



AGENDA - SNOHOMISH COUNTY ARTS COMMISSION

MEETING DATE: Monday, November 20, 2023 6:30 PM

Visitors are invited to attend virtually at the link below:

ZOOM MEETING LINK:

<https://zoom.us/j/5942865801>

Meeting ID: 594 286 5801

One tap mobile

+1.253.215.8782 5942865801# US (Tacoma)

+1.206.337.9723 5942865801# US (Seattle)

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL, Nicole Ng-A-Qui, Chair

1. Welcome and Guest Introductions

Commissioners Nicole Ng-A-Qui, Kari Johnson, Kate MacKenzie, David Lotz, Lia Blanchard, Jaym Gates, Colin Cole

Staff Sharon Swan

2. New members??

Nicole: New applicants?

Sharon: Maria Casey will go before Council in the coming weeks. Annique still needs to connect with Melissa Duque.

Sharon: \$10k from Nate Nehring in 2024 for memorial plaque. Added to Council Budget

Kari: How much do we have to work with? \$10k + our \$50k overall budget?

David: We need to maintain \$10k in acquisitions for emergencies

Sharon: Grants program cannot go to non-profits. According to state law. Going forward the Arts Commission, can only purchase goods and services for County purposes from non-profits.

Kate: Tom mentioned the possibility of doing a code amendment to allow for our grants program to continue. Is this true?

Sharon: Not really. State law. How does the Arts Commission want to proceed?

Nicole: Let's continue to discuss, but Joy, the Chair of the Grants committee, is present.

David: Wonders how this happened? Asked Colin if he is surprised.

Colin: Surprised.

Sharon: Do you have any documentaion from the time when Hal started this program? This could help make a legal argument.

Colin will look. (AGENDA)

II. MINUTES APPROVAL- (October 2023) Nicole Ng-A-Qui, Chair

David: Art Walk is the third Thursday, not first **MSP**

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - Nicole Ng-A-Qui, Chair

1. GWOT Memorial Presentation by Jeremy Husby (not present)
2. Mission Statement review
 - a. No progress from staff

IV. Committee Reports - Nicole Ng-A-Qui, Chair

1. Acquisitions and Preservation: Colin Cole

A. Will work with the Grants committee to help re-shape it

2. Grants and Funding: Joy Ratzel (not present)

Old meeting notes from Colin:

May 17, 2017-first discussed, Hal cites code. Grants committee formed (includes Colin)

April 2018-Hal presents the initial grants guidelines draft.

Oct. 15- Legal review changes: the grants must be for a public benefit and specify non-profits and government agencies only.

Sharon will review this and investigate further with legal. Wonders if the current application still includes "pubic benefit".

Everyone thanks Colin

3. Education and Outreach: Kate MacKenzie

Next CAN meeting will be next week. More work into understanding our cultural watershed.

4. Marketing and Community Events: Lia Blanchard

Stepping down next month. Have been working with Joy to transfer duties. Joy is currently doing Instagram, but neither Joy nor Lia have access to Facebook still.

Look for her email from last month about details on the new calendar system, Trumba. Worked with a connection a UW to understand their experience. A new contact person is needed to take

over this project. Kari volunteers to take this project over. Lia will let Jerry, from Trumba, know. Jaym also agreed to help since it falls under Internal Systems well. (AGENDA)

Thank you to everyone attending the tour of Denny. Please be sure to stay in contact with them. Kari has already been in contact with Anna-Marie. She plans to meet with her next week.

5. Future of Arts and Culture: Kari Johnson

No Update

6. Internal Operations: Jaym Gates – Site visits

Searching for recently updated inventory lists.

Field trip with Nicole to the Memorial in Haller Park. And the Oso Slide Memorial. Photos were shown. These can be used for marketing and social media and they are posted on the Share Drive. Sharon showed photos of the individual panels done by Tsovinar. (AGENDA) The dedication will happen on the 10-year anniversary. No recognition of Tsovinar under these circumstances. Perhaps a second event to celebrate her is needed.

7. Budget: David Lotz

Will work on adopting our 2024 workplan to reflect the changes in grants program. Is concerned about this set-back.

