed 300 words), including:
 - Concept
 - Materials, how you plan to build the artwork, and general measurements.
 - Please include an electrical plan, if applicable.
2. **Concept Image**
 - Image of the concept (or completed artwork if it already exists).
3. **Project Budget**
 - Awards will be given up to \$2,500.00.
 - Budget breakdown and narrative (should include both artist fees and materials).
 - Include any secured matching funds for this installation.
4. **Resume**
 - If more than one artist is applying, please merge all resumes into one document (not to exceed two pages)
5. **Images of Past Work**
 - Up to 5 images of similar previous work.
 - An image list with the following information for each photo: title, year made, dimensions, medium, and a short description.

QUESTIONS? Email CulturalArts@redmond.gov



2026 DOWNTOWN REDMOND ART WALK CALL

2026 DOWNTOWN REDMOND ART WALK, TEMPORARY MURALIST CALL

DEADLINE: Sunday, May 24, 2026 at 11 p.m. PST

FUNDING: \$1,000

SCHEDULE:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| • Sunday, May 24, 2026 | Applications due, 11 p.m. PST |
| • Monday, June 15, 2026 | Selection announced |
| • Monday, July 13, 2026 | Draft Designs Due to Staff |
| • Monday, July 20, 2026 | Final Design Due |
| • Thursday, September 17, 2026 | Live Painting at Event from 4 - 7 p.m.
(Additional prep and production time available day before and day of event) |

OPPORTUNITY

Artists are invited to submit proposals to paint an 8'x8' temporary mural which is one side of an 8'x8'x8' Mural Box at the Downtown Redmond Art Walk in Redmond, Washington. Downtown Redmond Art Walk highlights local artists and businesses and includes temporary art installations in Downtown Park sponsored by the City of Redmond.

PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

- Artwork proposal must be 1:1 ratio to fit an 8'x8' surface
- Proposal does not have to be a fully realized design and can be a thumbnail draft or written description
- Artists must include similar examples of their work
- Artist must be available September 16-17 and able to complete the artwork during event at Downtown Park in Redmond, WA.

BUDGET & RECOGNITION

- Artists will receive \$1,000 total (\$750 artist stipend; \$250 for materials).
- Surface will be provided and primed by the City.
- If selected, artists will be required to provide a headshot and bio. Selected artists' names will be listed on on-site signage and promotional/outreach materials.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Artwork will be selected through a panel process based on the below criteria:

- Prior experience working on and/or demonstrated ability to complete projects of similar scale
- Proposed artwork can be executed within the budget and timeline, while meeting guidelines (see above)
- The submitted artwork must be appropriate for the location and event
- Artistic merit, originality, and creativity



2026 DOWNTOWN REDMOND ART WALK CALL

REPRODUCTION

The City of Redmond reserves the right to reproduce accepted work through print, film or electronic media for documentary, educational and promotional purposes.

ARTIST RESPONSIBILITY

- Ongoing communication regarding evolution of design.
- Draft design sent to staff by July 13, 2026 for review
- Final design due by July 20, 2026
- Artworks must be painted during and completed by end of event at Downtown Park at 7 p.m. on September 17, 2026

DISCLOSURE

- The City of Redmond reserves the right to alter the selection process or recommend non-funding should we deem these actions necessary.
- At the draft design review, if the artwork has deviated significantly from the original proposal, it will be decommissioned if not re-approved at the next Redmond Arts & Culture Commission meeting.

APPLICATION

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

1. **Statement of Interest** (not to exceed 300 words), including:
 - Concept Description
2. **Concept Image**
 - Draft image or sketch (or completed artwork if it already exists)
3. **Resume**
 - If more than one artist is applying, please merge all resumes into one document (not to exceed two pages)
4. **Images of Past Work**
 - Up to 3 images of similar previous work
 - An image list with the following information for each photo: title, year made, dimensions, medium, and short description

QUESTIONS? Email CulturalArts@redmond.gov



TO: Arts & Culture Commission

FROM: Chris Weber, Cultural Arts Administrator

DATE: 3/12/2026

SUBJECT: ~~SUBJECT:~~ Staff Update

I. Programs

Poet Laureate

Established in 2008, the Poet Laureate program produces a variety of programming and community engagement opportunities offered to Redmond residents and visitors. The Redmond Poet Laureate Program builds a more literate and understanding community through poetry and the literary arts by broadening awareness of poetry and expressing the spirit of Redmond culture through poetry.

A call for the 2026/27 Poet Laureate was approved by the Arts & Culture Commission at the May 8, 2025 meeting and was advertised for over two months. Three applications were received. On July 23, 2025 a selection panel consisting of former State Poet Laureate, Claudia Castro Luna, and current Poet Laureate Ching-In Chen met and selected 3 Poets to interview on August 6, 2025. At this interview, the original panel, plus Redmond Arts & Culture Commissioner, Pamela Waters selected the finalist, Nancy Mburu, to move forward to the Arts & Culture Commission for approval. She was then interviewed by the Mayor and then the City Council, followed by appointment by the City Council at the September 16, 2025 City Council Regular Business meeting. Nancy Mburu's term began on January, 2026.

Nancy Mburu is an author and performing poet. Her writing amplifies the experiences and stories of East African immigrants in an authentic way that also encompasses black diasporans' complex relationship with culture, tradition, language, gender dynamics, and race. Her style involves uplifting her culture by incorporating her native language Swahili and rooting her stories in their cultural and political context. Nancy has a BA in Creative writing from the University of Washington and is a former Jack Straw writer and Hugo House Fellow.

