

ARTS COMMISSION

February 7, 2019 - 5:30 p.m.
Committee 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
Erin Jeffery	- Community Based Arts Sector Non-Profit Representative
Peter Leblanc	- Community Based Arts Sector, Non-Profit Representative
Julian Legere	- Professional Arts & Culture Sector Representative
Vesna Maljkovic	- Education Sector Representative
Kelly Proznick	- Community Member
Julia Schoennagel	- Community Member
Iulia Sincaian	- Community Member
David Vivian	- Community Member

GUESTS:

Jessica Schneider	- Executive Director, Massey Theatre
Chelsey Carlson	- Resident/Former Arts Commission Member

STAFF PRESENT:

Lisa Spitale	- Chief Administrative Officer
Vali Marling	- General Manager, Anvil Centre
Rob McCullough	- Manager, Museums & Heritage Services
Sarah Joyce	- Director-Curator, New Media Gallery
Carolyn Armanini	- Planner 1, Office of the CAO
Carilyn Cook	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m.

Councillor Trentadue acknowledged the recent passing of longtime New Westminster resident Mr. Tony Antonias and his contribution to the City and the Arts Commission over the years. She noted that that he was well known for writing the famous Woodward's \$1.49 Day jingle and members agreed that he will be missed.

Procedural note: Item 3.1: Orientation and Oaths of Office was addressed prior to the start of regular agenda Items.

1.0 ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the Arts Commission agenda of the February 7, 2019 meeting be adopted with the addition of New Business Item 5.3 – Brad Marsden’s Reconciliation Workshop.

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 October 4, 2018

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the Arts Commission minutes of the October 4, 2018 meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED.

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

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Orientation and Oaths of Office – Carilyn Cook, Committee Clerk

Carilyn Cook, Committee Clerk, briefly introduced herself and, after a short roundtable introduction of committee members, commenced with her presentation which included the role of advisory committees, the terms of reference, meeting attendance and quorum, meeting conduct, City policies & freedom of information, and, lastly, oaths of office.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 Anvil Centre Community Arts Access – Carolyn Armanini, Planner

Carolyn Armanini, Planner, reminded Committee members that at the October 2018 meeting of the Arts Commission, discussion took place regarding access to the Anvil Centre and what opportunities there may be for improvement. A working group was formed which subsequently met two times in the Fall, followed by a staff meeting, and resulting in the creation of an action plan for recommendations that came forward at the working group meetings.

Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer, advised that staff would like to ensure the requests and comments received at the previous meeting and subsequent working group meetings are being accurately reflected and that currently staff are seeking feedback with respect to the next steps in the process.

Procedural note: Ms. Schoennagel arrived at 6:30 p.m.

Ms. Spitale stated that this is a two-phase process with the first phase consisting of identifying policy gaps around community access to Anvil Centre and, secondly, creating a set of recommendations to remove the identified gaps.

Ms. Armanini commenced with the presentation.

In response to questions from the Committee, staff provided the following information:

- Private functions may not want their events advertised outside of the building;
- Conference clients often have larger food budgets which includes wait staff;
- A more affordable cultural-services menu, which includes sandwiches, desserts, etc., is currently being developed and will be posted on the Anvil Centre website in the following weeks;
- Bringing outside food into the Anvil Centre is not in compliance with the health permit regulations or the current catering contract with Truffles; however, other options can be investigated such as a hybrid of on-site and off-site catering;
- The two-week pre-ordering requirement for catering is to ensure that enough notice is given to unionized staff to work events, to provide sufficient time to order the appropriate amount of food, etc.;
- The theatre strategy, which is currently in development, needs to be comprehensive and better articulate alignments between the theatre and other components of Anvil Centre. Any formal policy changes would be at Council's discretion;
- Staff understand, from an operational standpoint, that there needs to be ease of access to the theatre and Anvil Centre in general;
- In 2018, activities, programs, etc. at Anvil Centre increased over 100 percent from 2016 and included 300 conference-related events and a lot of theatre-related events;
- A transparent discussion with Council could include itemized costs, how we can ensure that the theatre is accessible to everyone, and work through the barrier of access, possibly through granting, etc.;
- While gaming funds for economic development paid for the Centre and it was designed to be an economic driver in the downtown cultural precinct, it was not meant to be an exclusive facility, so this is a fair public policy discussion to be having; and,
- The Anvil Centre is still a new facility that is experiencing growing pains. It's an inclusive building, and people need to feel welcome and be able to access it;

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- While the new cultural-services menu is fantastic, it is not without limitations (e.g. you must order for a minimum of 15 people at least 2 weeks in advance of the event);
- A balance needs to be struck between the conference aspect of the facility and the arts aspect of the facility;
- Community access would ensure that the arts are also an economic driver, with patrons coming to see a show and then, perhaps, having dinner down the street. The two economic drivers should not be seen in competition with one another;
- A tour of the facility, a workshop, and a party in celebration of the new Arts Strategy could take place during an all-day event at the Centre;
- It would be appropriate to acknowledge the New Westminster Arts Strategy as well; and,
- The Arts Strategy feedback session that took place in the Fall was a great way to use the space.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the Arts Commission approves of the direction that the Anvil Centre Community Art Access working group is taking based on this evening's presentation and request that staff provide an update at the Thursday, April 4, 2019 meeting of the Arts Commission.

CARRIED.

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

Ms. Spitale thanked everyone for their thoughtful suggestions and input.

