

Notice is hereby given of the following meeting:

ARTS COMMISSION

September 2, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

**Meeting held electronically under Ministerial Order No. M192/2020
and in Meeting Room B**

AGENDA

1.0 ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of June 10, 2021

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 Space Needs Assessment Update – Todd Ayotte

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Poet Laureate – Introduction and Discussion - Elliott Slinn, Poet Laureate

**5.2 Proposed Adjustments to the Existing Civic Arts Advisory Model
– Todd Ayotte and Jacque Killawee**

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 New Media Gallery Updates – Sarah Joyce

6.2 Library Update – Chris Koth

**6.3 Report from Arts Commission Representative on Public Art Advisory
Committee (Standing Item) – Peter Leblanc**

6.4 Arts Council of New Westminster – Bob Crockett

6.5 Vagabond Players (Standing Item) – Ted Drabyk

6.6 Douglas College Update – Janette Tilley

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

8.0 NEXT MEETING

Thursday, December 2, 2021

9.0 ADJOURNMENT



ARTS COMMISSION

June 10, 2021

**Meeting held electronically under Ministerial Order No. M192 and
the current Order of the Provincial Health Officer - *Gatherings and Events***

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Councillor Trentadue | - Chair, City Council Member |
| Bob Crockett | - Alternate Chair/ Arts Council of New Westminster Representative |
| Ted Drabyk | - Community Based Arts Sector |
| Erin Jeffery | - Community Based Arts Sector Non-Profit Representative |
| Kelly Proznick | - Community Member |
| Julia Schoennagel | - Community Member |
| Janette Tilley | - Douglas College Representative |
| David Vivian | - Community Member |
| Katey Wright | - Community Member |

VOTING MEMBER REGRETS:

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Utkarsha Kale | - Community Member |
| Peter Leblanc | - Community Based Arts Sector, Non-Profit Representative |
| Vesna Maljkovic | - Education Sector Representative |

STAFF PRESENT:

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Todd Ayotte | - Manager, Community Arts and Theatre |
| Sarah Joyce | - Director/Curator, New Media Gallery |
| Chris Koth | - Manager of Programs and Community Development |
| Nicole Ludwig | - Assistant City Clerk |
| Carilyn Cook | - Committee Clerk |

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Councillor Trentadue took a moment to acknowledge the difficult past two weeks, particularly for Indigenous families and people who have experienced a traumatic history, with the discovery at the Kamloops Residential School.

1.0 ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the Arts Commission agenda of the June 10, 2021 meeting be adopted with the addition of Reports and Information Item 6.6: Massey Theatre Update by Erin Jeffery and Item 6.7: SD40 Arts Facilities and Programming Update by Kelly Proznick.

CARRIED.

All members of the Commission present voted in favour of the motion.

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of April 1, 2021

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the Arts Commission minutes of the April 1, 2021 meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED.

All members of the Commission present voted in favour of the motion.

2.2 Adoption of the Special Regular Minutes of April 29, 2021

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the Arts Commission minutes of the April 29, 2021 meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED.

All members of the Commission present voted in favour of the motion.

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

There were no items.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 Poet Laureate Program Status Update

Todd Ayotte, Manager of Community Arts and Theatre, advised that on June 7, 2021, Elliott Slinn was appointed to serve as the City's new Poet Laureate. It is hoped that Mr. Slinn will be able to attend the September 2, 2021 meeting of the Arts Commission to introduce himself and share his plans for the next few years as the Poet Laureate.

4.2 Virtual Programming Considerations

Sarah Joyce, Director/Curator, New Media Gallery, in addition to her written report which was included in the agenda package, shared that civic galleries must consider best practices for virtual programming and that the report is a result of virtual programming both prior to and during the pandemic. Ms. Joyce encouraged Commission members to email or call her if they had any feedback to share on this topic and advised that a follow up report to the Commission is anticipated in early 2022.

Councillor Trentadue thanked Ms. Joyce for the report and noted that some of our partners in the arts community who provide virtual programming may also have feedback on what they have learned during this process, including the pros and cons of virtual programming.

4.3 Art Space Needs Assessment Draft Framework & Timeline

Todd Ayotte, Manager of Community Arts and Theatre, provided an update regarding the Art Space Needs Assessment which included an overview of the initial report received by the Arts Council of New Westminster and a summary of results from an April 1, 2021 follow up discussion with the Arts Council. In the presentation, Mr. Ayotte proposed a series of next steps and action items for the Commission's review and comment, and a draft space needs survey for the Commission's review and comment.

In response to questions from the Commission, Mr. Ayotte provided the following comments:

- In response to a question regarding the Anvil Centre Art Studios, Mr. Ayotte noted that these spaces are appropriate for short program use and are not set to accommodate long-term individual studio needs;
- Staff will engage the local arts organizations to support the dissemination of the survey;
- The survey will be open long enough to ensure ample time for feedback; and,
- Other municipalities will be consulted with to determine what they are doing with respect to space for artists in order to inform any recommendations going forward.

