



## **ARTS COMMISSION**

**September 2, 2021**

**Meeting held electronically under Ministerial Order No. M192  
and in Meeting Room B, City Hall**

### **MINUTES**

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

Councillor Trentadue	- Chair, City Council Member (left at 6:37 p.m.)
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
Julia Schoennagel	- Community Member
Janette Tilley	- Douglas College Representative
David Vivian	- Community Member

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

Peter Leblanc	- Community Based Arts Sector, Non-Profit Representative
Kelly Proznick	- Community Member
Vesna Maljkovic	- Education Sector Representative
Katey Wright	- Community Member

#### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Todd Ayotte	- Manager, Community Arts and Theatre
Sarah Joyce	- Director/Curator, New Media Gallery
Chris Koth	- Manager of Programs and Community Development
Jacque Killawee	- City Clerk
Katie Stobbart	- Committee Clerk
Carilyn Cook	- Committee Clerk

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

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

**Procedural Note:** The Commission agreed to add item 5.3 Grants Committee Nomination to the agenda as New Business.

### **MOVED AND SECONDED**

*THAT the Arts Commission agenda of the September 2, 2021 meeting be adopted, noting that Unfinished Business Item 4.1 – Space Needs Assessment Update be addressed following the New Business items.*

**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 June 10, 2021**

#### **MOVED AND SECONDED**

*THAT the Arts Commission minutes of the June 10, 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 Space Needs Assessment Update**

Todd Ayotte, Manager of Community Arts and Theatre, updated the Commission on the Space Needs Assessment, noting the following:

- The survey is due to go out in the fall;
- Respondents will be able to provide text responses for more thorough feedback;
- Discipline-based roundtable discussions (e.g. performing arts, visual arts, and literary arts) will be planned; dates will be provided to the Commission; and
- The Municipal Space Inventory is in development, with new spaces to be added in the fall before it is finalized.

In response to Commission questions, staff noted:

- The survey will be available for a longer than usual period of time to ensure the community has time to access it;
- Staff welcome Commission participation in spreading the word about the survey.

## **5.0 NEW BUSINESS**

### **5.1 Poet Laureate – Introduction and Discussion – Elliott Slinn, Poet Laureate**

Councillor Trentadue welcomed Elliott Slinn, Poet Laureate of New Westminster. Mr. Slinn shared that he was born and raised in New Westminster, and works at Douglas College where he studied Creative Writing. He also shared his ideas and experiences for engagement opportunities, with a goal of making poetry and art more accessible to the public:

- The past few weekends Mr. Slinn has taken his typewriter out into the public and has written poems on the spot for passersby. Responses from the public were positive;
- As part of his tenure, Mr. Slinn would like to:
  - Outreach to local schools to engage students in poetry and share the avenues that are available to them through literary arts; and,
  - Provide opportunities for young poets to submit their work to the City to be shared on social media, as giving young poets a platform can boost confidence in sharing their talents with a wider audience.

Although a legacy project has yet to be developed, Mr. Slinn indicated an interest in creating a book of poems about his experience growing up as a person of mixed ethnicity in New Westminster.

In response to Commission questions, Mr. Slinn expressed that physical and/or digital event space and promotional resources would support his work. Both the City and Douglas College may be able to provide space as needed.

In discussion, the Commission identified that more promotion of the opportunity to be Poet Laureate may be necessary in the future to ensure public awareness.

Staff will share Mr. Slinn's contact information with the Commission for reference.

### **5.2 Proposed Adjustments to the Existing Civic Arts Advisory Model**

Todd Ayotte, Manager of Community Arts and Theatre, and Jacque Killawee, City Clerk, provided a report on proposed changes to the existing civic arts advisory model and the formation of a new Arts Advisory Committee

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

- Clarified the relationship between the Arts Advisory Committee and the Culture and Economic Development Task Force;
- Clarified that the new Arts Advisory Committee would replace the Arts Commission and Public Art Advisory Committee; ;
- The new Committee will nominate one of its members to sit on the Grants Committee to help allocate funds in the arts stream;
- It is anticipated that the Arts Advisory Committee would meet every other month; the agenda may be denser than the Arts Commission's as it will include items pertaining to public art as well;
- This change would come into effect January 2022; and,
- Quorum for the committee will be fifty percent plus one.

The Commission provided the following additional comments during discussion:

- Welcomed the emphasis on diverse participation including youth; ;
- Staff to consider the relationship between the Advisory Committee and the tourism and business sector to facilitate opportunities;
- Merging the two Advisory bodies will support greater alignment in oversight.

Feedback received from the Arts Commission and Public Art Advisory Committee will be used to inform the final Terms of Reference for Council's review and approval.

### **5.3 Social and Cultural Vibrancy Grant Committee Nomination**

Jacque Killawee, City Clerk, reviewed the expected commitment from a grants committee member, including the ability to review approximately thirty grants electronically and attend meetings pertaining to grant dispersal.

#### **MOVED AND SECONDED**

*THAT the Arts Commission recommend Council appoint Ted Drabyk to the Social and Cultural Vibrancy Grant Committee.*

**CARRIED.**

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

**Procedural Note:** Councillor Trentadue left the meeting at 6:36 p.m. and Bob Crockett, Arts Council of New Westminster representative, assumed the Chair.

## **6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION**

### **6.1 New Media Gallery Updates**

Sarah Joyce, Director/Curator, New Media Gallery, provided the New Media Gallery Members Report, and shared that three five-day micro-residencies are available at the New Media Gallery for artists looking to incorporate digital technology into their practice.

The gallery's new exhibit will open on September 17, 2021.

### **6.2 Library Update**

Chris Koth, Manager of Programs and Community Development, announced there will be a new Chief Librarian on October 12, 2021: Jorge Cardenas, who is well known in the library sector for his experience and commitment to community development, which will be integral to the library's new strategic plan.

As well, the current exhibition cycle will conclude at the end of October; the library aims to revisit its approach to calls for artists for the exhibition space in accordance with the new strategic plan.

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

No report was given. David Vivian offered to provide a report at the December meeting; staff will advise him in advance of the meeting if this is necessary.

### **6.4 Arts Council of New Westminster**

Bob Crockett, Alternate Chair/Arts Council of New Westminster (ACNW) Representative, reported that the ACNW had a successful summer with the Expressions of Reclamation series and concert series in Queens Park. He also noted that the fourth wave of COVID-19 may be restrictive going forward, but ACNW is looking forward to the Culture Crawl in the fall.

Commission members expressed disappointment that the ACNW's Street of Dreams project did not go ahead but hopes it could be revisited in the future when COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

## 6.5 Vagabond Players (Standing Item)

Ted Drabyk, Community Based Arts Sector Representative, shared that it is difficult to determine when the Vagabond Players will open based on the progression of the fourth wave.

## 6.6 Douglas College Update

Janette Tilley, Douglas College Representative, noted the college will be holding concerts but are not permitted to have visitors on campus currently since it has not been determined how they will be operationalizing the vaccine pass requirement. The College is available to take bookings for space use, but their first concert on September 16 will not be open to the public. They hope future concerts will be available to the rest of the community.

In response to a question from the Commission regarding the Eighth on Eight program, staff advised that Massey Theatre is launching a new programming stream with a broader range of activities that will be available through the facility.

## 7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

## 8.0 NEXT MEETING

Thursday, December 2, 2021

## 9.0 ADJOURNMENT

**ON MOTION**, the meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Certified Correct,

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

Original Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
**Katie Stobbart**  
**Committee Clerk**