

**ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE****MINUTES****Thursday, July 7, 2022****Open to public attendance in Committee Room G****Lower Level, City Hall****Committee members may attend electronically****PRESENT**

Julia Schoennagel	Alternate Chair, Artist, New Westminster Based
Sienna Campbell	Community Representative
Sonyowah Elijah	Artist, New Westminster Based
Laura Grady	Representative, Arts Council of New Westminster
Jas Lally*	Arts Professional
Stephen O'Shea*	Artist, New Westminster Based
Anjana Pradhananga*	Urban Designers, Architects, Landscape Architects
Giulia Setticasi	Community Representative

**REGRETS**

Councillor Mary Trentadue	Chair
Erin Jeffrey	Representative, Local Not-for-Profit Arts Sector
Ezra King	Community Representative
Kelly Proznik	Representative, Education Sector

**STAFF**

Todd Ayotte	Manager, Community Arts and Theatre
Quyen Hoang	Public and Community Art Coordinator
Katie Stobbart	Committee Clerk

\*Denotes electronic attendance

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Julia Schoennagel opened the meeting at 5:31 p.m. and recognized with respect that New Westminster is on the unceded and unsurrendered land of the Halkomelem speaking peoples. She acknowledged that colonialism has made

invisible their histories and connections to the land. She recognized that, as a City, we are learning and building relationships with the people whose lands we are on.

**2. INTRODUCTIONS AND ICEBREAKERS**

The Committee proceeded with a round of introductions.

**3. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

There were no changes to the agenda.

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

**4.1 Minutes of May 5, 2022**

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Minutes of the May 5, 2022 Arts Advisory Committee meeting be adopted.

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

**5. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**5.1 Social and Cultural Vibrancy Grant Committee Representative**

Todd Ayotte, Manager, Community Arts and Theatre, reviewed the opportunity to serve as a representative of the Committee on the Social and Cultural Vibrancy Grant Committee.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Giulia Setticasi be appointed as the Arts Advisory Committee representative on the Social and Cultural Vibrancy Grants Committee for the 2022-23 term.

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

## **5.2 Public Art - Current Project Update**

Quyen Hoang, Public and Community Art Coordinator, provided a presentation entitled “Public Art Project Updates.”

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Hoang advised:

- There are generally three to five people on a selection panel, composed uniquely for each project. There is always an arts representative, a community member, and can include representation from the project site;
- The selection panel can also include advisors or City staff members who do not vote but observe and provide oversight;
- Since the call for artists on the roster closed, no one has come forward asking to apply; and
- The roster is not the only way the City provides opportunities to artists, so if artists contact us interested about calls that have closed, we can direct them to other opportunities both in and beyond New Westminster.

## **5.3 Public Art - New Projects**

Quyen Hoang, Public and Community Art Coordinator, provided a presentation entitled “Public Art – New Projects.”

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Hoang advised:

- Resources include cultural, emotional, and spiritual safety for the artist. Staff will consider what preparation police staff might need for safe relationship-building as well;
- The police department asked specifically for Indigenous art, so that is the focus for this project. Building that relationship may help build understanding regarding other marginalized communities as well;
- This opportunity is for relationship-building where there is an openness to critique, before establishing what the artwork will be; and
- Staff are working with a consultant to refine the call and ensure it is accessible and barrier-free.

The Committee had the following comments arising from discussion:

- There have been times in community where the police department's efforts have been perceived as superficial by Indigenous communities, leading to concerns that the desire to participate in this project may not be heartfelt;
- Recommend arranging for the artist and the representatives from the police department to do a sweat lodge, so they can connect beyond just a professional capacity.

## 6. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

There were no items.

## 7. **COMMITTEE DISCUSSION**

### 7.1 **Communication Discussion**

Todd Ayotte, Manager, Community Arts and Theatre, provided a presentation entitled "Communications: Open Committee Discussion." The Committee then proceeded with its discussion on the theme of Communication, noting the following:

#### *Challenges*

- There are strong arts organizations in the City, but they work in silos, without enough communication among different groups;
- The City of New Westminster has many different social media accounts, and people may miss information if they are not following the individual accounts;
- Different groups (ages, cultures, etc.) use different tools for communication and spreading the word about events; and
- How can we get the community excited and motivated to seek out information?

#### *First Steps*

- There is a need to get to know our audience, and survey them to identify the best ways of getting information out to them; and
- Creating awareness of the organizations that exist would be helpful so people know who to ask and where to look for information.

### *Things to consider*

- Explore the feasibility of a centralized hub for all arts and culture events in the city, and to have communications (social media, posters, calendar, etc.) go out from there;
- Consider a regular/ weekly newsletter to provide information and create an appetite for local arts and cultural opportunities;
- Consider a youth arts ambassador, for example, to develop a monthly blog or vlog from the perspective of a peer and share information with their connections;
- Multiple influencers can possibly help reach different demographics; and
- New and interactive programming (art week, art QR code walk, annual arts fair, behind the scenes tours) is something that may ignite interest.

The Committee asked to continue this discussion at the next meeting.

### **8. NEW BUSINESS**

There were no items. At the next meeting, the Committee will allot 15 minutes to discuss the land acknowledgement.

### **9. END OF MEETING**

On MOTION, the meeting ended at 7:38 p.m.

### **10. UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Remaining scheduled meetings for 2022, which take place at 5:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted:

- August 4
- September 1
- December 1