



Notice is hereby given of the following meeting:

ARTS COMMISSION

February 11, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

**Meeting held electronically under Ministerial Order No. M192/2020 and
Order of the Provincial Health Officer *Gatherings and Events – February 5, 2021***

AGENDA

1.0 ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of September 3, 2020

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 Poet Laureate 2021-2024 – Todd Ayotte

4.2 Cultural Gig Workers – Sarah Joyce

4.3 Virtual Programming Considerations – Sarah Joyce

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Election of Alternate Chair – Commission

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 Anvil Performing Arts Residences – Todd Ayotte

6.2 New Media Gallery Updates – Sarah Joyce

- Learning Lab
- Micro-residencies

6.3 Library Update – Chris Koth

**6.4 Report from Arts Commission Representative on Public Art Advisory
Committee (Standing Item) – Peter Leblanc**

**6.5 Arts Council of New Westminster Report & 2021 Plan (Attached) (Standing
Item) – Bob Crockett**

6.6 Vagabond Players (Standing Item) – Ted Drabyk

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

8.0 NEXT MEETING

Thursday, April 1, 2021

9.0 ADJOURNMENT



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 |
|------------|---|

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 NWAC 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,

Councillor Mary Trentadue
Chair

Carilyn Cook
Committee Clerk

REPORT TO ARTS COMMISSION

Date: February 8, 2021

Submitted by : Sarah Joyce, Director-Curator New Media Gallery

Agenda Items: (1) Cultural Gig Workers (2) Virtual Programming

CULTURAL GIG WORKERS

Gig Workers are vital to culture in Canada. New Media Gallery works with a significant number of Auxiliary Staff who are also considered cultural Gig Workers. Since March 2020 these workers have encountered precarious employment which has variously affected their creativity, their cultural output, their security and their lives. In 2020 many organizations were forced to decrease or eliminate the amount of work offered to these gig workers. Many cultural organizations, including New Media Gallery, now find that a number of these staff have moved on and by necessity have found other opportunities. This affects how cultural work in civic institutions moves forward. To replace these staff is a significant undertaking in terms of hiring procedures, not to mention the loss of valuable cultural workers. Gig workers are understandably looking for new ways forward, new ways to understand job security in an uncertain world, and new ways to ensure that culture remains a viable work choice.

Recommendation

- Discuss the possibility of further collaborative exploration, research and a survey of Gig Workers and hiring groups in the city to determine where and how gig workers contribute, what the issues are, and if there are new ways to understand and respond to issues around precarious employment in the cultural sector.

VIRTUAL CULTURAL PROGRAMMING

Since the pandemic hit in March 2020, Virtual Programming has seen explosive growth. This growth has been accompanied by experimental and innovative approaches and new ways of working that may continue into the future. Growth has also been accompanied by anxieties around digital communication (too much screen time, lack of physical connection, physical problems, security anxieties etc). Cultural groups and institutions, including New Media Gallery have been at the forefront of offering virtual programming. Virtual Programming will continue to be a significant way to offer programming and connect with diverse communities.

Recommendation

- Discuss the possibility for creating a collaborative and practical *Best Practices* Document for Virtual Cultural Programming throughout the City. Include consideration for how Virtual Cultural Programming can help us connect with diverse communities.



ARTS COUNCIL OF NEW WESTMINSTER
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Arts Commission Report

Feb 3, 2021

RESPONSE TO COVID-19

We are continuing with reduced programming and capacity as per our attached strategy; ***“Unleashing our creative talent to make our city better than before.”*** Most of our efforts are in planning and reporting with a view to emerging from the pandemic later this year.

PROGRAMS

ARTSNW PODCAST

Editing is currently underway for an episode with Brody Halfe of the Qayqayt Nation and his band Bingo Switch. There are now 20 episodes profiling local artists on artsnw.ca

ARTSTOGO

Planning is underway for recorded workshops on Family Day, Easter, and Canada Day that will be hosted online via our YouTube channel.

