



ARTS COMMISSION

February 11, 2021

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

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
Bob Crockett	- Arts Council of New Westminster Representative
Kelly Proznick	- Community Member
Julia Schoennagel	- Community Member
Janet Tilley	- Douglas College Representative
David Vivian	- Community Member
Katey Wright	- Community Member
Vesna Maljkovic	- Education Sector Representative

VOTING MEMBER REGRETS:

Utkarsha Kale	- Community Member
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STAFF PRESENT:

Todd Ayotte	- Manager, Community Arts and Theatre
Sarah Joyce	- Director/Curator, New Media Gallery
Chris Koth	- Manager of Programs and Community Development
Nicole Ludwig	- Assistant City 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 February 11, 2021 meeting be adopted with the addition of:

- *Item 5.2 New Business – Decline of Artist Space by Bob Crockett*
- *Item 5.3 New Business – Art Peer Alliance Update by David Vivian*

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 September 3, 2020

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the Arts Commission minutes of the September 3, 2020 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

Todd Ayotte, Manager of Community Arts and Theatre, provided a presentation of the 2021 Poet Laureate Call which outlined eligibility, compensation, deliverables, as well as draft Call items such as Program goals and duties.

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

- A compensation increase can be further explored in the future budgets to ensure it is aligned with the responsibilities attached to the position;
- Given the intent to reach diverse community voices and perspectives, the call will be encouraging submissions from BIPOC and equity-seeking writers;
- Youth and emerging writers are welcome to apply;
- The Poet Laureate Selection Committee, comprised of representatives from the library, the Arts Commission and the community will evaluate the submissions and prepare a recommendation for Council; and,
- The Call will be shared widely through various avenues, including the City's website, the Cultural Services Newsletter, social media, local arts and cultural organizations.

Discussion ensued, and Commission members provided the following comments:

- Given the desire to reduce barriers to participation and attract emerging writers, the evaluation criteria should be weighted more heavily on the candidate's ability to provide a voice to and/or connect with the City's equity-seeking communities;
- Language in the Call should be clear;
- The call should use the word "writer" to replace or appear alongside the word "artist"; and,
- Selection Committee representation should be solicited through the local literary arts community including the Royal City Literary Arts Society and those who were connected to Litfest.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT David Vivian and Julia Schoennagel be appointed as the Arts Commission representatives on the City's Poet Laureate Selection Committee.

CARRIED.

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

4.2 Cultural Gig Workers

Sarah Joyce, Director/Curator, New Media Gallery, shared the significant struggles that gig workers are currently facing with the lack of events being held due to the pandemic. As such, a study will be undertaken to determine the exact issues being faced by gig workers and what supports are needed to address these issues. Next steps include:

1. Gather a small ad hoc group together
2. Email and Digital Poll is sent out
3. Answers compiled into a report to Arts Commission
4. Projected timeline: May Report for June 10 Meeting.

Discussion ensued, and Commission members expressed their gratitude that this matter will be looked into as some of them are gig workers themselves and/or are married to gig workers.

Councillor Trentadue requested that Ms. Joyce continue with the study and bring it back to the Commission for further discussion.

Commission members were encouraged to contact Ms. Joyce directly if they wish to participate in the study.

4.3 Virtual Programming Considerations

Sarah Joyce, Director/Curator, New Media Gallery, advised of the challenges encountered with virtual programming including security, anxiety from too much screen time, etc., noting that procedures for recording program participants, particularly children, during virtual sessions is necessary. Ms. Joyce outlined the following steps to be taken to address these issues:

1. Gather a small ad hoc group together
2. Email and Digital Poll is sent out
3. Answers compiled into a report to Arts Commission
4. Projected timeline: May Report for June 10 Meeting.

Chris Koth, Manager of Programs and Community Development, thanked Ms. Joyce for raising this topic, and advised that as facilitators of their online programs, library staff would be interested in participating in the study.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Election of Alternate Chair

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Bob Crockett be elected as the Alternate Chair for the 2021 term of the Arts Commission.

CARRIED.

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

5.2 Decline of Artist Space

Bob Crockett, committee member, advised that the decline in the availability of practice, storage, etc., art space is becoming very concerning to the arts community; therefore, he will be submitting a report to the Commission for discussion at the next meeting.

5.3 Arts Peer Alliance Update

Todd Ayotte, Manager, Community Arts and Theatre, provided an update to the Commission on the implementation of the arts peer alliance to support the advancement of key tactics identified in the Arts and Theatre Strategies. Mr. Ayotte reinforced that the intention was not to create new committees, but rather engage the sector through project-specific, ad-hoc opportunities such as the upcoming Anvil Centre performing arts residency. Once the Art Coordinator is hired, it is anticipated that more active, project-based engagement will expand to the visual arts community.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 Anvil Performing Arts Residences

Todd Ayotte, Manager of Community Arts and Theatre, shared a presentation titled, “Anvil Centre Performing Arts Residencies 2021” which outlined the residency program framework, the purpose and intention (to support performing arts sectoral recovery, and opportunities for community engagement) as well as the timeline, selection and evaluation process. Updates will be provided to the Commission at the April 1, 2021 meeting.

6.2 New Media Gallery Updates

Learning Lab

Sarah Joyce, Director/Curator, New Media Gallery, announced that installation of the MirNs exhibition is underway, and that all of the works, which consist of mirrors or portraiture, will be interactive without the necessity of touch, and that the exhibit will also include a live artificial intelligence piece which will be linked through Germany and Spain to New Westminster.

Micro-residencies

Sarah Joyce, Director/Curator, New Media Gallery, shared that the three day long micro-residencies include 15 young artists who are learning about technology and who may not normally have the funds to spend on expensive technologies. She advise that two of the artists are now in exhibitions and that a follow up report on the micro-residencies will be provided to the Commission in the future. .

6.3 Library Update

Chris Koth, Manager of Programs and Community Development, announced that the New Westminster Public Library’s Call for Artists is now open, and will be until March 5, 2021, for those who wish to exhibit in the Library’s upstairs art space. He also advised of the teen arts contest, of which the winner will become a jurist on the aforementioned Call. Additional information can be found on the Library’s website.

In response to a query from a Commission member, Mr. Koth shared that displaying art along the library ramp was stopped as part of the renovation, and advised that now there are logistical concerns with respect to the art pieces selected for the space.

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

Peter Leblanc, shared that at the October 1, 2020 Public Art Advisory Committee meeting, members discussed the following:

- The community response to the loss of the WOW Westminster public art installation due to the fire at Pier Park, and ensuing discussions as to how the City may consider commemorating this important work; and,
- The Sportsplex public art project which will be installed in Queen's Park later this month.

6.5 Arts Council of New Westminster Report & 2021 Plan (Attached) (Standing Item)

In addition to the report and plan circulated in the meeting Agenda Package, Bob Crockett, reiterated the ongoing concern about the lack of space for artists

6.6 Vagabond Players (Standing Item)

Ted Drabyk, shared that the Vagabond Players Theatre is closed and will remain so until the pandemic is over.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

8.0 NEXT MEETING

Thursday, April 1, 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