



Meeting Minutes

Arts Commission

City Hall
601 4th Avenue E
Olympia, WA 98501

Contact: Stephanie
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Thursday, January 10, 2019

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Grisham called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

1.A ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Commissioner Stacy Hicks, Chair Timothy Grisham, Vice Chair Frederick Dobler, Commissioner Diana Fairbanks and Commissioner Katherine Williams

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Kathy Murray

OTHERS PRESENT

Public Works Transportation Senior Planner Sophie Stimson
KPG Interdisciplinary Design representative Holly Williams
Artist Ellen Sollod
Olympia Downtown Alliance Executive Director Todd Cutts
Arts Program Specialist Angel Nava

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Grisham moved Announcements to follow Other Business. Ms. Johnson asked to add Plinth and Grants to Arts Organizations update to reports.

The agenda was approved as amended.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[19-0005](#) Approval of December 13 Arts Commission Minutes

The minutes were approved.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

[19-0008](#) Franklin & Legion Pedestrian Improvement Project Public Art Component Presentation

Ms. Stimson kicked off the presentation with an overview of the Franklin & Legion Pedestrian Improvement Project, followed by Ms. Williams who highlighted planned infrastructure improvements referencing applicable Downtown Strategy Character Areas. Within that framework, Ms. Sollod shared her public art concept loosely titled "Olympia in Space and Time," utilizing in-pavement granite markers that reference Olympia's geographic characteristics, such as latitude/longitude, GMT location and past and present area names, along with decorative screens to delineate and soften adjacent surface parking lots. Discussion with the Commission followed, leading to productive feedback for the team.

The discussion was completed.

[19-0009](#) Meet and Greet with Olympia Downtown Alliance (ODA) Executive Director Todd Cutts

Mr. Cutts provided an overview of his career and tenure to date with the Olympia Downtown Alliance. Mr. Cutts is also a recent member of the Olympia Artspace Alliance (OAA). Commissioners engaged in general discussion of Music Out Loud, and the OAA's efforts to pair artists with vacant downtown storefronts (the project was recently awarded Grants to Arts Organizations funding match for the project).

The discussion was completed.

[19-0033](#) West Bay Art Crossing Artist Recommendation

Ms. Johnson reported finalist interviews took place on Wednesday, January 9, and jurors were impressed by all three finalists. Their recommendation of Milo White and Lin McJunkin is due to their demonstrated strong synergy as a team, solid technical understanding and creative vision, all of which was reiterated among their references.

Commissioners suggested asking the first artist team to mentor the next, and so on, as with the Poet Laureate program. They also began to think about whether artists or teams who have been selected in the past would qualify to apply again. Chair Grisham suggested the topic be taken up at the spring retreat.

Commissioner Hicks moved, seconded by Commissioner Willaims, to approve the artist recommendation and forward to Council for consideration. The motion passed unanimously.

[18-1178](#) Development of 2019 Work Plan and Municipal Art Plan

Chair Grisham noted the Workplan and Municipal Art Plan were ready to go for recommendation to Council at the February meeting. He asked if there were any lofty goals missing from the plan. Commissioners brought forward ideas:

- Arts Commission supports art in K-12 schools
- Intergrate art into City camps
- Promote rent-a-garage to artists
- City artist-in-residence program
- Encourage citizens to select a favorite local artist

- Develop a mural project on City buildings

Chair Grisham directed staff to explore feasibility on the topics and bring information back to the February Arts Commission meeting.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioners shared information about past and upcoming arts events.

7. REPORTS

19-0006 Policy & Program Recommendation Reports

- 1.1 Municipal Art Plan to City Council - See Business Items.
- 1.2 Apply for Creative District Designation - No report.
- 1.3 Commission Retreat/Work Session - No report.
- 1.4 ArCH - Marygrace Goddu, former Arts Commissioner, has been hired as the City's Historic Preservation Officer, and there is an additional .5 fte in the budget for ArCH staffing.
- 1.5 Proposal for Arts Organizations Granting Program - Based on Commissioner feedback, an adjustment was made to the evaluation sheet for next year to weight the applications more heavily toward the proposal and public benefit components.
- 1.6 Support the Creative Sector - No report.

The report was received.

19-0007 Arts Program Support Reports

- 2.1 Arts Walk 56 & 57 - Ms. Nava shared Arts Walk map cover concepts, recommendations for the Innovation Award, plans for enhanced street closures and sponsorship opportunities.
- 2.2 Music Out Loud - No report.
- 2.3 Public Art Assessment - April.
- 2.4 Arts & Heritage Day at the Capitol - Ms. Johnson.
- 2.5 Traffic Box Mural Wrap Public Art Project - No report.
- 2.6 Percival Plinth Project - Applications are open and jury will take place before the February 14 Arts Commission meeting. Commissioner Hicks volunteered to be on the jury, and Ms. Nava was asked to check with Commissioners Yoke and Murray to gauge their interest. She was also asked to invite one of the former Plinth winners to round out the jury.
- 2.7 Poet Laureate - Ms. Goddu and Commissioner Fairbanks spoke to Ms. Spark's first reading at Council. They felt the event went very well.
- 2.8 Implementation of Temporary Display of Art at City Hall & Programming - No report.
- 2.9 Olympia Art Crossings - Business Item.
- 2.10 Public Art Retrospective - No report.

The report was received.

8. OTHER TOPICS - None

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned.