

Culture Development Advisory Committee Minutes

Present:

Chair – Councillor Villeneuve
Vice-Chair – Councillor Woods
R. Charles
M. Howchin (for C. Girardi)
B. McMurray
C. Li-Leger
F. McLafferty
U Maxwell-Lewis
W. Bollard

Regrets:

C. Girardi
C. Thornley
J. Hawkins

Staff Present:

D. Jones, Manager, Economic Development
R. Gallagher, Manager, Heritage Admin & Facilities
K. Gallie, Performing Arts Manager
L. Cavan, GM Parks, Recreation & Culture
S. Bhogal, Deputy Chief Librarian
A. Boehm, IIC Liaison, Economic Development
S. McKinnon, Manager, Arts Services
L. Davison, Visual & Community Art Manager
L. Saffery, Museum Manager
J. Strom, Curator, Surrey Art Gallery
C. Bejtovic, Legislative Services

Round table introductions took place in order to familiarize new member John Kearns with the Committee. Mr. Kearns is a representative from the Surrey Board of Trade.

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. The minutes of the Culture Development Advisory Committee meeting, held June 16, 2015, to be adopted.

It was

Moved by Councillor Woods

Seconded by B. McMurray

That the minutes of the Culture

Development Advisory Committee meeting of June 16, 2015 be adopted.

Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

1. **Dona Cadman, Buskerfest.**
Delegation was unable to attend.

The agenda was varied with the addition of the following delegation.

2. **A. Boehm, IIC Liaison, Economic Development.** In attendance to provide an update on the Newton Art Walk and Agency C gallery opening.

The following comments were made:

- The Newton Pop-up Gallery opening took place July 23; the Art Walk took place on September 12.

- The vision of this project was to explore an emerging trend whereby art is used as a tool for revitalizing urban centres faced with the challenges associated with empty storefronts. Similar projects have occurred in other cities, most notably in Seattle.
- This project will create a cultural destination, a festival atmosphere along 137 Street, engaging a variety of different groups in arts, business and community groups, promoting the idea of a cultural corridor, and initiating arts destinations and venues in the vicinity of King George Boulevard.
- The City is looking at retaining local artists and attracting other artists and organizations to the City. Additional arts related projects played an integral role in the success of the Art Walk; the Newton BIA sponsored canvas painting and local musicians from the South Asian community participated in creating a fun festival environment. Community partners were also key to the success of this project including the Friends of the Grove.
- C. Li-Leger provided an overview of how this project came to be. The City secured space for a gallery from the Value Group, and a curatorial collective entitled “Agency C” was established to operate the space. As the project evolved it was unveiled in stages; the gallery opened at the end of July; the Art Walk event happened in the fall.
- The community outreach was amazing. Neighbouring businesses opened that would not normally be open during the evening. Staff noted that the art served as a magnet and generated positive light and energy in an area not known for that. Arnold Silber, the property owner, hopefully will stay with the program and be an advocate for other landowners and developers in the City to get involved.
- The Committee noted that it is important to keep the momentum going, and suggested a media release for the gallery, and to promote the “Cabinets of Curiosity” windows project, which is on display until October 31. The first gallery show ends on October 15 when there will be a change of exhibitions.
- The Committee suggested continuing to look at economic development initiatives to attract other forms of business to keep the revitalization going. Photographs of the events will be posted on the City's web site.
- Staff will send a letter of thanks on behalf of CDAC to the Gallery Curatorial Collective, and a letter to Arnold Silber regarding continued leasing of the space.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS**1. Strengthening Youth & Communities Through Art**

L. Davison, Visual and Community Art Manager

The following comments were made:

- Staff presented a research report on youth engagement and community building through art asking for feedback on priority locations for implementing the first phase. Funding for this research came in the form of a grant from the BC Arts Council to the Surrey Art Gallery (SAG). The results of the research recommend that the City implement a community art program with a focus on youth engagement.
- Community art is defined as a catalyst for creating community connection. Visible and underlying benefits of a community art program include making a significant contribution to the lives of individuals and improvement of neighbourhoods.
- A community arts program needs access to safe and accessible places, program consistency, opportunities to explore a variety of art practices, resources such as free programming and bus tickets, and social and leadership opportunities.
- The program is designed to fulfill ultimate goals which empower young people to lead. It decentralizes opportunities, removes barriers to participation, and connects young people and artists with their communities.
- Visual arts through to performing arts, heritage assets, and services will be included in the process.

In order for the Committee to have time to review the report, further discussion will be placed on the agenda for the next committee meeting.

