Sequim Arts Commission

2023 Annual Report

Values

Inclusivity, Equity, Art for Everyone.

Vision

A welcoming, diverse and exciting cultural community.

Mission

To encourage, support and facilitate various forms of artistic and cultural activities within the greater Sequim community.

2023 Strategic Planning & SAC Goals Review

In April 2023 the Sequim Arts Commission held the annual strategic planning session to review the goals set forth by the Sequim Arts Commission to City Council in late 2022. Since our goals had already been approved by council in December 2022 for the 2023 year, our aim in this session was to develop a work plan and project timeline for each new initiative. Our new project initiatives were broken down into sub-committee groups consisting of; Workshops & Busking, Utility Box Art Covers, Murals & Mosaics and establishing the Creative District in Sequim. We were able to set a project timeline with quarterly goals and milestones set for each sub-committee lead project.

Sequim Arts Commission Goals Approved by City Council December 2022

- **Community Arts Programs**

Arts Workshops & Skills Development, Open Music Jams, Music In The Park, Community Paint Project, Innovative Arts Fair, 4th Grade Holiday Ornament Tree.

- **Public Arts Projects**

Murals, Mosaics, Utility Box Art, Gallery Exhibitions, Musical Street Performances & Buskers.

- **Supporting Sequim's Creative Economy**

Create opportunities for Arts Tourism, Increase Economic Opportunities for Local Artists.

- **Creative Arts District Certification (Approved by Council, Resolution 2018-20)**

Strengthen Sequim's Creative Sector, Diversify Economy, Enhance Quality of Life.

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New Project Successes (Busking, Workshops)

The Sequim Arts Commission (SAC) has had the opportunity to successfully establish pilot programs for both SAC sponsored **Busking program and Workshop program**, to be implemented in early 2024. The SAC and Arts Coordinator researched similar programs offered by municipalities in Washington State and Country-wide, proposed the program plan to department heads to gain perspective and permission to move forward, which included primarily the Legal team, Finance, and Public Works. We hope to provide Arts Workshops to the community on a quarterly basis throughout 2024 and we plan to offer "Busking Spots" to the musician community beginning in spring of 2024.

New Project Obstacles (opportunities to become successful)

We did experience a few caveats while investigating the feasibility of some of our other new project initiatives, which included our **Utility Box Art Cover** project, the **Murals & Mosaics** initiative and the establishment of the **Creative District** in Sequim. Some of these new initiatives such as the Utility Box Art Project, have been delayed due to concerns of overloading and overheating due to old components within the City's utility signal cabinets and inner workings. We have planned a work-around for this initiative, but as it sits right now the project is on hold until the City can finance new utility boxes or until the SAC can receive clearance from the Public Works department to move forward with our work-around plan.

The **Murals and Mosaics** project initiatives have also been obstacle riddled (but not impossible) as we are required to use City funds to artistically enhance public buildings or infrastructure, not private businesses. Finding the best path forward to achieve our goal of uniquely beautifying Sequim with Murals & Mosaics has lead us to generating a list of local artists who specialize in Murals to provide to local businesses who are interested in having a mural painted on their building. We are also planning a mural opportunity to freshen up the local skate park in Carrie Blake Park, by inviting the community to assist with designing and painting new murals for the skate park. We hope to bring this initiative to fruition by summer 2024.

Earlier this year the SAC met with a representative from ARTSWA, the Washington State Arts Commission, to receive guidance and information about establishing Sequim as a State **Certified Creative District.** What we learned is that this is a much larger initiative than originally considered and that there is a broad range of local stakeholders that would need to be involved and their participation would require coordination within the project scope. ARTSWA also communicated that communities interested in establishing a Creative District typically partner with a 501 c3 arts or community based organization to meet the requirements of district certification. To be successful with coordinating this community development initiative, the SAC would recommend additional support be considered from the City of Sequim in order to move the project forward. It is recommended that a "Creative District Administrator" role be considered in order to coordinate the successful establishment of the Creative District in Sequim. The SAC recommends an additional 5-10 hours per week to expand the role of the Arts Coordinator position, could be a consideration by City Council in the future.

