

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, Mar. 14, 2024

12 p.m.

Vancouver City Hall

Aspen Room

415 W. 6th Street

Vancouver, WA

Commissioners Present:

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

Commissioners Absent:

Gaspar

Staff Present:

Donovan, Hull, and Juettemeyer

Guests:

None

Item 1: Call to Order

The March 14, 2024, meeting of the Culture, Arts and Heritage Commission was called to order at 12:04 p.m. by President C. A. Richardson in Aspen Room at Vancouver City Hall and via Microsoft Teams.

Item 2: Approval of Minutes

Motion by Reid, seconded by B. Richardson, and approved unanimously to adopt the minutes from February 8, 2024.

Item 3: Cultural Services Report

Stacey Donovan gave the following updates:

- C. A. Richardson and Rafferty were reappointed to the commission. Ricky Gaspar was appointed to Gall's seat. All three terms are effective immediately and will expire at the end of 2026. Donovan shared a message from Gall.

Members

Christine A. Richardson
President

Linda Reid
Vice President

Beth Harrington
Brad Richardson
Julie Mercado
Lee Rafferty
Rebekah Percival
Ricky Gaspar
Russell Ford, CCAC

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- Staff has given four Culture, Arts & Heritage Grant Application workshops and a recording is available online. Five applications have been submitted and an additional 10 are in draft. Of the 2023 round of grants, four projects are complete and half of the total pool for reimbursement has been distributed.
- Staff has put together an FAQ for nonprofits who are asked to serve as fiscal sponsors.
- Donovan gave an update on the Vancouver Arts and Music Festival. The call for artists and performers is out now. At a recent meeting with downtown gallery owners they decided to set aside part of the park for galleries to show their work.
- Staff did a walk through of the Arts Hub building to understand permitting requirements and repairs needed before the interim use phase. Donovan expects the activation to start in the next month or so. The roof needs to be replaced urgently and staff is requesting funding in the 2025-2026 budget.
- Staff confirmed that the idea to form a youth subcommittee of the commission is permitted in the bylaws. This may be more feasible than appointing a single youth member to the full commission. Reid asked about a lower age limit on the commission. The bylaws do not specify an age limit but any commissioner under 18 would be subject to the City's volunteer policy for minors. The commission discussed other ways to bring more diverse voices to the Commission and find roles for applicants who were not appointed.
- The Mother Camas Spirit Totem unveiling is scheduled for April 20. B. Richardson added that Fourth Plain Forward is hosting a meet and greet with artist Toma Villa at the Clark County History Museum (CCHM) for First Friday in April.
- The commission discussed the historically exclusive use and connotation of the phrase "fine arts."

Item 4: Cultural Access Update

Reid gave an update on Cultural Access. Various work groups have formed, and they will begin meeting with officials after the fall elections this year. The Creative Arts District project is on hold but will be revived to support Cultural Access. The first Creatives in the Couve gathering was a success.

Item 5: Clark County Arts Commission Update

Ford gave a reminder about his upcoming raku workshop. Donovan noted that if a quorum of the commission is present they should avoid discussing commission business. The Clark County Arts Commission met in Ridgefield this month and discussed coordination with public schools. They also discussed the City's Culture, Arts & Heritage Grant program and the need for a county-wide calendar of arts and culture events. B. Richardson added that CCHM has started a Facebook group to share history, arts, and culture events and that group has around 1000 members currently. Reid agreed that multiple sources of information is key. Ford also reported that the Passing of the Pen ceremony for Clark County's new poet laureate was a success and highlighted the need to bring literary arts into the greater arts, culture and heritage umbrella. He suggested reading a poem at the start of each meeting.

Item 6: Public Comment

None presented.

Item 7: Commissioner Update and New Business

C. A. Richardson thanked Gall for his service. Commissioners shared updates on their personal projects and current sources of inspiration.

Item 8: Network Webbing Activity

Hull facilitated an activity based on Social Network Webbing from Liberating Structures adapted to work in a hybrid meeting. The commissioners brainstormed groups that they have connections to (or want to connect with) and those were grouped and mapped onto a "web." The commission requested the results also be recorded into a spreadsheet so they could cross reference which commissioners had connections to various groups for future collaborations.

The commission discussed ideas for an initial introduction for these groups and how a diverse communication approach will be needed. Some groups may want to attend a meeting, but others might prefer a single commissioner meet with them instead. C. A. Richardson noted that some groups feel frustrated with the increase in communication but a lack of follow through on actions and to be sensitive to that and transparent about the Commission's capacity.

Adjourned

This meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.