



# Meeting Minutes

## Arts Commission

City Hall  
601 4th Avenue E  
Olympia, WA 98501

Contact: Stephanie  
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**Thursday, January 14, 2016**

**6:00 PM**

**Room 112**

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm.

**1.A ROLL CALL**

**Present:** 7 - Chair Marygrace Jennings, Commissioner Susan Aurand, Commissioner Diana Fairbanks, Commissioner Ron Hinton, Commissioner Kathy Murray, Commissioner Katie Nelson, and Commissioner Rick Perry

**Absent:** 2 - Vice Chair Stacy Hicks, and Commissioner Britta Echte

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Dena Lee, Lhisa Reich, Robert Ragland, and City staff Fran Eide and Renee Sunde,

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Ms. Johnson asked to add "Percival Plinth Project" to the Art in Public Places Committee Report, and noted that the Poetry Retreat date under Upcoming was incorrect. The date should be January 21 rather than January 15. Commissioner Hinton moved to accept the agenda with changes, Commissioner Fairbanks seconded. The agenda was approved as amended.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

[16-0011](#) Approval of December 10, 2015 Arts Commission Minutes

**Attachments:** [OAC December 10 Minutes](#)

**The minutes were approved.**

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**5. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioners shared information about past and upcoming events. Ms. Johnson shared that Vice-Chair Hicks has been asked to serve on a mural project jury for the

Parking and Business Improvement Area (PBIA) Board. She noted that Councilmember Gilman is the new Council liaison to the Arts Commission, and that following the February Commission meeting, members are invited to attend a presentation on the arts in community put on by Olympians for People-Oriented Places (OPoP).

## 6. STAFF REPORT

### [16-0045](#) Annual Public Works Capital Projects Update

City Engineer Fran Eide provided information on upcoming projects from the 2016-2021 Capitol Facilities Plan. She noted that the period of "legacy" projects is over, and that the focus of the coming years is transportation, utility and maintenance. Commissioners were interested to note that projected 1% for Art estimates for upcoming sidewalks and the Boulevard/Morse Merriman Roundabout exceeded those they had planned for in the 2015 Municipal Art Plan. Staff will update estimates for 2016 while observing that those numbers will remain in flux until construction contracts are actually signed.

### [16-0046](#) City Economic Overview

Economic Development Director Renee Sunde provided an overview of the City's Economic Development strategy, setting the framework for future discussions linking the arts and economic development. Ms. Sunde also shared copies of the Olympia Downtown Business Outreach & Executive Summary.

## 7. BUSINESS ITEMS

### [15-1215](#) Gift of Art

**Attachments:** [Dignity in Labor Proposal](#)

[Gift Policy](#)

[Vanek Plinth Artist Statement](#)

Ms. Lhisa Reish from the Thurston-Mason-Lewis Labor County Central Labor Council (CLC) attended the meeting. Ms. Reish noted that the CLC was willing to provide a one year warranty on the work in case of damages. The Commission made the request because the site requested for placement by the CLC is very near a bar. Ms. Reish also requested that the CLC be noted on the sculpture plaque as the donor, and that a QR code or webpage point viewers to their website. Commissioners agreed to move that request forward in their recommendation to the City Manager. Ms. Johnson shared that the Heritage Commission is interested to work with the Arts Commission on this project, as part of the dedication during Heritage month in May or providing historic interpretation on the Labor Temple.

**Commissioner Aurand, seconded by Commissioner Perry, moved to forward**

**the donation proposal of "Dignity in Labor" by John Vanek to the City Manager for approval. The motion passed unanimously.**

[15-1071](#) 2016 Arts Commission Work Plan

**Attachments:** [Draft 2016 OAC Work Plan](#)

[Draft 2016 Municipal Art Plan](#)

Commissioners reviewed the plan and made minor changes. The final plan will be attached for approval at the February meeting.

**The discussion was continued to the Arts Commission due back on 2/11/2016**

[15-1198](#) Poet Laureate

**Attachments:** [Poet Laureate Referral](#)

Ms. Johnson reminded Commissioners of the Special Meeting January 21, with a presentation by Suzanne Simons, from The Evergreen State College, on the possibilities for a Poet Laureate for Olympia.

**The discussion was continued to the Arts Commission due back on 1/21/2016**

## 8. REPORTS

[16-0012](#) Commission Items

1.12 City Action Plan - No report.

1.13 Park Plan - Commissioner Hinton shared that he was at Council for the presentation of the Parks Plan, and that there was general appreciation of the process. He noted current Olympia Artspace Alliance Chair Kris Tucker spoke to the need for more Arts Program staff, given the workload outlined in the Plan.

1.14 Downtown Strategy - No report.

[16-0013](#) Community Events & Outreach Committee

1.7 Artspace/Arts Center Support - Commissioner Hinton noted there is a board retreat for the Olympia Artspace Alliance on January 30. He will have more to share following that meeting.

1.9 Define Creative District - Members of CEO shared they received information from staff about a toolbox on establishing creative districts put together by Americans for the Arts. They asked staff to invite Jill Barnes, Executive Director of the Washington Center, to the March Arts Commission meeting, to share her perspective on the topic.

1.10 Music in the Neighborhoods - No report.

2.a Arts Walk 50 & 51- Members of CEO talked about potential date changes in 2017, and ways to recognize the contributions of the Procession of the Species.

2.c Area Arts Promotion - No report.

2.d Legislative Arts Day - Ms. Johnson shared that she had most of the legislative appointments booked for February 10.

[16-0014](#) Art in Public Places Committee

1.2 Traffic Box Wrap - Ms. Johnson noted the westside boxes were 50% installed.

1.3 Music Out Loud - Ms. Johnson shared the RFP for contractors is being finalized.

1.5 Harrison/Black Lake Tree Guards - No report.

1.6 City Gateways - Commissioners will be sharing the Master Plan RFQ with the General Government Committee at their January meeting.

1.8 Guidelines for Temporary Display of Art at City Hall - Commissioner Fairbanks noted that she and Ms. Johnson met with City Communications Director Kellie Purse-Braseth, to bring her up to date. Ms. Purse-Braseth shared that one of her main interests would be the sustainability of temporary exhibits over time, both in staff time and funding. She will check in with the City Manager to gauge his thoughts.

1.4 Percival Plinth Project - Ms. Johnson proposed moving the project up by one month, with voting happening during the month of July. Commissioners made jury member recommendations for the 2016 process.

**9. OTHER TOPICS**

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24pm.

**Upcoming**

**Accommodations**