



MICA Update

February 6, 2018

Council Study Session



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Community Values Arts & Culture

- Arts Council formed in 1985
- 1% for the arts adopted in 1985
- Arts activities have included: film series, Shakespeare in the Park, Mostly Music in the Park
- Art Galleries supported:
 - Community Center indoor art gallery
 - Gerta Hackett Outdoor Sculpture Gallery
- Public art valued at approx. \$1 million
- School District's Vision 2020 Strategic Plan "maintains highest standards in areas of fine arts..."
- Community supports school levies that include funding for arts and music programs



Problem

- Youth Theatre Northwest needed a home (35 year history on Mercer Island)
- Larger community need for space dedicated to arts and culture was identified
 - “Mercer Island Performing Arts Center” became the Mercer Island Center for the Arts (MICA)



City's Support for MICA's Mission

- City identified a preferred site for MICA at the former Recycling Center/Bicentennial Park site at Mercerdale Park (8/2013)
- Collective letter signed by City, MICA and YTN outlining steps to move the project forward (6/2014)
- MOU signed by City and MICA regarding the SEPA process (2/2016)



SEPA Process

- City issued SEPA Determination of Non-Significance with Mitigation as part of a phased SEPA review process (9/17)
- MICA's application for a zoning code text amendment was scheduled for a public hearing at the Planning Commission (10/17)
- City requested a "pause" and MICA agreed to the pause and to work jointly with the City to develop a plan for moving forward



City's Next Steps

- Joint letter with MICA outlines our next steps:
 - City engages public on the community's values around arts & culture
 - MICA engages public on what is wanted for the future of arts & culture
 - MICA explores any and all ideas for site and design of an arts center
 - MICA puts project at Mercerdale Park on hold
 - City continues to work with MICA to identify an alternative site
 - City and MICA partners together to nurture, promote and support high-quality cultural arts activities for entire community



City's Community Outreach Plan

- City docket item to develop goals and policies supporting arts and culture
- Arts Council:
 - Reviews draft Comp Plan goals and policies
 - Hosts community meeting seeking input
 - Finalizes draft goals and policies
- Planning Commission holds public hearing and makes recommendation to Council
- Council approves

