

Culture Development Advisory Committee - Minutes

Present:

Councillor Villeneuve, Chair
Councillor Woods, Vice-Chair
A. Bowman
B. McMurray
C. Thornley
N. Chima

Regrets:

C. Girardi
M. Gollan
J. Kearns
U. Maxwell-Lewis
F. McLafferty

Staff Present:

L. Davison, Visual & Community Arts Manager
K. Gallie, Performing Arts Manager
K. Kooner, Sr. Business Engagement Specialist
L. White, Manager, Community and
Recreation Services
T. Ayotte, Cultural Development Coordinator
L. Anderson, Legislative Services

The Chair noted that a quorum of Committee members was not present at the scheduled meeting start time. Correspondingly the Chair requested that the delegations provide their presentations as scheduled, and varied the agenda such that items requiring a resolution of the Committee would be deferred until quorum was achieved.

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Considered immediately following delegation B2.

B. DELEGATIONS**1. Ellie King, Artistic Director, Royal Canadian Theatre Company and
Mattias Boon, President, Streerich Hip Hop Society**

Ellie King, Artistic Director, Royal Canadian Theatre Company and Mattias Boon, President, Streerich Hip Hop Society, were in attendance to provide an update on their first year of operation at the City Parkway Studio.

A PowerPoint presentation was provided, which highlighted some of the programs and achievements throughout the first year of Streerich Hip Hop Society (Streerich) and the Royal Canadian Theatre Company (RCTC).

Mattias Boon provided a short video to demonstrate some of the growing talent developed through Streerich. Comments were as follows:

- Having a physical space has become an important addition for Hip Hop culture in Surrey and throughout the Lower Mainland; connecting people through the Hip Hop arts and providing a platform for youth and people of all backgrounds to develop their creative potential through the artistic elements of Hip Hop culture.
- With a vast network of professionals, Streerich is able to offer a variety of affordable programs and drop-in classes on a weekly basis as well as workshop options to suit the needs of the community. The goal is to use various approaches to build self-confidence and allow people to express themselves

using creative art forms and empowering them with the skills to communicate effectively in a safe and fun environment.

- Affordable drop-in breakdance and DJ lessons are available on Wednesday evenings (\$3.00 for 3 hours), providing individuals with the opportunity to try their interest first. This is especially beneficial for those who have an interest in becoming a DJ as they have access to the equipment before purchasing their own equipment.
- In addition to the various introductory drop-in classes, programs and workshop options available include:
 - *Spoken Word, Rap and Songwriting*: A high energy, interactive approach for exploring creative writing, poetry and the technical aspects of "how to rap". Combining elements of basic music theory and rhyme, it is designed for people at any skill level to have fun improvising with words.
 - *Breakdance, Locking and Popping*: Teaching the fundamentals and history of breakdancing; designed to make people comfortable moving to music, and learning how to cypher. A typical class will have 8-10 students who come from all over the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley.
 - *Aerosol Arts*: "Legal graffiti" participants learn to develop technical hand styles, typography and create murals; bringing visual arts from the street to the classroom, engaging in discussions around traditional and modern art.
 - *Hip Hop History and Culture*: This workshop explores the origins and roots of Hip Hop culture, tracing back a variety of cultural influences and struggles, to its beginnings in the Bronx, New York City. The aim is to share this knowledge, reclaiming the fundamental values of peace, love, unity and having fun.
- With the increased popularity of DJ skills, one on one classes are also available for those already pursuing that interest.

B. McMurray joined the meeting at 2:47 pm.

- With the aim to have programs accessible for everyone, the fees are kept affordable at \$15.00 for 1.5 hour classes – with the majority of the fee paid to the instructor(s); classes are currently limited to 8-10 students.
- Whenever possible, local and international artists (when in town) have come to the studio to support new talent and offer a class, drawing interest and participants from Vancouver to Chilliwack; always very well attended.
- Participation in community and special events provides an opportunity for artists to showcase their talent and gain exposure as well as inspire youth to tap into their artistic abilities. These opportunities can also provide the networking needed to gain recognition and have resulted in paid gigs for many performers, including DJ services for the City of Surrey.
- A showcase competition between two internationally recognized breakdance crews was held at the studio with overwhelming interest and attendance. It was a great way to inspire youth in Surrey to see where they can get with this art form.

- Community building and networking is extremely important to the success of Streerich. Working with a local 'fun band', a group of 16 year-old youth that practice close to the studio, has resulted in a great collaboration to showcase talent and support events. Another opportunity also includes participation in the upcoming Open House at Chuck Bailey Recreation Centre on June 9, 2018.
- Majority of participants range in age from 14 – 30 years. Looking into setting up a 'buddy system' (given the location), to make the studio more accessible for younger participants (8-10 years).
- Looking to the future, Streerich has hired a consultant to assist in developing outreach criteria to create a stronger team and offer more levels of programs as interest and talent continues to grow.

On behalf of the RCTC, Ellie King expressed sincere appreciation for the dedicated studio and shop space, which has been a 'game changer' in providing the RCTC an opportunity to grow, develop programs and connect with the community.