D. NEW BUSINESS**1. 2015 Surrey International Children's Festival Annual Report**

K. Gallie, Manager, Performing Arts

File: 8200-01

The following comments were made:

- Curt Albertson is a volunteer in the Surrey Art Gallery Library and a member of the Surrey International Children's Festival community advisory committee. At his suggestion, an annual report was generated for the 2015 Surrey International Children's Festival.
- The Surrey International Children's Festival is one of five major festivals in Surrey and operates with a team of more than 300 volunteers.

- The 2015 Festival attendance topped 20,000 for the first time. The Golden Dragon Water Puppet Theatre from Vietnam was the largest show ever staged at the Festival.
- Ticketed performances averaged 96% full houses on Thursday and Friday, with 16 out of 22 performances sold out. Saturday audiences averaged 65% full houses with five performances sold out.
- The Make a Memory sponsorship program solicits community business sponsorship to provide subsidized tickets to less advantaged children.
- The Canadian Heritage grant funding was increased to \$98,000 over two years in recognition of the Festival's growth in international programming, programming for toddlers and preschoolers and community engagement initiatives.
- Sponsorship continues to be the Festival's biggest challenge; this is not unique to the Surrey International Children's Festival. Increasingly, sponsors are asking for more in terms of their expectations and how they would be recognized. There is a need to cultivate more sponsors.

Discussion

- The Annual Report will help when cultivating sponsorship. Staff advised that a copy of the Annual Report will be provided to each Council member.

2. **Centre Stage and City Room Activation Update**

K. Gallie, Manager, Performing Arts

File: 0760-20

The following comments were made:

- Centre Stage opened in April, 2014. In the first year of operation 110 events were held in Centre Stage and the City Room combined. The number of bookings for September, 2015 is three times the number of bookings for the same month a year ago. The growth trend is continuing into October and November.
- Beginning to see a niche develop with events that are more along the lines of announcements, conferences, combined usage; not necessarily all arts focused events.
- Theatre presentations included Grimm and Fisher; Monster Theatre; Tucked and Plucked in July in cooperation with the Surrey Pride Festival Society; and a Christmas concert by Infinitus. A Pecha Kucha event is scheduled for September 24.
- We are getting a lot of return clients; this is a direct result of staff and the work done in outreach, making sure clients are comfortable and well looked after.

3. **KMG Book Launch**
J. Strom, Curator, Surrey Art Gallery
File: 7800-01

The following comments were made:

- Staff provided a brief update on the publication launch for "*In the Wake of the Komagata Maru: Transpacific Migration, Race and Contemporary Art*".
- The Surrey Art Gallery (SAG) held an exhibition for the 100th anniversary of the Komagata Maru incident. The incident has continued to be important for Canadian identity for the South Asian community. The exhibition included 14 artists from Canada, India and the United States; and there was a 7,500 word curatorial essay written, describing and contextualizing the art work in the exhibition.
- The project provided unprecedented partnerships between municipal governments, the City of Surrey, City of Vancouver, Progressive Inter-cultural Community Services, Surrey Museum, Museum of Vancouver, the Khalsa Diwan Society, Maritime Museum, Surrey Libraries and the SFU Archives.
- Projects such as this inspire people through art and the creativity of working artists; engage cross-cultural conversation; and focus on art and race.
- The publication documents and expands on the proceedings from the two-day *Disfiguring Identities Symposium*, which included 12 essays, 3 panel discussions, and a film and video screening. Over 5,000 people participated in the art exhibition and related events, including the symposium.
- The circulation of the publication in print and digital form will reach thousands more in the future. This publication demonstrates the significant role that visual artists play in engaging with the difficult subjects of our time.

Discussion

- Staff noted that there is a long history of the Gallery printing publications; however, digital publications are less costly and easier to circulate.
- Staff noted that artists in residence over the last year looked at the Surrey Art Gallery's 40-year history engaging with issues and ideas of different people and places, and invited the Committee to the exhibition opening on Saturday.

