

Culture Development Advisory Committee Minutes

Present:

Chair – Councillor Villeneuve
Vice-Chair – Councillor Steele
B. Cooper
B. McMurray
C. Thornley
J. Hawkins
T. Fasciglione
W. Bollard

Regrets:

C. Girardi
C. Li-Leger
F. McLafferty
U Maxwell-Lewis
K. Pasta

Staff Present:

J. O'Donnell, Manager, Heritage Services
K. Gallie, Performing Arts Manager
L. Cavan, GM Parks, Recreation & Culture
S. McKinnon, Manager, Arts Services
L. Davison, Visual & Community Art Manger
C. Bejtovic, Legislative Services

Student Representatives:

A. Calbery

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was

Moved by C. Thornley

Seconded by B. Cooper

That the minutes of the Culture

Development Advisory Committee meeting of September 16, 2014 be adopted.

Carried

Councillor Villeneuve advised that the Committee's recommendations for the Cultural Grants Program were approved at Council on October 20. The recommendations will go through the budget process with Council's endorsement.

B. DELEGATIONS

1. Semiahmoo Arts Space Governance Model, Lori Baxter, Consultant

The following comments were made:

- The Consultant has been looking at precedent spaces for theatre and contemporary arts space, and reviewing the scope of the operations in terms of Governance and Human Resources. Different operating models were researched in terms of what would happen if the spaces were:
 - Managed by the City;
 - Managed by a single society but potentially having two separate committees/staff oversee the programming;
 - Managed by two separate societies; or
 - One venue managed by the City and the other operated by a society.
- Research has been conducted with various organizations that have similar operations as what we are exploring. For single-society operations with both theatres and art galleries, interviews were held with:

- Evergreen Cultural Centre in Coquitlam;
- Maple Ridge Arts Centre; and
- Rotary Centre in Kelowna.

- For standalone theatre societies the following interviews were conducted:
 - Gateway Theatre in Richmond;
 - Kay Meek Centre in West Vancouver; and
 - Vernon & District Performing Arts Centre.

- Two combined art gallery/café organizations were interviewed; and one in the Okanagan near Enderby is pending.

- Interviews were conducted with artist-run centres; however, the challenge is in finding a café in an artist-run centre.

- The Consultant is making arrangements to meet with City of Surrey staff to discuss what the incremental cost would be to the City in terms of running two new spaces, and the impact on affordability for community users if run by the City.

- Changes may be coming to the *Society Act*, but the earliest it would go to the legislature is in the fall of 2015. Once passed, there would be an implementation period of about two years. The consultant is considering the implications of the proposed changes to this Act.

- Research into contemporary arts space has provided the largest wealth of questions that need to be clarified. An artist-run centre is a very specific kind of gallery focused on promotion of arts, whereby a café/gallery targets the community it is situated in; both are valid approaches but would require different governance structures.

- The role and success of the café would either be strictly a means to fund the gallery operations or it would be an integral part of enhancing community engagement. A professional café operator could be brought in to run the café portion which would be separate from programming. This option would require more clarification and more discussions.

- It is necessary to explore what would happen to the gallery if the café fails. People want the art gallery but they don't want the potential failure of the café to impact the gallery.

- Research will be complete by November 15; options will then be developed for review by CDAC. Stakeholder consultation will be conducted between November 17 and 30. The final report will be presented to CDAC in December or January.

Discussion

Currently, consultation will be held only with the people who have already expressed an interest in these spaces; there may be broader consultation in the future. Staff commented that it is unclear who the stakeholders in the performing arts sector would be besides Peninsula Productions. The Consultant noted that it is difficult to make recommendations other than City-run operations unless there is a group out there that has the skill and the interest to take it on. The Consultant confirmed that stakeholder consultation will include one-on-one interviews.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS**D. NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. Proposed New City Centre Arts Space, S. McKinnon, Manager, Arts Services**
File: 7850-01

The following comments were made:

- In the City of Surrey's Cultural Plan there have been discussions of decentralizing arts and heritage services. Opportunities for new cultural spaces have been explored and one property in the City Centre was reviewed that might be appropriate as arts space.
- Staff toured the property which is flanked by the BC Lions Training Facility to the south and the Chuck Bailey Covered Youth Park across the street. The space is approximately 2,800 square feet and the interior is currently subdivided. The high ceilings would be an attraction for the arts.
- The grounds are enclosed by a chain link fence. There is limited available parking with four dedicated parking stalls within the fenced area and six stalls outside. The fencing could be removed but it also provides security for the property.
- There are skylights that allow for natural light; two single washrooms which would have to be renovated; and bare unfinished concrete floors. The dividing wall is temporary and could either be reinforced or removed to create one large space.
- A challenge with some older buildings is the presence of asbestos; the walls could not be left unfinished. An interior wall could be created without penetrating the existing wall where asbestos could become airborne if tampered with. The concrete floors could be cleaned and patched; we would ensure that the roof and skylights don't leak; and a fire suppression sprinkler system would be installed.
- When opportunities such as this arise in other municipalities, quite often community consultation is undertaken on how to renovate; this is followed by requests for proposals from potential user groups.

