

MINUTES

ARTS AND CULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

November 5, 2018 – 12:00 pm – Conference Room A, 4th Floor City Hall

Present Suzanne Mullett, Chairperson, Cultural, Indigenous & Intangible Cultural Heritage Representative
Maggie Burton, Councillor at Large
Ruth Lawrence, Film & New Media Representative (arrived at 1:20 pm)
Rebekah Robbins, Music Representative
Pete Soucy, Public – Business Representative
Richard Stoker, Dance Representative
Jen Winsor – Literary Representative
Michele Haire, Cultural, Indigenous & Intangible Cultural Heritage Representative
Terri Andrews, Public – Community Representative
Elizabeth Lawrence, Director – Economic Development, Culture and Partnerships
Théa Morash, Arts and Culture Development Coordinator
Maureen Harvey, Legislative Assistant

Regrets Cheryl Hickman, Cultural, Indigenous & Intangible Cultural Heritage Representative
Patrick Foran – Theatre Representative

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as presented by unanimous consent on the motion of Richard Stoker and Michele Haire

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of May 25, 2018 were adopted by unanimous consent on the motion of Rebekah Robbins and Terri Andrews.

BUSINESS ARISING

Information Note dated May 17, 2018 re: Public Art

The above-noted was deferred from the previous meeting in May. The document is intended to provoke thought and discussion about what public art is and what its aim(s) can/should be, to consider how the city of St. John's can broaden how it encourages the development and creation of art in public, and how art in public can be reflected in the

City's new/renewed arts plan.

It was noted that the City's focus in terms of public art has been primarily in the realm of murals and it is thought that public art goes far beyond that and should be referenced more as "art in public" rather than "public art".

The information note goes on to explain that public art need not be limited to monuments, men on horses, or historical murals – it can be playful and provocative (Lego Bridge) nor does it need to have a permanent/indefinite life span – it may be transitory (Red Ball Project)

Other suggestions for art in public included:

- Matching artists with private property owners struggling with unwanted graffiti.
- Traffic Box Art Program (currently done in the City under the leadership of Clean St. John's). Maybe this could be expanded
- Neighbourhood street art painting traffic calming project (Treetop Drive)
- Rain activated street art – using a superhydrophobic "invisible spray" resulting in art appearing from nowhere when the surface is wet.
- Things that can be enjoyed year round. i.e. sculpture competitions in the winter at Bannerman Park.
- Expansion of public art in neighborhoods
- Public pianos – i.e. airport
- Film clips in public places
- Local music in bus stops, on the bus and in kiosks
- Local music when callers are on hold when they call city facilities
- Visual arts in shelters and on the buses
- Establishment of little free libraries (take a book, return a book – free book exchange) in City parks
- Using visual arts to replace graffiti throughout the City
- Greater promotion of the designs submitted for the City's bike rack design contest
- Local music at Bannerman Park
- Art work on City vehicles
- Projections on City buildings
- Higher unused space in the Wyatt Great Hall can be used.
- Expansion of the display of local films (currently facilitated Downtown St. John's)

Councillor Burton expressed an interest in having a more in-depth discussion about visual arts such that visual artists can have an opportunity to showcase their works. She also suggested a visual arts database and clearer guidelines about what is and is not permitted and how visual artists go about undertaking work in their neighbourhoods. It was noted that the visual arts representative on the Committee is vacant. It was suggested that a specific sub-committee to flesh out these matters may be warranted.

Upon question of the mechanics of how the City decides on public art submissions, it was agreed that the type of work being solicited would dictate how the City would reach out to artists. For example: often requests for proposals are used to solicit submissions for murals. It was agreed by consensus that there is a need for further discussion about the process of soliciting other forms of arts.

Budget/Strategic Planning Engagement – Verbal Update from the Chair

The Chair indicated that she has been involved in budget and strategic plan. She noted there are many difficult budget decisions to be made. However, while she perceives the likelihood that there will be no increase in arts/culture funding, there was no indication that funding would be cut.

NEW BUSINESS

Information Note dated October 20, 2018 re: City Grants

Thea Morash provided the Committee with information relating to City Grants noting that beginning in 2019 (deadline for 2019 grants is November 30, 2018) arts organizations will be assessed by an internal Grants Review Committee as opposed to a peer jury.

Also in the interest of consistency, a number of arts organization that were previously assessed in other categories will now be assessed in the “Arts Organizations” category.

The following represents “before and after” these changes.

2018		
Grant Category	Assessment	Budget Allocation
Artists and Arts Orgs	Peer Jury	203,000
TOTAL		203,000

2019		
Grant Category	Assessment	Budget Allocation
Arts Orgs	Review Ctte	198,000
Individual Artists	Peer Jury	72,000
TOTAL		270,000

1. Change to budget allocation resulting from shifting certain organizations from other grant categories to “Arts Organizations.”
2. Division between Arts Organizations and Individual Artists (for assessment method) reflects the average split between the two categories over the last three years.

Reasons:

- a. For consistency – arts organizations assessed in a pool with as all other nonprofit organizations.
- b. The peer jury who assessed arts organizations were limited in their ability to make sweeping changes to arts organization funding.

Discussion also took place on the means by which longstanding arts organizations can sustain their funding and continued operation verses the processing of applications for new talent. It was noted that each application is decided by the peer jury on merit with little consideration to the longevity of the organization/artist.

Decision Note dated November 1, 2018 re: Municipal Poet Laureate Position

A call for applications to the position of City of St. John's Poel Laureate was circulated to the public, with an application deadline of September 21, 2018. A selection committee assessed the three applications received and have recommended that Mary Dalton be appointed the next Poet Laureate.

It was noted the process for the selection for this year's laureate was via application as opposed to previous years when they received through nomination. It was suggested that people would be less likely to apply as opposed to being nominated.

Discussion also resulted in a suggestion the City engage artists of other disciplines in the same manner as the Poet Laureate.

Recommendation:

Moved – Jen Winsor; Seconded – Pete Soucy

That the recommendation from the Poet Laureate selection committee that Mary Dalton be appointed as City of St. John's Poet Laureate be forwarded to Committee of the Whole for approval.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Update on Current Municipal Arts Plan

It was reported that due to a number of variables, one being the economic development plan review, progress on the municipal arts plan has been slow.

The Committee discussed with agreement that the sub-committee established for review of the Municipal Arts Plan meet to chart the course for this review.

It was suggested that the sub-committee include a representative with a writing voice. Councillor Burton also requested that she be kept apprised on the progress of this review.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting be scheduled for mid-January. Ms. Morash to send a few potential dates to the Legislative Assistant who will conduct a doodle poll to see which date and time is preferable for the majority.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:32 pm.

Suzanne Mullett
Chairperson