THE GALLERY AT QUEEN’S PARK

The Gallery re-opened to the public on October 1, 2020 and is utilizing a “By Appointment” pre-registration system. Attendance is down with only a few bookings so far. The volunteer Gallery Attendant program is starting to be re-established with hours open to the public as Wed-Sat 10am-2pm. With more volunteers, we will explore opening later in the day.

ACNW Staff will be hosting New West Craft artisans on the main floor of the Gallery in February and March. Also exploring renting out the Lower Studio to local artists on an ongoing monthly basis.

NEW WEST CULTURAL CRAWL

Planning is underway for October 2021

NEW WEST CRAFT ARTISAN MARKET

The December market with New West Farmers Market was cancelled due to changed Provincial Health Orders.

The digital Gift Guide was considered a success as it had over 2000 views online.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 17 6:00pm – Community Engagement Night – via Zoom Part of a series of outreach events.

Respectfully submitted by Bob Crockett, ACNW president.
Email: bob.crockett@telus.net



ARTS COUNCIL
of NEW WESTMINSTER

UNLEASHING OUR CREATIVE TALENT TO MAKE OUR CITY BETTER THAN BEFORE **2020/2021**



OUR VISION

ENSURING THE ARTS HAVE A
VIBRANT AND BENEFICIAL
PRESENCE IN THE CITY



HOW DO WE DO THAT?

- Bring people together through the arts
- Enhance the lives of community members by fostering a viable and vibrant presence for the arts in our city
- Make the arts an essential part of our community that is enjoyed by everyone
- Have art be a defining factor of what makes New Westminster, both to its residents and to those from outside our community



CHANGE AND OPPORTUNITY

The ACNW Board and Staff gathered in the midst of the pandemic to assess the challenges and opportunities that were known at the time. We recognize the contributions of our members, volunteers, donors, foundations and governments in keeping the ACNW operating. In the face of the devastating shut-down of the arts world due to COVID-19, we have developed this plan to reflect the steps we are taking to restructure our voice, our spaces and our resources.

This plan reflects the needs of local artists and is an opportunity to accelerate change in New Westminster. Working within our means, we will serve the emerging needs of the arts community and respond to the shifting values around justice, equity, decolonization, diversity, and inclusion. The intent of this plan is to unleash our creative talents to make our city better than before.



OUR MISSION

BE THE HUB FOR THE ARTS AND ARTISTS IN NEW WESTMINSTER

WHAT IS OUR FOCUS NOW

DIGITAL PLATFORM

- Increase newsletter subscribers
- Engage artists with community through newsletter
- Use social media to support local artists
- Build a stronger website that support artists and connects them to the community

PHYSICAL STUDIO

- Artists in Residence Program
- Rental Space Pilot Projects
- Digital Media Studio
- Galley will be an incubator space that serves as a research and development hub for the cultural sector

RESOURCES

- Equipment and facilities towards artistic development
- Partner with and direct existing funding towards equity-seeking groups
- Fund scholarships and awards for art education





COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

WHAT WE ARE WORKING ON FOR 2020/2021

**ONLINE
ARTS
DIRECTORY**

**NEW WEST
CRAFT
HOLIDAY
EVENT**

**NEW WEST
HOSPICE
EXHIBITION AT
RIVER MARKET
EXHIBITION**

**SOCIAL
MEDIA
CAMPAIGNS**

**MULTICULTURAL
WEEK**

**EXPAND ACNW
MEMBERSHIP
BENEFITS**

**NEW WEST
AUTHORFEST**

**NEW WEST
CULTURAL
CRAWL**

**ARTIST IN
RESIDENCE
PROGRAM**

**ACNW
PODCAST**

**NEW WEST
CRAFT
VIRTUAL
MARKET**

**ACNW
SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAM**

**NEW WEST
CRAFT
DIRECTORY**

**PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT**

**RENTAL
PILOT
PROJECT**