Discussion ensued and Commission members provided the following comments:

- Input requested should include the need for point of sale and/or retail exchange;

- Grade level spaces, including a delivery entrance with a loading dock are also often needed by artists in order to move art work and supplies in and out of their work space;
- Many non-profit organizations are experiencing the same challenges as artists with respect to space;
- Some municipalities purchase real estate for the use of cultural and non-profit organizations, and avoid displacement caused by development;
- The City of Richmond offers non-profit organizations new development space at 50% of the market value which allows organizations some certainty of their expenditures; and,
- Strategies for sharing work and storage space can makes things more affordable for artists.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Public Recognition of Past Poet Laureates

Julia Schoennagel, Community Member, stated that most people are probably unaware of the City's past Poet Laureates, and advised that they should be recognized and remembered for the hard work that they have done for the community.

Councillor Trentadue thanked Ms. Schoennagel for bringing her suggestion to the Commission, noting that while the city does not currently have a policy in place with respect to recognitions via naming of places, streets, etc., discussions to create such a policy are underway as recognition is important to the community.

Discussion ensued, and the Commission provided the following comments:

- While the City does have a page acknowledging the last two Poet Laureates, it should be reasonably easy to update it with all of the past Poet Laureates; and,
- Consideration should be made as to how to promote and celebrate the Poet Laureate in an easily accessible way.

5.2 Windows on New West

Bob Crockett, Alternate Chair/Arts Council of New Westminster Representative, suggested a possible initiative that would see the arts community coming together to brighten the streetscape along Columbia Street where storefronts have been shuttered and boarded up by creating and putting up posters that have photos of the City on them. He noted that in order to do this permission, funding, and

collaboration with other organizations would be required and that the Downtown Business Improvement Association agreed with the concept.

Mr. Crockett advised that volunteers would be needed to see the initiative to fruition, and Katey Wright, Community Member, and Julia Schoennagel, Community Member, expressed interest in assisting with the project.

In response to questions from the Commission, Todd Ayotte, Manager, Community Arts and Theatre, provided the following comments:

- The City's COVID-19 Business and Local Economy Task Force which consists of business representatives and the City's economic development team would be a good place to identify potential community interest in this project. Jen Arbo, Economic Development Coordinator, who facilitates the meetings, can be contacted about being included in one of the meetings; and,
- An option to consider would be to develop a low barrier participatory art project for the papered windows.

Discussion ensued, and Commission members provided the following comments:

- This idea should be further explored as it would rejuvenate some parts of the City;
- There are spots along Sixth Street that could benefit from this as well;
- The initiative would have to be coordinated with each landlord, would require insurance, etc.; and,
- A pilot project in partnership with the Uptown and Downtown Business Improvement Associations, if they are interested, may be appropriate.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 New Media Gallery Micro Residencies

Sarah Joyce, Director/Curator, New Media Gallery, shared that the New Media Gallery Micro Residency Program was very successful with the last residency finishing up this month. She noted that, amongst other things, the Program ran from October 2020 to June 2021 with 15 residencies over 45 days, was self directed but included mentorship and technical assistance for the artists, and that some of the artists had been nominated for awards, other residencies, and exhibitions. Ms. Joyce acknowledged the hard work that Christopher Jung, New Media Gallery Program Coordinator, put into the Program.

6.2 Library Update

Chris Koth, Manager of Programs and Community Development, announced that Caitlin MacRae, Librarian, is currently coordinating all of the library's exhibits and working to ensure that the visual exhibits are accessible to those with vision challenges by providing a descriptive service of the various pieces.

6.3 Report from Arts Commission Representative on the Public Art Advisory Committee (Standing Item)

In the absence of Peter Leblanc, Arts Commission Representative on the Public Art Advisory Committee, Councillor Trentadue, and Todd Ayotte, Manager, Community Arts and Theatre, shared that Committee members discussed the following during the May 6, 2021 Public Art Advisory Committee meeting:

- Quyen Hoang has joined the City as the Public and Community Art Coordinator. The focus on the coming months will be to complete some needed maintenance on works in the collection, complete a review of the Public Art Policy and reactivate the implementation of a number of public and community art projects; and,
- A virtual event organized with the Arts Council of New Westminster to celebrate the recent installation by artist Nathan Lee in Queen's Park.

6.4 Arts Council of New Westminster (Standing Item)

Bob Crockett, Alternate Chair/Arts Council of New Westminster Representative, provided a brief overview of his written report which was included in the meeting agenda package.

6.5 Vagabond Players (Standing Item)

Ted Drabyk, Community Based Arts Sector Representative, shared that Vagabond Players will be holding their General Meeting soon and anticipate opening to the public in approximately four months.

