



ARTS COMMISSION

September 3, 2020

This meeting was held electronically under Ministerial Order No. M192

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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 Westminister 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 |
| Sarah Joyce | - Director/Curator, New Media Gallery |
| Heather Corbett | - Committee Clerk |
| Carilyn Cook | - Committee Clerk |

STAFF REGRETS:

- | | |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Chris Koth | - Manager of Programs and Community Development |
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The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the Arts Commission agenda of the September 3, 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 February 6, 2020

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the Arts Commission minutes of the February 6, 2020 meeting be adopted with the following amendments:

- 1. Item 5.1 Election of Alternate Chair should read as Julian Legere; and,*
- 2. Item 6.3 Arts Council of New Westminster (ACNW) Report: Mr. Ted Drabyk's announcement regarding the First Nation's Pottery Exhibit should be noted under its own heading as it is not associated with the ACNW.*

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 Arts and Theatre Strategies – COVID-19 Response

Todd Ayotte, Manager of Community Arts and Theatre, shared that the City has initiated discussions with the Arts Council of New Westminster to identify ways to advance the Arts and Theatre Strategies, following delays in implementation resulting from the pandemic. It was shared that there is a need to review the strategies and tactics through a COVID lens. The intention is to engage sectoral partners to establish a peer alliance. It is envisioned that the alliance would be an informal, ad hoc/organic peer group to support the advancement of key components of the Strategies.

Discussion ensued, and Commission members provided the following comments:

- The development of an informal peer alliance to support staff would increase connection in the sector, build relationships, and facilitate innovation and responsiveness; this type of engagement may be more welcoming to those resistant to formal settings;
- Clarity of intention is important when engaging community peers for this purpose; and,
- Applying an equity lens through the engagement process is important.

Commission members were encouraged to forward names of any community members that they feel could support this informal network directly to Mr. Ayotte.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the Arts Commission supports the creation of the Arts Peer Alliance to advance the work of the Arts Strategy and the Theatre Strategy and the work of cultural service in developing the Strategies in New Westminster.

CARRIED.

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

4.2 Poet Laureate Program

Todd Ayotte, Manager of Community Arts and Theatre, reminded members of the discussion at the February 6, 2020 Commission meeting wherein members discussed the February term expiration of the City's current Poet Laureate, spoke of steps for a new Call, and reviewed the Terms of Reference.

Mr. Ayotte, briefly reviewed his memo of August 25, 2021 which addressed the Commission's request for additional information regarding other municipal programs, specifically the City of Vancouver's Call for an Indigenous Poet Laureate and information as to how other cities have addressed any barriers to participation.

Discussion ensued with respect to the direction of the Program, and the following comments were made:

- Consider the introduction of strategies to welcome younger voices and provide mentorship opportunities;
- Include the goals and anticipated outcomes of the position that support awareness of and alignment with the City's commitment to equity and advancing Truth and Reconciliation efforts;
- The Terms of Reference will need to be updated at a later time;
- The level of compensation should remain the same for this call, but consideration of adjustments should be reviewed going forward; and,
- Provide the position with more autonomy regarding events in which the incumbent is required to participate.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

There were no items.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 New Media Gallery + Learning Lab Report (Written & Oral)

Sarah Joyce, Director/Curator, New Media Gallery, thanked Commission members for reading her report which was included in the agenda package and requested that addressing the loss of employment by gig workers and the implementation of virtual programming be added to the next agenda for discussion by the Commission.

6.2 Report from Arts Commission Representative on Public Art Advisory Committee (Oral)

Peter Leblanc, Arts Commission Representative on the Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC), shared that there had been two PAAC meetings since the Commission last met. He advised that at the May 7, 2020 PAAC meeting members discussed the feasibility of temporary murals by local artists on boarded storefronts, and at the July 16, 2020 meeting the Committee received a presentation and discussed a possible public art proposal on private property at 618 Carnarvon which Committee members were interested and excited about.

Todd Ayotte, Manager of Community Arts and Theatre, provided a brief update on recent public art calls and announced that Nathan Lee was the selected artist for the Queen's Park Sportsplex public art call, while artist James Harry's submission was approved for the New Westminster Aquatic and Community Centre call.

6.3 Arts Council of New Westminster Report (Written)

Stephen O'Shea, Arts Council of New Westminster, noted that his report covered the months of March and April and that he wanted to recognize David Vivian, Simrit Kaith, and Jay Schreiber, for their work through May, June, and July as the Cultural Roundtable continued through these months.

Mr. O'Shea advised that the ACNW is looking at a new pilot project which would offer digital online residencies in effort to further platform artists which is in the spirit of what the New Media Gallery is doing.

6.4 Vagabond Players (Written)

The report of Ted Drabyk, Vagabond Players, was included in the meeting's Agenda Package.

6.5 Other Updates and Announcements

- Kelly Proznick, Community Member, expressed her gratitude towards the New Westminster School District who, at the leadership level, has been working very hard to retain arts programming during this challenging time to ensure that students' learning paths are honoured and that they have the opportunity to study areas that are meaningful to their goals;
- Julia Schoennagel, Community Member, acknowledged how sad it was that so many events were missed over the summer due to the pandemic which greatly impacted the City's thriving arts community; and,
- Julian Legere advised that, based on the turnout at an event recently held at the Massey Theatre, it is evident that there is a strong desire in the community for arts and culture in whatever way that can be attained during the pandemic. He noted that it is worth finding ways to offer opportunities for participation in events to keep arts and culture in people's lives.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

- 7.1 New Westminster Historical Society Newsletter – December 2019
- 7.2 New Westminster Historical Society Newsletter – December 2019 Special
- 7.3 New Westminster Historical Society Newsletter – February 2020
- 7.4 New Westminster Historical Society Newsletter – March 2020

8.0 NEXT MEETING

Thursday, December 3, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. – To be confirmed.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Certified Correct,

Original Signed _____
Councillor Mary Trentadue
Chair

Original Signed _____
Carilyn Cook
Committee Clerk