

ARTS COMMISSION

**February 6, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.
Committee Room 2, City Hall**

MINUTES

Councillor Trentadue	- Chair, City Council Member
Ted Drabyk	- Community Based Arts Sector
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
Stephen O'Shea	- Arts Council of New Westminster Representative
Kelly Proznick	- Community Member
Julia Schoennagel	- Community Member
David Vivian	- Community Member
Katey Wright	- Community Member

VOTING MEMBER REGRETS:

Utkarsha Kale	- Community Member
Vesna Maljkovic	- Education Sector Representative

STAFF PRESENT:

Todd Ayotte	- Manager, Community Arts & Theatre
Chris Koth	- Manager, Programs & Community Development
Carilyn Cook	- Committee Clerk

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

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 6, 2020 meeting be adopted as circulated.

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 December 5, 2019

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the Arts Commission minutes of the December 5, 2019 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, commenced with her presentation which included the role of advisory committees/commissions, 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 Arts Strategy: Moving Forward

Todd Ayotte, Manager of Community Arts and Theatre, reviewed the vision, values, goals, and background of the Arts Strategy and advised that next steps include reviewing the prioritization of the Strategy's tactics, re-engaging the community, and determining how the Arts Commission can best support the implementation of the Arts Strategy.

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

- Staff use specific lenses with respect to capital decisions and the reconciliation process, the climate action plan, and the strategic direction from Council which includes the arts, culture, and economic development;
- It would be beneficial to articulate how the Commission's work aligns with the City's reconciliation and climate action strategies; and,
- An outcome of the Strategy could be community re-engagement, including the facilitation of networking opportunities.

Discussion ensued, and Commission members provided the following comments:

- The Strategy is intended to be a living document and should be reviewed on an ongoing basis;

- The City could consider hosting an event to raise and revive awareness of the Strategy;
- Definitive ideas are needed to align the Strategy's actions with the City's Seven Bold Steps which address the climate emergency;
- Communicating how the various programs and services offered by Arts services align with and/or address the Strategy's priorities would help to raise awareness about the Strategy and demonstrate how it is being implemented;
- It is important to ensure that those who may not have been included in the previous engagement processes are reached and involved in the future; and,
- The Strategy must be referred to by name whenever possible at City events in order to keep it alive and active.

4.2 Theatre Strategy: Moving Forward

Todd Ayotte, Manager of Community Arts and Theatre, recapped the vision, mission, and goals of the Theatre Strategy. Mr. Ayotte noted that a Massey Theatre Working Group will be coming together in early 2020 to begin the process of developing an operating agreement in anticipation of the expected land transfer of the Massey Theatre from the School District to the City.

In response to questions from the Commission, Mr. Ayotte advised that the primary focus of the working group will be to outline the partnership between the City and the Massey Theatre Society once the facility is owned by the City.

Discussion ensued, and the Commission advised that it is important that the Strategy supports both Indigenous artists and artists from diverse cultural backgrounds.

Councillor Trentadue shared that the working group will also assist the City in developing unique partnerships with community organizations involved with the Massey Theatre such as the New West Arts Council, the Arts Commission, the School Board, teachers who work out of the Theatre, etc., ensuring they have a voice. She stated that this could provide a model as to how the City enters into relationships with other community organizations.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Election of Alternate Chair

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Julian Legere be elected as the Alternate Chair for the 2020 term of the Arts Commission.

CARRIED.

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

5.2 Election of Arts Commission Representative to the Public Art Advisory Committee

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Peter Leblanc be selected as the Arts Commission representative to the Public Art Advisory Committee for the 2020 Committee term.

CARRIED.

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

5.3 Poet Laureate

Todd Ayotte, Manager of Community Arts and Theatre, advised that the three-term appointment of the current Poet Laureate concludes at the end of February 2020, and that the proposed release date for the Call for a new Poet Laureate is Wednesday, February 12, 2020. Mr. Ayotte solicited feedback from the Commission regarding the role of the Poet Laureate, selection criteria, who should be involved on the selection committee, the term, and recognition (honourarium).