6.6 Massey Theatre Report

Erin Jeffery, Community Based Arts Sector Non-Profit Representative, advised that the Massey Theatre has announced its 2021-2022 season and that everyone is looking forward to having people in the Theatre again to see such acts as Martha Wainright, Shawn Majumder, ballet, etc., which will help to rejuvenate the arts in the city.

Ms. Jeffery also announced Open Space Saturdays which is an activation of outdoor community space around the Massey Theatre. Further details can be found on the Massey Theatre website.

6.7 SD40 Arts Facilities and Programming Update

Kelly Proznick, Community Member, announced that conversations are starting to take place with respect to rental of four classroom spaces, for music and dance, in New Westminster Secondary School. She noted that discussions about the theatre space rental will take longer as it currently does not have an operating plan.

Ms. Proznick shared that there has been a drastic reduction in students participating in programs which is, hopefully, only a result of the pandemic, and that advocacy work will be done next year to bring more people into the programs.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

8.0 NEXT MEETING

Thursday, September 2, 2021

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Certified Correct,

Councillor Mary Trentadue
Chair

Carilyn Cook
Committee Clerk

City of New Westminster

REPORT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

To: Arts Commission Date: September 2, 2021
From: Todd Ayotte Doc#: 1905163
Manager, Community Arts and Theatre
Subject: Proposed Adjustments to the Existing Civic Arts Advisory Model

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to receive feedback from the Arts Commission regarding proposed adjustments to the existing civic arts advisory model.

Following a review of the existing mandate of the Arts Commission and Public Art Advisory Committee, and in response to direction received from Council to centralize the City's arts advisory functions, staff are recommending that a new Arts Advisory Committee be established to replace the existing advisory bodies.

The new Arts Advisory Committee will serve to streamline the existing advisory functions in alignment with the existing operational model, reflect the goals and vision of the Arts Strategy and other civic arts guiding documents and advance the City's commitment to equity and reconciliation.

BACKGROUND

In 2019, the City Task Forces were created in alignment with the City's Strategic Priorities, which included the establishment of the Culture and Economic Development Task Force. The same report recommended streamlining the advisory committee structure within the City and to bring the function of the PAAC within the existing Arts Commission. The goal was to establish a single overarching advisory body for the Arts in New Westminster.

Although the original direction from Council was to complete the transition in January 2021, due to the impact of COVID-19, the existing committee structure was extended to January 2022.

Arts Commission

The Arts Commission, established in 2009, has played a key role in advancing the City's arts and cultural portfolio, including supporting the establishment of a professional staff team and dedicated civic arts infrastructure, the development of key strategic guiding documents and supporting a thriving and diverse civic arts program.

As the portfolio has developed over time, the role of the Arts Commission has shifted away from a governance function to a community advisory function. This shift was noted in the Arts Strategy, which called for the review and revision of the existing mandate and terms of reference in order to better reflect the current advisory role.

Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC)

The PAAC was developed to provide expertise and community input regarding public art policies, projects and procedures and to develop the terms of reference for art selection and commissioning of Public art.

The PAAC has supported the development of the Public Art Program, guiding public and community art selection processes, recommending projects and priorities to Council and providing expert advice to City staff in regards to program implementation, collections maintenance and planning. The PAAC is currently engaged with staff in a review and revision of the Public Art Policy for Council's review and endorsement.

In the process of streamlining the advisory functions, it is important to ensure that the specialized function of the PAAC is reflected in the Terms of Reference and membership to ensure that the rigor and insight this Committee provides will not be lost.

DISCUSSION

Intent of the Arts Advisory Committee

As stated above, the intent of the Arts Advisory Committee is to streamline advisory functions of the Arts Commission and the PAAC, continuing to provide for the broad advisory function of the Arts Commission and at the same time maintain the specialized function of the PAAC.

The Arts Advisory Committee will support and strengthen the arts to benefit everyone in the City, recognizing that BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and people of color), persons with

developmental, physical and acquired disabilities and members of the 2SLGBTQIAP+ communities have traditionally been disadvantaged and excluded from civic processes.

The new Committee will strive to:

- Remove barriers to participation;
- Ensure representation for Indigenous, BIPOC and equity seeking voices;
- Include youth voices and perspectives; and,
- Encourage a balance of expertise that aligns with Committee functions.

The term “equity seeking” refers to those in the community that face entrenched marginalization due to attitudinal, historic, social and environmental barriers including age, ethnicity, disability, economic status, gender, nationality, race, sexual orientation or transgender status.

Role of the Arts Advisory Committee

The Arts Advisory Committee will continue to be a conduit for communication and discussion, providing advice and recommendations to staff and Council on arts-related civic programs and civic art matters including public art. The Committee will also serve as a public engagement tool for the Culture and Economic Development Task Force.

