



*Renton
Municipal
Arts
Commission*

RENTON MUNICIPAL ARTS COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

December 2, 2008
4:30 p.m.

Renton City Hall
Council Conference Room

Municipal Arts Commissioners Present: Patricia Pepper, Dalia Amin, Valerie Gower, Fred Lund, Linda Middlebrooks, Mike O'Halloran, Britt Peterson, Evelyn Reingold, Wesley Van Doren.

Municipal Arts Commissioners Absent: Jerri Everett, Doug Kyes and Denise Zullig

City Staff Present: Jennifer Davis Hayes, Community & Economic Development
Vivienne Lietz, Administrative Secretary, Community & Economic Development

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Pat Pepper called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Linda Middlebrooks asked to add Jerri Everett to the thank you's for the Bravo Award Event. The Commission motioned to approve the November 2008 minutes as edited. MOVED BY PAT PEPPER. COMMISSIONERS CONCUR, MOTION CARRIED.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: Commissioner Lund distributed mail to RMAC. Items of Note: Articles in the Renton Recorder and Voice of the Valley (Maple Valley paper) recognizing Barbara Nilson for the Bravo Award and a thank you card from her. The Evergreen Ballet Nutcracker is being held on December 19th, 20th & 21st. Buy tickets now, as last year it sold out on Sunday. Jack Straw Memorial Postcard – Artist talk. WA State Arts Alliance membership application.

It was mentioned that the 2009 Budget was approved by Council. Jennifer Davis Hayes announced that the Bravo Award will be in January/February edition of the 425 magazine. She also shared information about the Renton School District's PTA art program: Reflections: Photography, visual arts, music compilation, film production, and literature. Can we connect with them? We could be judges or could showcase winners.

OLD BUSINESS:

Local Arts Organization Updates:

No one attended the last 4Culture meeting which included a review of the site specific performance applications. These meetings are a good learning experience if members are able to attend meetings during the day.

Local Arts Agency Meeting – We hosted the event here in February 2007. We would like to host again in Renton. Maybe Vincent Orduna could schedule at Carco, Jennifer Davis Hayes will follow up.

ACTION ITEM LIST:

Committee Reports

Community Development: Committee Chair Fred Lund

- Everything is ART: Suggested tagline for Commission as a whole. Valerie has researched and the phrase is usable. It encompasses all fields and trends in art.
- Renton River Days Booth: Need to have a theme for the booth as a whole, i.e. anime (Japanese animation style). The booth should educate and stimulate in what the Commission does, educate

about 1% of Arts and how that works. Anime theme we could maybe exchange information with our sister city. There are lots of possibilities to build partnerships with the community.

- Logo Design Contest: The Commission would make guidelines for competition and select a design. The logo should represent what we stand for and how does that tie in. The retreat and master plan process will help to define these items.
- Artist Registry: Valerie Gower wrote a paragraph to add to the top of the registry to communicate the purpose and set expectations. Valerie Gower tested it out on professional and amateur artists and it was clear. Announcements to this group will be via email.

Performing Arts: Committee Chair Mike O'Halloran

- Defined performing arts as any interactive art form between an audience and a performer. The group listed venues: Renton River Days booth, FilmFrenzy, and Renton Annual Art Show during RRD. In the past, the Commission has juried Renton School District talent show, which is driven by Renton School District, and hosted a young musicians showcase until three years ago. The Committee would like the Commission to sponsor Renton IKEA Performing Arts Center season, with dollars or promotional material. The idea is to take existing performances and tie them into a season. Existing performances include: Allied Arts concert, Evergreen City Ballet, Renton City Concert Band and others. How do you keep it fresh? Previously IKEA PAC manager drove the season. Pat Pepper suggested there were meetings where you could go to select performers for your season. Suggestion to bring back young musicians showcase. Previously it had ended due to lack of participation. It cost \$1000 – \$1500. A list of music teachers and private tutors needs to be developed, book Carco Theater, and pay for judges.