Additional comments were as follows:

- The RCTC mandate is to:
 - Provide a non-discriminatory, safe, respectful, creative environment for theatre artists at all stages of their development;
 - Keep ticket prices affordable, making live theatre accessible for all (tickets also given to organizations, particularly those involved with children and youth);
 - Offer free mentorship to community members of all ages, backgrounds and cultures with a special emphasis on youth;
 - Present professional and semi-professional theatre;
 - Create a new, original work annually;
 - Make careful programming choices and keep high production values;
 - Attract new theatre goers as well as providing for the more experienced patron;
 - Be good members of the community, giving back, and collaborating with other organizations.
- Except for mentorship students, artists are paid for the work they do as a mark of respect.
- The first event to take place in the new RCTC home was a professionally-led, free of charge workshop in March 2017. Sponsored by Cloverdale Paint, a full day was spent on scenic art, and received a strong response and interest from a wide age range of participants.
- 'The Hound of the Baskervilles' was the first production to be developed in the City Parkway Studio and Shop, including production development, set building/painting and rehearsals. It was a fully professional show and first in the 2017/2018 Series. The production opened at the Surrey Arts Centre and toured to four additional locations in the Lower Mainland.

- Having the fully functional shop and space to put up scenery for the cast to rehearse has immeasurable benefits, particularly as when working with younger people who are new to theatre.
- A genuine British Panto is produced every year as part of the free RCTC Youth Mentorship Programme, which runs from September through January. 'Sinbad, the Pirates and the Dinosaur' was presented at the Surrey Arts Centre in December 2017.
- The mentorship program exposes students to all aspects of production (costume making, scenery construction and on-stage performance) providing a broad range of benefits. In addition to teaching good theatrical practice, literal skills, acting, dancing and singing, the program engages youth, increasing their creative development and instilling a sense of connection and community.
- Partnerships/community outreach: Currently in discussions to partner with an improv company in Vancouver. Hoping to roll out both drop-in and booked classes for improv for all ages beginning in May, with youth taking priority. Also talking with Simon Fraser University to bring dance opportunities into the studio.
- To support summer camps there will be two summer intern students coming on board in July. Summer camps will be offered for two age groups: 8 – 12 years and 13 – 18 years. Camp attendees will create their own theatre production and present at the end of the course. Financial support is being sought in order to offer the camps free of charge or at a low cost.
- To support emerging artists, RCTC is inviting the community for submissions for the 'One Act Play Festival' (either original or previously produced), which will run for three Saturdays including a Francophone evening. Free to the community, RCTC will provide the space, technical and front of house support, marketing support and if wanted, dramaturgy.
- Next for RCTC:
 - 2018/2019 season with three productions:
 - Arsenic and Old Lace (October);
 - Hansel, Gretel and the Strolling Players (December); and
 - A Bedfull of Foreigners (March 2019);
 - Youth Theatre Company, launching September 2018; free/low cost program led by a Bachelor of Performing Arts emerging artist. Weekly sessions for ages 13-18 years, culminating in a public performance of the student's work in the Studio; and
 - New programming opportunities: With rehearsals for the 2018/2019 season to take place on Saturdays and Sundays, the remainder of the week is available for other programming.
- The RCTC is immensely grateful to the City of Surrey for supporting the development of City Parkway Studio, and looks forward to an even brighter future as the Company grows through its youth initiatives and community outreach programming.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chair expressed appreciation for the presentation and congratulated Streetch and RCTC on their achievements to-date, noting that the pilot project to renovate the space and provide organizations the opportunity to utilize and help grow and connect with the community is showing tremendous success.

C. Thornley joined the meeting at 3:15 pm and the Committee attained quorum.

2. **Kent Gallie, Performing Arts Manager, and Mary Rukavina, Special Events and Filming Manager**

Kent Gallie, Performing Arts Manager, and Mary Rukavina, Special Events and Filming Manager, provided a presentation on Surrey Special Events 2018.

A PowerPoint presentation, providing an overview of City signature events, including marketing and sponsorship, was provided.

Mary Rukavina provided the following comments:

- The City of Surrey has taken the initiative to produce quality events that are offered free of charge. With the assistance of large corporate partners and generous media sponsors, the City puts on five major signature events each year:
 1. **Party for the Planet:** On April 14th the City's Earth Day celebration celebrated its 8th year. Chief Harley Chapel provided a welcome during the opening ceremony, in addition to the Semiahmoo First Nations children's performance. The City welcomed over 10,000 participants throughout the day (10 am – 6 pm) at Civic Plaza. Outdoor performances and activities were enjoyed.
 2. **Canada Day:** Surrey Canada Day is one of the country's largest Canada Day celebrations and the largest in Western Canada. Hosted at the Bill Reid Millennium Amphitheatre in Cloverdale from 10:00 am – 10:30 pm, the full day of festivities has something for everyone. The evening ends with a spectacular fireworks display.
 3. **Fusion Festival:** On July 21st and 22nd, from 11 am – 10 pm each day, the City will be celebrating the 11th Surrey Fusion Festival at Holland Park. Growing from one stage and 22 pavilions in 2008, there will be six stages of international, national and local performers and 50 cultural pavilions (the heartbeat of the festival). 100,000 attendees are anticipated over the two days to experience the entire world with representation from every continent. A big part of fusion festival is the food, providing an amazing culinary experience.
 4. **Tree Lighting Festival:** One of the last signature events of the year is the ever popular Surrey Tree Lighting Festival, held at City Hall. This year the event takes place on November 24th with the anticipated attendance of 20,000 throughout the day (12:00 pm – 7:00 pm). The entertainment

focuses more on holidays, choirs and creative activities popular with younger crowds (photos with Santa, mini Christmas train), with the tree lighting at the end of the day.