The proposed role of the Arts Advisory Committee includes the following five (5) functional streams:

1. Arts and Theatre Strategy Implementation - to provide advice and support regarding the implementation of the Arts Strategy, Theatre Strategy and other related Council adopted Strategic Plans.
2. Public Art Policy and Public Art Plan Implementation - to provide advice and support regarding the implementation of the Public Art Policy and Public Art Plan.
3. Equity - to advise on strategies for ongoing and meaningful inclusion, representation of diverse voices and to ensure equity in arts-related plans, policies and opportunities.
4. Arts Development – to provide a voice for the broad needs of the arts community to inform the City’s strategic policies and land use initiatives as required.
5. Engagement and Audience Development - to provide advice and support to staff in engagement and audience development initiatives; to serve as a public engagement platform for the Culture and Economic Development Task Force.

Desired Skills for Membership

Following are the proposed skills for membership:

- Arts expertise/experience including Public Art;
- Community engagement;
- A demonstrated commitment to innovation and an ability to serve as a change agent and champion of the arts;
- Broad interest in creativity and the arts.

Through recruitment processes, staff will seek representation from BIPOC artists and community members and strive to reflect a diversity of lived experience.

Membership

The proposed Committee membership is as follows:

- City Council representative (1)
- ACNW representative (1)
- Education sector representative (1)
- Artists – New Westminster-based (4)*
- Artists – Other (1)*
- Local NFP Arts Sector representative (2)
- Arts Professional (1)
- Urban designers, architects, landscape architects (2)
- Interested community members including youth (3)

*In alignment with the new, more inclusive definition developed by the Canada Council for the Arts, an artist has specialized training in their artistic field (not necessarily in academic institutions), is recognized as a professional by their peers (artists working in the same artistic tradition) and has a history of public presentation or publication. In order to support the function of the Committee, it is important to ensure that we engage artists with Public Art experience as well as artists from a variety of other disciplines including visual, performing arts, literary and multidisciplinary practice.

Staff Liaison(s)

Staff liaisons for the Committee would be as follows:

- Manager, Community Arts and Theatre
- Public and Community Art Coordinator
- Committee Clerk, Legislative Services

Other staff liaisons will be brought in as needed based on agenda items.

NEXT STEPS

Following review with the Arts Commission and PAAC, staff will develop a draft Terms of Reference and Implementation Plan for Council's review and endorsement.

NEW MEDIA GALLERY

MEMBERS REPORT

EXHIBITIONS

MirNs - Past

- MirNs became our longest running exhibition at 4.5 months
- By popular request the exhibition was held over for 2 months.
- Booked 2 months in advance and we capped the Wait List at 150
- Attracted a new audience, primarily 25-35, not traditional gallery visitors
- The artists expressed their gratitude for the chance to show during Covid
- 7 Reviews

Assembly - Current

- An exhibition that looks at Order & Power (2 Video/Sound Installations & Sound Tower)
- Three artists ; Elizabeth Price (UK), Fiona Tan(Indonesia), Zimoun (Switzerland)
- Opening September 17 - Dec 5
- Material and Shipping Delays Continue / Keeping Tabs on PHO restrictions
- Bookings will continue so we can control numbers in the gallery

CERN - TRIUMF - Swiss Consulate Partnership - Upcoming

- Curating the Focus Exhibition for their Festival of Science - April - July, 2022
- Exhibition Opening will kick off their Festival
- Features two CERN artists (& others)
- Developing a K-12 Art + Science Symposium around the exhibition
- Presentation to Council Late Fall

PROGRAMS

- 4 talented new PT auxiliary Instructors, including a PT Schools Instructor
- Program Coordinator has developed a new City-wide, Internal Outreach Program
- Micro-residency Call for Applications will go out again - Sept 28 Deadline
- Considering the impact of new PHO restrictions & maintaining flexibility
- School Programs around the Assembly exhibition begin Sept 22
- Produced 4 x Digital Brochures for Cultural Services Programs
- Filmed Units and Zoom Programs due to Covid
- Canada Day in the Park

EDUCATION

- Activities centred around Zoom Curatorial Talks Talks + Long-Term Projects
 - With UBC, SFU, ECUAD, TRU, Douglas College, Capilano University, Video Pool (Winnipeg)
- SFU - IAT-344 Film Project - Winning Film - Lophy
- Examiner - MFA Thesis Defence - Emily Carr University of Art + Design

PROJECTS + EVENTS

- Assembly Performance. Kim Trainor (Poetry), Hazel Fairbairn (Modified Fiddle) LEDI. Oct-Nov
- Film - Ben Bogart + Mario Klingemann in Conversation . September Release.
- Powell Street Festival Partnership - Upcoming for 2022 - Artist: Yota Kobayashi