



ARTS COMMISSION

April 4, 2019 - 5:30 p.m.
Commission Room 2, City Hall
MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Trentadue	- Chair, City Council Member
Stephen O'Shea	- Alternate Chair Arts Council of New Westminster Representative
Troy Hunter	- Community Member
Peter Leblanc	- Community Based Arts Sector Non-Profit Representative
Julian Legere	- Professional Arts & Culture Sector Representative
Vesna Maljkovic (left at 7:18 p.m.)	- Education Sector Representative
Kelly Proznick	- Community Member
Julia Schoennagel	- Community Member
Iulia Sincaian	- Community Member
David Vivian (arrived at 6:06 p.m.)	- Community Member

VOTING MEMBER REGRETS:

Erin Jeffery	- Community Based Arts Sector Non-Profit Representative
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GUESTS:

Oksana Dexter (left at 7:36 p.m.)	- Cultural Planning & Research Consultant
Alan Hill	- Poet Laureate

STAFF PRESENT:

Lisa Spitale	- Chief Administrative Officer
Jacqueline Killawee (left at 6:34 p.m.)	- City Clerk
Vali Marling (left at 7:36 p.m.)	- General Manager, Anvil Centre
Rob McCullough	- Manager, Museums & Heritage Services
Sarah Joyce (left at 7:57 p.m.)	- Director-Curator, New Media Gallery
Carolyn Armanini	- Planner 1, Office of the CAO
Carilyn Cook	- Commission Clerk

The meeting commenced at 5:35 p.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the Arts Commission agenda of the April 4, 2019 meeting be adopted as circulated noting that Item 5.2 – Poet Laureate Legacy Project will be addressed after Item 3.1 – Arts Open House at Anvil Centre.

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 February 7, 2019

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the Arts Commission minutes of the February 7, 2019 meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED.

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

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Arts Open House at Anvil Centre – Carolyn Armanini, Planner 1 & Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer

Ms. Armanini commenced with her presentation to update members on the Arts Open House at Anvil Centre and requested feedback from the Commission. Sarah Joyce, Director-Curator, New Media Gallery shared that as Cultural Days is a National event, the City could use their use their tool & media kits to promote New Westminster nationally.

Discussion ensued, and the Commission provided the following comments:

- If the City ties into Culture Days, it should be fully embraced and include issues such as accessibility, well-being, etc.;
- Looking at how to make Anvil Centre accessible to the community must be prioritized so it does not get lost amongst everything else going on;
- The hours should be extended as 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. may not be long enough for all the activities;
- A call for community group participation would be appropriate for a full and encompassing community buy in such as what took place for Winterfest;
- A stronger intention with respect to indigenous peoples should be included in the cultural plan;

- New West Artists would be interested in attending as a way to connect with the community and be recognized beyond their regular circle of contacts; and,
- The open house could include sneak peaks, after dark, and behind the scenes aspects for specific groups.

Councillor Trentadue advised that there is a role for the Arts Commission to have a working group to plan the day including framing the agenda, managing the different audiences, entertainment (which will need to undergo a jury process), prioritizing the Indigenous aspect, and more.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the Arts Commission endorses the proposed Arts & Culture Open House, including the proposed date of Saturday, September 28th as presented at this evening’s meeting.

CARRIED.

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

In response to questions, staff advised:

- The City’s online system does not interact with SpaceFinder BC; however, other awareness about Anvil Centre can generated on that platform; and,
- Anvil Centre room capacities are online and the new website will include set ups and floor plans.

Procedural note: Item 5.2: Poet Laureate Legacy Project – Postcard Poetry was addressed at this point in the meeting.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 Grant Process Update – Carolyn Armanini, Planner 1 & Jacqueline Killawee, City Clerk

Ms. Armanini introduced Jacqueline Killawee, City Clerk, advising that she and Ms. Killawee would answer the Commission’s questions with respect to the grant application review process.

Ms. Killawee advised Commission members that the City is beginning a grant review process in response to the many comments that have come from Council and Commissions, including the possible implementation of multiyear grant opportunities. As the goal is to create a grant policy that is clear to everyone, all comments from the minutes have been sent to the consultant and will be incorporated in the grant process. She noted that Council is in favour of the multiyear grants for organizations that have been around for a number of years and

that the City is also considering regrouping the grants and making the smaller ones easier to apply for.

