



Alex Gall · Beth Harrington · Brad Richardson · Julie Mercado · Linda Reid – President
Christine A. Richardson – Vice President · Lee Rafferty - Secretary/Treasurer

August 17, 2023

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

The August 17, 2023, meeting of the Culture, Arts and Heritage Commission was called to order at 12:05 p.m. by President Linda Reid in Aspen Community Room at Vancouver City Hall and via Microsoft Teams. Gall and Mercado were absent.

Staff Present

Stacey Donovan, Cultural Services Manager
Dave Perlick, Interim Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director
Kirsten Hull, Support Specialist
Melody Burton, Marketing Manager
Stephanie Obotette, Administrative Assistant
Tricia Juettemeyer, Assistant City Attorney

ITEM 2: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Rafferty, seconded by Harrington, and approved unanimously to adopt the minutes from July 13, 2023 as presented.

ITEM 3: AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR COMMISSION APPLICATION REVIEW

Donovan reviewed the appointment process for the commission's vacant seat.

Motion by C. Richardson, seconded by Harrington, and approved unanimously to forward a recommendation to the City Council Subcommittee requesting Rebekah Percival, Hunter Byrnes, Erin Lark, Aimee Murray, and Jenny Thompson advance to interviews.

ITEM 4: CULTURE, ARTS & HERITAGE GRANT AWARD DISCUSSION

Donovan reviewed the suggestions from the previous meeting and the following new suggestions were discussed:

- Improve the application workshops to include information about how to fill out the project budget, how to find a fiscal sponsor, having potential sponsors or project mentors in attendance.
- Increase the pool of applicants beyond groups that also apply for Lodging Tax funds by working with the City's Office of Neighborhoods and Office of Equity and Inclusion. Email forwards did not work well, a road show to community groups would be more effective.
- Provide clear guidelines for updates to the commission and for advertising projects including a simple media kit. Community Chest of Camas Washougal and Humanities WA both have good programs to use as an example.
- Focus on building relationships with recipients by providing opportunities like an opening reception for grant recipients or business advising.

ITEM 5: CULTURAL SERVICES REPORT

Donovan gave the following updates:

- Donovan will present results from the Vancouver Arts and Music Festival debrief meetings and participant/vendor survey results at the October meeting. Reid shared feedback she heard from

the local businesses, including missed notifications and last-minute outreach to downtown galleries. Reid suggested including local businesses on the public facing maps both as landmarks and advertising.

- Fort Vancouver Regional Library staff will vacate the building at 1007 E Mill Plain Blvd in September. Staff is considering interim uses that align with the commission's long-term vision for the building.
- Artstra coordinated the art on display in the lobby and expressed interest in curating its art going forward.
- Save the date for a half day board retreat on December 14.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Board President Reid gave the following updates:

- Reid offered to get feedback from the Evergreen School District youth who sold art at the Festival.
- VDA facilitated display of the community origami project produced at the Festival. It can be seen in the windows of the former Spanky's building on Main Street.
- VDA will unveil the Volunteer Corner sculpture and plaza on October 4, to coincide with the Revitalize Washington Main Street conference.
- Reid has engaged VDA's Design Committee to strengthen Vancouver's Creative Arts District application based on feedback from ArtsWA.
- Reid has gathered a small group of community members to pursue a Cultural Access program for Clark County.

ITEM 6: PUBLIC COMMENT

No public testimony.

ITEM 7: OPEN DISCUSSION

B. Richardson met with a sub-quorum group to discuss the commission's proposed role in advising use and public benefit of historical buildings owned by the City. The first step in their plan is to establish eligibility criteria for buildings under their proposed purview, noting that the nomination criteria for the historic register (50 years or older) would be too broad. B. Richardson requested an inventory of City-owned buildings to compare against their criteria prior to starting work on the recommendation and management process.

Rafferty reflected on the work of the commission over the last year and thanked staff for their dedication to the commission's vision and hard work to support the Culture, Arts and Heritage program.

ADJOURNED

This meeting adjourned at 12:59 p.m.