



# 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**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

**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 Echtle

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

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

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Ms. Johnson asked to add "Percival Plinth Project" to the Art in Public Places Committee Report, and noted the Poetry Retreat date under Upcoming was incorrect. The date should be January 21 rather than January 15.

**The agenda was approved as amended.**

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

**The minutes were approved.**

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT- None**

**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 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

### 6.A [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 the period of "legacy" projects is over, and the focus of the coming years is transportation, utility and maintenance. Commissioners noted the projected 1% for Art estimates for upcoming sidewalks and the Boulevard/Morse-Merryman Roundabout exceeded those they had planned for in the 2015 Municipal Art Plan. Staff will update estimates for 2016 while observing that numbers will remain in flux until construction contracts are actually signed.

**The report was received.**

### 6.B [16-0046](#) City Economic Overview

Economic Development Director Renée 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.

**The report was received.**

## 7. BUSINESS ITEMS

### 7.A [15-1215](#) Gift of Art

Ms. Lhisa Reish from the Thurston-Mason-Lewis Central Labor Council (CLC) attended the meeting. She reported 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 moved, seconded by Commissioner Perry, to forward the donation proposal of "Dignity in Labor" by John Vanek to the City Manager for approval. The motion passed unanimously.**

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

Commissioners reviewed the plan and made minor changes.

**The final plan will be attached for approval at the February meeting.**

**7.C      15-1198      Poet Laureate**

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 January 21 Arts Commission meeting.**

**8.      REPORTS**

**8.A      [16-0012](#)      Commission Items**

1.12 City Action Plan - No report.

1.13 Park Plan - Commissioner Hinton reported he was at Council for the presentation of the Parks Plan, and 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.

**The report was received.**

**8.B      [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.

1.9 Define Creative District - Members of CEO reported 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 reported she had most of the legislative appointments booked for February 10.

**The report was received.**

**8.C      [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 reported 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

reported she and Ms. Johnson met with City Strategic Communications Director Kellie Purse-Braseth, to bring her up to date. Ms. Purse-Braseth indicated 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.

**The report was received.**

**9. OTHER TOPICS - None**

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.