



## **ARTS COMMISSION**

**April 1, 2021**

**Meeting held electronically under Ministerial Order No. M192/2020 and  
the current Order of the Provincial Health Officer - *Gatherings and Events***

### **MINUTES**

#### **VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillor Trentadue	- Chair, City Council Member
Bob Crockett	- Alternate Chair/ Arts Council of New Westminster Representative
Ted Drabyk	- Community Based Arts Sector
Erin Jeffery	- Community Based Arts Sector Non-Profit Representative
Vesna Maljkovic	- Education Sector Representative
Kelly Proznick	- Community Member
Julia Schoennagel	- Community Member
Janette Tilley	- Douglas College Representative
David Vivian	- Community Member
Katey Wright	- Community Member

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

Utkarsha Kale	- Community Member
Peter Leblanc	- Community Based Arts Sector, Non-Profit Representative

#### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Todd Ayotte	- Manager, Community Arts and Theatre
Sarah Joyce	- Director/Curator, New Media Gallery
Chris Koth	- Manager of Programs and Community Development
Heather Corbett	- Committee Clerk
Carilyn Cook	- Committee Clerk

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

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

### **MOVED AND SECONDED**

*THAT the Arts Commission agenda of the April 1, 2021 meeting be adopted with the addition of New Business Item 5.2: Royal City Musical Theatre Update by Katey Wright.*

**CARRIED.**

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

Councillor Trentadue advised that the topic of contracting arts programming services, currently being reviewed by the Culture and Economic Development Task Force and the Economic Development Advisory Committee, will be added to agenda for the next Arts Commission meeting.

## **2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

### **2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of February 11, 2021**

#### **MOVED AND SECONDED**

*THAT the Arts Commission minutes of the February 11, 2021 meeting be adopted as circulated.*

**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 Poet Laureate 2021-2024 Update**

Todd Ayotte, Manager of Community Arts and Theatre, thanked Commission members for their past feedback on the revised call and advised that the deadline for submissions is midnight tonight. He noted that the adjudication team will receive submission packages for their review and scoring, and that a consensus meeting will be held on April 15, 2021 to prepare a recommendation for the City's next Poet Laureate. Final appointment will be made by Council.

A Commission member commented that former Poet Laureate, Alan Hill's legacy project, 'A Poetry in Place: Journeys Across New Westminster' is a meaningful part of what the City does and it was nice to see work about familiar places.

## **4.2 Anvil Centre Performing Arts Residencies Update**

Todd Ayotte, Manager of Community Arts and Theatre, shared a presentation on the Anvil Centre Performing Arts Residencies noting that this initiative stemmed from the post-pandemic recovery plan for the Anvil Theatre. Mr. Ayotte provided an overview of the selection process and some information about the selected artists and artist teams which included both community-based and professional artists in theatre, dance and music.

## **4.3 Cultural Gig Workers**

Sarah Joyce, Director/Curator, New Media Gallery, advised that the research has started regarding cultural gig workers and virtual programming considerations and that a report will be provided to the Commission in June 2021. Ms. Joyce encouraged Commission members to contact her if they had anything to share with respect to either of these issues.

## **4.4 Virtual Programming Considerations**

Sarah Joyce, Director/Curator, New Media Gallery, provided an update during Item 4.3: Cultural Gig Workers.

# **5.0 NEW BUSINESS**

## **5.1 Decline in Space for Artists and Cultural Groups in New Westminster**

Bob Crockett, Arts Council of New Westminster representative, referred to the Arts Council of New Westminster's (ACNW) report, which was circulated with the meeting agenda package, noting a decline in space for artists and cultural groups that is currently being experienced locally and regionally.

Todd Ayotte, Manager, Community Arts and Theatre, advised that the City's Arts Strategy speaks to the need to identify current and future needs in the City in order to inform future planning. Staff are aware of the local challenges that have been outlined in the report.

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

- While vacant commercial spaces can be viable for short term use, they generally cannot provide long term stability; and,

- First steps in addressing the issue would be to establish an inventory of existing spaces available for arts uses, followed by a needs assessment to support long term planning.

Discussion ensued, and Commission members provided the following comments:

- The move into the new high school has resulted in the loss of access to music rooms in the former high school, which were previously rented out five nights a week to community groups for rehearsals and construction at the McBride Elementary School site has affected space availability;
- To date, a discussion has not occurred regarding the use of space in the new high school;
- Use of school equipment by community groups may not be feasible unless a fund for repairs and replacement is created; and,
- It is important that we stay the course on the Arts Strategy, although some of the actions have been delayed due to limited resources.

## **5.2 Royal City Musical Theatre Update**

Katey Wright, Community member, provided an update on some of challenges that the Royal City Musical Theatre have been facing.

## **6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION**

### **6.1 New Media Gallery Update: MirNs Exhibit**

Sarah Joyce, Director/Curator, New Media Gallery, shared that the MirNs Exhibition has brought a whole new audience to the Gallery and that bookings to view the Exhibition are filling up which demonstrates the desire that people have to engage and talk about art. She noted that the Exhibit asked probing questions about technology and the direction the world is taking with respect to artificial intelligence, etc., and that artists who use technology do not necessary support it.

### **6.2 Library Update (Standing Item)**

Chris Koth, Manager of Programs and Community Development, in addition to his written report which was included in the meeting agenda package, shared that the library has decided upon next year's exhibits and announced the Indigenous Film Series which will run from April to June 2021.

### **6.3 Report from Arts Commission Representative on Public Art Advisory Committee (Standing Item)**

In the absence of Peter Leblanc, Todd Ayotte, Manager of Community Arts and Theatre, shared that at the March 4, 2021 Public Art Advisory Committee meeting, members discussed the following:

- The Sportsplex public art installation by artist Nathan Lee is nearing completion, with lighting and landscaping to be completed. Due to gathering restrictions, a traditional unveiling celebration is not possible, and instead a virtual artist talk is being planning in collaboration with the Arts Council; and,
- The 2021 work plan will include advancing major public art projects, initiating community art projects, completing a policy review, and finalizing the public art plan for Council’s endorsement.

### **6.4 Arts Council of New Westminster (ACNW) (Standing Item)**

Bob Crockett, Arts Council of New Westminster representative, advised that the ACNW is working of their long term plan which includes the following goals, for which they will be seeking community input on and which their activities will be centred around:

- Artistic excellence;
- Broadening participation; and,
- Sustainability for the arts.

### **6.5 Vagabond Players (Standing Item)**

Ted Drabyk, Vagabond Players representative, shared that the Vagabond Theatre has been approached by a number of groups interested in using their auditorium for meetings as it is large enough to facilitate physical distancing requirements.

## **7.0 CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no items.

## **8.0 NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, June 10, 2021

**9.0 ADJOURNMENT**

**ON MOTION**, the meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Certified Correct,

Original Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
**Councillor Mary Trentadue**  
**Chair**

Original Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
**Carilyn Cook**  
**Committee Clerk**