Discussion

Renovation costs are estimated at \$200,000 to create a public assembly space. With funds that currently exist the washroom and interior walls could be renovated, and the floor would have to be left as is. Fundraising for further improvements is an option.

It is a decent size space with good potential in a good location, and the structural aspect of the building is good. There is potential for lots of use by the Arts community in terms of proximity to the public art walking loop, Centre Stage at City Hall and the Urban Screen venue at Chuck Bailey Recreation Centre. The Downtown Surrey Business Improvement Association would like to see something that has broad public appeal; activating the space would make the neighbourhood safer.

Staff noted that it would be great for rehearsal space. Most arts groups just need a very basic space for rehearsal, but it would need more work if it was to be used as a performance space. It was noted that the Surrey Festival of Dance members often do not have space to practise, and many other emerging not for profit organizations need office space. The space could be used for temporary art exhibitions as well.

It was suggested consideration be given to more industrial creation of arts similar to what exists at Granville Island. Staff noted that a request for proposals would be put forth moving forward with renovations.

Staff will be meeting tomorrow night with 57 groups who have submitted expressions of interest letters for the 2015 Surrey Cultural Grants. We will make them aware of this proposed new space and start to seek their interest and needs in the proposed City Centre arts space.

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL**F. CORRESPONDENCE****G. INFORMATION ITEMS**

- 1. Band-Aid Youth Musician Development Workshop**, K. Gallie, Manager, Performing Arts (Video Presentation)
File: 0390-20

The following comments were made:

- The concept for Band-Aid came from the youth themselves. They put together a team to meet with Art Services staff over the course of one year, and out of that process the concept for this day of workshops was born. Youth collaborated, advocated and negotiated in creating Band-Aid.
- Forty-four (44) youth took part in workshops for song writing, home recording, social media and marketing, and stage presence; this culminated in a performance at the end of the day.

- Staff presented a video of how the day's events unfolded. One of the bands has since performed at Culture Days, several performed at Youth Fest, and there will be other opportunities at the Cloverdale Rodeo.
- Staff received feedback that as a result of the relationships formed amongst the youth at Band-Aid the atmosphere around the bands at Youth Fest was very different than last year. The youth all knew each other, there was good energy, and they were no longer shy, territorial or competitive. Without Band-Aid all of this collaboration would never have happened.

Discussion

The Committee noted they would assist in any way they can to support more of this type of collaboration. Staff noted that last year's budget was approximately \$6,000, and there was not enough time to cultivate extensive outside sponsorship.

Tired of the battle of the bands type of scenario, the youth wanted to collaborate, strengthen and help each other succeed.

Thornley Creative donated a web site development as a draw prize.

2. **Surrey International Film Festival Invitation**, K. Gallie, Manager, Performing Arts
File: 0330-20

The following comments were made:

- The Surrey International Film Festival takes place on November 1 at the Surrey Arts Centre and November 14 at Centre Stage in Surrey City Hall. The premier screening of "Layover", a film by well-established film maker Joshua Caldwell, will be shown on the Gala night. There will be a Q&A after the screening.

3. **Sounds of Summer 2014**, L. Cavan, GM, Parks, Recreation and Culture
File: 7800-01

The following comments were made:

- The Sounds of Summer 2014 began as a desire to activate some gardens in the City, and expanded to feature a greater range of culturally diverse performances in six different locations across the City.
- Key objectives included:
 - Provide free programming opportunities;
 - Encourage and promote additional park usage, activities and volunteer opportunities;
 - Enhance a sense of community.
- In addition to the musical component, staff has been trying to bring in different cultural themes such as Artist in the Park at Bear Creek.

4. **UBC Urban Design Lecture Series**, S. McKinnon, Manager, Arts Services
File: 0330-20

The following comments were made:

- Staff noted that this session has already sold out and they are exploring the potential for additional seating and finding a way to accommodate people on a wait list.

5. **Surrey Civic Theatre's 2014-15 Season Update**, K. Gallie, Manager, Performing Arts
File: 7800-01

The following comments were made:

- The Surrey Civic Theatres kicked off the 2014-15 season on October 15 with "Avenue Q".
- The inaugural season for Centre Stage began October 16 with Public Art Pecha Kucha night, co-produced by the Surrey Art Gallery and Surrey Civic Theatres.

