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**Present:**

Councillor Judy Villeneuve, Chair  
Wendy Bollard  
Al Cleaver  
Barbara Cooper  
Robie Daw (for Debra Hoggan)  
Carol Girardi  
Cora Li-Leger  
Bob McMurray  
Chris Thornley

**Regrets:**

Al McMillan  
Councillor Barbara Steele, Vice-Chair

**Staff Present:**

J. O'Donnell, Manager, Heritage Services  
L. Cavan, GM Parks, Recreation & Culture  
K. Gallie, Performing Arts Manager  
M. Houlden, Chief Librarian  
D. Jones, Manager, Economic Development  
S. McKinnon, Manager, Arts Services  
R. McCullough, Museum Manager  
L. Anderson, Legislative Services

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**A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

It was Moved by C. Li-leger  
Seconded by B. McMurray  
That the minutes of the April 17, 2012, Culture  
Development Advisory Committee meeting be adopted.  
Carried

The Agenda was varied.

**D. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Surrey Libraries – Cultural Programming and Events**

M. Houlden, Chief Librarian was in attendance to provide a review of the Surrey Libraries cultural programming and literary arts. A PowerPoint presentation was provided and comments were as follows:

- The City has nine libraries with more than 700,000 books in total.
- Altogether, more than 2.4 million visitors have borrowed over 4 million items from the libraries in the past year, and that number is growing.
- Surrey is a city of readers!
- With the growing number of internet users, etc., there is a perception that libraries may not be as necessary as in the past; simply not true. There has been a constant increase in visitors to the libraries because the information available and the demand for that information is greater than ever.
- Toddler Time has been extremely successful; every Toddler Time program has an extensive waiting list.
- Surrey has the largest genealogy library west of Ottawa – a very popular hobby, which also ties in nicely with the museum next door to the Cloverdale library, and a big tourist draw as well with visitors coming from all over North America.
- Surrey libraries have the largest collection of Punjabi materials in the province and were also first to offer story times for adults with disabilities.

There are now three locations (instead of one) to assist those with cognitive disabilities.

- Installation of the largest outdoor living wall in North America, located at the Semiahmoo Library, was completed in October 2010.
- Libraries are intimately linked to the publishing world.
- BC public libraries spend approximately \$23 million on publications. Large Canadian public libraries buy well over \$89 million. In Surrey, there was over \$2m bought just in the last year.
- There is a focus on buying Canadian materials from local and national writers and publishers, including small press titles (e.g. Hancock Press located in Surrey).
- Literary arts take on many forms: essays, poetry, comedy, screenplays, theatre, lyrics, fiction, nonfiction, newspapers and content on the internet.
- Authors are also voracious readers and view the library as an ideas factory, offering inspiration in addition to providing a place to work that offers research materials and access to the technology they need.
- There are now 80 public work stations, with access to high-speed internet, available to the public.
- Programs for writers and readers include:
  - Author readings - well received –probably 70 or so participants. A great way for the community to come together.
  - Surrey Reads and Writes (third year) – members of the local writing community come out and offer workshops to those interested in becoming writers themselves (over 300 attended this year).
  - Surrey stories –celebrating the spoken word. Open mike night May 31<sup>st</sup> and running month to month, developed by the Surrey writing groups.
  - Young adult writing contest – 25th contest year. Ages 12-18, usually have an audience of about 100. Very pleased to have some way to recognize their efforts; some of the participants have actually gone on to have writing careers.
  - Poetry slams – working with the teen community. Great attendance by teens at the City Centre location.
  - Summer reading club - supportive of the arts. Always a BC artist that is the cover artist for the program. A club of about 80,000 kids, with 15,000 from Surrey; a really big program for Surrey. This year the topic is “stranger than fiction”.
- Working with SFU, Arts’ Club, Fraser Writer’s Co-op, a Facebook page has been created to promote what is going on in Surrey libraries and to publicise what has already been done. It has only been up for one month and already has 100 friends.
- Book clubs are very popular with all ages (kids, teens, adults, seniors). Book club kits have been created so that people can start their own book club.
- Really busy online too with over 1.9 million visits to the website. Two blogs (staff City Centre), Twitter (1653 followers), Facebook (Surrey libraries, TAG youth).
- The library supports other art forms – puppet theatre, support artists too by having craft fairs, etc.
- Surrey is very fortunate to have some extraordinary public art in the library which provides a very public space where many can enjoy the artwork.