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

- The Call could take shape in various ways including accepting applications from poets who have been house published as well as self published; and,
- Since attending events such as May Days, etc., may not be appropriate for certain artists, the City could work with the new Poet Laureate with respect to them attending mutually agreed upon functions.

Discussion ensued, and the Commission provided the following comments:

- The Call should recognize the City's Seven Bold Steps with respect to addressing the climate emergency;
- The title "Poet Laureate" should be reconsidered as it may have a colonial history and may be an unwelcoming obstacle for some artists;
- Spoken word artists should be considered, along the same lines as the City of Vancouver. Vancouver's Call for this position could be referred to as New Westminster updates its own Call;
- The honourarium for the position is \$2,500 for which a lot is expected;
- The Call should encourage a diverse range of writers and poets to apply and the description should be modified to outline what the position entails;
- It would be helpful to have other municipalities' Poet Laureate Terms of References at the next meeting for further discussion;
- The City can continue to honour the work that has come before while moving forward and making the Call more inclusionary;

- With respect to working with the library, it was noted that the City of Vancouver has two Poet Laureate partners including the Vancouver Public Library and the Vancouver Writer’s Festival; and,
- The City of Vancouver explicitly sought an Indigenous Poet Laureate which is funded by an endowment that was established by Dr. Yosef Wosk in 2006.

Mr. Ayotte stressed the importance of ensuring that the Call document is done correctly and, since the date for the Call to go out is fluid, staff will put together an updated Terms of Reference for the Commission to review at the next meeting, noting that the term would be three years from the time that the position is appointed.

Councillor Trentadue advised that changes to the Terms of Reference of the Call for a Poet Laureate will have to go to Council for final approval.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT The Arts Commission recommend that the deadline for the Call for the Poet Laureate be delayed in order to provide time for the Commission to review other municipalities’ Poet Laureate Terms of References in order to ensure that the City of New Westminister’s Call for a Poet Laureate is as inclusive as possible.

CARRIED.

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

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

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

Peter Leblanc, Community Base Arts Sector, Non-Profit Representative, provided the following updates from the December 11, 2020, Public Art Advisory Committee meeting:

- PAAC will be reviewing a partnership opportunity with the Queensborough Special Programs Committee regarding the Mazarine Mural Legacy Project public art installation for the supportive housing development at 838 Ewen Avenue;
- The Committee provided further feedback on the upcoming Library Public Art Call such as where the best spaces for the artwork are located, etc.; and,
- The Queens Park Washroom Public Art Project is being reviewed by PAAC in order to determine the next steps forward, and staff will work with the artist as to how the project can be realised within the existing budget.

6.2 New West Artists Report

Julie Schoennagel, Community Member, shared the following updates:

- This month represents the 1 year anniversary of the New West Artists Gallery on Front Street and, although challenging, the Gallery has accomplished a lot;
- The Gallery is grateful for the City's assistance with the grant program which has enabled them to employ a consultant to create a business plan;
- The Gallery will be hosting a fundraiser Mardi Gras Masquerade Dinner and Dance on March 7, 2020; and,
- The Annual General Meeting will be held on February 23, 2020 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Century House.

6.3 Arts Council of New Westminster Report

Stephen O'Shea, Arts Council of New Westminster Representative, shared that the Arts Council has partnered with the New Westminster Public Library on literary arts programming to take place on April 4th and 5th, and include visits from four authors of both fiction and non-fiction works.

Mr. O'Shea advised that the Arts Council is working on a long-term strategy document entitled, "ACNW 2040" which will outline the aspirations of the Arts Council. It is anticipated that the document will be taken to the community over the next few months and be presented to Council in June of 2020. Commission members were urged to take the online survey to provide feedback on the document.

6.4 Additional Information/Reports

Ted Drabyk, Community Base Arts Sector Representative, announced that the University of British Columbia is currently running an exhibit of First Nations pottery which they may be willing to bring to New Westminster. Mr. Drabyk will follow up with Rob McCullough, Manager of Museums and Heritage Services.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

8.0 NEXT MEETING

Thursday, April 2, 2020 in Committee Room 2 at 5:30 p.m.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Certified Correct,

Original Signed
Councillor Mary Trentadue
Chair

Original Signed
Carilyn Cook
Committee Clerk