6. **2015 Cultural Grants Program Update**, S. McKinnon, Manager, Arts Services

The following comments were made:

- In 2013, 46 Expressions of Interest forms were received, 35 of which followed through with an application; some funding went to each group. In 2014, 58 Expressions of Interest forms were received; 12 were new; funding went to 35 of the 58. Fifty-seven applications have been received so far for 2015; 13 are new groups.
- Staff will be meeting with 57 groups on October 22 at the Studio Theatre in the Surrey Arts Centre to go through the application process and update them on changes to the program. They will also be provided with information on the new AH branding and the new space proposed in City Centre and be invited to provide proposals for use of that space.
- If anyone on the CDAC is interested in participating in the 2015 grant evaluation and review process, contact S. McKinnon.

H. OTHER BUSINESS

1. **CDAC 2015 Meeting Schedule for Adoption**, C. Bejtovic, Legislative Services
File: 0540-20 CDAC

It was Moved by B. Cooper
Seconded by B. McMurray
That the schedule of 2015 meeting dates for
the Culture Development Advisory Committee be adopted.
Carried

2. **Verbal Updates**

- A. Calbery, Youth Representative
 - Will be performing at the Light Festival in Cloverdale on Saturday, October 25 between the hours of 6:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.
- W. Bollard
 - Peninsula Productions have partnered with Semiahmoo Arts and have been provided office space and rehearsal space.
 - The family show "Jackie" takes place on Sunday, October 26 at 3:00 p.m. W. Bollard has some complimentary tickets available.
 - "Mary's Wedding" will take place in November.
 - W. Bollard will be performing in "Crazy for You" at the Gateway Theatre in December.
- C. Thornley
 - "Blues for the Bank" is taking place January 25, 2015 at the Sheraton Guildford. The Sheraton has set aside dates for this event in 2016 and 2017 as well. This is a fundraiser for the Surrey Food Bank.
- T. Fasciglione
 - The Friendship Centre is beginning to expand their arts program. The Executive Director has been in talks with staff at the City in this regard.
- J. Hawkins
 - SFU is hosting Public Square, a week-long series of events looking at different elements of art topics.
- B. Cooper
 - A reading with author Kate Pullinger is taking place on Saturday, October 25 at Semiahmoo Arts.
 - International Artists Day is taking place this weekend, Friday through Sunday, with several events taking place in the community centre in White Rock.

- Sunday is the opening of the 40th Anniversary of the Arts Council Art Show at the South Surrey Recreation and Arts Centre from 2:00-4:00 p.m.
- B. McMurray
 - B. McMurray will be involved in the International Artists Day Festival and has a painting in the Semiahmoo Arts 40th Anniversary Show.
- L. Cavan
 - A media release will be out November 3 announcing the November 22 Tree Lighting Festival at City Hall, the event will include children's, youth, and seniors' programming in the atrium.
- J. O'Donnell
 - There are nine graphic banners designed for the "AH" campaign. The brand was launched in September and will be rolled out this fall and in the new year. Staff acknowledges the work of Thornley Creative on the project. The Committee suggested displaying the banners in the City Room at City Hall.
 - Staff also advised that there is a new page on the City's web site, www.surrey.ca/ah pushing out the brand and showcasing the profile of Arts & Heritage. The new module brings together all of the exhibitions and events in A&H. The Committee noted that there has been talk about non City of Surrey organizations being permitted to promote on this web site. Staff commented that this is the first phase and there are discussions about strategies to enhance awareness of non-profit groups.
- S. McKinnon
 - The International Artists Day Festival will also have a Speaker Series. Among others, Anita Huberman will be speaking; all of the speakers will have a discussion period. There will be an anonymous art show prior to the after party. Two-hundred 12 x 12 paintings by artists in the community will be on display; the ticket price can go towards the selection of one of the pieces of art.
- Councillor Villeneuve
 - B. Cooper has submitted a letter notifying the Committee that she is stepping down from CDAC. Roxanne Charles who is a member of the Board of Directors of Semiahmoo Arts has expressed an interest in sitting on the Committee. Councillor Villeneuve thanked B. Cooper for all of her contributions.
 - Staff will clarify the process for R. Charles to be officially made a member of the Committee.

I. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Culture Development Advisory Committee will be held on November 18, 2014, at 3:00 p.m.

J. ADJOURNMENT

The Culture Development Advisory Committee adjourned at 4:29 p.m.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Chairperson – Councillor J. Villeneuve