

## STAKEHOLDER MEETING SUMMARY NOTES

### DEVELOPMENT OF AN EXPANDED ARTS, CULTURES AND HERITAGE PROFILE FOR OLYMPIA

Wednesday, September 27, 2017  
City of Olympia City Council Chambers  
11:00am – 1:00pm

#### ArCH STAKEHOLDERS:

1. Mina Kiive: Board member, Olympia's Kato Sister City Association
2. John Hough: Author with Les Eldridge: *Maritime Olympia and South Puget Sound*
3. Stacy Waterman Hoey: Founder and Director of Arbutus Folk School
4. Dave King: Eco Woodwork, historic preservation carpenter; Native American (Cherokee) heritage
5. Greg Griffith: Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, DAHP
6. Ann Olson: Daughters of the Pioneers (60 local members); Board of Governor's Mansion Foundation; Manager if Crosby House Museum; Committee to host celebrations like recent Magna Carta anniversary in Capitol Rotunda
7. Bing Xu: Olympia Area Chinese Association, leader of Chinese Language School and myriad of Chinese cultural opportunities in the Olympia and Lacey
8. Gang Ma: Olympia Area Chinese Association whose mission is to introduce Chinese culture to local community; including Chinese New Year celebrations that are performed throughout the northwest
9. Lauren Danner: Author: *Crown Jewel Wilderness: Creating North Cascades National Park*; owner of Olympia's first nationally-designated mid-century house; former director of State Capital Museum
10. Shirley Baztan: President of the Board of Olympia Historical Society and Bigelow House<sup>3</sup>
11. Jackie Wall: Nisqually Tribe Historic Preservation Officer, protection of tribal resources

## OLYMPIA'S ASSETS

- What do you consider to be an asset in this community, as it relates to arts, cultures, and heritage?
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- Capitol Campus:
    - The Buildings, Landscape Plan and Grounds, Sense of 'Place', Centerpiece, Activities
  - People in the community are the asset; culture is collective asset; our community does not want to be labeled
  - Citizenry, people care about the community, they are engaged and they value the quality of life
  - Olympians share collective thoughts and customs:
    - Olympians appreciate diverse cultures, we are melting pot of many cultures
    - Resistance to be categorized
    - We are experiential beings – storytellers
  - Arts Walk – Involving all kinds of art and all kinds people, the entire community participates
  - Procession of the Species – the creative intermingling of the community
  - Harbor Days – community participation
  - Olympia's Farmers Market – A social hub for the community:
    - Appreciation for the culture and way of life of farmers and artisans
    - Keeps farmers elevated in the community
    - Big tourist draw
  - Historic Downtown – the large number of historic buildings contribute value:
    - Provide the base for activities
    - Represents the history of the city
    - Preserves a sense of who we are
    - Defines our character and individuality with distinctive architecture
    - Downtown has been well maintained and preserved. It has not lost its original character and history like so many other cities. Unique environment retained
    - Appreciate that downtown Olympia has avoided "McDonaldization"
    - Cultural draw and could be tourist draw – historic buildings and homes

- Appreciation for Collective Culture. Culture is a collection of thoughts and customs, these assets are intangible.
- Youth are less interested consumption and more interested in the intangible assets of values, community and culture.
- First nation peoples and the Pacific Northwest was last to be settled and influenced by westerners to our benefit:
  - The beautiful and unique natural environment surrounding us is preserved
- Diversity of local artists – the wide variety of disciplines
- Architecture, craftsmanship, history, culture – let's preserve it!
- Diversity - all types, socio-economic, cultural. The easy mellow interaction with one- another.
- Community value of and support of the arts:
  - Lots of good quality theater that is supported by the community:
    - Local, national and international productions

#### **IF YOU HAD A MAGIC ARTS, CULTURAL AND HERITAGE WAND ....**

- What would you wave it over to increase its capacity or sustainability?
- What would you create that doesn't currently exist?
- What else would you do – the wild card!