- Artist exhibits are held in the library - also promote local art exhibits that are happening. The information is “tweeted” and on Facebook to encourage attendance to the exhibits.
- Performing arts and music also happening – often have harpsichord concerts, cello events, festival of aboriginal arts, etc. Lots of special events, especially grand openings, etc.
- The library helps to develop readers of the future and an audience for the written word.
- Over half of the books taken out are children’s books.
- Adult literacy – there are 15 tutors that provide free one-on-one tutoring to learners 19 years and over.
- The new City Centre Library changes everything (over 10,000 attended the grand opening). It has been a wonderful transformation that now provides opportunities to showcase itself in a way that couldn’t be done before. Thinking in a totally different way; starting to do a lot more visible things. It is about people spaces, books, information, knowledge and learning; inviting and engaging the public in a way that wasn’t possible before.
- Future plans and ideas include art exhibits for local talent and artists from around the world, music performances (summer series), Vancouver Opera, lecture series, Bard on the Beach, human library program – looking at focussing on arts (glass blowers, etc.) and a storytelling festival.
- There are many opportunities still to explore. The library really has become an incubator for local talent and it can play a much more vigorous role in the community.

The Committee commented as follows:

- It is interesting that more are borrowing books and visiting libraries because the technology is growing. It is becoming a centre almost like a community centre.
- Libraries will be much more prominent in the City’s future updates to the Cultural Plan.
- The library has been a great partner in the Surrey Children’s Festival.
- A network should be established to help in developing an audience base for providing information on the various upcoming readings, events, etc., happening at the library. Various groups (book clubs, etc.) could be contacted initially in creating the network (even advertise for on the website) and once started, it would grow from there from word of mouth.

S. McKinnon, Manager of Art Services, reported on a meeting with S. Dent, Public Art Coordinator, Kathy James, Surrey Tourism and Virginia Gillespie, Public Art Advisory Committee member, regarding public art tours. The bookmark that was launched for the art walking loop was noted and interest from Ms. James in creating a public art walking tour in City Centre was expressed. It was suggested that such a loop could include stops at the library to view the artwork and to eat. Perhaps the timing for the stop at the library could be during a poetry reading, etc. It was determined that this would be something that could be developed through the summer student program for the fall of 2013, in conjunction with Culture Days.

It was further noted that Ms. Gillespie is very interested in word people, poetry and song writing, and is presently working with staff on some initiatives in that regard around Kwomais Point Park.

## B. DELEGATIONS

### 1. Arts Umbrella

Lucille Pacey, President and CEO, and Sal Ferraras, Board Member, Arts Umbrella, were in attendance to provide an update on the Arts Umbrella and program development in Surrey. A PowerPoint presentation, which included a brief history of the Arts Umbrella, was provided and comments were as follows:

- Children are our most important assets; a quality arts education ensures they develop to their potential.
- Arts Umbrella is a not-for-profit, charitable organization that is committed to making arts education accessible for children from all cultures and social circumstances.
- We are about bringing programs and communities together.
- Skills development – we teach art, how to work in theatre, dance, and lots of media arts.
- The development of arts and culture is also essential to personal growth.
- In terms of economic vibrancy, we are proud to play a part in that role.
- We offer over 650 classes annually on Granville Island in theatre, visual and digital arts, music and dance.
- We reach over 12,000 children, through 100% donor-funded outreach programs delivered to inner city schools and disadvantaged communities.
- Employ 100+ qualified artist instructors.
- The Arts Umbrella Surrey – South (at Morgan Crossing) and the Arts Umbrella Surrey – Central (City Centre) are the first, and only, two locations established outside of Vancouver. With the quickly growing dynamic community full of diversity, it was the obvious choice for selecting Surrey.
- Surrey was an interesting connection for Arts Umbrella. We believe the whole future of communities and strong communities is vested in the children. Surrey was the only city that we found that was putting together a document that was a commitment to youth and children. The other was the Cultural Plan; the process Surrey undertook was so impressive and is another reason why we wanted to work in Surrey and with Surrey. It has been such a treat to work with such a cooperative community. (A review of the progress to date was provided.)

In closing, the delegation thanked the Committee and expressed their appreciation for the earlier Surrey libraries presentation, noting that the programming is exactly the kind of partnership and additional value that Arts Umbrella can bring to the community.

The Chair thanked the delegation for their overview of the Arts Umbrella, noting how very fortunate they are to have wonderful staff committed to the arts, and expressed appreciation for their expansion to both Surrey locations.

A brief introduction of the Committee members was provided to the delegation and it was noted from a parks, recreation and culture perspective, that staff has enjoyed working with, and will continue to work with, the Arts Umbrella to advance opportunities for quality programming and arts training for children.

## C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

1. **Culture Development Advisory Committee Terms of Reference - Adopted April 23, 2012**  
Res.: RES.R12-918

## D. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Surrey Libraries – Cultural Programming and Events**

The Agenda was varied to deal with this item earlier in the meeting.

