



Culture, Arts and Heritage Commission Meeting Agenda

November 13, 2025
12:00 PM

City Hall

Aspen Room, 1st Floor
415 W. 6th St
Vancouver, WA 98660
Virtual Meeting Details

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Approval of the meeting minutes from the October 9th CAHC Meeting

3. Action Items

4. Workshop

- a. Washington's America 250
- b. VAMF Recap
- c. Update on Cultural Access Program
- d. Adoption of the Official City Flag

5. Community Forum

To provide public testimony, please see instructions below.

6. Commission and Staff Reports

- a. Cultural Services Manager
- b. Commission President
- c. Clark County Art Commission

Culture, Arts and Heritage Commission

MEMBERS

Brad Richardson, *President*
Linda Reid, *Vice President*

Lee Rafferty
Rebekah Percival
Ricky Gaspar
Rosalinda Mendoza
Michelle Tan
Shon-Lueiss Harris
Russell Ford, CACC

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

415 W. 6th Street
Vancouver, WA 98660
TTY: 711
www.cityofvancouver.us

7. Open Discussion & New Business

8. Next Meeting

9. Between Now & Then

Adjournment

Community Forum Instructions

Time is reserved at each Commission meeting for Community Communications. During this time, the public may speak on any issue. Each speaker will have three minutes to address the Commission. Community members who wish to submit detailed testimony that may exceed three minutes of speaking time are encouraged to email their comments so they can be included with the meeting materials.

Community Communications participants are encouraged to pre-register by email at parksrecculture@cityofvancouver.us or by phone at 360-487-8311, but may comment during this period without pre-registration; options for Community Communications are:

1. In Writing: Public comments can be submitted in writing via email to parksrecculture@cityofvancouver.us by 5:00 pm the day before the meeting.
2. Remotely: attend the Microsoft Teams meeting online; be prepared to speak online during the Commission meeting at the time of Community Communications.
3. In Person: Fill out a Public Comment form in person prior to the start of the Community Communications portion of the meeting.

City Hall is served by C-TRAN. Route information and schedules are available online at www.c-tran.com. You also may reach C-TRAN at (360) 695-0123 for more information on times, fares, and routes.

Anyone needing language interpretation services or accommodations with a disability at a Vancouver City Council meeting may contact the City Manager's staff at (360) 487-8600 (RELAY: 711). Assistive listening devices and live Closed Captioning are available for the deaf, hard of hearing and general public use. Please notify a staff person if you wish to use one of the devices. Every attempt at reasonable accommodation will be made. To request this agenda in another format, please also contact the phone numbers listed above.

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 9, 2025

12 p.m.

Vancouver City Hall

Aspen Room

415 W. 6th Street

Vancouver, WA

Commissioners Present:

Richardson, Percival, Gaspar, Ford, Harris and Tan

Commissioners Absent:

Reid, Rafferty and Mendoza

Item 1: Call to Order

President Richardson called the October 9, 2025, meeting of the Culture, Arts & Heritage Commission to order at 12:02 p.m. The Commission met in Aspen Room at Vancouver City Hall and via Microsoft Teams.

Item 2: Approval of Minutes

Motion by Percival, seconded by Ford, and approved unanimously to adopt the minutes from August 14, 2025.

Item 3: Action Items

a. Appointment of New Members

Richardson described the application review subcommittee discussion. The subcommittee recommended that two commissioners, Tan and Harris, be reappointed, and that applicants Ruby Lewis, Terrance Burns, and Jeanne Bennett be considered for the vacant position resulting from Reid's upcoming term limit.

Motion by Ford, seconded by Harris, and approved unanimously to recommend the reappointment of Commissioners Tan and Harris and that Ruby Lewis, Terrance Burns, and Jeanne Bennett continue to the interview phase with the City Council Subcommittee.

Members

Brad Richardson
President

Linda Reid
Vice President

Lee Rafferty
Michelle Tan
Rebekah Percival
Ricky Gaspar
Rosalinda Mendoza
Russell Ford, CCAC
Shon-Lueiss Harris

**Parks, Recreation and
Cultural Services
Department**

P.O. Box 1995
Vancouver, WA 98668
360-487-8311
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cityofvancouver.us

b. Vancouver Cultural Access Program Name

Burton reviewed the process to create a public facing name for Vancouver’s Cultural Access Program and gave an overview of additional brand development tasks to come. The Task Force and staff felt it was important to include the word Vancouver in the name and limit the name to two words. ‘Inspire Vancouver’ was a clear winner in a ranked voting poll of the Task Force and Commission. Burton noted that the word ‘inspire’ is relevant to arts, culture, heritage and science and captures the program’s intended outcome. ‘Inspire’ will also translate well into other languages and connects Vancouver’s program to other Cultural Access programs across the state.

Richardson suggested creating opportunities for local design groups and artists to engage in the process. Harris suggested that involving them in the ideation stage could also illuminate candidates for future collaboration. The commission also suggested incorporating youth and members of the creative community in the production of program materials like instructional videos.

Commissioners Harris and Gaspar volunteered to join the brand development work group.