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- Affordable, adequate space:
    - A campus for Arbutus where all the work of varied craftsman could be done in one place.
    - Artists in residence space
    - Dedicated place/space to grow, to add new programs, including educational programs.
    - Support partnerships for artists and craftsman
  - Crafts sparks tourism – bring attention to craftsman who are preserving our heritage
  - Better parking for events:
    - Improve sense of safety with availability and lighting
    - More parking in close proximity to events
    - Better parking for Arts Walk, as an example
    - Better communication about available parking
    - Partnerships with private parking lot owners
    - Appreciation of the city making their parking lot available for events
    - Better, more available and safe parking will bring more people into city

- Streetcars from Tumwater to Farmers Market:
  - Improves access throughout community
  - Brings people and communities together – connectivity of people and places
  - Could be part of future transportation planning
  - City used to have street car system
- Facilities dedicated for cultural uses:
  - Multi-cultural Community Center to attract other cultures, visitors and tourism
  - International school
  - Language classes
- History Museum:
  - Capitol City should have a museum!
  - Shocking that city does not have a history museum. Most cities in the county have their own history museums
  - Co-locate historical with cultural museum: organize and plan together - who, what, when and where
- City should take lead to facilitate dialogue among historic and cultural groups:
  - Think collectively about resources, needs, interests, who to include
  - Support partnerships to make museum feasible
  - Tribal, estuarian, historical, traditional craftsmanship
    - Arbutus could be included in museum to showcase the richness of our unique cultural and craft heritage
- More staffing for Heritage resources
- Dire need for gallery space for artists, there is a gap that artists feel:
  - More Space – there is nothing available
  - Space to grow and expand
  - Space for new and established artists
  - Talented students out of TESC lose access [to studios, equipment] after leaving campus
  - Space for artists in residence
  - The craftsman trajectory is to learn, to produce, and to share that knowledge, they need space to do this

- Improve/Enhance the Visitors Center:
  - Education about role of the Capitol and governance
  - Civics lessons
  - Assert our distinctiveness as Capitol City
  - “One Day Tour” on website
  - Better use of social media
- Improve and enlarge city’s Welcome Center:
  - Increase capacity
  - Relocate
  - Improve Tourism support with app’s, social media
- Improve sense of safety downtown:
  - Help people overcome fear of going downtown
  - Diminish the stereotyping of people downtown
- Multi-generational and multi-cultural interaction:
  - Find ways to encourage interaction of young and old
  - Mentorships to pass on cultural and crafts heritage and skills
  - Storytelling – preserve our cultures
  - Draw out and celebrate knowledge and experience from older generations
- Crafts sparks tourism – bring attention to the craftsman who are preserving heritage
- Inventory of building owners and some type of collaboration to talk about space, needs etc.
- ArCH Incubator supported by the city, to help folks get started and sustain business:
  - Support and encourage young people to pursue their passions
  - Help with 501c3 status
  - Capital campaigns, fundraising, business management
  - Encourage retired professionals to help with advice, guidance and services
- Break down the silos – encourage broader perspective on how we think, work on projects and issues together:
  - Integrated decision-making processes between state, cities and county
  - Build relationships to coordinate resources
  - Museums need partnerships with cities and state to survive
  - Biggest silo is city and state

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- Marketing!
    - City take lead role in marketing the ArCH community and resources
    - Promotional help and better awareness of what's here
    - Access to city talent to help design marketing materials, brochures
    - City hire interns from local colleges to help develop marketing campaign and/or promotional materials
    - An ArCH marketing program should be part of Economic Development
  - Historic Property Matchmaker – need for space!
    - Connect those who are looking for space and with those who have space
    - Need information on where historic buildings are located and available space
  - Space is major issue, some venues and events have to move every year to accommodate growth. Would prefer to stay in one place to contribute to community
  - Need to know where space can be rented for events and meetings
    - Inventory of available space in city
  - Access tribal charitable funds:
    - Nisqually Tribe has funds
  - City needs a multi-purpose space to support a variety of arts/crafts/events
    - Capitol Center Building is a candidate
  - Dance space – both performance and public use
  - Save old City Hall – historic mid-century building that could be used for a museum:
    - County courthouse should move downtown but don't tear down this building to accommodate new courthouse
  - Sister City Garden needs to be re-energized, updated, nurtured and perhaps moved
    - Update Kato Sister City relationship
  - More staffing for Heritage resources
  - What is the status of the Armory building?
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~ THANK YOU! ~

#### Stakeholder Suggestions for Follow-up Survey Questions:

**Attachment 1**

- What matters?
- Three things that deter you from coming downtown
- What should we create that doesn't currently exist?
- Anything that should be eliminated?
- What new learned from the stakeholder meeting that you didn't know?
- What are potential partnerships to enhance ArCH?