



September 14, 2023

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

The September 14, 2023, meeting of the Culture, Arts and Heritage Commission was called to order at 12:15 p.m. by President Linda Reid in Birch Conference Room at Vancouver City Hall and via Microsoft Teams. Rafferty, Harrington, and C.A. Richardson were absent.

Staff Present

Stacey Donovan, Cultural Services Manager
Dave Perlick, Interim Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director
Kirsten Hull, Support Specialist
Katherine Stokke, Management Analyst
Stephanie Obotette, Administrative Assistant
Nena Cook, Deputy City Attorney

ITEM 2: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mercado, seconded by B. Richardson, and approved unanimously to adopt the minutes from August 17, 2023 as presented.

ITEM 3: MOTHER CAMAS PROJECT

Donovan introduced Paul Burgess and Sheila Davis of Fourth Plain Forward and Rodolpho Serna of Medicine Bear and gave a brief overview of the approval process for the project. Serna acknowledged the Grand Ronde and Cowlitz peoples, spoke briefly to the meaning he finds in community, and offered a song of thanks. Serna introduced the project and its artist, Toma Villa. Toma Villa is a Yakima artist based in Suquamish Wash. who seeks to merge modern identities with traditional art. Mother Camas both represents the food plant that grew abundantly in this area and was a cornerstone of local indigenous trade and additionally symbolizes maternal nurture and sacrifice. Serna described the annual maintenance process including polishing and how regular maintenance provides an opportunity to engage the community. Burgess described the site plan and landscaping. The commission spoke in favor of the project and its thoughtful planning.

Motion by Reid, seconded by B. Richardson, and approved unanimously to approve the artwork for installation in the right of way.

ITEM 4: CULTURAL SERVICES REPORT

Donovan gave the following updates:

- The sculpture at Volunteer Corner will be unveiled on October 4.
- The new City of Vancouver website is live but some of the Culture, Arts and Heritage pages are still in progress. Feedback is welcome.
- The terms of Commissioner Gall, Rafferty and C.A. Richardson will expire at the end of this year. All three incumbents are eligible for an additional term. If interested, they can submit a Letter of Continued Interest to the Boards and Commissions office and that letter will be considered with any eligible applications for that seat.

- Donovan has requested a list of historical buildings and will distribute that to the group when available.
- The grant agreements for the Culture, Arts and Heritage Grants will go out to recipients next week. Hull is preparing a calendar of key dates for each project so the Commission can be kept up to date with each project.
- Cultural Services staff is working on transitioning the FVRL headquarters building to City operation.

ITEM 5: PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Reid gave the following updates:

- Reid convened a larger committee to work on the Arts District application and indicated further outreach to stakeholders would be helpful. Reid noted the overlap between the initial Arts Hub stakeholder group and this one.
- Reid has invited Inspire WA to provide a personalized workshop to walk through the Cultural Access process for Clark County.
- Reid requested a maintenance agreement for the Mother Camas sculpture.

ITEM 6: PUBLIC COMMENT

No public testimony.

ITEM 7: OPEN DISCUSSION

Percival introduced herself.

ADJOURNED

This meeting adjourned at 12:59 p.m.