



## ARTS AND CULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

**JUNE 2, 2020**

A meeting of the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee (ACAC) was held on Tuesday, June 2, 2020, at 5:08 pm, by electronic means.

**PRESENT:** Jessica Wadsworth, Co-Chair  
JD Derbyshire  
Monique Fouquet  
Afuwa Granger  
Am Johal\*  
Paul Larocque  
Megan Lau, Co-Chair  
Brian McBay  
Joyce Rosario  
Claire Sakaki\*  
Wendy Soobis  
Mauro Vescera

**ABSENT:** Paige Frewer (Leave of Absence)

**ALSO PRESENT:** Trustee Carmen Cho, School Board Liaison  
Branislav Henselmann, Managing Director, Cultural Services, Staff Liaison  
Eric Fredericksen, Senior Cultural Planner  
Natalie Lue, Director, Vancouver Civic Theatres

**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:** Kathy Bengston, Committee Clerk

\*Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

### WELCOME

The Co-Chairs acknowledged that we are on the unceded homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations and we give thanks for their generosity and hospitality on these lands.

### Leave of Absence Requests

MOVED by Jessica Wadsworth  
SECONDED by Afuwa Granger

THAT the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee approve a leave of absence for Paige Frewer for this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Am Johal and Claire Sakaki absent for the vote)

## **Approval of Minutes – January 7, 2020 and March 3, 2020**

MOVED by Jessica Wadsworth  
SECONDED by Megan Lau

THAT the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee approve the minutes from the meetings held January 7, 2020, and March 3, 2020, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Am Johal and Claire Sakaki absent for the vote)

### **1. Member Updates**

Committee members provided updates in regard to health and safety measures during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as updates on equity, diversity and inclusion in public spaces. Many noted the importance of arts and culture in the community and expressed their concerns surrounding the impact temporary layoffs have had within the sector.

### **2. Liaison Updates**

Trustee Carmen Cho, School Board Liaison provided an update on the following:

- Elementary students returned to part-time, in-class instruction on a voluntary basis; secondary school students were welcomed back by invitation;
- Playgrounds are open and health and safety protocols are in place;
- School meal programs are being provided once again
- Computer loan program is in place, with TELUS providing Wi-Fi;
- The school program will look different come September.

Branislav Henselmann, Managing Director, Cultural Services, Staff Liaison provided an update on the following:

- The City has activated, and redeployed staff, to its Emergency Operations Centre Temporary layoffs have been put in place to mitigate losses,, this has affected Civic Theatres considerably;
- A hiring freeze has been put in place and new investments have been put on hold;
- Initial grants have been obtained, but all other grants have been frozen, or reallocated to the COVID-19 response and recovery;
- A COVID-19 Recovery Committee has been created to work on short and long term recoveries;
- Recovery framework is coming together and will include community engagement and a review of non-profit sectors
- The City is putting in short-term measures to relieve pressures;
- The City will follow direction from the Province on re-opening timelines;
- Cross-departmental efforts will be needed to access staff expertise.

Eric Frederickson, Senior Cultural Planner provided an update on the following:

- Public Art operates differently from other city sectors, so we will need to review if it is possible to function under the new conditions;
- Arts and Culture will play an important role in the re-opening of communities;
- All projects are working from reserves, with no operating money;

- Work plan in place, with desire to stay operational;
- Projects versus people's financial distress is being assessed;
- The Indigenous Plants project, platform programs in 3D and untitled grants for non-profits are all starting;
- Planning initiatives, such as arbutus greenway public art, and northeast false creek planning with indigenous groups is moving forward.

Natalie Lue, Director, Vancouver Civic Theatres provided an update on the following:

- Vancouver Civic Theatre staff have been redeployed or laid off;
- The four theatre venues are currently closed for performances, but the Queen Elizabeth Theatre is being used as a distribution site for the Vancouver Food Bank.
- Working with non-profit groups on the City's restart plan;
- Assisting the three museums and Vanier Park with their re-start plans.

### **3. New Business**

None.

The Committee ended the meeting by sharing the following closing comments in regard to the pandemic's effect on arts and culture:

- Think about ACAC's role within the City and inform Council that layoffs are affect non-profits;
- How can the City be funded in the future and what will it look like?
- Arts and culture needs to be treated differently than other sectors;
- Link artists and mental health together in activism capacity;
- Concerned about gains being lost;
- Physical accessibility to regular medical care is a concern;
- Advocates needed for arts and culture to maintain resources;
- Develop recommendations for artists and organizations affected by the pandemic;
- How can we get people back into theatres and live performances?
- Arts and culture voices are important in the equity, diversity, and inclusion sector; it is inspiring to hear feedback on justice recovery coalition.

### **Adjournment**

MOVED by Brian McBay  
SECONDED by Mauro Vescera

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Next Meeting:**

DATE: September 8, 2020  
TIME: 5 pm  
PLACE: Webex Online

The committee adjourned at 7:04 pm.

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