

**THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF WEST VANCOUVER
ARTS & CULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
RAVEN ROOM, MUNICIPAL HALL
THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2024**

Voting Committee Members: S. Swan (Chair), P. Azarm Motamedi, K. Burnett, K. Hall, C. Monsef, S. Price, and M. Wilberg attended the meeting in the Raven Room, Municipal Hall.

Non-Voting Committee Members: N. Brown (West Vancouver Board of Education); C. Schachtel (West Vancouver Community Arts Council Board of Directors); L. Yu (West Vancouver Memorial Library Board); and Councillor N. Gambioli attended the meeting in the Raven Room, Municipal Hall. Absent: A. Krawczyk (Kay Meek Arts Centre Board of Directors) and Councillor L. Watt.

Staff: D. Niedermayer, Senior Manager, Cultural Services (Staff Representative); C. Rosta, Cultural Services Manager; and A. Nomura, Cultural Services Department Secretary (Committee Clerk) attended the meeting in the Raven Room, Municipal Hall.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:31 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was Moved and Seconded:

THAT the March 21, 2024 Arts & Culture Advisory Committee meeting agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was Moved and Seconded:

THAT the February 15, 2024 Arts & Culture Advisory Committee meeting minutes be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

REPORTS / ITEMS

4. Council Liaison Update

The letter sent by the Arts & Culture Advisory Committee to Council regarding an update to the arts facility planning process was referred to staff for a response. It was reported that discussions are taking place around the proposed arts facility. There are no further updates to provide to the Committee currently.

It was Moved and Seconded:

THAT the verbal report regarding Council Liaison Update be received for information.

CARRIED

5. Updates from Committee Members

The members of the Committee provided detail on the mandate of the organization they represent (for non-voting members), and organizations they are affiliated with (for voting members) to provide information about the work being done for the sector in West Vancouver.

- Lorena Yu, West Vancouver Memorial Library:

The vision of the West Vancouver Memorial Library (WVML) is where wonder sparks and possibilities emerge. The WVML inspires people to grow in a dynamic world. The Library is designed to not only hold books, but to cultivate minds, fostering an environment where individuals of all ages and background feel encouraged to explore, learn, and think critically. The four core values of the WVML are inclusion, learning culture, integrity, and community. These values steer the board to realize the library's vision. The Library's values include appreciation of art and music and to help people develop their own creative voice.

To fulfil this vision, the WVML focuses on community needs. Every five years, the library conducts user analysis to understand what underrepresented communities are using the facility. The library then focuses on what they can do to meet the needs of these community groups.

- Nicole Brown, West Vancouver Schools (SD45):

The overarching goals of SD45 are educational excellence, authenticity, innovation, and engagement. The Ministry of Education has expanded to become the Ministry of Education and Childcare, and as such their mandate is expanding.

The SD45 works towards authenticity by both leaving the school grounds for field trips and learning experiences, along with inviting experts to come to the schools and share their knowledge. SD45 has also recently completed a protocol agreement with the Squamish Nation. They also collaborate with community partners, such as the Legion, Kay Meek Arts Centre, Ferry Building Gallery for the annual student art show, and Capilano University's Film Department.

- Melissa Duchak, on behalf of Andy Krawczyk, Kay Meek Arts Centre:

The vision of the Kay Meek Arts Centre is to be the cultural heart of the North Shore. The Kay Meek creates transformative experiences and community building through the arts. Their core values are engaging, leading, learning, and welcoming.

Three different strategies employed are creating transformative experiences, building communities, and being leaders in the community. The Kay Meek runs

diverse programs and reaches out to diverse local communities. Partnerships include: West Vancouver Art Museum, WV Community Arts Council, and the West Vancouver Memorial Library. They also partner with the Arts Club Theatre Company and the Coast Mountain Film Festival.

The Kay Meek Arts Centre contributes to community building through education and educational performances, including a joint-use agreement with SD45 for use of the Kay Meek's facilities. Future initiatives include opening the space during the day for community activities (e.g. piano lessons, meeting place for ad hoc groups).

