



*Renton  
Municipal  
Arts  
Commission*

## RENTON MUNICIPAL ARTS COMMISSION

### Meeting Minutes

November 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, Jerri Everett, Peter Hartley, Bill Huls, Doug Kyes, Britt McKenzie, Evelyn Reingold and Wesley Van Doren

Municipal Arts Commissioners Absent: Sarah Eldridge, Brook Lindquist and Denise Zullig

City Staff Present: Jennifer Davis Hayes, Community & Economic Development  
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 4:30 pm.

Pat Pepper welcomed guest Debra Kendrick to the meeting. She is a local artist, a singer and song writer. She has been working with the Union Gospel Mission to create a performing arts program. She began working with young people, kids that were in trouble and had a lot of issues. She created Restoration of the Arts, creating plays, dramas and skits. Her background is working with and counseling young people. Using drama is a way for the kids to find release. Many had serious events in their lives and she felt it was important for them to have their story told. This past summer she created a 12-week program called, "No More Bull." She worked with the community and with young people—the focus was on bullying. They met each Wednesday from 6-9 pm and discussed bullying and how to combat the issues. At the end they put on a showcase at Carco Theatre showing how the students had been empowered through the program.

Debra connects with kids in her everyday life and recruits them wherever and whenever she can. She passed around a book detailing the program. They created songs and raps. Cyberspace bullying is so much bigger than simple "sticks and stones will break my bones" type of bullying from years gone by. She doesn't try to glorify events; she just tries to show events that have actually happened to these kids creatively. For the showcase they created a brownstone backdrop – a brown stone symbolizes to them being home and being safe. Kids committing suicide due to bullying is extremely prevalent. Doug asked if they did paintings and would they be willing to do an art show. Britt stated we could connect with local businesses; Harambee or Luther's Table may be good locations. Visit the website for additional information: [www.RestorationOfTheArts.org](http://www.RestorationOfTheArts.org).

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** COMMISSIONER PAT PEPPER PRESENTED THE MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER TO THE GROUP AND ASKED IF ANYONE HAD ANY COMMENTS. BRITT MCKENZIE MOTIONED TO APPROVE

THE MINUTES AS WRITTEN, SECONDED BY DOUG KYES. COMMISSIONERS CONCURED, MOTION CARRIED.

**PUBLIC ART PIECE OF THE MONTH:** Brook Lindquist was not at the meeting to present.

**CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Jennifer Davis Hayes passed around the folder for people to review.

**GOOGLE CALENDAR & DOCS TRAINING:** Vivienne gave an overview of the Arts Commission's shared Google Calendar and Google Docs.

### **MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION**

#### **Committee Updates**

Performing Arts: Next meeting November 7, at the Renton Community Center.

Arts Center: Next meeting November 7, at the Renton Community Center. Britt advised they were using the library building project as a catalyst to get a lot of things done. At the last library building steering committee meeting various plans were presented that touch on the uses for the library. Doug got a copy of the building plans and is going to work up a presentation. The library building steering committee is currently looking at possible uses for the building. There will be two public meetings in November where everyone can attend and provide your desire for an Arts Center.

Proposal for Spring Arts Equinox Event: Jennifer and Liz Stewart met and drafted a plan which included an overlapping period for a hospitality and hotel open house and arts equinox. It would begin with an open house for the hospitality industries. This would be followed by a joint activity time for approximately 30-45 minutes with the hospitality folks who opt to stay and interested arts people and organizations; this would include those who attended the Fall Arts Equinox meeting. A possible schedule would be 5-8 pm, and to offer fewer activities than the last meeting. They are looking at potential locations. They would like to include Pecha Kucha again. The most important factor is the event marketing. They are looking for any kind of creative way we can touch people and get the word out about the event. We don't normally have small grants in the spring but perhaps we could have an additional round of grants as the voting on grants was popular. We would need to determine how to get people to attend. We could invite someone from an organization such as Artist Trust to speak about their organization. Bill suggested the whole event should be a combined meeting with hospitality and arts and how they can connect to their businesses and to the RMAC Master Plan. We want to inform the attendees about what Renton has to offer, and make them aware of all the amenities in Renton and for them to share the information with the folks visiting Renton. We need to consider what the hospitably folks get out of it, what can we offer them to make them interested. We need to find ways to link them. We will form a planning committee for the event. Jennifer, Liz, Britt and Bill will participate on the planning committee. Pass along any ideas you may have for a theme.