Sharon wants to get stronger legal resolution. Hopes to bring this topic back in December. David asks if the arts commission can get a formal opinion directly from the lawyers. As of now, this has been more of an informal review from the attorney. Kate: what office does this attorney work for? Sharon: Prosecuting Attorney's Office

8. Staff Reports: Sharon Swan

A. 2023 Financial Report

Report from the Finance Dept. that shows actual revenue. Does not reflect Fund Balance or other expenses, including grants. Nicole: Where is the Kayak money? It shows \$0. Sharon: not sure. Janna perhaps needs to visit to explain. Nicole: please have Annique continue with this (AGENDA)

B. 2024 Approved Budget Report

Council fully approved budget for 2024. This includes the \$10k from Councilmember Nehring. Beginning the process of switching to a biennial budget. Nicole: would like Janna to explain how the biennial budget will affect us.

County Human Rights event on December 9th. Annique will send out a flyer and ask for participation.

Applications for entertainment is open for the fair. Open until mid-Feb. Please share this information with local performers. Nicole: wonders about licensing about cover songs. Sharon: Ask Debbie Donk

V. New Business - Nicole Ng-A-Qui, Chair

A. Cultural Access

Nicole: We've been talking about this for a while. The state has passed a tax that's a 0.1% sales or property tax that can go for the arts fund, either county or city, and that's been generating some discussion, good discussion, in the arts community.

Kate: Cultural Access program is a tax initiative, either sales or property tax, that supports access to not just arts, actually, but also heritage and science and culture. A few of us commissioners have been on our own private time, working on advocating on its behalf for a few months now, maybe longer than that in the state level. We are at the point now that now we're looking at 2024, that I would love to see this go up for a vote for the county council. We could, as a commission, vote to approve some sort of formal recommendation for executive Dave Summers to support and consider this program.

Kari: This past spring, the state legislature passed, adjusted the cultural access program funding mechanism to include a caveat for councilmanic authority. That means that it can go up to a county or a city council for a vote instead of or alongside a vote of the people. This is a brand-new tool in the toolbox that we've been given, and the county has basically, counties across Washington have first crack at it, and we have until I believe, January 1, 2025 to do it first before cities in Washington can be made available of this option. The reason why we've been talking about it and are now at the point where we would like to see some action on it is because of that time frame.

Nicole: Everyone's afraid of the word tax, but the amount of benefits that would come from and they project it to be not more than like fifteen dollars to thirty dollars per family per year. It's just a little bit and it's countywide and so it's like when people come to visit or coming from out of state, it's a sales tax of everything they buy. A cultural access program in Snohomish County is projected to generate around 20 million in the first year. And it goes for seven years before it has to be voted on again.

Kari: Another thing to mention is that it can be self-sufficient once the fund is created, the dollars from the fund up to, I believe, 8% can be spent on the administration of the fund. It won't take any additional resources from the county. It can essentially staff and fund itself.

Kate: Nicole was super kind to set up a Zoom meeting with Executive Somers and we had Lacey there and who's working in his office and then also Tom Tiegen. We just laid out everything that we know about this program, why we support it, try to address some of the issues we know that the county is concerned including staffing. Executive Somers was interested and was mentioned talking to Dow Constantine, who's the executive in King County. King county is expected to pass this calendar year and Dow Constantine is a huge supporter and advocate for this program.

Sharon: From what I had understood of the conversation, as much as Executive Somers really supports the arts and sees this as valuable, it's just given our budgets and where everything is at, I do not understand that he's interested in putting that forward to.

Kate: My impression was that we could make this recommendation to be only to Executive Somers, not the council. Is that correct?

Sharon: That would certainly be appropriate.

Nicole and David both agreed that they would like to move forward with making a formal recommendation to the Executive. Nicole asked Kari to share financial statistics published by the City of Tacoma regarding their Cultural Access program.

Kari: In 2022, Tacoma's nonprofit arts and culture industry generated \$163,000,000 in economic activity. That's \$87.1 million in spending by nonprofit arts and culture organizations, which leveraged an additional \$75.9 million in event related spending by their audiences. Tacoma's impact supported over 2,000 jobs, generated \$28.7 million in tax revenue, and provided \$87.2 million in personal income to local residents. You can find more about that at tacomacreates.org. Tacoma's cultural access program roughly generates \$4 million. That's how much they have to grant out in a given year.

