

## **ARTS COMMISSION**

**October 3, 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
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
David Vivian	- Community Member

#### **VOTING MEMBER REGRETS:**

Julia Schoennagel	- Community Member
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#### **GUEST:**

Oksana Dexter	- Cultural Planning and Research Consultant
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#### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Rob McCullough	- Manager, Museums & Heritage Services
Chris Koth	- Manager, Programs and Community Development
Carolyn Armanini	- Planner 1, Office of the CAO
Carilyn Cook	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 5:28 p.m.

### **1.0 ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

#### **1.1 MOVED AND SECONDED**

*THAT the Arts Commission agenda of the October 3, 2019 meeting be adopted with the addition of New Business Item 5.3: Culture Forward Working Group by Stephen O'Shea and Item 5.4: Update on Advisory Committees Policy by Councillor Trentadue.*

**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 June 6, 2019**

#### **MOVED AND SECONDED**

*THAT the Arts Commission minutes of the June 6, 2019 meeting be adopted with New Business Item 5.1: Arts Strategy Deliver: New Westminster Public Library being amended to read “to this end, Commission members requested...”*

**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 Draft Theatre Strategy**

Oksana Dexter, Cultural Planning and Research Consultant, provided a presentation on the draft theatre strategy.

In response to questions from the Commission, Ms. Dexter provided the following responses:

- The term “audience ready” was coined in relation to the discussion around the costs of using the Anvil Theatre for events that are ready to go and do not require any real rehearsal time; and,
- A component of the Strategy is to achieve the economic impact of having audiences in seats;
- Additional theatrical opportunities are imagined through the off-season; however, that will be up to the new Manager of Community Arts and Theatre.

#### **MOVED AND SECONDED**

*THAT the Arts Commission recommends that Council adopt the draft Theatre Strategy as presented to the Commission on October 7, 2019.*

**CARRIED.**

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

Further discussion ensued regarding the creation of a Theatre Strategy Working Group with Commission members and staff providing the following comments:

- The working group could include Council, staff, and stakeholders to ensure that the Strategy moves forward;
- Formation of a working group is a sound idea as implementation of the Strategy will involve partnerships, collaboration, and funding;
- Once the new Manager starts in November, the implementation plan would be refined and a working group could be a part of that;
- The minutes of these meetings will inform the new Manager of the Commission's comments and ensure that there is tracking in place for implementation of the Strategy;
- The Massey Theatre should be involved in the creation of the Terms of Reference for the working group;
- It is anticipated that the Draft Theatre Strategy will be going to Council in November, after the start of the Manager; and,
- As the creation of a working group is premature at this point, this item should be added to the agenda for the December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting for further discussion.

## **5.0 NEW BUSINESS**

### **5.1 Child Protection Policy and Program**

Rob McCullough, Manager, Museums and Heritage Services, summarized the above-noted report.

Mr. McCullough advised that the Child Protection Policy will apply to volunteers as well as staff, adding that training will take place either in person or via an online series of modules after which a certificate of completion will be issued. It was also noted that City volunteers do not work directly with the public without City staff present.

#### **MOVED AND SECONDED**

*THAT the Arts Commission recommend that City Council adopt the Child Protection Policy & Procedures as presented to the Commission on October 3, 2019.*

**CARRIED.**

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

### **5.2 Arts Strategy Alignment with Municipal Programs**

Erin Jeffery advised Commission members that this was a good opportunity to ensure that city-run arts programming and activities are aligned with the Arts Strategy with respect to the community arts sector.

Ms. Jeffery shared that the City is currently running a free art program called Sunday Funday which occurs on the same day as two other free community-based arts programs, ArtsToGo by the Arts Council (taking place at and funded by Royal City Centre) and Arts Starts (funded by River Market). She stated that the City is also currently seeking funding from local businesses for this program, making it difficult for community-based arts groups, who do not have a fulltime fundraising person, to secure sponsorship from local businesses, and placing the City and community arts organizations in direct competition with each other.

Mr. McCullough clarified that the Arts Starts program is run in the morning on Sundays with the Sunday Funday program taking place in the afternoon and that the City's intention is to bring people into town to enjoy both programs. He advised that there was a measured attempt by the City to ensure that city-run programs did not take place at the same time as other events, and that with respect to funding, the City does not have a budget to run arts programs. He assured Commission members that staff are looking for better ways to collaborate with the community and that part of the funding search was to find opportunities to hire local organizations to deliver some programs at Anvil Centre with the goal of including other groups, at a later time, to enrich the program. He acknowledged that this initiative had not been communicated properly with the groups affected.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- It is a challenge for the Arts Council to find corporate or other sponsorship and other revenue sources when those that are contacted have already been approached by the City; however, it is also a business choice for sponsors as to where they invest their money;
- The City should be applauded for programing that aligns with the Arts Strategy; however, the fundraising is an issue;
- Part of the Arts Strategy goal is to partner with organizations and work collectively yet this is competing with them for funding. It is a missed opportunity for unity and is, instead, divisive;
- The funding search is much more difficult for non-profit organizations, who are told to diversify funding when applying for grants, when the City is also pursuing funding from the same entities; and
- Having the new Manager in place to oversee the implementation of the Art Strategy will enhance communication.

This item will be added to the December 5<sup>th</sup> agenda for an update and further discussion.

### **5.3 Culture Forward Working Group**

This item will be added to the December 5<sup>th</sup> agenda at which time the Commission will receive an update on the Working Group.

### **5.4 Update on Advisory Committees Policy**

Councillor Trentadue shared that Council has been working on a new committee structure that will more closely align with the City's Strategic Plan. More information will be provided once it has been finalized and adopted by Council.

## **6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION**

### **6.1 Report from Arts Commission Representative on Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC)**

Peter Leblanc informed Commission members of the following items that the PAAC has been working on:

1. Providing feedback on the public art call for the New West Aquatic and Community Centre (NWACC) with the City doing a very comprehensive job to ensure the call went out to as many people as possible;
2. Requesting an improved space for the public art call for the Sportsplex as well as a request to Council to increase the call funding from \$45K to up to \$100k;
3. Appointing members to sit on the juries for both the NWACC and Sportsplex public art calls; and,
4. The City's Banner Program which will be placing children's art on banners in appropriate city transportation corridors.

### **6.2 New West Artists Report**

No report was provided.

### **6.3 Arts Council of New Westminster Report**

Commission members acknowledged the written report which was emailed to the group prior to the meeting.

## **7.0 CORRESPONDENCE**

### **7.1 New Westminster Historical Society Newsletter – June 2019**

### **7.2 New Westminster Historical Society Newsletter – July 2019**

### **7.3 New Westminster Historical Society Newsletter – August 2019**

**7.4 New Westminster Historical Society Newsletter (Special Issue) – August 2019**

**8.0 NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, December 5, 2019

**9.0 ADJOURNMENT**

**ON MOTION**, the meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Certified Correct,

Original Signed  
**Councillor Mary Trentadue**  
**Chair**

Original Signed  
**Carilyn Cook**  
**Committee Clerk**