

BELLEVUE ARTS COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES

April 23, 2013
4:30 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 2E -106

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson Smith, Commissioners Cole, Fateeva, Jackson, Manfredi, Tremblay

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Mary Pat Byrne, Department of Planning and Community Development

OTHERS PRESENT: Mary Ellen Hundley, Ballet Bellevue

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:08 p.m. by Commissioner Tremblay who presided until the arrival of Chair Smith. All Commissioners were present with the exception of Chair Smith who arrived at 4:10 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

A. Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Jackson. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Manfredi and it carried unanimously.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None

4. ACTION ITEMS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 2013 Allocations Committee Recommendations

Commissioner Jackson praised Arts Specialist Mary Pat Byrne for her work in summarizing the conversations and work of the Review Panel. She said the applications received were all very good, and the applications for special projects were more diverse than they have been in past years. With regard to the funds received from 4Culture, the panel recommended holding back some of it to be used to leverage an Arts Commission initiative.

Commissioner Jackson briefly reviewed the list of special projects applications. She noted that Four Seasons Chorus is a Chinese women's chorus, and Hwa Sheng Chinese Opera Club puts on a full Chinese opera. Lyndon Heywood is a visual artist wanting to do murals along the bike path near Richards Road. Vedic Cultural Centers will put on a very interesting program in Downtown Park on Labor Day.

Ms. Byrne said the panel elected not to fund the Divya Performing Arts Studio application. Their idea was to mentor art students just graduating from college to be instructors for students coming into the Divya Performing Arts Studio. The panel liked the idea but concluded that the group simply is not ready to execute it.

Commissioner Jackson noted that in 2012 the application from Musica Sacra was not funded because it involved the performance of sacred music. The organization applied for 2013 funding and the issue was forwarded to the City Attorney's office for a legal opinion. The opinion handed down was that the city can in fact fund the organization in that sacred music is a recognized formal repertoire of music.

Ms. Byrne explained that Suzanne Tidwell had made application to do a public knitting presentation at Meydenbauer Center along with Vogue. After the application period ended, Vogue changed its program and there was not time to come up with a viable alternative.

Commissioner Cole said she was happy to see such an amazing variety, though she did point out that only two of the applications involve visual arts.

Commissioner Cole pointed out that the panel elected to give Wintergrass a small increase in funding over the previous year. They did a fabulous job and their numbers exceeded their expectations.

Answering a question asked by Commissioner Tremblay, Ms. Byrne said the Evergreen Association of Fine Arts, formerly the Eastside Association of Fine Arts, because they are seeing more from the west side joining their organization. Their membership is close to 500, which is tremendous. Their budget is still very small and they still operate as a volunteer organization. Conversations have been held with the leadership about the need to professionalize the staff because it is clear the leadership is beginning to get overwhelmed by the demands of keeping such a large organization going. They have tried very hard to find space for their shows on the Eastside.

i. 2013 Eastside Arts Partnerships Funding

A motion to endorse the Allocation Review Panel's recommendations for 2013 Eastside Arts Partnerships funding and present the recommendations to the City Council was made by Commissioner Jackson. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cole and it carried unanimously.

ii. 2013 Special Projects Funding

A motion to endorse the Allocations Review Panel's recommendations for 2013 Special Projects funding and present the recommendations to the City Council was made by Commissioner Jackson. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cole and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Manfredi suggested the idea of getting the recipients of funding together for a celebration of what they were able to accomplish. Commissioner Tremblay said she liked the idea of bringing people together on an up note. There was consensus to assign a Commissioner to work on the idea.

iii. Use of 4Culture Sustained Support Funding

A motion to endorse the Allocations Review Panel's recommendation to use \$7500 of 4Culture Sustained Support funding for Special Projects funding and the remaining \$4500 to fund an activity that leverages the impact of an existing arts program or project. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tremblay.

Commissioner Cole asked what the distinction is between an existing arts program or project and the mission of the Arts Commission. Ms. Byrne said the job of the Arts Commission is to advise the

City Council and the arts program. Any activities that have to do with the arts come through the program.

Commissioner Tremblay said she believes in the idea of having a reserve fund that can be tapped to address unplanned opportunities as they arise.

The motion carried unanimously.

B. Arts Education Month Proclamation for Council

Ms. Byrne said May is Arts Education Month, and in 2012 the Commission sent a proclamation to the City Council which they adopted at their first meeting in May. Chris Marks with the school board appeared with Chair Smith to co-accept the proclamation.

Ms. Byrne called attention to the proposed proclamation language included in the packet and asked the Commissioners for direction.

Commissioner Jackson agreed that a school board member should once again be asked to co-accept the proclamation. The more the Council can be pulled in with the schools, the better it is for the Commission.

A motion to adopt a resolution supporting Arts Education Month in May and to recommend that the City Council proclaim May as Arts Education Month in Bellevue was made by Commissioner Jackson. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cole and it carried unanimously.

Chair Smith said it was his understanding that the Lake Washington Philharmonic was going to submit an application for funding. Ms. Byrne explained that they decided they would not be able to do a concert in 2013 and thus did not submit an application.

Commissioner Tremblay noted that construction of the new Bellevue Youth Theatre will create an opportunity to reprogram the existing Ivanhoe space. One option would be to turn it into an arts incubator. Ms. Byrne suggested it would be appropriate to set up a meeting with Bellevue Youth Theatre Artistic Director James ((Last Name?)) and Shelley Brittingham, Assistant Director, Department of Parks and Community Services, to talk about expectations for the Ivanhoe site. With a little support from the Commission, undoubtedly the space could be filled up very quickly.

From the audience, Mary Ellen Hundley with Ballet Bellevue said her organization spoke recently with the Department of Parks and Community Services and learned that Bellevue Youth Theatre will not actually be moving out of the Ivanhoe facility. Commissioner Tremblay said the group plans to continue using the space for things related to the theater, but that there would still be some additional opportunities opened up.

Ms. Byrne shared with the Commissioners an update regarding VisitBellevue which continues to push out information that promotes the art map.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 4:48 p.m.