David: I think that we need to frame this, so that what we're recommending a necessary investigation, if you will, to now take this to the next stage. What is the next stage? Tacoma and King county have gone through this process. And so we need to sort of parallel track that.

Kate: We can take maybe the month and put this on the agenda for December and come forward with the specific language that we want. Sharon, what's the process after that? Would staff then share our recommendation directly with Executive Somers?

Sharon: I think if you wanted to go ahead with a recommendation, it could be a memo, it could be an action in your minutes. I'm glad you're taking a little bit of time on this, though, because from what I understand, Executive Somers is supportive of arts, but not supportive of this specifically. And so I just don't know how it flies after going through that conversation, still coming back and saying that that's what you're asking for. And I wish I'd been at the meeting so I could kind of understand better. Because what I heard from Tom as a recap on that meeting was that Executive Somers just basically said, here's all the other things that are competing priorities right now, and just, well, he's supportive of arts and wants to do all these things. He's not supportive of this specifically, but you guys heard something very, you know, I don't mean to put that across as an interpretation if that's not what you were hearing. So if you're willing to wait a month and think about this a bit, I would love to have Tom be part of that conversation, too, just because he was there and just kind of see where does this all come together and how do you obviously indicate support for this, knowing that it's likely not going forward? From everything that I've heard and part of, I think with Wendy and her email that went out, it was basically already indicating there was all this support and everything. And that's not really the case for everything. So I just would like for us to be tread a little cautiously about what goes forward and how that goes back out, because I'm a little concerned that if the commission puts a motion or a memo back, which is basically saying that you want the executive to look at this. But he's already basically told you that that's not of interest. I don't know what that does to the relationship and just the partnership between you guys and the exec.

Nicole: I think all that happened was that there's always two sides, multiple sides to any discussion or any coin. And he heard one side and we went in there and presented another side. And he didn't say, "oh, no, that's not going to work." He said he wanted to look into it. He didn't say he was interested. I don't want to put words in anyone's mouth, but he said he wanted some more information and get back to us. He seemed really receptive. He was considering it. Yeah, this is really interesting.

Sharon: And I'll be talking with Tom. I've got a meeting with him tomorrow morning. And I would love to represent this and just kind of understand better how this could play out or what direction

it could be going. And I don't know if Tom threw out in your meeting too, we've also been. One of the competing interests is a bond for parks across the county. So it would be cities and towns in the county. And there is the potential to do funding for arts through that. It's something we could certainly look into as part of the research. So it's just, there's so many needs right now. I think that's where the challenge is. And how do we set a path forward? So if you're fine to wait till next month, I think that'd be great to just see what shakes out in the meantime and what information we have to work with.

Kate: There's still value in making a recommendation and hoping that he will take that seriously. Even if we don't ultimately get the support.

B. Nominations for 2024 chair/vice-chair

David and Kate volunteered to be on the Nominations Committee. They asked commissioners to contact them with their nominations to be presented at the December meeting.

VI. GOOD OF THE ORDER, Nicole Ng-A-Qui, Chair

Lia: I would like to share with you a park I visited here in Florida. It's called River park. And so you've got the coastline and there's a highway I'm on the atlantic coast side of Florida, and there's a highway that goes along, right along the shore, and there's this in Boca Rotone. There's a spanish river park that the locals told me about. And I looked it up and there's like seven or eight tunnels that go from the park under that highway straight onto the beach. And all of those tunnels have been painted by local artists with murals and 3d murals and stuff. And they're absolutely gorgeous.

December will be Lia's final meeting with the Arts Commission.

Kate: Lake Stevens community bands playing at the Winter Fest in downtown Lake Stevens on December 2, which a lot of things are happening that day as somebody who's been working on that calendar. We're doing a fun thing this year called Tuba Christmas where we're gathering tuba players from actually across the state to come and play Christmas carols. Tuba music is kind of jolly and goofy, so I expect it to be a really fun time.

Nicole: My son's cello instructor is doing a concert. It's on the 17 December at the Everett Historical Theater. But it's like an audience involved and it will be a fun time.

Adjourn: 7:57 PM