- Catherine Schachtel, West Vancouver Community Arts Council (WVCAC)

The vision of the WVCAC is to provide the West Vancouver community with the opportunity to enjoy and participate in cultural and artistic programs through quality and diverse artistic events within the community.

The mission of the WVCAC is to increase and broaden opportunities for West Vancouver, primarily, and all North Shore citizens, to enjoy and participate in cultural activities. The purposes of the society include the following:

- To help stimulate and encourage the development of programs of visual, literary and performing arts in West Vancouver and the North Shore.
- To render service to all such participating groups and individuals.
- To foster interest and pride in the cultural heritage of this community.
- To interpret the work of related cultural groups to the community, enlist public interests and promote public understanding.
- To bring to the attention of civic and provincial authorities the cultural needs of the community.

Strategies employed to further their vision, include gallery programming to engage a wide demographic – both audience and participating artists.

The WVCAC also offers participatory arts programming at the Silk Purse to explore the arts and offer a sense of place to participants. Finally, they build partnerships with other local organizations to expand their outreach.

- Kirsten Hall, West Vancouver Art Museum (WVAM)

The mission of the WVAM is to build awareness of diverse forms of contemporary and historical art, architecture, and design, engaging audiences with issues and ideas central to the community and the world beyond.

The strategies the WVAM has employed to bring the vision to fruition are:

- Expanding the West Coast Modern Tour to a full week, and holding events in additional venues, engaging local businesses to host events, and as a result, reaching new audiences;
- Seeking additional resources and sponsorship funding through corporate partners and granting agencies for exhibitions;

- Participating in extensive in-school programs around West Vancouver schools and offering school-aged programs at the WVAM; and
- Working with Impact North Shore to bring newcomers to Canada into the museum, and providing Farsi and Mandarin art tours; engaging newcomer audiences and artists.
- Raising the visibility of the WVAM in the community with activities such as social media campaigns and promoting the 30th anniversary in the community with banners along the Sea Walk and other key locations.
- Stephen Price, Community Grants Advisory Panel (CGAP)

The purpose of the CGAP is to assist the District in disbursing funds for the annual Community Grants Program for arts, culture and heritage and community & social services organizations and projects, as well as youth initiatives.

In 2023, the CGAP held a workshop with community groups and applicants to reduce the distance between the applicants and evaluators, to provide more information about the grants and evaluation process, and the CGAP's perspective on the Community Grants Program.

The panel has also worked to increase the number of panel members with familiarity in the arts.
- Stephen Price

The Historical Society is not formally represented on the Arts & Culture Advisory Committee but, as a member, S. Price provided some background. The Historical Society works to tell the history of West Vancouver and the people who live here. Currently, the Society is working to modernize the society and become a "21st century organization".
- Pari Azarm Motamedi, Ferry Building Gallery Advisory Panel (FBGAP)

The mandate of the Ferry Building Gallery is to enliven, enrich, and inform the community through exhibitions. The Ferry Building Gallery presents exhibitions, lectures, tours, and programs which help the diversity of the North Shore. The FBGAP works to ensure the gallery delivers on its mandate.

FBGAP nurtures and grows audiences by providing a link to business associations, residents and schools, supports partnerships, and engages with volunteers, also providing volunteer selection.

Some strategies they have employed to further this mandate include:

 - Extensively restoring the building to increase accessibility to the public;
 - Implementing an online artist submission process to increase accessibility;
 - Expanded programming to Art in the Hall (Municipal Hall);
 - Created an in-house gift shop to increase opportunities for artists and artisans; and
 - Increased Indigenous programming.

- Pari Azarm Motamedi, Public Art Advisory Panel (PAAP)

The PAAP works with District staff on managing the Public Art Program which includes commissioning new works, maintenance and safety of public art, deaccessioning, and public art inventory management. Alongside staff, the PAAP reviews the Municipal Public Art Policy and Procedure to make recommendations and propose amendments to ensure inclusion and best practices.