Visual Arts: Committee Chair Britt Peterson

- Artist Receptions: The Carco lobby artist display is working well. What is the vision? The committee invited interested parties to meeting to discuss what a successful event would look like and set guidelines and expectations. There is conflicting information about the ability to serve alcohol at the theater, Britt Peterson will follow up with Vincent Orduna. The reception is the responsibility of the Arts Commission, but the City will help to market the event.
- Committee meetings are set for the 3rd Monday of each month at Carco lobby at 5 pm.

1% for Arts: Committee Chair Pat Pepper

- Research & Development: Wesley Van Doren is researching funding opportunities through National Endowment for Arts and Grant Station. He started spreadsheet of ideas and has a profile of 10 similar cities and researching them for ideas. Members suggested he contact Jim Kelly at 4Culture and or Barbara McMichael at SOCOculture.org.
- Construction Projects: Denise Zullig has volunteered to work with Jennifer Davis Hayes to build relationships with project managers during the planning stages to incorporate art for the 1% for Art requirement. A design booklet of the Rainier Avenue improvements was shared. There is an open house in the Council Conferencing Center tonight until 7:30 pm with more information.
- Mural Project: Valerie Gower reported on a community wide mural project in LA which included partners such as the Army Corp of Engineers, working with at-risk youth, Jewish Foundation, and Los Angeles City Council. The project was able to access funding from various sources and continues to add partners. The art reflects an ethnic history of California and has been called the "Great Wall of LA." The project involved children, taggers and graffiti artists as well as amateur and professional artists. The graffiti artists signed contracts that they would not tag other areas. In Renton, the project could include the schools and Harambee. It would be important to find key spots in the City and not to overdo murals. We could tie into the City's Sister City in Mexico because of the connection with Mexican restaurant owners here in Renton.

Commission Budget

Jennifer Davis Hayes reported to the group that last month's ideas of purchasing wine for the artist receptions and donating to the Circle of Giving are not allowed. There is \$1391.52 left in budget for 2008.

The Facilities Department asked if we have any fun, kid art to decorate the "soft" interview room where the police department takes the children. Ideas included to look what's at pediatrician offices, explore colorful prints (printart.com) that could be laminated and framed. Motion to allow up \$250 for purchase

of 2 posters with framing for interview room. MOVED BY EVELYN REINGOLD. COMMISSIONERS CONCUR, MOTION CARRIED.

Motion to pay membership for Washington State Arts Alliance (between \$50-\$200), and Washington States Arts Commission. MOVED BY WESLEY VAN DOREN. SECONDED BY EVELYN REINGOLD. COMMISSIONERS CONCUR, MOTION CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commission Foci: Committees should brain storm their ideas and bring them to the retreat.

Master plan: The Council passed \$25,000 to hire a consultant for the Master Plan in 2009. A request for proposals (RFP) will be published next year with a scope of work that is refined from the version presented in July. We need to prioritize ideas and move forward, with the potential for a next phase with additional funding. We will also review other master plans, including the City's library plan, and seek to strengthen alliances with other City departments including Facilities, Transportation, and Parks. Wesley Van Doren suggests developing 2 or 3 ideas that have been agreed on and move forward on them.

One goal of the master plan will be to determine how can the city grow culturally, esthetically and economically? Where to place public art? What are perceived as creative influences in the city? What kind of arts profile does Renton want to have? What does the community think as art? Everything is art. Cities doing cows, pigs etc on the sidewalk are considered art. Chicago does artistic mannequins along with the fashion industry. There is a lot of art in Renton that people do not know about. How can we communicate that art has an economic impact in the community? How can we connect better with the area's history? Pat Pepper shared the Creative Vitality Index summary and noted that Seattle has 5x the national average for creative vitality.

Mike O'Halloran mentioned that Arts Day in Olympia will be Tuesday, Feb 3rd, 2009. Commissioners should meet with members of Renton's legislative districts (41st, 11th, 5th, 37th and 47th) to discuss arts funding. 4Culture will lose funding if they don't extend hotel motel tax. Talking points will be available ahead of time. This event will be after the RMAC retreat, which will give Commissioners the ability to discuss the Commission's focus areas with representatives as well as discuss master plan. The February Commission meeting will need to be canceled or moved to avoid conflict with this event. Jennifer Davis Hayes will check on room availability.

Adjournment: The December 2, 2008, meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 6, 2009 at 4:30 p.m.

Patricia Pepper, Chair