4. Jacquard Loom Restoration

L. Panko, Curator Collections and L. Montague, Program Assistant

The following comments were made:

- The Jacquard loom is an extraordinary piece of cultural history that dates back to the 1800's. The loom is highly technical which led to the search for someone with the expertise to assist in the restoration of the loom.
- Honey Hooser, a weaver, teacher, and long-time resident of Surrey, brought the loom to Surrey, where it became part of the Hooser weaving collection now housed in the Surrey Museum. As an artifact, the loom has been fully documented and can be viewed 24/7 on the collections management database at surrey.ca/heritage.
- The loom is significantly historical because it is the precursor to the history of computer hardware and programming due to the punch cards; it influenced the industrial revolution and the textile industry.
- After being moved to the Museum the loom was not working properly and needed some fine tuning; an expert was required to make the repairs. Julie Holyoke is a foremost authority on the Jacquard loom; last September she worked for about a week with Dario Bartolini and Ruth Scheuing on the restoration of the loom.
- The restoration is a work in progress and the team has worked together to mend or replace problem cords; heads were cleaned and hooks repaired or replaced; the lacing was properly tensioned in order for the cards to advance properly. The loom requires constant maintenance.
- Ruth Scheuing provided training for volunteers, teaching how to weave correctly and how to maintain the equipment. A video was made for future training and reference. Demonstrations are given on special event days.
- Julie Holyoke is currently working in India and keeping an out for a punching table for the Museum. The punching table creates the patterns on the punch cards.

Discussion

- Staff explained how the punch cards are designed. They would like to engage youth and the public to be a part of that process.
- Textile art is becoming more popular as it has become modernized with new yarns, new colour blends, and new fibres. Staff suggested we continue to market the programming through the Library and the City Page.
- Staff are looking at the trend in the Maker Movement and would like to start promoting that as we open up the new kids gallery, and have more programs for people to actually do things in the Museum. It was suggested to offer presentations at seniors' centres.

- On a recent visit to Turkey, J. Kearns noted that they were very concerned about potential for the loss of the art of rug weaving in Turkey. They have connected with the university to get the PR out there and it was fascinating what they'd done to get youth involved.

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

F. CORRESPONDENCE

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

The following reports were received for information.

1. **Surrey Spectacular Series: Invitation to *Red Rock Diner***
K. Gallie, Manager, Performing Arts
File: 0330-20
2. **Culture Days 2015 at the Surrey Arts Centre: Invitation**
K. Gallie, Manager, Performing Arts
File: 0330-20
3. **Surrey Museum - Sunday Openings**
L. Saffery, Museum Manager
File: 7850-01
4. **Olde Harvest Fair - Historic Stewart Farm**
R. Gallagher, Manager, Admin and Facilities
File: 7850-01

H. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Updates

Poet Laureate

- The Poet Laureate Committee is in the process of finalizing their choice for the Poet Laureate and should have an announcement at the October CDAC meeting.

Arts Council - Upcoming events include:

- Arts in the City studio tour
- Youth Arts Council coffee house at the Cultural Centre
- Mural project at Newton Recreation Centre

Friends of the Museum

- AGM will be held October 31 @ 10:00 a.m. in 1912 Hall.
- Friends of the Museum will make a payment to the City of Surrey in the amount of \$24,000 in order that entry to the Museum continues to be free to everyone for another year.
- The very popular LEGO exhibition will be finished September 19.
- The Writers Conference is taking place at the Sheraton Guildford October 23-25; author signings on Friday of the conference.
- Kids Gallery opening on October 10 at the Musuem.

Peninsula Productions

- Peninsula Productions will be bringing in a Danish swing band October 16 at the Star of Sea Hall. Lindy hop dancers will put on a demonstration.

Semiahmoo Arts

- Semiahmoo Arts "Paint the Town" event was successful despite the wind storm.
- Programming is going well with increasing drop-ins.
- Possible art battles fundraiser/competition in the future.

2. Revised Capital Budget Summary
L. Cavan, GM, Parks, Recreation and Culture

The following comments were made:

- Questions were brought forward at the last CDAC meeting regarding the City of Surrey commitments to Cultural Capital Projects budget. Staff provided a revised document to show the complete budget for each recent project and proposed program for the up-coming five years. It included the total City budget amount, extracting what came from other levels of government and funding partners.
- Included in this document was a list of future cultural capital investments as outlined in the Cultural Strategic Plan; these items will be brought forward for Council's consideration as they deliberate the next budget.

3. CDAC October Meeting Date Change

Due to the Federal Election being held on Monday, October 19, the Council meeting had to be moved to Tuesday, October 20, the regularly scheduled CDAC meeting date. As such, the CDAC meeting has been rescheduled to Tuesday, October 13 @ 2:30 p.m.

I. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Culture Development Advisory Committee will be held on October 13, 2015, at 2:30 p.m.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by U. Maxwell-Lewis
Seconded by F. McLafferty
That the Culture Development Advisory

Committee do now adjourn.

Carried

The Culture Development Advisory Committee adjourned at 4:27 p.m.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Chairperson – Councillor J. Villeneuve