Motion by Percival, seconded by Ford, and approved unanimously to adopt ‘Inspire Vancouver’ as the public facing name of the Vancouver Cultural Access Program.

Item 4: Workshop

a. Vancouver Cultural Access Program Workplan

Perlick gave a preview of the Cultural Access Program work to come in 2026. Richardson gave an introduction to the slides, noting that the increased workload may require more time from the Commissioners and highlighted the importance of running the Cultural Access Program well so demonstrable outcomes are delivered to the taxpayer and to serve as a model program for other jurisdictions in Clark County that may consider a program of their own.

Perlick gave an overview of the grant award process, noting it will be a year-round cycle supporting multiple types of grants and highlighted specific tasks for the Commission, including serving as program ambassadors, awarding the grants, and monitoring the overall program. Commissioners were asked to plan for increased materials to review before meetings, increased work outside of monthly meetings in subcommittees and at events, and to RSVP for monthly meetings.

Item 5: Community Forum

None presented.

Item 6: Commission and Staff Reports

a. Cultural Services Manager

Perlick gave the following updates:

- Hull will step into a new role serving the Cultural Access Program directly and Nilo will assume the staff support role for the Commission going forward.
- The request for proposals for the second phase design of the arts hub has been released for response.

b. Commission President

None presented.

c. Clark County Arts Commission (CCAC)

Ford gave the following updates:

- Clark County Open Studios is coming up on November 1-2nd and additional pamphlets are available at Art at the Cave.
- There will be a Northwest Sculptors Guild event at James Lee Hansen's studio on November 19th at 3 p.m.
- Kadence Art Collective has started collaborations with Vancouver's NAACP and the School for the Blind.
- Ford noted that he is taking on increasing caregiver responsibilities at home and his availability for future Commission work is uncertain. Gaspar expressed his appreciation for Ford's wisdom and the work he has put in over the years.

Item 7: Open Discussion and New Business

Hull gave an update on behalf of Rose Mendoza regarding the Flag Selection Committee. On October 4, the committee held a flag-raising ceremony featuring the six final designs. The next committee meeting will take place at the end of October, where they'll review community feedback and deliberate on the final designs. The final recommendation will then be presented at the November City Council meeting.

Richardson noted that both the flag process and outcomes have received criticism and there is confusion in the community about why the six finalists look so similar. He expressed disappointment that a project intended to capture community pride has led to such feelings of dissatisfaction. Ford responded to the comments, explaining that working with the vexillologist changed the committee's desired outcomes for the final design but noted that he had a similar moment of surprise when viewing the final designs side by side in the newspaper. Ford explained that the similarities arose through the process to narrow down the 137 entries using the committee's standards that emphasized flag design principles over aesthetics.

Harris added that the concerns from the public likely stem from a lack of information about the design process and expectations rather than poor design options and emphasized the importance of introducing the goals and expert guidance for a project like this long before opening the options up to public opinion so that folks have time to adjust their expectations. Gaspar added that listening to feedback is critical for any creative process and doesn't diminish the effort that went into earlier iterations.

Tan gave an update on the Performing Arts Center discussions. The committee has met twice since July. The August meeting was a working meeting where the committee discussed what type of center and operation model would be the best fit for Vancouver. In September, the committee met with the building designers and architects to review potential designs. The committee is leaning towards an 800-1000-seat center based on Vancouver's needs and competing centers in the Portland area. Tan stated that the biggest concern among the committee members is finance. The consultant team is working on a plan, cost estimate, and timeline to the committee in late October and to present a project proposal to City Council in December.

Tan requested that the Performing Arts Center project team present to the Commission in November or December prior to the presentation at City Council and encouraged the Commission to make it clear that Cultural Access funding is for the community, not for government use. Richardson reiterated that there is capital funding available at the state level for these types of projects and that the operating funds available to nonprofits through the Cultural Access Program is not an appropriate substitute. The Commission requested a presentation from the performing arts center team as Tan suggested and asked for at least 15 minutes of Q&A time after the presentation.

Item 8: Next Meeting – November 13, 2025

Richardson gave a brief summary of agenda items planned for the November meeting.

Item 9: Between Now & Then

Commissioners were encouraged to attend the Dia De Muertos event at Esther Short Park on Saturday, October 18th.

Adjourned

This meeting adjourned at 1:34 p.m.



WASHINGTON
STATE

AMERICA'S 250TH

Washington State and America's 250th

Lorraine Ralston
America250 Coordinator
Washington State Historical Society

Why America250?

On July 4, 2026, our nation will commemorate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776,

The journey to this historic milestone is an opportunity to pause and reflect on our nation's past, honor the contributions of all Americans, and look toward the future we want to create for the next generation and beyond.

This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to focus public attention on history



PROGRESS SO FAR



ROAD TO 2026 ...

