

ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**MINUTES****Thursday, September 8, 2022****Open to public attendance in Committee Room G****Lower Level, City Hall****Committee members may attend electronically****PRESENT**

Councillor Mary Trentadue
Sienna Campbell*
Sonyowah Elijah
Erin Jeffrey
Ezra King
Jas Lally
Laura Grady
Kelly Proznik
Julia Schoennagel
Giulia Setticasi

Chair
Community Representative
Artist, New Westminster Based
Representative, Local Not-for-Profit Arts Sector
Community Representative
Arts Professional
Representative, Arts Council of New Westminster
Representative, Education Sector
Artist, New Westminster Based
Community Representative

REGRETS

Anjana Pradhananga

Urban Designers, Architects, Landscape Architects

STAFF

Todd Ayotte
Quyen Hoang
Stephen O'Shea
Katie Stobbart

Manager, Community Arts and Theatre
Public and Community Art Coordinator
Program Coordinator, New Media Gallery
Committee Clerk

*Denotes electronic attendance

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Councillor Mary Trentadue opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m. and recognized with respect that New Westminster is on the unceded and unsundered 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

There were no items.

3. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

4.1 Minutes of July 7, 2022

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Minutes of the July 7, 2022 Arts Advisory Committee meeting be adopted.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

5. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Land Acknowledgement - Presentation

Sonyowah Elijah framed a discussion on the Land Acknowledgement, beginning with an introduction and land acknowledgement in his own language. He encouraged the committee to give a personal land acknowledgement, including the history of whose land we are on and the difference between being a guest, a settler, a colonizer, and a visitor.

The Committee suggested, moving forward, to open up the opportunity to give a land acknowledgement at the meeting, instead of just the Chair. This was intentionally suggested and not made into a motion as the Committee felt it important to decolonize this process.

Mr. Elijah encouraged the Committee to see the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for further reading.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

6.1 Communications Discussion

Todd Ayotte, Manager, Community Arts and Theatre, summarized the discussion on Communications from the previous meeting and provided questions to guide the discussion:

- How can we get the community excited and motivated to seek out information?
- Is a centralized communications hub really a solution to the problem?
- Given limited resources, what other creative ways can we increase awareness?

The Committee noted the following in their discussion of the theme:

- It is a challenge for artists to promote themselves;
- If a centralized hub is could be an opportunity for the Arts Council to take the lead;
- Historically the City has been visual arts focused, and there are many professional artists who need to be included;
- It is possible a centralized hub is not the best avenue;
- It would be valuable to look at what other cities are doing;
- Rather than reinventing the wheel, look to what already excites and motivates the community;
- Consider using a linktree, which is a web page that uses a series of linked icons to connect to websites and information;
- Consider bus or train stop advertising; and
- Consider branding that unites arts activities under one umbrella, similar to what the Downtown BIA has done.

7. STANDING REPORTS AND UPDATES

7.1 Art and Technology

Stephen O'Shea, Program Coordinator, New Media Gallery, provided an update on the New Media Gallery on behalf of Sarah Joyce. He noted the following:

- There is an upcoming exhibition entitled Mouthpiece, featuring Tony Oursler, Diemut Strebe, Nathaniel Mellors,& Erkka Nissinen, from October 1 to December 11; and

- At the December 1 meeting, the Art and Technology department will bring a presentation that informs the committee about the programs beyond the New Media Gallery exhibitions.

7.2 Anvil Theatre - New Piano Acquisition

Todd Ayotte, Manager, Community Arts and Theatre, advised that Anvil Theatre has acquired a new piano. It was purchased through capital equipment funds with matched cash contributions from Piva Modern Italian and local artist John Keenleyside, as well as an institutional discount Yamaha Canada facilitated by Tom Lee Music. The new piano will be featured in the new performing arts series launching in September, Jazz at the Anvil, which was developed in partnership with Piva Modern Italian.

7.3 Commemorate Canada Reopening Fund - Heritage Canada

Todd Ayotte, Manager, Community Arts and Theatre, advised that Anvil Theatre has received a programming grant of \$126,000 from Heritage Canada to support a performing arts series. The series will showcase national Canadian artists on the Anvil stage, accompanied by community social activations at various downtown locations.

8. NEW BUSINESS

There were no items.

9. END OF MEETING

The meeting ended at 6:51 p.m.

10. UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

- December 1