



*Renton  
Municipal  
Arts  
Commission*

## RENTON MUNICIPAL ARTS COMMISSION

### Meeting Minutes

February 1, 2011

4:30 pm

Renton City Hall  
Conferencing Center (7<sup>th</sup> Floor)

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Municipal Arts Commissioners Present: Patricia Pepper, Sarah Eldridge, Jerri Everett, Peter Hartley, Doug Kyes, Fred Lund, Britt McKenzie, Evelyn Reingold and Denise Zullig

Municipal Arts Commissioners Absent: Wesley Van Doren

City Staff Present: Jennifer Davis Hayes, Community & Economic Development

Vincent Orduna, Cultural Arts Coordinator

Vivienne Lietz, Administrative Secretary, Community & Economic Development

Elizabeth Stewart, Renton History Museum

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**CALL TO ORDER:** Commission Chair Pepper called the meeting to order at 4:29 pm.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** COMMISSIONER PETER HARTLEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE JANUARY MINUTES AS CORRECTED. DOUG KYES SECONDED. COMMISSIONERS CONCURED, MOTION CARRIED.

**PUBLIC ART PIECE OF THE MONTH:** Fred Lund gave clues on the art work which is two carved wooden pieces. This artist also has other pieces in various locations around the state. The artist is James Fitzgerald. Fred noted that the art work is in need of restoration and shared a photograph showing its current condition. The Commission realized that a broader discussion is needed to focus on how the restoration would be paid for and to discuss what to do with the art that is currently in the Renton libraries and on loan to the King County Library System. Fred thought it would be a good idea to have an art show highlighting some of Renton's portable art collection; a possible location is the Renton History Museum. Fred Lund will connect with Liz Stewart to explore opportunities. Peter Hartley asked if there was a budget for the upkeep and maintenance of City-owned artwork; the artwork maintenance is not a line item but rather part of Facilities' budget. There may be opportunities for grants or matching funds for this type of work. Doug Kyes mentioned the person who restored the dolphin at the pool might be a good contact; Jennifer Davis Hayes will check into it. Discussion ensued on insurance coverage of the art work. Britt McKenzie mentioned Peggy Weiss' report that went into detail on Renton's art collection. Jennifer Davis Hayes will share the report with the Commission. It would be good for each art piece to be labeled along with a brief description. This could possibly be done by the person doing the art piece of the month.

**CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Commissioner Lund distributed mail highlighting local art events.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Local Arts Agency:** 4Culture – Good news! They made a decision that Local Arts Agencies (LAA) would not get a 10% cut so the Commission should receive the same grant amount in 2011. Allied Arts applied and also received a small grant. Currently, there is a proposal that the Washington Arts Commission be moved under the Department of Commerce. “Advocate 4Culture” is a newly formed group supporting funding for 4Culture. \$12 million in revenue for art could be lost and Pat Pepper would like all commissioners to support this group. PETER HARTLEY MADE A MOTION THAT THE RENTON MUNICIPAL ARTS COMMISSION SIGN UP TO BE ON THE ADVOCATE 4CULTURE LIST. FRED LUND SECONDED. COMMISSIONERS CONCUR, MOTIONED CARRIED.

**ACTION ITEM LIST:**

**Communications:** No meeting.

**Resource Development:** Will meet tonight and discuss the committee’s transition.

**Master Plan:** Art Center committee will meet tomorrow.

**Galvanizing project:** Continues to move forward. Next meeting is February 22 with volunteers and technical people.

**Commissioner Recruitment:** We have received four applications and interviews will follow. Doug Kyes, Sarah Eldridge and Pat Pepper will be on the interview panel.

**2011 Grant Program:** The Commission reviewed the letter and application and discussed the maximum grant amount. VJ suggested that we should leave the amount out but use the amount as a guideline for the grants. Discussion ensued and the amount will stay. The Outreach committee will make calls to past grant recipients to inform them of the new format and the lower grant amounts.

**COMMISSION PROJECTS:**

**Fred Meyer Honoring Pole:** Still moving forward.

**Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Natural Resources Plan:** Next steering committee is in February and an open house March 15 at the Community Center. Some first round results: sports and other activities were high on the list and Arts & Culture was in the top five. Such activities as drawing, pottery and an art center were noted. Parks are viewed more for sports than art in this city. Liz Stewart encouraged commissioners to keep talking about the arts focus in the plan and to make sure it doesn’t get lost. Commissioners were asked to encourage artists to show up for the March meeting.

**Partnership with Renton School District:** No recent meetings, Evelyn will arrange one soon. Jennifer Davis Hayes shared the information shared from the Tahoma School District at the 4Culture LAA meeting about how the School Board was a ‘forgotten’ place to advocate for the arts. The Tahoma School District created an integrated art curriculum and believe that their test scores are higher because of this work. This is in line with the Master Plan strategy #2 regarding advocating for arts and culture policies.

**Combat Paper:** Peter received information from Heather Dwyer at 4Culture who is organizing the larger visit to the Puget Sound. There will be two workshops at the Compass Center, April 29-May 1 and May 4-7. They are asking Renton to provide housing for four people with parking for a two month period and

food for the six days while they are in Renton, 25-30 people. Local hotels might donate rooms. Send any leads or information to Peter Hartley.

**SIFF / Renton FilmFrenzy:** Jerri attended the first SIFF/Renton FilmFrenzy planning meeting. The planning committee is working on the SIFF Opening Night Gala at the Renton Pavilion Event Center where people will enjoy local restaurant 'bites' and drinks after the screening. We estimate that 100 volunteers will be needed for various tasks including outreach, planning and day of screenings assistance.

**Olympia Art Show:** Make sure you stop by when you are down in Olympia to say thank you to Representative Zack Hudgins for showcasing Renton art. It will be on display until the session ends.

**Commission Budget:** Please think about the extra \$1,000 received from 4Culture and how it should be used.

**Guest Benson Shaw – Rainier Public Art Discussion:** He's met with Elizabeth Stewart from Renton History Museum and will meet with South Renton Connection community group and Earlington Community Association board. He walked through the "imagining" exercise with Commissioners that he will do for these groups. He asked Commissioners to picture in their minds the public art work at Rainier. Follow up questions included: Time of day, weather conditions, seated, in vehicle, direction facing, can you see the whole art piece or do you need to lean forward? Britt McKenzie thought tall, shadowy, natural and not shiny. Evelyn Reingold wants something that will grab her. Doug Kyes wants something that's bright on a rainy day. Benson advised the Commission of the options and working with the existing design of the Welcome to Renton sign. There are possibilities of using one or both sides of the road. The Commission felt keeping the art separate from the sign would work better.

**Arts Day:**

Pat Pepper is going to Olympia tomorrow for Arts Day.

**Adjournment:** The February 1, 2011, meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m. The next meeting will be held on March 1, 2011, at 4:30 pm.

  
Patricia Pepper, Chair