



PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE

January 17, 2013 – 5:00 pm
Committee Room No. 2 – City Hall

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Laura Moodie, Chair	- Arts Professional
Gabriela Diaconu	- Artist of Recognized Standing
Ted Drabyk	- Arts Commission Representative
Councillor Bill Harper	- Council Representative
Peter Lojewski	- Community Member
Eric Pattison	- Urban Designer
Paul Rodham	- Architect
Ashley Pahlad	- Community Member
Bart Slotman	- Developer

MEMBERS REGRETS:

Nina Hobbis	- Community Member
Ingrid Tamboline	- Arts Professional
Jacqueline Dionne	- Arts Professional, Vice Chair
Carolyn McLaughlin	- Artist of Recognized Standing

STAFF PRESENT:

Greg Magirescu	- Manager, Arts and Cultural Development
Kelly Sims	- Committee Clerk
Sloane Elphinstone	- Recreation Programmer

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 pm.

1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of December 6, 2012

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the December 6, 2012 minutes be adopted.

CARRIED.

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

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 Community Art Program – Update

Gabriela Diaconu, Artist of Recognized Standing, updated the Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) on the selection process for choosing three finalists for the “*Wait For Me, Daddy*” memorial project. Ms. Diaconu noted that she was one of three other community members - related to the arts that made up a sub-committee responsible selecting three finalists. The selection process for which Ms. Diaconu based her assessment of artists’ submissions included: their portfolio of past work, assessed budget, if they could work with a team, and whether they had sufficient studio space.

Greg Magirescu, Manager, Arts and Cultural Development advised that there were fifteen submissions in the first round of artists competing for the “*Wait for Me, Daddy*” memorial project. The next step in the selection process would include the three finalists to display maquettes (miniature scaled versions/models of their proposed projects) on February 28., 2013, at which time they would also meet with the “*Wait for Me, Daddy*” Task Force for a one-hour charette and interview. Following the assessment, a report will be given to Council with the Task Force’s recommended next steps.

Discussion ensued and the following comments were made by the Committee - to which staff advised:

- The call for submissions was broadcast through the City’s purchasing department and many public art web sites including Vancouver’s Public Art online, Creative City Network of Canada, and the Alliance for Arts and Culture websites.
- The sub-committee who selected the three finalists used different criteria and selected their finalists on their own merits - it was suggested from the Committee that there should be some sort of standard or relative assessment format for deciding on the finalists, such as the criteria Gabriela Diaconu used, like budgets, past work, personal capabilities and whether they had the actual space to complete a proposed project.
- A project coordinator should be considered to ensure the project stays on track and on budget.

4.2 Update on Development Services

Greg Magirescu, Manager, Arts and Cultural Development, updated the Committee on implementing the Public Art Policy with Development Services, which includes the creation of the Public Art Reserve fund (PARF).

Mr. Magirescu advised that Development Services has already begun adopting much of the language involved in the Public Art Policy. However, the Public Art Reserve Fund could not be fully implemented until Council has made their decisions on the City's budget, likely in March of 2013.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Public Art Advisory Committee – Contact List

In response to a request at previous PAAC meeting, Greg Magirescu, Manager, Arts and Cultural Development advised that the City has not received authorization to distribute a list of the Committee's contact information. Mr. Magirescu did note that if Committee members wanted to share their information with each other, they were at liberty to do so on their own account.

5.2 Update on Public Art Reserve Fund

Greg Magirescu, Manager, Arts and Cultural Development, noted that the Public Art Reserve Fund would be on hold until the budget was approved by Council.

5.3 Vancouver Biennale 2013-2015

Greg Magirescu, Manager, Arts and Cultural Development, gave an oral presentation to the Committee regarding the City of New Westminster participating in the 2013-2015 Vancouver Biennale, which features curated art from all over the world for two-year exhibits, to be hosted at various municipalities throughout the Lower Mainland. Mr. Magirescu advised the Committee on the theme of the 2013 -2015 Biennale and the primary components of the event.

Mr. Magirescu noted that the Biennale includes large-scale art installation in public spaces, and is referred to as an "open air museum". The dates for the next exhibition would occur between September 2013 – to December 2015 with the focus of the event taking place April - October 2014 and April – October 2015. A description of the primary components of the event (found in the Biennale Factsheet) was given and will focus on:

- 1) Open-Air Museum (plaza, green spaces, public gardens, buses, transit trains and stations)
- 2) Artist/Curator Residencies
- 3) Museum exhibitions
- 4) Education Curricula: “ BIG IDEAS” & ‘CONVERSATIONS’
- 5) Pavilions/ Festival of Nations
- 6) Documentary Film
- 7) Biennale/ Tour de Biennale
- 8) Night (s) of the Arts.

Greg Magirescu, Manager, Arts and Cultural Development gave further details regarding the possibility of hosting 2 – 3 exhibits as part of the next Biennale, noting the benefits and concerns of hosting the event. It was noted in discussions with the coordinator of the next Biennale and from the Biennale Fact Sheet, that a minimum of \$ 25,000 would be needed and required to cover the cost of each exhibit; this cost would cover shipping, insurance, installation and de-installation. Mr. Magirescu also advised that the deadline for securing funding was dependent on Council’s approval of the budget and the need to have confirmation regarding the available funds in the Public Art Reserve Fund. It was also noted that the Biennale’s operating budget for 2013- 15 is \$3.5 million.

Mr. Magirescu outlined some of the benefits of hosting various elements of the Biennale in the New Westminster, specifically that participation would help to draw attention to the City. Concerns included the possibility of offending people – as some Biennale installations have been “controversial” in nature and how the exhibits would be funded.

Greg Magirescu, Manager, Arts and Cultural Development advised the Committee that the organizers of the Vancouver Biennale are hoping to have their funding support confirmed by April, 2013. Mr. Magirescu asked for feedback on the direction the committee would like take on regarding the Biennale.

Discussion ensued and the following comments were made:

- The timing for the event supports the development of the Public Art Reserve Fund, and the development of the Anvil Centre, which will host public art in different forms;
- Members of the PAAC expressed interest to explore the City's potential involvement in the next Biennale as it would: engage citizens to appreciate art in their community and give exposure to local artists;
- A controversial piece might be a good thing as it would bring the public out to see it – if there was a consensus against the piece, it would only be there for two years;
- Comments reflecting concern over participating in the Biennale included the cost of a minimum of \$25,000 per installation; that the artworks would not be permanent; who would manage the upkeep of the pieces and pay for the cost of hosting exhibits if they were in public areas; how well the program was run in the past and what Vancouver's experience was – that there were "hiccups" in past installation, timing, and budget of certain exhibits; that at the end of the two years the city would have no ownership over the pieces – and the cost of owning legacy pieces were estimated to incur in the million-dollar plus range; how and where the pieces would be displayed if they were selected, and how they would be selected.

As general direction, the Committee advised staff to move forward, and prepare a brief regarding the costs, benefits, concerns, and a timeline for the event. It was also noted, that a meeting should be scheduled with the Biennale staff and Council so that a complete description and understanding about what participating in the event would mean and cost to New Westminster.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

Ted Drabyk, Arts Commission Representative, updated the Committee on Council's approval to grant up to \$10,000 in support of a provincially funded program through the BC Arts Council to develop a cultural map for New Westminster. Mr. Drabyk noted this was a very exciting development as the map would help to document all of the arts and cultural resources in New Westminster.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

No items.

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8.0 NEXT MEETING

New Committee Year – February 7, 2013

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 6:32 pm.

Certified Correct,

Jacqueline Dionne
Vice Chair

Kelly Sims
Committee Clerk