Kent Gallie presented on the fifth major signature event, as follows:

5. **Surrey International Children's Festival, May 24 – 26, 2018:**

- The 14th annual Surrey International Children's Festival will include performances from the Netherlands, U.K., Quebec and B.C. Children will be able to take part in more than 25 different art making activities on site, all lead by professional artists and educators, and will also learn more about their heritage, local French and Indigenous cultures and take in free performances on the Community Spirit Stage.
- There will be a daily Traditional Welcome to the Territory and acknowledgements at all shows. Germaine Langan, a local Indigenous event planner, is coordinating the Indigenous elements of the Festival.
- The Festival continues to run programming throughout the year, including:
 - *Cirque Surrey*, a free circus mentorship program for less advantaged youth ages 13 – 18 years; runs January to May.
 - *Break it Down*, a 17-week youth mentorship program for under-served youth in Newton that connects youth to their community through electronic music and hip hop dance.
 - *Identity Creation Courtyard*, will take place during the Festival at Surrey Art Centre courtyard. Indigenous program facilitator, Germaine Langan, will present workshops on family histories and origins.
 - *Make a Memory sponsorship program*, educational and ticket-access program. Gives students from under-served schools the opportunity to experience live performing arts. In 2017, principle program sponsor TD, along with 19 other Surrey-based small businesses, provided 1,600 tickets, that sent over 50 classes to the Festival.
- The Children's Festival hosts the largest volunteer program for the City. In 2017, over 325 volunteers (majority 14 to 19 years) contributed over 3,100 hours.
- Over the past number of years the Festival has increased the number of youth mentorship and group volunteering opportunities. Now in its 14th year, youth that attended the Festival as children are coming back to volunteer as art activity leaders, giving back to the community.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chair expressed appreciation for the presentation, acknowledged the energy and continued dedication from staff in securing and retaining major corporate sponsors to partner with the City, reaching the community and providing free extraordinary events for everyone.

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was Moved by Councillor Woods
Seconded by B. McMurray
That the minutes of the Culture
Development Advisory Committee meeting of February 20, 2018, be adopted.
Carried

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS**D. NEW BUSINESS****E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL****F. CORRESPONDENCE****G. INFORMATION ITEMS****1. Invitation: Listening to the Bees - Book Launch (May 11, 2018)**

Committee members were invited to attend the launch of the book, *Listening to the Bees*, by Surrey Poet Laureate, Renée Sarojini Saklikar and Governor General's Literary Award-winning author, Dr. Mark Winston, on Friday, May 11, 2018, 7:00 pm – 8:30pm, at City Centre Library, Room 418 (registration required).

2. 14th Annual Surrey International Children's Festival (May 24 – 26, 2018)

Committee members were invited to attend the 2018 Surrey International Children's Festival Sponsorship Appreciation event, hosted by the Surrey Board of Trade, on Wednesday, May 23, 2018, 5:30pm – 7:30pm, in the Lobby, Surrey Arts Centre.

H. OTHER BUSINESS**1. Verbal Reports**

- L. Davison, Visual and Community Arts Manager, provided a brief review, including photos, of the Surrey Art Gallery Spring Exhibitions Opening Reception, held on Saturday, April 14th. In addition to the exciting launch of Surrey Art Gallery's spring season and the three exhibitions *Flow: From the Movement of People to the Circulation of Information*, *Elizabeth Hollick: Body Politic*, and *Ben Bogart: Watching and Dreaming*, an overwhelming response

(standing room only) was received for the very informative Artist Talk given by locally celebrated painter, Elizabeth Hollick. A live performance was also presented by artist Chun Hua Catherine Dong in partnership with local collective AgentC Projects.

Copies of the Surrey Art Gallery Spring & Summer 2018 Guide, together with 'Art Monster' buttons, were provided on-table. It was also reported that the Art Explorer Guide for children can also be obtained just outside the main Gallery. The friendly art monsters in the booklet lead children around the Surrey Arts Centre, pointing out things to notice and asking imaginative questions about what they feel and see in the permanent artworks.

- C. Thornley encouraged Committee members to reach out to friends and associates for nominations for the 2018 Surrey Civic Treasure Awards; nominations close Friday, April 27, 2018. A brief summary of the criteria was provided.

I. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Culture Development Advisory Committee is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 15, 2018, at 2:30 pm, 2E Community Room B.**

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by N. Chima
Seconded by C. Thornley
That the Culture Development Advisory

Committee meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Culture Development Advisory Committee adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Councillor Villeneuve, Chairperson
Culture Development Advisory Committee