



COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS STAFF REPORT

ITEM NO. 5.1

DATE: June 23, 2026
TO: Chairperson and Members of the Commission for the Arts
FROM: Allen McFarland, Management Analyst II
SUBJECT: Discussion on the Young Artist Award and support for young artists in the community.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends the Commission for the Arts receive the report and discuss the Young Artist Award and support for young artists in the community.

SUMMARY

During the May 26, 2026, Commission for the Arts regular meeting, Vice Chair Dewhurst initiated a discussion around support for young artists and review of the Young Artist Award. The Commission for the Arts collectively supported bringing this item to a future meeting agenda for discussion.

DISCUSSION

During the two fiscal years of the current budget cycle (25-26 and 26-27), the Commission for the Arts has budgeted \$10,000 for a Young Artist Award. The Commission has not yet taken any formal action to establish rules, guidelines, or procedures on how the award would be structured or awarded. Vice Chair Dewhurst has indicated her desire to establish the necessary structure to begin making this award available. Vice Chair Dewhurst also believes there is a need to provide support to young artists who are not selected for grants and awards to keep them motivated in their pursuit of arts and to help them prepare for future opportunities.

Vice Chair Dewhurst provided her ideas via the attached notes and would like the Commission to discuss this matter further. If deemed to be necessary, an ad hoc committee can be established to work on this matter and bring ideas to the Commission in the future.

ATTACHMENTS

[1. Young Artist Award Notes from Vice Chair Dewhurst](#)

Prepared by: Allen McFarland
Management Analyst II