The PAAP worked with the District to establish a Public Art Reserve Fund to create fund the Program. Recently, the Public Art Policy and Procedures have been updated. Council will consider a revised Policy which would launch two new programs: the temporary public art program and art murals program. This would enable more community groups and individuals to participate in the Public Art Program.

- Monique Wilberg

The Ambleside Orchestra is not formally represented on the Arts & Culture Advisory Committee but, as a member, M. Wilberg provided some background. The vision of the group is to be the best-in-class community orchestra. A strategy employed to achieve this vision is to hire a reputable conductor to lead the orchestra, along with engaging external partners and stakeholders for sponsorship.

- Kim Burnett

The NSAG is not formally represented on the Arts & Culture Advisory Committee but, as a member, K. Burnett provided some background. The NSAG was founded in 1947 to promote vibrant communities enriched through original art. They have grown to approximately 217 members that live across the North Shore.

The goal of the NSAG is to increase interest and appreciation of original art in the form of paintings in our communities. Their focus is to develop their member artists through demonstrations, workshops, and exhibitions. They hold monthly board and member meetings, in addition to offering paint groups, jurying, and artist websites.

The Chair requested that the members provide three things that are preventing these organizations from realizing their vision or mandate for the next meeting.

It was Moved and Seconded:

- THAT the verbal reports regarding Updates from Committee Members be received for information, and
- THAT members provide three suggestions that are preventing these organizations as reported on during Item 5 of the March 21, 2024 Arts & Culture Advisory Committee meeting from realizing their vision or mandate at the next committee meeting.

CARRIED

6. Arts & Culture Strategy Update Subcommittee Report

Notes from the two Subcommittee meetings were shared with the Committee members. The Subcommittee requests the Committee reviews the draft overview of the strategy update.

The goal of the Arts & Culture Strategy update is:

- identify progress made since the launch of the Arts & Culture Strategy (period of 2018-2023), and the key items still outstanding;
- identify key challenges facing the sector today;
- identify 2-3 greatest opportunities for the next 3-5 years;
- identify 2-3 greatest priorities for the next 3-5 years; and
- determine the lead organizations and groups to implement the updated strategy.

The goal is to host workshops with representatives of the key arts and culture groups and organizations as well as meetings with affiliated groups and associations (e.g. business sector, service organizations). One workshop can be hosted for individual artists.

The Chair requested that Committee members come to the next meeting with responses to the questions on the draft strategy update to get started on compiling input from the arts sector.

It was Moved and Seconded:

THAT the members of the Arts & Culture Advisory Committee go through the draft questions on the strategy update and provide answers for further discussion at the next meeting.

CARRIED

7. Schedule of Recommendations to Council from Advisory Panels for Arts & Culture Advisory Committee's Review

The Community Grants Advisory Panel has adjudicated the 2024 applications for the District's Community Grants Program. The funding recommendations will be considered by Council on May 6. The representative to the Community Grants Advisory Panel, S. Price, will present these recommendations at next month's meeting for the Arts & Culture Advisory Committee's endorsement.

Both the Kay Meek Arts Centre and the West Vancouver Community Arts Council have submitted grant applications. The committee members representing these groups will be asked to recuse themselves for this discussion due to conflict of interest.

For clarification, there are currently no more Council reports seeking the Committee's approval.

It was Moved and Seconded:

THAT the discussion regarding Schedule of Recommendations to Council from Advisory Panels for Arts & Culture Advisory Committee's Review be received for information.

CARRIED

8. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

9. NEXT MEETING

Staff confirmed that the next Arts & Culture Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for April 18, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. and held in-person in the Raven Room, Municipal Hall.

10. ADJOURNMENT

It was Moved and Seconded:

THAT the March 21, 2024 Arts & Culture Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

Certified Correct:



Chair



Committee Clerk