

Culture and Heritage Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday August 17, 2016

I. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Chair Zach Powers at 5:35pm.

Present: Britt Board, Silong Chhun, Katy Evans, Carol Goforth, Heather Joy, Andrea Michelbach Kristen Murphy, Maria Pascualy, Commissioner Aaron Pointer, Zach Powers, Peter Stanley

Staff: Melissa McGinnis, Mary Tuttle

Guests: Rebecca Solverson, Jennifer Wolbrecht

Excused: Laura Bradley, Angela Jossy, Heather Joy

Melissa reported that Maija McKnight has tendered her resignation from the Council because she has accepted a new position – Public Art Manager for the City of Seattle’s Office of Arts and Culture – which will prevent her from attending meetings.

The Council offered their congratulation to Peter on the recent birth of his son Miles.

II. Review and Acceptance of the July 2016 minutes

- a. Kristen made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Katy and passed unanimously.

III. Old Business

a. Public Art

- i. **People’s Center Mural** – Katy and Rebecca reported on the project at People’s Center. (City of Tacoma and Metro Parks 1% for Art Funding)
 1. The Tacoma Arts Commission has approved the concept design for the mural – essentially a collage of photos, newspaper articles, flags
 2. Lead artist Chris Jordan worked with two other professional artists and eleven young artists to develop the concept for the design.
 3. The artists interviewed Hilltop residents, gathered modern and historic photos of people living in the area, held workshops in People’s Park with hands-on art opportunities – all for the purpose of gathering inspiration and ideas for the mural.
 4. A secondary art project will be developed for the interior of the building. There is interest in incorporating an oral history element to tell the stories of the people who live in the area.
 5. Maria asked about the possibility of commissioning a poem about the space to accompany the mural.
 6. The Art Steering Committee will have their final review of the design on August 22nd. The mural will be installed by the date of the new pool’s grand opening on September 24th.
- ii. **Oak Tree Park** – (City of Tacoma and Metro Parks 1% for Art funding) Rebecca provided a short orientation to the park and the project. The chosen artist, Clark Wiegman, visited the site on August 8th for his orientation meeting with

stakeholders. Once Clark develops his initial ideas, the art steering committee will review and discuss options.

- iii. **Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium** – (Metro Parks 1% for Art funding) – Rebecca had hoped to have an update on this project but it has been slow to start. A site visit with the artists is expected soon.
- iv. **Eastside Community Center** – (Metro Parks and City of Tacoma 1% for Art funding) Rebecca shared a copy of the draft *Call to Artists* for the initial phase of the Eastside Community Center project.
 - 1. This first phase (\$30,000) will hire an artist(s) to work with the building’s design team, develop an art brief for the project, and lead community engagement efforts for the art component of the new center.
 - 2. Recruitment is limited to Washington and Oregon artists.
 - 3. The *Call to Artists* will be finalized next week and “out on the street” by the end of the month. A copy will be sent to Council members and their assistance is requested to help spread the word about the opportunity.
 - 4. The Art Steering Committee will meet in October to review applications and choose the project artist(s).
 - 5. Maria asked about use of funds to commission poetry or other spoken word activities as part of this project which led to a lively discussion of wide variety of art forms that could potentially be funded with the 1% for Art dollars.
 - 6. Mary mentioned that Metro Parks is looking into a \$150,000 National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Creative Placemaking Grant to match the remaining 1% for art dollars in this project.

IV. **New Business**

- a. “Youth Inspired Design” at Eastside Community Center
 - i. Jennifer Wolbrecht, Metro Parks’ Resource Development Manager, explained the inspiration behind the “From the ground up” model of community engagement and fundraising that was so successful during the improvements to McCarver Park and Wright Park referred to as the Zina Linnick project.
 - ii. The basic concept is to engage children in the community during the early stages of the project’s design, partner them with college students and professionals in the field, and incorporate their ideas and suggestions in the final product.
 - iii. Thus far there have been two such efforts associated with the Eastside Community Center – a teaching kitchen and a recording studio. Both met with great success and enthusiasm for the project.
 - iv. The next phase of this “youth inspired design” will be the art component. The artist chosen from the above mentioned Call to Artists will work closely with the Resource Development team to engage and involve young people in the community as the artist develops the art plan for the center.
- b. Metro Parks’ Culture Resource Management Plan
 - i. Melissa shared the Cultural Resource Management Plan with the Council and highlighted the various components of the plan that guide the professional management MPT’s cultural assets, such as: accessioning and deaccessioning items from the collection; federal, state and local preservation guidelines,

copyright laws governing works of art, loan policy, and proper care and maintenance of historic/cultural assets.

V. Board & Staff Liaison Report

- a. Aaron praised the recent production of Shakespeare in the Park at Wright Park. Over 600 people attended and had a great time.
- b. Aaron and Britt shared information about an upcoming exhibit at the Tacoma Art Museum – *30 Americans*. This will be the first west coast showing of this traveling exhibit which showcases paintings, photographs, installations, and sculptures by prominent African American artists who have emerged since the 1970s as trailblazers in the contemporary art scene. The exhibit will run from September 24, 2016 through January 15, 2017.
- c. That same day, September 24th, will be the opening of the new pool at People’s Community Center and the unveiling of the new mural discussed earlier in this meeting.
- d. The first public meeting to discuss the circulation plan for Point Defiance Park is scheduled for September 22nd. Exact times and location will be sent as soon as they become available.
- e. The replacement for the Wright Park Bridge is expected to be installed early next year. The Tacoma Landmarks Commission approved the plan which is now being reviewed by the city’s permits department.
- f. The docks at Wapato Lake will also be replaced in 2017.

VI. For the Good of the Order

- a. Mary reminded everyone that the Swan Creek Art Show is scheduled for August 27th from 10am to 2pm. Linda Kinoshita and thirteen other artists will install temporary art exhibits in the park.
- b. Metro Parks Tacoma is pleased to announce that we have been awarded the 2016 AMOCAT Arts Award for *Arts Patron* in recognition of the new 1% for Art program and MPT’s collaboration with the city’s Arts Division to improve opportunities for artists in Tacoma and developing aesthetically pleasing and engaging public environments. The award will be presented on September 29th at the Tacoma Arts Month Opening Party at the Asia Pacific Cultural Center at 4851 South Tacoma Way.
 - i. Mary noted that Metro Arts (the Metro Parks Tacoma Art Program) will have three large cubes on display at this event. Each cube will be a different size and have a different theme. She asked the Council members to send her suggestions for themes that the public can respond to with words or drawings on the cubes.
- c. Andrea let everyone know that the Puget Sound Grantwriters Association is offering a \$2,000 grant opportunity to non-profit organizations. The application is only two pages long. If your grant is chosen, it will be funded and the focal point of a workshop on effective grant writing. For more information: <http://www.grantwriters.org/>
- d. Katy announced that the Grand Cinema’s *Tacoma Film Festival* will be held October 6 – 13th. They have also introduced a new program for members called “Member Mondays”. On Mondays all members can watch one of their great movies for just \$5.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10.

The next meeting of the Culture and Heritage Advisory Council will be September 21st.

Submitted by - Melissa McGinnis