Public Art Intensive Eastside

Public Art Intensive Eastside is a FREE two-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 for a paid opportunity to create a temporary public art project for the City of Redmond. The 2026 workshop will be produced internally on Sat, May 2, 9 & 16.

Cultural Arts Grants

Since 1990, the City of Redmond has supported artists and arts organizations with an annual grant program. Between 1990 and 2011 that program supported operational costs for arts organizations and arts education programs.

Starting in 2012, the Art Season Grants were created to fund arts activations. In 2012, the Art Season Grant program consisted of five programs scheduled during the art season of December through May, under the theme "Take Root, Branch Out." Over the past ten years, the Art Season Grant program has continued, but over time the goals and mechanics of the program have shifted. Theming the art season ended in 2015, and by 2017 the ever-shifting dates of the season had finally expanded to encapsulate the entire calendar year.

After robust conversation starting in 2021 and throughout 2022, the Redmond Arts & Culture Commission discussed the needs and priorities for artists and Arts Organization, and with that feedback, staff created a Call for an Operating Support grant, which was unanimously approved since 2022.

The 2026 Cultural Arts Operating Support Grant Call was approved at the October 9, 2025 meeting and closed on January 25, 2026. Eleven applicants applied, and nine Redmond based non-profit organizations were selected based on fulfilling all the selection criteria. The 2026 Grantees were brought to Commission for approval at the February meeting. 2026 Grantees: *Eastside Symphony, Redmond Association of Spokenword, Redmond Historical Society, Seattle Community Theater, Venues for Artists in the Local Area (VALA Eastside), Wolfberry Studio, Pride Across the Bridge, SecondStory Repertory, OneRedmond Foundation*

Community Art Rotating Exhibits

Three exhibits are hosted per year in the Redmond Senior & Community Center. A call asks for submittals of completed 2D artworks. A selection panel convenes to pick artwork for an entire year of exhibits. The artists are not paid, but they can label that their artwork are for sale and share the price and contact information. The artist handles all sales and the City will not take a percentage. The purchaser will need to wait until the end of the run to pick-up their artworks. Exhibits take place February-May, June-September, October-January

II. Events

Redmond Derby Days

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. Derby Days 2026 is scheduled for Redmond City Hall's municipal campus on July 24 & 25 and will feature parades, bike races, carnival rides, food, live music, craft market, drone show, and more.

Downtown Redmond Art Walk

The fourth annual Downtown Redmond Art Walk will take place on Thursday, September 17, 2026 and will highlight Redmond's local artists and Downtown businesses. The event partners Downtown area businesses with local artists to highlight both art and the vibrant organizations in Redmond's Downtown corridor. The City activates Downtown Park from 4 – 7 p.m. with art and performances, as well as produces a map of participating locations to encourage participants to visit the art and performances at the local businesses.

Redmond Lights 2025

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 in December. Prior to the Pandemic, Redmond Lights was traditionally held over two days during the first weekend of December. Currently, the event continues the month-long installation experience, but also brought back the luminary trail on the first Saturday of December. In 2026, the kick-off event is on Saturday, December 5 from 4-8pm. Art is on display from Friday, December 4, 2026 – January 4, 2027

III. Policy & Planning

Public Art Master Plan

An RFP seeking a consultant to create an updated Arts Master Plan closed in early March.

The objective of this project is to provide clarity on how best to achieve city priorities and opportunities in Redmond as they relate to Cultural Arts. The planning process and final deliverable will align the City's cultural arts efforts into a holistic body of work that reflects both the City and the Parks and Recreation department's vision, unique opportunities, and best practices. This process should also involve important

stakeholders, which may include but is not limited to, the Redmond Arts & Culture Commission, local arts non-profits, local artists and event producers, city and regional cultural arts collaborators, and peer city arts staff.

At a high level, the City seeks to produce a Public Art Master Plan that:

- Is concise and easy-to-understand
- Relies heavily upon graphics, photos, tables, and charts to convey information, rather than using lengthy text
- Includes a template for a succinct, easy-to-update, easy-to-track Annual Action Plan
- Includes tangible performance measures
- Includes a method for tracking progress

The 2017 Public Arts Master Plan can be reviewed here --

https://www.redmond.gov/DocumentCenter/View/4511/Redmond-Public-Art-Plan_2017-03-09-PDF?bidId=

Percent for Public Art Funding

For several years, the Redmond Arts and Culture Commission has advocated for a sustainable and sufficient level of funding for public art investments to provide a structure that supports strategic planning efforts and art investments that better serve the community. In addition, City Council adopted the Public Art Plan in 2017, which recommended updating the 1991 Public Art Ordinance 1640 to increase the funding for public art investments and broaden the types of investments eligible to receive public art funding. In 2018, staff presented a recommendation to City Council to revise the ordinance to provide an increased and sustainable funding, transparency, and clarity on how public art is funded and invested in. The proposal generally included:

- Broadening the projects required to contribute to art investments to all capital projects (general government and utilities);
 - Increasing the allocation to public art to 1.25 percent of estimated construction costs;
 - Changing the minimum threshold for eligible projects from \$100,000 to \$500,000 (exclusive of maintenance programs and debts).
 - Other options discussed included variations in the percentage and limiting eligible projects to the general government capital projects (i.e. transportation, parks, facilities.)
- The City Council requested additional analysis, data and other options to be considered and presented when complete. This process was put on hold in late 2019, but the process has reignited, and City staff are planning to brief the City Council in the first half of 2023 with new updated recommendations to provide increased and predictable funding for Public Art in Redmond.