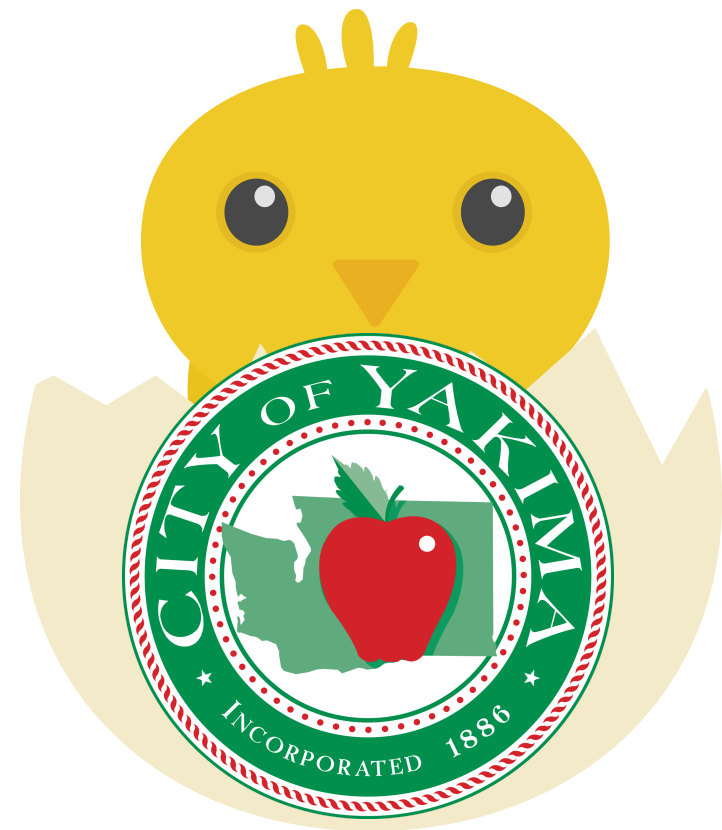




**Page 2:** City's Harman Center re-opens after region moves to Phase 2 of state COVID-19 recovery plan



**Page 3:** Downtown Yakima welcomes Windows Alive! art exhibit



*City of Yakima e-Newsletter*

# ISSUES BRIEF

March 2021 - Vol. XI, Issue 3, Number 103

## Applications accepted through March 5th for COVID-19 grants

**City of Yakima**

**Grants to assist with COVID-19 costs are available for businesses with 5 or fewer employees**

**Application deadline: March 5**

**To apply visit: [chooseyakimavalley.com](https://www.chooseyakimavalley.com)**

The City of Yakima has dedicated \$266,406 for a second round of funds to help micro-businesses (5 or fewer employees) with COVID-19 costs.

The money is available for low or moderate-income business owners, again with five employees or less, located within the Yakima city limits.

During its regular meeting on Tuesday, February 16th, the City Council formally agreed to have the Yakima County Development Association (YCDA) assist with the application process.

The application can be accessed at [www.ChooseYakimaValley.com](https://www.ChooseYakimaValley.com).

When applicants complete the online portion, they will be prompted to schedule a time to meet with YCDA staff to finish the application and provide their documentation.

The application deadline is 5:00 pm on Friday, March 5th. The application period began on February 19th.

YCDA will contact applicants on Friday, March 19th, to notify them of their status.

The money comes from a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). CDBG is a Federal program intended to expand economic opportunities for low and moderate-income persons.

In July 2020, the Yakima City Council set aside \$480,000 in CDBG funds to assist micro-businesses with expenses associated with COVID-19.

The City Council has also set aside COVID-19 relief funds provided by other federal programs.

For example, in September 2020 Council dedicated \$1 million in federal CARES Act funding to assist businesses with 25 or fewer employees

YCDA assisted the City of Yakima in administering those grant applications, as well.

Call 575-1140 or visit [Yakima County Development Association](https://www.YakimaCountyDevelopmentAssociation.org) | [Choose Yakima Valley](https://www.ChooseYakimaValley.org) for more about YCDA.

Visit [www.yakimawa.gov](https://www.yakimawa.gov) for more about the City of Yakima and its ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic.



# Briefly

## Council resumes study sessions

The Yakima City Council is resuming study sessions. They resumed last month and are typically at 5 pm on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month.

They are conducted via Zoom and air live on Y-PAC, Charter Spectrum Channel 194, and on the City website.

Study sessions had been canceled beginning in March 2020 due to COVID-19.

## 'Spring forward' on March 14th

Daylight Saving Time will officially begin at 2:00 am on Sunday, March 14th.

Clocks are set ahead one hour and many set their clocks to "spring forward" before going to sleep the night before, in this case Saturday, March 13.

When changing your clocks, the Yakima Fire Department suggests testing smoke alarms.



## Harman Center re-opens

*Re-opening is contingent on area remaining in Phase 2 of state COVID-19 recovery plan*

The City of Yakima Harman Center, 101 N. 65th Avenue, re-opened to the public on Wednesday, February 17th.

The re-opening was possible because the South Central Region, which includes Yakima County, advanced to Phase 2 of the state's Healthy Washington recovery plan.