In response to questions, staff advised:

- Two applicants applied for the incorrect category and were moved to Community Grants while another applicant, who requested an Operational Grant, was moved to the Partnership Grant;
- All applicants received some component of funding;
- Staff reviewed applications for continuity and completion of the application and then made suggestions for individual amounts and city services based on the entire envelope of \$30K with the goal of trying to match the amount requested with what was available. Next, the Grant Commission assigned ranking for each application which was in agreement with staff recommendations. Finally, the applications went to Council and were passed based on the feedback from both staff and the Grant Commission;
- With respect to the grants policy review, a time for community consultation has not yet been determined. The overall review process is expected to be completed and in place for the upcoming grant year;
- While art services offered grant application workshops in some previous years, staff will advise the consultant of the desire for yearly instruction and assistance for those that may experience difficulty with or be uneducated on the grant application process;
- Staff advised that previous grant applications are located in the Open Data Catalogue on the City's website for reference, including what each organization received for funding;
- The option to apply for either yearly funding or three-year funding would be provided for organizations that do not know how long they will be functioning;
- Staff will provide information with respect to the amount of full funding that was provided for arts grants last year, including those that were moved to different categories;
- Staff acknowledged that the names of the organizations that applied for grants were included in the report attachment that went to Council; however, that aspect was lost in the uploading process to the City's website. This will be corrected; and,
- All comments and suggestion made this evening will be forwarded to the consultant.

Further discussion ensued, and the Commission provided the following comments:

- A member commented that he felt the application process was excellent and did not want to see the well thought-out questions changed; however, additions to the application could include the request for statistics (e.g. how many people

- have attend the event in the past, how many do you expect in the future, etc.) which will assist grant jurors in the decision making process;
- Applications were moved from Arts and Culture Grants into Partnership Grants (which the guidelines state are for organizations that deliver strategic priorities) based on staff's interpretation of the grant process. It does not seem appropriate to move such applications to the Partnership Grants since they do not deliver a strategic priority and they are clearly in need of operating assistance. There is need, in the Arts and Culture Grant, for both small organizations that are doing projects and larger, longer term organizations that are moved to Partnership Grants as they require operating funds because they are ongoing;
 - Based on all of the grants that go towards arts and culture, including those that are placed under Partnership Grants, it should be recognized that this demonstrates that more funds should be allocated to the Arts and Culture Grant envelope;
 - If implementing a three-year grant funding option, the City should avoid giving applicants the opportunity to apply only in the first year as having to wait years to apply for the grant can prove very frustrating to organizations. Granting should be staggered;
 - The City could offer a streamlined application process for returning applicants if they are doing the same thing from year to year;
 - A member commented that she was experiencing difficulty when applying for a grant as she was not sure where her new organization fit in. She stated that she was very grateful to receive assistance and direction from staff that enabled her organization to submit a successful application;
 - The City could reach out to those applying for Neighbourhood Grants to ensure they are aware that other city grants exist as a funding stream in the community; and,
 - A member commented that we need to know what we are not doing. For example, the shift in volume of unfilled grants, what the ask was, what was recommended, etc.

Members discussed putting a forth a resolution to Council with respect to increasing the Arts and Culture Grant funding envelope to support implementation of the Arts Strategy and the following comments were made:

- While Arts and Culture Grant is underfunded in comparison to other grants, everything has value and we do not want to take funds from one granting envelope to put in another; and,
- It was clarified that the funds would be requested for arts and culture as a whole and not a particular area of the arts.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the Arts Commission recommend that Council approve that the 2020 Arts and Culture Grant receive an increase in the funding envelope in support of the implementation of the Arts Strategy.

CARRIED.

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

4.2 Arts Strategy Work Plan – Prioritizing and Implementation – Commission

In order to have enough time for this high-priority discussion, the Commission agreed to hold an extra meeting in May to specifically address the Art Strategy Work Plan. Ms. Cook will poll Commission members for a time that works best for the majority and anyone who cannot attend the meeting can provide feedback via email.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Theatre Strategy – Oksana Dexter, Cultural Planning & Research Consultant

Ms. Dexter commenced with her presentation, requesting that Commission members provide feedback and ideas with respect to the vision and strategic priorities for the theatre. She shared that a community workshop will take place on Saturday, May 4, 2019.

