



Culture, Arts & Heritage Commission

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, Dec. 14, 2023

12 p.m.

Vancouver City Hall

Birch Room

415 W. 6th Street

Vancouver, WA

Commissioners Present:

Reid, C.A. Richardson, Gall, Harrington, B. Richardson, Mercado, Rafferty, and Ford

Commissioners Absent:

Percival

Staff Present:

Donovan, Hull, Juettemeyer, Perlick, Stokke, and Burton

Guests:

None

Item 1: Call to Order

The December 14, 2024, meeting of the Culture, Arts and Heritage Commission was called to order at 12:03 p.m. by President Linda Reid in Birch Room at Vancouver City Hall and via Microsoft Teams. Percival was absent. Gall entered at 12:05.

Item 2: Approval of Minutes

Motion by Rafferty, seconded by B. Richardson, and approved unanimously to adopt the minutes from September 14 and October 12, 2023, as presented.

Item 3: Workplan Update

Donovan gave an overview of the Commission's workplan. In 2023, the Commission restarted the Culture, Arts & Heritage Grant program, kicked

Members

Linda Reid
President

Christine A. Richardson
Vice President

Alex Gall
Beth Harrington
Brad Richardson
Julie Mercado
Lee Rafferty
Rebekah Percival
Russell Ford, CCAC

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off the first annual Vancouver Arts and Music Festival and led strategic planning for the Vancouver Arts Hub. In 2024 they will launch a second round of grant projects with a focus on increased equity, inclusion, and outreach to applicants. In addition, staff is planning to complete refinements to the public art program including an emphasis on inventory, maintenance and budget, and a new program to support the establishment of new cultural events. Other ongoing or as needed workplan items include:

- Library Building Interim Use
- Arts Hub Community Engagement
- Engaging community leaders and other arts groups
- Vancouver Art and Music Festival
- Public art in new private developments

The Commission will meet for a retreat on February 22, 2024.

Perlick gave an update on the Vancouver Arts Hub project. The next phase will include an RFP for the next round of planning and design work and is scheduled for late 2024. The slight delay will allow for increased staff capacity and the opportunity to synchronize the project with federal grants. In the near term, staff will focus on maintaining momentum with public engagement and develop a strategy for interim use of the building.

The goal of an interim use plan is to provide space opportunities for arts focused groups in the interim between building occupation by the City and construction of the Arts Hub. This period will last approximately two years and staff will seek partnerships with other arts organizations to support its implementation and management. Potential activities could include meetings, rehearsals, events, bazaars, etc. C. A. Richardson's nonprofit, the Arts Centered, has expressed interest in serving that role.

Motion by Reid, seconded by Gall, and approved unanimously to bring the Arts Centered proposal before the Commission as new business.

New Business: Arts Centered Proposal for Interim Use

C. A. Richardson described her nonprofit's mission and their role as connectors between artists and community resources to support their work. Arts Centered sees an opportunity to activate the former FVRL HQ building as a valuable space resource benefiting arts groups in Vancouver while also serving as a proof of concept for the Arts Hub project and demonstrating the space needs of the arts community. C. A. Richardson noted she is working on a three-phase plan to pitch if the Commission and staff have interest in continuing the discussion.

Rafferty expressed support for pursuing this opportunity so long as the roles between commissioner and contractor are clearly delineated for all involved. Reid asked for staff's perspective on what services they are seeking from a partner organization. B. Richardson noted that occupying the building is vital for historical preservation and agreed that an arts-based interim use will further public engagement for the final facility. B. Richardson suggested that the commission serve as an application selection committee for use access and that the nonprofit could serve as the building manager, contending that it would allow staff to pilot an application process for full facility usage, reduce conflict of interest and provide an opportunity to market the building as an Arts Hub before construction begins.

Perlick summarized the feedback given and suggested that Arts Centered create a more specific proposal for further discussion. No objections were raised but further process questions arose.

B. Richardson added that this opportunity could serve as a pilot to establish an equitable process for in-kind donation of rentals across several City owned facilities.

Item 4: Appointment of Ad-hoc Application Review Subcommittee

Hull gave an update on the recruitment for three seats expiring at the end of the year. All three incumbents have reapplied, and 15 additional applications were received. A subcommittee of commission will review the applications and make a recommendation on candidates to advance to interviews conducted by the City Council subcommittee responsible for the appointment.

Motion by Reid, seconded by Harrington, and approved unanimously to appoint Reid, Harrington and Mercado to the application review subcommittee.

Item 5: Cultural Services Report

Donovan gave the following updates:

- Jackie Wood of Artstra will curate art at City Hall in 2024. They will host a reception on the First Fridays in Summer. This will coordinate with galleries at Corridor, the Hilton, and Slocum House.
- Donovan is looking into another Creative Vitality index.

Item 6: President's Report

Reid gave the following updates:

- Reid noted that details about the Silva Bolds Whitfield fountain were not included in the most recent Main Street Promise open house and she requested an update on its renovation. B. Richardson agreed and added that he had questions about their plans to interpret and preserve historical elements on the corridor (e.g., unreinforced masonry, elements of historical integrity like the Reder inlays, and preservation of existing historical plaques) and expressed concern that initial vetting of the preservation elements may have been insufficient based on the reports from the project team. Staff will request an update from the Main Street Promise Team for the January meeting.
- Reid is launching a series of Culture, Arts and Heritage coffee chats for the community. The first one is scheduled for Tuesday, January 16 at 4:30 in the basement of Kindred Homestead Supply.
- The Cultural Access workgroup is assembling a business plan to advocate for Cultural Access funding in Clark County via the County Council or ballot measure.
- The Creative Arts District committee is in the process of rewriting their designation application to ArtsWA.

Item 7: Public Comment

No public testimony.

Item 8: Open Discussion

B. Richardson gave an update on the Historic Building project group. Their first task is to determine which City owned properties would be eligible for consideration. The Historical Register requirements will form the baseline and more selective criteria will be used to narrow down the list. The goal is for the commission to play a role in informing how those buildings are activated for greater public benefit. B. Richardson clarified that the Historic Preservation Commission would oversee preservation but the Culture, Arts & Heritage Commission could have a role in activation.

Gall suggested that a representative from the Historic Preservation Commission attend a Culture, Arts & Heritage Commission meeting to discuss their overlap in their respective missions and opportunities for collaboration.

Adjourned

This meeting adjourned at 1:28 p.m.