After the Harman Center library, pool room and fireplace sitting area all opened on February 17th, the center resumed crafts, games and coffee bar on Monday, February 22nd.

"We are so excited to welcome the community back to the Harman Center," said Recreation Program Supervisor Leslie Richards. "However, we do ask visitors to continue social distancing measures such as wearing masks and maintaining six feet of separation between each person."

Call the Harman Center at 575-6166 for more information about the programs it offers.

Visit <https://yakimaparks.com/senior-center/> for more about the Harman Center.

## City of Yakima resumes yard waste collection service

*Service is offered weekly through November 30th for City residents*

Yard waste collection in the City of Yakima resumes March 1st.

The City's Refuse Division provides weekly yard waste pick-up through November 30th.

"Please have the green yard waste cart available by 6:00 a.m. on the curb or alley on the day of scheduled pick-up," said Refuse and Recycling Manager Loretta Zammarchi. "Place the container 4 feet from any obstacles."

There is a monthly charge of \$17.55 for the service, which is limited to collecting grass clippings, leaves, and small branches. Branches should be cut into lengths of 3 feet or less and not exceed 3 inches in diameter. All yard waste must fit inside the cart with the lid closed.

"Our trucks can pick up yard waste carts weighing up to 150 pounds," Zammarchi said. "Carts exceeding the limit will not be collected."



Items that are unacceptable for yard waste pick-up include garbage, plastic bags, food scraps, animal waste, ashes and sod, building materials, and tree trunks or large branches.

The items are not acceptable by the Yakima County landfill as yard waste. They are considered contaminants.

"Once mixed into yard waste the load becomes unacceptable for processing," Zammarchi said. "Just a little bit of contamination can turn a truck load of yard waste into a garbage load."

Regarding yard waste carts, the City of Yakima Code 4.16.140 stipulates:

"Failure to use this cart as described will result in an additional refuse cart fee added to the utility bill."

Visit the Division's yard waste collection website at <https://www.yakimawa.gov/services/refuse/yard-waste-collection/> or call 575-6005 for details or to make yard waste collection changes.



# New Windows Alive! exhibit unveiled

A new Windows Alive! art exhibit is on display in Downtown Yakima.

It can be seen along the northside of Yakima Avenue between Hotel Maison and 3rd Street.

The artists, their complete artist statements and a sample of their respective works can be found at <https://windowsalive.com/>

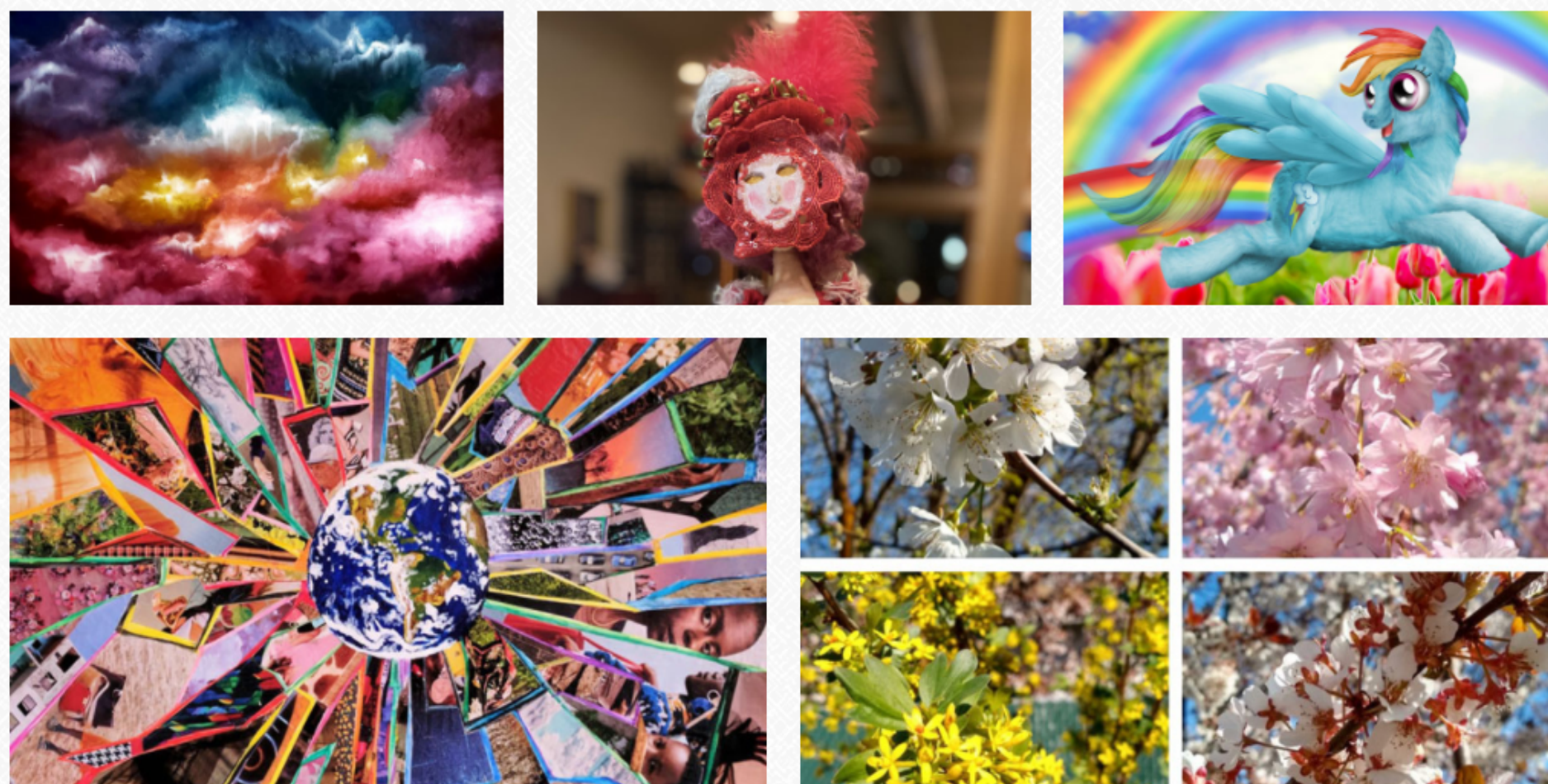
Following are the Central Washington artists selected for the new Windows Alive! exhibit:

- Madeline Crowder
- Kaerli Gray
- Cecilia Marie Hudon
- Yusuf Incetas
- Leticia Mendoza Macedo

Each artist received a \$250 stipend.

Eight years ago, the Yakima Arts Commission, an advisory group appointed by the Yakima City Council, developed the Windows Alive! idea to harness the creativity of Central Washington artists.

Following an entry submission and evaluation process, the above artists were chosen for the exhibit.



Above: New "Windows Alive!" artwork now on display in Downtown Yakima.

At left: A montage of artwork included in the new "Windows Alive!" exhibit.

## City, county debut video promoting Nelson Dam project



Above: A screen shot of the Nelson Dam project video available on the City of Yakima website.

At right: A screen shot from the video showing Yakima Mayor Patricia Byers discussing the Nelson Dam project's economic benefits.



The City of Yakima is working on a project to remove Nelson Dam to improve fish passage and water reliability. Last month the City debuted a video detailing the project and its benefits. Project details and the video are available at [Nelson Dam Project | Points of Interest \(yakimawa.gov\)](https://www.yakimawa.gov/Nelson-Dam-Project-Points-of-Interest).

Nelson Dam was built in the 1920s to divert irrigation water for Yakima and the Naches-Cowiche Irrigation Co. The original design did not allow any fish passage. Since then, the dam has held back tons of sediment and silt over the years, raising the river bed and causing the Naches River to overflow its banks and pour into the surrounding community during even minor flooding.

The project will improve fish passage and sediment continuity to improve habitat, increase flow conveyance to decrease flooding risks for nearby landowners and improve water supply reliability. Yakima County has a plan to replace the dam with a roughened channel and regrade the riverbed.

The city of Yakima plans to invest \$7.5 million in the \$26 million multi-agency collaboration - part of the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan - over the next four to five years. About \$6 million of that total will come from bonds, and about \$1.5 million will come from reserves.

The City of Yakima and Yakima County are requesting \$8.2 million from the state's Capital Budget to complete the project.



# Photo of the Month



City of Yakima crews were kept busy around the clock during the middle of February when three winter weather storms hit the area in the span of four days.

Pictured are City crews plowing and removing snow last month that measured a foot or more in places.

## Connect with the City of Yakima

|                         |                 |                     |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Airport:</b>         | <b>575-6149</b> | <b>Parks</b>        | <b>575-6020</b> |
| <b>Animal Control:</b>  | <b>575-6038</b> | <b>Planning:</b>    | <b>575-6183</b> |
| <b>City Clerk:</b>      | <b>575-6000</b> | <b>* Police:</b>    | <b>575-6200</b> |
| <b>City Manager:</b>    | <b>575-6000</b> | <b>Refuse:</b>      | <b>575-6005</b> |
| <b>Codes/Licenses:</b>  | <b>575-6126</b> | <b>Streets:</b>     | <b>575-6005</b> |
| <b>Engineering:</b>     | <b>575-6111</b> | <b>Transit:</b>     | <b>575-6175</b> |
| <b>* Fire:</b>          | <b>575-6060</b> | <b>Utilities:</b>   | <b>575-6080</b> |
| <b>Human Resources:</b> | <b>575-6090</b> | <b>Wastewater:</b>  | <b>575-6077</b> |
| <b>Legal</b>            | <b>575-6030</b> | <b>Water/Irrig:</b> | <b>575-6154</b> |
| <b>Municipal Court:</b> | <b>575-3050</b> | <b>YCTV/YPAC:</b>   | <b>575-6092</b> |

**\* NON-EMERGENCY only. Call 911 in an emergency.**

The City of Yakima *Issues Brief e-Newsletter* is published monthly by the Community Relations Office. Contact Community Relations Specialist John Fannin at 249-6858 or [John.Fannin@yakimawa.gov](mailto:John.Fannin@yakimawa.gov) with suggestions for future *Issues Brief* articles.