In response to questions and concerns from a Commission member, it was clarified that the City will be working on the theatre business model in part with the operator and that it was not included in the scope of Ms. Dexter's work. Ms. Dexter advised that currently, the operational model is modelled after non-profit societies.

Ms. Dexter requested that Commission members send three strategic directions that they feel need to be addressed to her directly.

5.2 Poet Laureate Legacy Project – Postcard Poetry – Rob McCullough, Manager, Museums and Heritage Services – Alan Hill

Mr. McCullough introduced Alan Hill, Poet Laureate, and reminded members that the Commission recommended Mr. Hill's appointment two years ago.

Mr. Hill shared that he created a book of 50 poetic postcards of places in the City in which he revealed his feelings and thoughts of each place. He stated that he is currently working on creating a legacy companion piece that is multicultural and inclusive and consists of community members sharing their favourite places in the

City. In order to achieve this, outreach has commenced with workshops, visiting Family Services of Greater Vancouver, etc. Commission members each received a Call for Contributions paper which they were encouraged to share in order to get the word out about the project, as well as to submit their suggestions of others that may be interested in receiving the Call.

In response to questions, Mr. Hill advised:

- Artists may be able to participate possibly in the second part of the project, the anthology, turning the book into visual pieces and possibly installing them on location; and,
- It has not yet been determined how many copies will be printed and there are currently no distribution plans in place.

In response to questions, staff advised:

- Copyright language would be included in any publication;
- Funding details are currently being worked on;
- It has not been determined if the project will be virtual presence or a printed presence;
- The City has published books in the past and sold copies through the gift shop in the museum. These could also be sold at Anvil Centre.

Further discussion ensued, and a Commission member suggested that accessibility for those who may not speak English very well be provided, possibly including visuals, to lead people to the greater documents.

Staff advised that the Call would be distributed to Commission members by email and a link to it would be added to the City's website.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the Arts Commission endorses the concept of A Journey Across New Westminster by Word: A Poetry of Place and moving forward with the Call for Contributions as presented at this evening's meeting.

CARRIED.

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

Procedural note: Item 4.1: Grant Process Update was addressed at this point in the meeting.

5.3 Truth & Reconciliation Process Update – Rob McCullough, Manager, Museums and Heritage Services

Mr. McCullough commenced with his update of the City's truth and reconciliation process including:

- In the spring of 2017 Council agreed that the City do more with respect to truth and reconciliation and the outcome of ensuing discussions included the the decision to enlist a consultant to guide the City through the process;
- The City has engaged with the Castlemain Group, two of which are residents of New Westminster;
- The scope of work to be undertaken by the consultant will include working with communities interested in working with the City, lead a series of workshops to help staff understand reconciliation, etc.; and,
- With respect to the replacement of the Canada Games Pool and the Centennial Community Centre, an advisory panel has been created that will aid staff in understanding how to reach out to the community in a way that will provide the City with a good sense of what the urban indigenous people in the community need. This will be followed up by a report to Council.

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

- The New Westminster Museum and Archives receives a BC Arts Council Grant each year and funds this year were directed to hosting the Brad Marsden Reconciliation workshop; and,
- With respect to the land acknowledgement aspect, approximately 32 communities have expressed interest, some of which are working together. The development of the City's Reconciliation framework will help guide the city in understanding the most suitable land acknowledgement for this area.

A member noted that there are many opportunities for the City to attend indigenous events such as the Coastal Dance Festival; however, many of them are unattended by City representatives.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

Standing items:

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

No report was received.

6.2 New West Artists Report – Julia Schoennagel

Ms. Schoennagel expressed her gratitude to the City for the recent grants that were received by New West artists. She shared that the next couple of months would be a struggle as the winter months are slow; however, presently there is a group of “hanger uppers” with 17 artists on display.

Further discussion ensued and Mr. O’Shea agreed to look into New West Artists receiving endorsement from the Arts Council and possible usage of their logo.

6.3 Arts Council of New Westminster Report - Report was included in the Agenda Package for the meeting.

At this point in the meeting, Mr. McCullough announced that the Telephone Salesman art installation, which was located on the wall of the UFCW building, has now been removed and the wall has been repaired and repainted.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

8.0 NEXT MEETING

Thursday, June 6, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. – Commission Room 2, City Hall

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Certified Correct,

Original Signed _____
Councillor Mary Trentadue
Chair

Original Signed _____
Carilyn Cook
Commission Clerk