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Arts Commission Review Committee

In October, 2022 the Arts Commission Review Committee was formed in order to establish more clearly defined roles, responsibilities, communications flow, and policies of the Arts Commission, City Council and City staff as they relate to the City arts programs. The group consisted of select members of the City Council, Arts Commission and City staff, meeting monthly over a 6 month period.

The committee reviewed existing documents and policies and made updates to achieve the following goals:

- SMC 2.64 update.
- Public Arts policy update.
- Clarify the roles of the City Council, CAAC, and staff in matters related to the arts.
- Create an annual planning calendar to bring the CAAC in sync with the City budget cycle.
- Create an arts organizational chart to define the relationship of the CAAC to the City organization.
- Create a document that better describes commission member terms and limits, the interview process for new members, the election process for the Chair and Vice Chair.
- Discuss CAAC's role in fundraising and donations.
- Outline what should be included in new commission member orientation and what should be annual training for all CAAC members.

The Committee completed their review process on April 19, 2023.

Name Change

City Council approved the proposed name change from City Arts Advisory Commission to Sequim Arts Commission in May, 2023.

Recruitment

2023 was a time of transition for the Arts Commission, and three new members were recruited to replace the positions that were vacated over the course of 2023. These new members include; Tami Wall, City Resident, artist and retired educator. Steve Humphrey, County resident and past commission member, musician, director and performing arts expert. Marcia Garrett, county resident, retired educator with a master's degree in Creative Arts.

Logo Redesign

The Commission name change prompted the need for a logo redesign. City staff worked with Commission members over the course of six months to develop a new logo for the Sequim Arts Commission. In September 2023 a new logo was selected and voted on by the Arts Commission.

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Karen Kuznek-Reese Gallery Exhibitions

The SAC presented 5 art exhibitions in the KKR gallery at Civic Center this year to the community. These exhibitions are organized quarterly, with two, one month exceptions in April and June. 2023 Exhibition themes included; Let's Explore Color!, the North Olympic High Schools Arts & Crafts exhibition, Digital Origins, Music, and now on view until the end of the year, Elemental. Over the course of 2023 we received 126 artwork entries and exhibited 76 works of art from 65 local artists.





4th Grade Holiday Ornament Project

The 2023 Holiday season will mark the 9th year the Sequim Arts Commission has sponsored the 4th grade Holiday Ornament project with the Sequim School District. This year the theme for ornament decoration is, "What Brings You Joy". We've asked students to prepare a short statement about what brings them joy during the holiday season or anytime of year. Last year the City of Sequim Mayor, Tom Ferrell assisted with the holiday tree lighting ceremony and read messages of Joy from 4th grade students to the audience, and we are excited to have our Mayor back this December to again mark the day in a special way.





My Shoes My Story

In early 2023 the Sequim Arts Commission partnered with Kitsap Public Health District to bring a small exhibition, "My Shoes, My Story" to the Karen Kuznek-Reese Gallery. This project was open to all students age 12-20 in Kitsap, Clallam, and Jefferson Counties. Students were encouraged to register for a pair of blank canvas sneakers to illustrate to community leaders what it's like to be a young person in Washington State, and what is important to today's youth.



Native American Dwelling Project

In early 2023 the Sequim Arts Commission partnered with Rebecca Bullard, a first grade teacher at the Olympic Peninsula Academy, to showcase the Native American dwelling projects created by her students. Each child was assigned a region of north America and was asked to design a dwelling representing each region. Students were really creative with the materials they utilized, such as small marshmallows to create an igloo and popsicle sticks to illustrate a longhouse. The community really enjoyed being able to view the spectacular structures created by these brilliant young students.



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Music in the Park

Once again in 2023 the SAC co-sponsored the Music In The Park music series with KSQM FM Radio, every Tuesday night, from June 27th, through August 29th. This annual program was able to bring music by 15 different performance groups to our community.



