

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, Feb. 8, 2024

12 p.m.

Vancouver City Hall

Aspen Room

415 W. 6th Street

Vancouver, WA

Commissioners Present:

Reid, C.A. Richardson, Harrington, B. Richardson, Ford and Percival

Commissioners Absent:

Gall, Mercado, and Rafferty

Staff Present:

Donovan, Hull, Juettemeyer Perlick and Lopossa

Guests:

None

Item 1: Call to Order

The February 8, 2024, meeting of the Culture, Arts and Heritage Commission was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by President Christine Richardson in Aspen Room at Vancouver City Hall and via Microsoft Teams.

Item 2: Approval of Minutes

Motion by Reid, seconded by Harrington, and approved unanimously to adopt the minutes from January 11, 2024, with the correction of a typo.

Item 3: Resolution to Amend Bylaws

Tricia Juettemeyer introduced Resolution #2024-02 to amend the bylaws. No changes were made to the changes proposed at last month's meeting. Motion by Ford, seconded by Harrington, and approved unanimously to adopt resolution #2024-02.

Members

Christine A. Richardson
President

Linda Reid
Vice President

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

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Items 4 and 5: Approval of Art Advocacy Letter and Letter to Port of Vancouver

Stacey Donovan presented a template letter to advocate for other group's public art projects. The Commission approved the template with one suggestion, to include the Commission's belief in "art for art's sake." Other template topics were suggested including heritage and Cultural Access funding. The Commission additionally approved the letter to the Port of Vancouver with the above change.

Item 6: Arts Hub Interim Use Guiding Principles

Donovan gave an update on the building and its permitting status. Staff is exploring what type of permit will be needed for temporary occupancy during the Interim Use period and what work is required before the permit is issued.

C. A. Richardson, representing The Arts Centered, presented guiding principles for the interim use of the FVRL building. Reid asked about group or activity eligibility. C. A. Richardson stated that there are no defined eligibility requirements currently, but they expect those to emerge as they figure out the best use of the space. Reid noted there are longstanding space needs in the community and there is likely to be demand from groups outside of the arts, culture, and heritage sphere.

Perlick shared some logistical details from the contract with The Arts Centered and confirmed that The Arts Centered will not have an office at the facility. Ford asked how the Interim Use will evolve into the Arts Hub. Donovan explained that more in depth community outreach is needed to refine the design, that will happen simultaneously with the interim use period.

B. Richardson affirmed his support for the approach, expressing that this opportunity will serve as training wheels for the Arts Hub and will reduce long-term damage to the building by keeping it occupied. He encouraged fellow commissioners and staff to think about the benefits of the facility in terms of an investment in economic development of the creative community rather than 'making it pencil' in the short term.

Item 7: Grant Program Changes

Donovan gave an overview of changes to this year's grant program. Changes include:

- Increased ability to support collaboration between individual artists and nonprofit fiscal sponsors
- A simplified application and budget form
- More workshops, all held online or offsite
- An overhauled webpage with instructions for each step of the process
- Improved outreach through collaboration with other City Departments and partner organizations
- Outreach to individual artists with the opportunity to arrange fiscal sponsors for their projects.

The Commission suggested changes to the application including:

- Asking about other funding from City of Vancouver grants (this round and past rounds)
- Revising language to be more user-friendly, less nonprofit oriented
- Including optional letters of support
- Providing examples of ways to measure social and economic impacts of projects

Item 8: Cultural Services Report

Donovan gave the following updates:

- Tower Mall Mural Boards: For the first phase, First Forty Feet will design four mural boards that tell the story of the Heights Redevelopment. The second and possible third phase will allow the Commission to

do a Call for Artists for additional artwork. The artwork will be repositioned around the development as construction progresses. First Forty Feet will present a design in April.

- The City's Community and Neighborhood Grant program is open.
- Planning for the Vancouver Arts and Music Festival is underway. Donovan gave updates on marketing, sponsorships, and committee development. The footprint this year will be impacted by repairs to the Clocktower and the Main Street Promise project.

Item 9: President's Report

C. A. Richardson encouraged the group to share their own updates each month rather than presenting a formal President's Report and asked the group to think of people they would like to have as guest speakers at future meetings.

Item 10: Cultural Access Report

Reid gave an update on the Cultural Access working group. The group's next step is to put together a strategic timeline to bring the issue before the Clark County Council.

Item 11: Clark County Arts Commission Report

Ford gave an update on the Clark County Arts Commission, stating he is still getting acquainted with both groups and their considerable programmatic reach.

Item 12: Public Comment

None presented.

Item 13: Open Discussion

B. Richardson gave a recap of Arts, Heritage and Science Week in Olympia, Wash. and encouraged the Commission to put together a delegation to attend next year. Reid agreed and encouraged the Commission to work more closely with state representatives year-round.

Adjourned

This meeting adjourned at 1:42 p.m.