### **Arts Commission Committees**

Resource Development: Peter received information from Jennifer that he will use it to begin to figure out resources. Peter and Evelyn will connect soon.

1% for Arts: Rainier project out to bid soon. The 4Cow RFQ is drafted.

Communications & Marketing: No progress. They plan to attend neighborhood meetings and were invited to Kenndale and North Renton for their January meetings. Denise will help at the meetings because of the connection to the galvanizing project. Doug Kyes is also interested.

### **Commission Projects**

Carco Theatre: The next reception is this Saturday, November 5, 5 – 7 pm. It is a pair of artists working as a collaborative team. Commissioners were asked to attend and show support. Jennifer asked if anyone was available to take a shift during the event. Peter and Bill offered. Jennifer showed the commission where to find the Carco Theatre display application information on the RMAC website.

Henry Moses Honoring Pole: The plaque installation is complete.

FilmFrenzy: Jerri stated it was interesting to watch the 17 films. Pat gave kudos to Suzanne Dale Estey for a well-organized Renton FilmFrenzy Curvees Awards Gala. They estimated 150 people attended the event. Thank you to Bill Huls for jumping in at the last minute and being a judge representing the Arts Commission. Bill shared that one of his season ticket holders donated a \$700 projector to the Renton Civic Theater which allowed them to show the FilmFrenzy movies on the Monday screenings night.

Commission Budget: Pizza Renton and the Evergreen City Ballet have submitted their reports for the grants they will receive.

New Business: Wesley spoke to the group and shared that he was resigning due to his workload and other things going on. He thanked the group and has enjoyed being part of the Commission.

Renton River Days: Bill & VJ have not had a chance to meet but are working on ideas — maybe a bean bag toss using art, will also have something for kids such as clear or white masks that they could decorate.

Nomination for officers: Elections will be in December. Pat shared it is time for another member to step up and have a term as chair. Her goal was to see the Master Plan approved by City Council which happened more than a year ago. Please think about your strengths and how you feel this role can be filled. The Commission has done a lot of great things. Evelyn has worked with organizations where they have a chair select position. They learn from the chair for a year or two and it is assumed they will take the chair when the time comes. The position of chair can be a very different skill set than that of vice chair. We should look at what it means to be chair and what we are looking for in a new chair. We must ask ourselves what do we need and who is going to be the face of the Commission. We are going to have to be a strong force in selling our Master Plan to our community, to City Council, arts organizations and the public. Bill agreed with Evelyn and also felt it needs to be someone who has been on the Commission for some time that knows about all the current projects. The new chair will need a strong ability to keep focused on the goals of the commission. Peter asked if we could we recruit a new board member in the next months to take the position of chair. Jennifer interjected that all commissioners should feel they are the face of the commission and should attend events on a regular basis. We could select a communicator to do public events and that person does not need to be the chair. Pat asked if

anyone was interested in being the new chair. Britt was asked if she would she be willing to take the position. She was not sure about the time commitment. Jennifer explained that her roles in the committees would be passed on to other commissioners which would allow her more time for the chair position. The continuity of a longer term member taking the position would probably work best. Typically people ask for the chair for speaking events but we can offer another member of the commission.

**New Commissioner Recommendation:** Wesley has resigned and is moving on to other things. Sarah Eldridge has also tendered her resignation due to changes going on at her work and she doesn't have the time she thought she would have. We interviewed some great people the last time. Jaris English is interested in being on the Commission and has a strong marketing background. We also asked Ben Andrews, a super networker, and he is also interested. There is another person, Kevin McPherson, who has applied but we have not yet interviewed him yet. We still have the youth position open and have not yet received an application. Natalie can apply when she turns 15 in December. They can all attend meetings while the council process is taking place. Evelyn asked if the new commissioners added any additional diversity to the group that would reflect the diverse community we live in.

Allied Arts Meeting: Peter and Pat met with Vicki Navarro and Char Baker to discuss how the two organizations can work together. Currently, many Allied Arts board members are volunteers with the Master Plan committees and both groups saw the opportunity for mutually beneficial opportunities including volunteer recruitment, marketing and fundraising.

**Adjournment:** The November 1, 2011, meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m. The next meeting will be held on December 6, 2011, in the Conferencing Center at 4:30 pm.

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Patricia Pepper, Chair