- The United States Semiquincentennial Commission was created by Congress in 2016
- Commission hopes to reach “all Americans and every American” through a decentralized, grassroots commemoration program
- Washington established its planning committee in 2022. Chaired by the lieutenant governor, there are 20 members of the committee
- The Washington State Historical Society is the lead organizing agency for commemorations in the state



Our Themes



We the People

- Understanding the founding principles of liberty, equality, and democracy as well as the importance of Tribal sovereignty
- Inspiring more active and meaningful civic engagement
- Examining who has been included, and excluded, in the concept of “we the people” throughout history





Power of Place

- Exploring how geography and place shape Washington communities and stories
- Preserving places to give Washingtonians a shared sense of identity and community
- Reflecting on events in the Pacific Northwest during the Revolutionary era that shaped our nation

Sharing History

- Sharing more inclusive histories to better understand the past and build a stronger future
- Supporting local history organizations and improving history and civics education
- Engaging all generations in learning about and appreciating history



THEMES

We The People

The Power of Place

Sharing History



WHERE ARE WE NOW





- Outreach to **EVERY** county, many cities, and various organizations
- Encouraging groups to sign up as partners
- Encouraging commemorative planning committees
- Providing information and resources

FOUR KEY DATES ...

DAY OF SERVICE

JUNE 14, 2026

- Flag Day
- Volunteering in your local community; focused on reinvigorating a nationwide culture of service
- National initiative called *America Gives*, every state is participating
- Will be the largest-ever national service initiative in American History
- Communities can identify a project and “rally” the forces to participate
- Portal to record volunteer hours



INDEPENDENCE DAY JULY 4, 2026



- Each community has its own celebration
- Our thoughts:
 - Proclamations
 - Public readings of the Declaration of Independence
 - Flag retirement ceremonies
 - Commemorative apple pie recipe
 - Community potluck meals

MUSEUM DAY AUGUST 8, 2026

- Museums across Washington will be open with free or reduced admission
- Special programming may be available





... and Lots of History!



OUT OF MANY, ONE

A coordinated statewide exploration of the American Experience through objects, images and artwork from Washington museums

- **Museums will identify five objects, images or works of art that represent the American Experience**
- **Items will be presented to the public for comment and final selection**
- **One item with photograph and description is submitted to WSHS for inclusion in the master list**
- **Item is displayed throughout 2026**

MOMENTS



THAT MADE US

- **Free, print-on-demand historical panel exhibit**
- **Ideal for museums, libraries, schools, city halls, community events**
- **Ready-to-use panels that can be expanded and customized if needed**
- **Explores five ideals at the heart of the Declaration of Independence:**
 - **Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness**
 - **Consent of the Governed**
 - **Created Equal**
 - **Free and Independent States**
 - **“We Mutually Pledge to Each Other Our Lives, Our Fortunes and Our Sacred Honor”**

NEXT STEPS



GET INVOLVED

- **Become a partner**
 - Local partners will be key to ensuring all Washingtonians are able to participate in the 250th
- **Benefits**
 - Your organization and website link listed on America250 WA Partner page
 - Access to list your America250 events and activities on official website
 - Access to official logo and various toolkits to support activities
 - Monthly partner newsletter with ideas, tips and suggestions



THIS DOES NOT HAVE TO BE HARD

- **What were you already planning to do?**
 - How can you introduce America250 into events and activities that you already do
 - Re-brand
 - Re-imagine
 - Re-purpose
- **What have you always wanted to do?**
 - Can you use America250 as a catalyst to reconnect with your community?



FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.america250WA.org



- List of all partners
- Resource for information, ideas, and toolkits
- Links for state committee public meetings and recordings
- Calendar of events (coming this summer) to promote local events and activities



WASHINGTON
STATE

AMERICA'S 250TH

THANK YOU!

Reach out:

Lorraine Ralston
America250 Coordinator
info@america250wa.org
www.america250WA.org

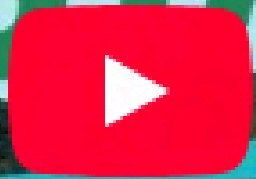


America's 250th Washington




Share

WASHINGTON
STATE



AMERICA'S 250TH

Watch on  YouTube



Vancouver Arts and Music Festival

Stacey Donovan
Cultural Services Manager
Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

November 13, 2025





Agenda

- Overview
- Highlights
- Lessons learned
- 2026 & Beyond
- Questions





Festival Overview

*We absolutely loved this event and were so impressed and inspired by the world-class music , and so thankful it was free and accessible for all!! We wound up coming a second day and brought more family members after having such a wonderful time on Saturday hearing Renee Fleming and the Vancouver Symphony!
-Festival attendee*

[CtranVideo](#)



Festival Highlights

- Thursday kickoff
- Kif Kif and Clown Garage
- VSO/Renee Fleming
- Clark County Poet Laureate / Olga Loktev Ballet performance
- Live painting during Fri VSO Concert
- Juried Art Exhibit People's Choice Award
- The Acoustic Stage
- Festival After Hours

[2025 VAMF Video 90 seconds.mov](#)



Lessons Learned

- More art vendors in park
- Partnerships & collaborations
- More food Vendors
- More Info booths throughout park
- VSO seating



2026 & Beyond



- 2026 Dates
- Funding / Sponsorships
- Partnerships
- Pre-Festival Events
- Afterhours Venues
- Community support

Questions



Thank You!



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