2. **South Surrey Arts Space Phase One and Phase Two Update**

S. McKinnon, Manager, Arts Services, provided a recap of the two South Surrey projects: Phase One, a 4,000 sq. ft. addition to the South Surrey Recreation Centre and Phase Two, a possible public/private partnership located in the South Surrey Town Centre. With respect to Phase One, an update was provided as follows:

- The community consultation process has been completed. Architects are at the stage called functional programming, taking the complete community “wish list” to compartmentalize into the various spaces.
- Over the past two weeks, staff has had two meetings with the architects. At the first meeting the core concepts were shown and the architects advised that the maximum they felt they could contribute for the arts and fitness space with the allocated budget is 21,000 sq. ft., however the demand is closer to 28,000 sq. ft.
- At the most recent meeting (May 15<sup>th</sup>) the architects came back with a revised functional program that takes the scale of the addition down to the 21,000 sq. ft. level along with new schematics. Based on the information from that meeting, the architects will be coming back with one more schematic over the next couple of weeks, which will then be taken out to the community to show what can be provided, based on what was heard at the beginning of the process.

A PowerPoint presentation, created by Bing Thom Architects (BTA), relating to a study they have been doing which also looks at the Phase Two space for South Surrey, was provided. Comments were as follows:

- A number of contacts with various organizations and individuals, ranging from community theatre/music/dance, to visual arts, heritage, writers/journalists and academic and community businesses, were provided to BTA from staff and their contacts. From that BTA have contacted in person and in surveys a total of 107 and applied a number of

questionnaires (general interest, performing arts, visual arts and arts/education).

A detailed list of all those contacted and interviewed was shown and Committee members were asked to review for any further contacts that were not on that list. The following contacts were noted:

- *In Harmony* (Have had a very successful music festival with over the years and have been actively involved in trying to keep the music scene alive in the area. They are in touch with many musicians and would be good to interview.)
- *Extreme Ballet (XBA)*
- *Alex Browne, Peace Arch News*
- *Emily Carr University of Art and Design*
- *Kwantlen Polytechnic University*
- With the core findings, essentially it was found that existing arts facilities in Surrey are inadequate across the board. Infrastructure has not kept pace with growth as Surrey's expected rapid growth will exacerbate the problem.
- Existing facilities:
  - Surrey Arts Centre and Bell Centre don't have room to absorb new growth.
  - Many feel Surrey Art Gallery has outgrown its current location despite a renovation 10 years ago.
  - Surrey Museum, only 10 years in current facility of 24,000 sq. ft., sought a 60,000 sq. ft City Centre location, some surveyed would still prefer a City Centre location. (It has been recognized that the current Museum is not adequate for growth and Council has identified funding to pre-plan and to look at what elements are available to plan and prepare capital budget for next year.
  - Artists everywhere, community or professional, lack space, though the new Newton Cultural Centre and the South Surrey Recreation Centre studio space are helpful steps.
- In terms of South Surrey Arts Space Phase Two (20,000 – 25,000 sq. ft. cultural amenity), the following options were provided:
  - Option 1
    - Demand for 350 – 500 seat theatre is significant.
    - Excellent demographics for performing arts attendance in South Surrey.
    - Adjacent facilities are good.
    - A 450 seat theatre would require approximately 20,500 sq. ft.
    - Fly tower desirable, but is it realistic?
    - May hurt Coast Capital Playhouse in short run but proximity could help in the long run.
  - Option 2
    - Artist Run Centre – 5,000 sq. ft.
    - Community Artist studios – 5,000 sq. ft
    - 100-150 seat Studio theatre/meeting space – 10,000 sq. ft.
  - Option 3
    - Community Performing Arts School – 20,000 sq. ft.
- Key components for the artist run centre (ARC):
  - 2000 sq. ft. café on street level. Under contract to ARC, e.g. operated by Café for Contemporary Art (N.V.) (social enterprise model).