Procedural note: Mr. McCullough and Mses. Spitale, Schneider, Marling, and Joyce left at 6:30 p.m.

4.2 Arts Strategy Work Plan – Prioritizing and Implementation

This item to be moved for discussion at the April 4, 2019 meeting of the Arts Commission to allow time for new Committee members to review the Arts Strategy.

Ms. Armanini reminded the Committee that Appendix C of the Strategy includes a preliminary work plan that has been reviewed by the Arts Strategy Task Force with their understanding that it would be also reviewed by the Arts Commission for feedback.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Election of Alternate Chair- Commission

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Stephen O'Shea be elected as the Alternate Chair for the 2019 Arts Commission term.

CARRIED.

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

Councillor Trentadue reminded members that the Arts Commission had a member sitting on the Anvil Theatre working group; however, as that person is no longer on the Commission, a new person will need to be elected as the representative on the working group.

The following motion was also passed:

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT David Vivian represents the Arts Commission on the Anvil Theatre Working Group.

CARRIED.

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

5.2 2019 Arts & Culture Grant Results: Feedback & Review – Commission

Stephen O'Shea, Arts Council of New Westminster Representative, shared the following comments and concerns with Commission members regarding the 2019 Arts & Culture Grant results:

- It is great to see the granting envelopes increased this year to \$30k from the previous \$25k;
- The spreadsheet in the report to Council only listed the event names and not the organizations that applied for grants as it has in previous years;
- The City should recognize that:
 - The arts continue expanding as a vital economic driver and more funding is being sought in more grant envelopes from organizations that need funding; and,
 - Grant guidelines are being reinterpreted in order to secure more funding, including some organizations being placed in the Partnership Grant envelope when they should be under the Arts and Culture Grant envelope. As this is a fundamental flaw in the way grants are currently being awarded, it should be addressed directly.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- It is a challenge to measure what is going on with the way the grants are dealt with currently;
- Both the grant envelopes and criteria need to be updated;
- The Festivals Grant would be a great example to follow;
- Applicants should be scored based on the applicable criteria and be provided an explanation if they do not fit the criteria;
- Applicants that are struggling or being denied grants need to be supported and nurtured; and,
- A member who sat on the Arts & Culture Grants Committee shared that overall the process was more challenging this year than it was last year.

Ms. Armanini will provide more information on the Arts & Culture Grant process at the next meeting, including who applied, why some did not receive the grant, etc.

Procedural note: Mr. Leblanc left at 7:20 p.m.

5.3 Brad Marsden's Reconciliation Workshop – Stephen O'Shea, Arts Council of New Westminster Representative

Mr. O'Shea advised of the many upcoming events taking place in New Westminster, including Tales of an Urban Indian on February 9th at Anvil Centre, the Coastal Dance Festival from February 20th to 24th, and White Noise on March 1st and acknowledged that all of the events are happening thanks to the hard work of local non-profit organizations. He noted that many groups in the City, some of which partner with the City itself, are engaged in truth and reconciliation work and yet do not seem to be connected with programming being offered by the City and programming staff.

Mr. O'Shea announced that on January 9, 2019, he attended Brad Marsden's Reconciliation Workshop at Anvil Centre and stated that it was disappointing to see so few City staff in attendance at the Workshop, specifically senior managers. He queried if a workshop was held earlier in the day for City staff, if the City utilized Mr. Marsden to the fullest that day in reconciliation work, and if the City took any steps internally on January 9th towards reconciliation. Mr. O'Shea reminded members that the Arts Strategy publically acknowledges that the City is undergoing a truth and reconciliation process and requested a report advising what stage the City is at in the process and what steps the City is taking towards reconciliation and the decolonization of the Corporation of the City of New Westminster.

Councillor Trentadue shared that she also attended the workshop and found it very impactful, adding that she spoke with Rob McCullough, Manager, Museums & Heritage Services about pursuing reconciliation training for staff.

Ms. Armanini will contact Mr. McCullough to request an update be provided to the commission as to where the City is with the reconciliation process.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- Various members requested information with respect to what the City is doing in regards to reconciliation;
- While the City is working with the eleven First Nations and the Qayqayt, reconciliation work should include Indigenous people who may not be a part of those groups;
- Members agreed that staff attendance should have been a priority for this very informative and helpful workshop;
- A member queried how indigenous people could be more involved in participating in or hosting city events such as a pow wow or annual festival (i.e. something with respect to Queen Victoria as this year would have been her 200th birthday and she named New Westminster);
- Truth and reconciliation can be most effective through and in the arts; and,

Procedural note: Ms. Jeffery left at 7:35 p.m.

- With respect to the City's colonial past, a member expressed concern that reconciliation is not being talked about in the City as a whole and is only being addressed with the Community Heritage Commission.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 Report from Arts Commission Representative on Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) (Standing Item)

Mr. O'Shea shared that at the January meeting of the PAAC, Mr. McCullough provided updates on a variety of projects requiring maintenance and the Committee discussed items in the Public Art Plan that require a bit more finessing.

6.2 Arts Strategy Update (Standing Item) – To be removed as a standing item.

6.3 New West Artists Annual Report – Julia Schoennagel

6.4 Arts Council of New Westminster Report – Stephen O'Shea

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

No items.

8.0 NEXT MEETING

Thursday, April 4, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. – Committee Room 2, City Hall

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Certified Correct,

Original Signed
Councillor Mary Trentadue
Chair

Original Signed
Carilyn Cook
Committee Clerk