



Alex Gall · Beth Harrington · Brad Richardson · Julie Mercado · Linda Reid, President ·
Christine A. Richardson, V.P. · Lee Rafferty, Sec/Tres. · Rebekah Percival · Russell Ford, CCAC

Minutes from October 12, 2023

Item 1: Call to Order

The October 12, meeting of the Culture, Arts and Heritage Commission was called to order at 12:05 p.m. by President Linda Reid in Aspen Room at Vancouver City Hall and via Microsoft Teams. Harrington, Mercado, Percival and C.A. Richardson were absent. Ford entered at 12:08 pm.

Staff Present

Stacey Donovan, Cultural Services Manager
Dave Perlick, Interim Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
Kirsten Hull, Support Specialist
Nena Cook, Deputy City Attorney

Item 2: Approval of Minutes

Deferred to next meeting.

Item 3: 2023 VAMF Overview

Donovan gave a recap of the 2023 Vancouver Arts and Music Festival held in downtown Vancouver on August 4, 5, & 6th in partnership with Vancouver Symphony Orchestra. Donovan highlighted the event components and reviewed post-event survey data from attendees and participants. 100 attendees took the survey, rating the event a 4.5 out of five stars, with a net promoter score of 74 (considered excellent). 100% of event participants (performers, artists, volunteers, vendors and partners) who responded expressed a desire to be a part of the festival in the future.

Commissioners shared their own perceptions and feedback about the festival, including suggestions for next year. Donovan reviewed the prior year's budget including grants and in-kind donations. Donovan thanked the commission for their financial support of the festival and Reid noted that this festival demonstrated the community's appetite for Arts and Culture.

Item 4: Request for Art at Tower Mall

Perlick introduced City Council's request for activation at the Tower Mall redevelopment site. The site is currently fenced. City Council suggested four broad categories at their most recent workshop on the topic, including public art, events, pickleball courts or a food cart pod.

Reid favored activating the perimeter of the site along Mill Plain with public art over activating the center of the site based on cost prohibitive improvements that would be needed for a safe and comfortable event or activity site. B. Richardson noted that the window for events would be 2-3 months which does not fit Council's request. Perlick described the existing site plan and lack of on-site utilities. Gall expressed concern about pickleball noise traveling into the nearby residential areas. Perlick agreed, and also expressed concern about the cost to resurface for pickleball.

Public art emerged as the best compromise between activation and cost for a temporary project. Mural boards were proposed as they could be easily moved throughout the site based on construction phasing. Reid strongly

advocated for local artists to participate in their design to broaden the storytelling beyond project materials and described the benefits of printed mural panels over paintings.

Perlick asked about process and funding, noting the limited resources for public art. Reid encouraged facilitating this project through the Culture, Arts and Heritage Grants process and B. Richardson added there could be an opportunity to have businesses sponsor or contribute to individual panels. The commission asked for further information about project budget before being asked to consider dedicating funds.

There was little support for activation via outdoor events. In addition to logistical issues for the site, it was recognized that events take a few years to get established and that putting on a series of rushed events would be more detrimental to the site's image than doing nothing. Staff will return to the commission with more information about cost in order to define a process for commissioning mural panels.

Item 5: Cultural Services Report

Donovan gave the following updates:

- Día de Muertos will be held in Esther Short Park on October 21.
- Volunteer Corner at Evergreen and Broadway is open.
- Donovan and Perlick will return to the commission for discussion on interim use at the Arts Hub site.

Item 6: President's Report

Reid gave the following updates:

- Reid announced that Lincoln Property Company had released a call for artists for Terminal 1, observing that early comments have come in from Portland artists. Donovan offered to promote the call in Vancouver through the City's contacts.
- The Cultural Access funding group met with Jessi Wasson from InspireWA, and a strategic planning session has been scheduled.
- The Creative Arts District committee meeting was postponed due to the Main Street Conference in October.

Item 7: Public Comment

No public testimony.

Item 8: Open Discussion

Gall suggested adding a link to Clark County's Historical Registry map on the commission's webpage.

Adjourned

This meeting adjourned at 1:28 p.m.