Open Music Jam

Throughout 2023 the SAC has sponsored 9 separate informal music jam sessions for the community on select First Friday Art Walk evenings at the Sequim Civic Center. We are proud to be able to provide space for music lovers to jam, meet other musicians in the community and provide entertainment to First Friday Art Walk visitors in the Karen Kuznek-Reese Gallery. Each session brings between 20-50 musicians and music lovers together.



Innovative Arts Fair

In May of 2023 the Sequim Arts Commission co-sponsored and staffed the Community Art Project booth, at the Irrigation Festival. Visitors young and old spent time coloring trading card sized pieces of the Irrigation Festival poster art, creating an overall design that was vaguely familiar and very abstracted. The final art piece was displayed in the Karen Kuznek-Reese Gallery for the month of June so the public could view their contribution in whole.



Centennial Place Park

February 1st, 2023 Centennial Place Park proposals were reviewed by the Parks & Facilities Manager, the Director of Public Works and Public Works Operations Manager, the Chair of the Sequim Arts Commission, a member of the Parks & Arbor board, and the Arts Coordinator. We met to examine the seven proposals from various design firms from around the state and it was unanimously decided to work with Jett Designs out of Seattle Washington. Jett Design impressed the Arts Commission with their concept as it included the opportunity to plan for Creative Districting with Arts Placemaking considerations. The firm understood the significance of designing with Arts in mind, whether its performances, rotating art exhibitions, eating, and enjoying the vibrancy the park will bring to the intersection of Sequim Ave. and Washington Street and the local business district.







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WHAT'S IN STORE FOR 2024?

First Quarter 2024

January— The SAC will begin offering arts skills building workshops free to the community on a quarterly basis, beginning in early 2024. The plan is to schedule one workshop presenter each quarter, offering workshops on a first come, first served basis.

In the Karen Kuznek Reese Gallery the SAC will open the "To Enlighten" exhibition to the public. The gallery will participate in the First Friday Art Walk on January5th from 5-7pm. The exhibition will be on display from January 5th, through March 26th, 2024.

February— The SAC will introduce the pilot busking program to the community, by inviting musicians to perform in designated areas in the Washington St & Sequim Ave. corridor.

March— The SAC will be participating in the 4th annual Sunshine Festival as volunteers overseeing the community paint project in Carrie Blake Park.

Second Quarter 2024

April— The first week of April the SAC conduct its annual strategic planning meeting with City Facilitators to establish new goals, project schedule and timeline.

Also in April the SAC will be hosting the annual exhibition of North Olympic Peninsula High school students artwork in the KKR Gallery, April 5th through 28th, 2024.

May— The first weekend in May is the annual Innovative Arts Faire which is part of the Irrigation Festival scheduled activities. The SAC will host the Community Art Project booth that weekend.

June— In June we have a one month exhibition scheduled of small works from members of the local arts group, Olympic Peninsula Art Association. The annual, Mighty Mini's exhibition which is the OPAA fundraising show will be on display in the KKR from June 7th through June 28th, 2024. The June First Friday Art Walk is scheduled for Friday, June 7th, from 5-7pm.

The last week of June will be the beginning of the Music in the Park concert series with KSQM FM at the Bandshell in Carrie Blake Park, every Tuesday, from 6-8pm. SAC members will be onsite each week during the series until late August.

The SAC hopes to have mural designs juried and approved by Council for the Skate Park mural upgrade project, by the start of summer.

Third Quarter 2024

July— The SAC will host the exhibition, "To Feel" in the KKR Gallery, from July 5th, through September 24th, 2024. The First Friday Art Walk gallery reception for the exhibition will be Friday, July 5th from 5-7pm.

The Music in the Park concert series will continue every Tuesday night from 6-8pm.

August— Music in the Park continues.

Fourth Quarter 2024

October— The SAC will host the exhibition, "To Move" in the KKR Gallery, from October 4th, 2024 through January 2nd, 2025.

November— The Annual 4th grade student holiday ornament project will once again be coordinated by the SAC members. The holiday tree lighting will take place during the December First Friday in 2024.

December— The holiday tree lighting with the City of Sequim Mayor and SAC members, scheduled for Friday, December 6th from 5-6pm.