



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:

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,

Original Signed
Councillor Mary Trentadue
Chair

Original Signed
Carilyn Cook
Committee Clerk