- Proceeds supports the operations of ARC.
- Similar to Gallery Café at Vancouver Art Gallery.
- Café could also service theatre.
- 5,000 sq. ft. additional space for exhibition, administration, storage, etc.
- Installations by BC, national, international artists curated by ARC.
- Exhibition Space not theatre lobby, but available to theatre for special occasions.
- Operated by Independent Board, eligible for arts project grants from various levels of government.
- Developer provides rent free space/City provides occupancy costs.
- Images of various theatres were shown:
  - Saint Michael's College – Toronto, Ontario – 350 seats;
  - Martha Cohen Theatre – Calgary, Alberta - 398 Seats;
  - York University (Proposed); and
  - Swan Theatre – Stratford-on-the-Avon, England – 450 seats,and a list of the current programme of users (for a 350 seat theatre) was reviewed (suggesting there could be anywhere from 146 to 208 performance days each year).
- Proposed features of the theatre include:
  - 350 seats in an intimate audience chamber.
  - Proscenium format with ability to support drama, music (contemporary and classical), musical theatre, dance, video presentation and non-theatrical community events.
  - A lobby that would support the full audience load as well as supporting “stand alone” events which would not use the theatre.
  - Acoustical separation of rooms so they could be used concurrently.
  - Full front of house amenities including bars, coffee shop, box office, coat check.
  - Fully Licensed.
- Project building programme summary estimates a total of 26,147 sq. ft. total space so revisions will be required to stay within the 25,000 sq. ft. proposal.
- BTA will have the study wrapped up in July. The consultants will now be preparing a business plan based on all of the information that has been collected.

The Committee commented as follows:

- These are really just concepts. No final report yet. Still a process.
- Curious about what will happen if approval is not given to build the density wanted by the developer. We will have to see as the process moves forward.
- There are a lot of plusses with the combination of the theatre and the contemporary art space. Partnering with the cafe does the contemporary art space well (meeting area, etc.), it would become a magnet for changing that part of the community to be a more culturally vibrant area.
- The negotiation for the design for the South Surrey Recreation Centre is still going on. Having quickly seen some of the options, every effort should be made for the arts to have a fairly public component recognizing the arts at the recreation facility. Wouldn't want to see the arts components get

buried in the bottom of the building. The public art component at the entryway will indicate the new presence of art activities at this site. People go in and out fast we have an opportunity to raise the idea this is also an arts centre, it is important to relay that information to the architects; to have that as a physical component as people arrive.

- The Gateway Theatre in Richmond would be a good resource. It has somewhere between 300-400 seats and the contacts there understand programming, etc., south of Fraser and programming in relation to other theatres, etc.

## E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

## F. CORRESPONDENCE

## G. INFORMATION

### 1. Titanic Exhibition at the Surrey Museum

File No. 7850-40

The memo dated May 7, 2012, from the General Manager of Parks, Recreation and Culture advising of the new exhibition at the Surrey Museum "Unsinkable: Remembering the Titanic, 1912-2012", on display April 10 - June 12, 2012, was reviewed.

### 2. Surrey Museum Asian Heritage Day

File No. 8200-01

The memo dated May 7, 2012, from the General Manager of Parks, Recreation and Culture, advising the Committee of the upcoming Asian Heritage Day celebration at the Surrey Museum, May 26, 2012, from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm, was reviewed.

### 3. Surrey Civic Treasure

The call for 2012 nominations for the Surrey Civic Treasure award was reviewed. Committee members were encouraged to put forward nominations and reminded that to have nominated someone in the past that was not selected does not mean they cannot be nominated again. Nominations will be accepted until June 11, 2012.

### 4. Doors Open

L. Cavan, General Manager Parks, Recreation and Culture, reported that the City is launching its first ever Doors Open event, a free celebration of the diversity culture and art in Surrey, on Saturday, June 23, 2012, from 11:00 am – 4:00 pm. This event will offer Surrey residents and visitors the opportunity to explore Surrey, from the unique historic sites, parks, places of worship and architecture to the art exhibits, public facilities and hidden gems. Over 40 venues in the North Surrey and Newton area will be open to the public. Venues will offer activities, guided tours, guest speakers and entertainment. A map to show all of the sites and participating venues is available online to download and brochures will be available at all of the City's recreation facilities.

The inspiration for Surrey's Doors Open stems from origins in France where the first Doors Open event (La Journee Portes Ouvertes) took place in 1984. Toronto was the first North American city to follow the European lead and launched a high profile event showcasing constructed heritage, architecture and design as a millennium project in 2000.

## 5. Subcommittees

Further to the suggestion at the April meeting to form a subcommittee to look at creating a marketing tool to connect people to the arts and heritage activities in the City, the Chair noted the requirement for volunteers in two areas: marketing and cultural grants. Committee members provided their preference as follows:

### Marketing

- Wendy Bollard
- Chris Thornley

### Cultural Grants

- Barbara Cooper
- Carol Girardi
- Cora Li-Leger
- Bob McMurray

## H. OTHER BUSINESS

### 1. Verbal Updates

There were no further updates provided.

## E. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Culture Development Advisory Committee will be held on **Tuesday, June 19, 2012**, in Park's Boardroom #1 at 3:00 p.m.

## F. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by B. McMurray

Seconded by C. Girardi

That the Culture Development Advisory

Committee do now adjourn.

Carried

The Culture Development Advisory Committee adjourned at 4:51 p.m.

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Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

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Councillor Villeneuve, Chairperson