

**CITY OF REDMOND
ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION
MINUTES**

Thursday, April 8, 2021

Commissioners and Staff Participating Remotely via MS Teams

Public can listen to meeting by dialing 510-335-7371 at 6:30pm

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

“Voice the views of the community to Mayor and City Council in reference to all cultural endeavors”

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Angie Hinojos - Chair
Bobby Ives - Vice- Chair
Savita Krishnamoorthy
Amani Rashid
Latha Sambamurti
Cari Scotkin
Menka Soni
Kari Tai
Lynn Trinh
Ishita Suri, Youth Advocate

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED:

STAFF PRESENT:

Chris Weber, Cultural Arts Administrator
Lorna Velasco, Cultural Arts Coordinator
Eric Dawson, Project Manager
Jeff Aken, Senior Park Planner

VISITORS:

Sudeshna Dixit, EastHub
Denise Joseph, Nine dot Arts
Brad Machat, LMC

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I. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chair Angie Hinojos called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

II. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Tai to approve the March 2021 minutes
Second by Vice-Chair Ives
Motion carried 9-0

IV. NEW BUSINESS & GUESTS

a. Senior and Community Center Update (Presentation) Eric Dawson and Jeff Aken

Project Manager for the Senior and Community Center, Eric Dawson gave an overview of the timeline of the buildout. There has been a set of public meetings in February and March for both the seniors and the general public that resulted in clarifying priorities. A few of the findings from the senior meetings included having designated space for seniors that is welcoming, inviting and feels like a second home. Similarly, findings from the larger community also asked for a larger facility that offers flexibility of use that will include options for both indoor and outdoor recreational activities.

Jeff Aken, Senior Park Planner gave updates on the community partnership that will allow for capital improvements that may include additional floors or adjacent structures. A total of six community partners emerged ranging in expertise from affordable housing development, education, youth services, and cultural services. The City was looking for a community partner that will serve the interest of the community and able to provide capital funding for successful development and operation of the additional facility. B&H Advance Strategy Developers, an organization committed to affordable housing for seniors, was the organization that will move forward after the initial interview to explore timing and financing. More information will be provided in June.

Regarding the timeline, the project is currently in the Schematic Design phase where the design concept and floorplan are being developed. City Council will need to approve an Architect and Owners Rep Agreement, the Construction Agreement, and the final Schematic Design by this summer. The budget will need to be approved this Fall prior to start of early construction in November that includes earthwork and utilities.

The community involvement has been robust with in-person meetings (prior to restrictions), online meetings, and online questionnaires. Feedback and input will be integrated in the design and planning phase.

The community is encouraged to attend the upcoming City Council meetings on April 20 and June 22.

Discussion ensued with Chair Hinojos asking what state funding looks like and Commissioner Sambamurthi suggesting approaching 4Culture for additional capital funds. Mr. Aken said that the City applied for state grant in the amount of \$5 million to support the project.

b. EastHub Introduction (Memo and Presentation) Sudeshna Dixit

This is a presentation on the EastHub by Sudeshna Dixit, communications director and Ray Cullum, CEO. EastHub is an organization focused on cultural space making in the Eastside. In 2020, Microsoft pledged \$1 million seed money to the organization to form a board, hire a CEO, launch a website, and hire EDI (Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) and capacity building consultants. EastHub aims to address creating community spaces in partnership with developers, businesses, and art and culture groups. The organization was incorporated on January 2021, have been involved in the Cloudvue (new construction in Bellevue) design process, and hired staff March 2021. They are currently working with Bellevue on the 2021 Bellwether festival and the Bel-Red corridor.

Discussions ensued with Commissioner Krishnamoorthy asking what the business model and the partnerships will look like. Mr. Cullom will work with City development to create space for the cultural groups to activate, and EastHub will run the operation of the space. Mr. Cullom encouraged the Arts and Culture Commissioners to reach out to him directly with further inquiries.

c. LMC Private Developed Public Art. (Memo and Presentation) Denise Joseph and Brad Machat

LMC is developing a mixed-use development in Marymoor Village that will take advantage of development incentives, which include one percent for art. LMC South Park is located at the southern edge of the Marymoor Design District. The project is comprised of two distinct residential buildings. The street exposures are activated by outdoor private space for the adjacent units. The project proposed will create two arts opportunities, a plaza for public gathering at the north end, and an art walk in between the units.

Nine dot Arts was the art consultant team hired by LMC Development to manage the public art portion of Marymoor Village. Ms. Joseph, lead manager for Nine dot Arts shared the art goals and selection process. The art goals include creating an oasis for the public to seek out, taking advantage of the proximity to public transit and Marymoor Park. The selection criteria will include participation from artists in the Washington region. Nine dot Arts will draft ideas and share the full proposals with the Arts and Culture Commission.

Discussions ensued on what maintenance will look like, ways to integrate tops of buildings in addition to foot-traffic areas, and other wayfinding elements to help attract more people. There will be opportunities for local artists to use commercial space as part of residencies and public engagement.

- d. Hybrid Temporary Public Art Display in City Hall (Memo and Presentation) Lorna Velasco
The temporary public art display titled “Hybrid” will be a 2-month long exhibition in the City Hall lobby from July through August. This is a culmination of the community engagement program led by public artist Horatio Law as part of the 152nd Ave NE Improvement Project. Horatio Law is an interdisciplinary artist who works with cultural artifacts to explore cultural communication and the complex relationship between individual and community. Horatio Law has conducted an online flower art project with Redmond youth and residents, creating large paper flowers in hybridized form that celebrates Redmond’s diversity. The flowers are being collected by Art and Culture Commissioner Lynn Trinh and will create a large-scale arrangement that will be available for public viewing this summer. The final temporary public art piece is anticipated to be 6 feet tall by 4 feet wide and will be displayed in the atrium of City Hall.

Motion by Commissioner Sambamurthi to approve the Temporary Public Art Display, “Hybrid” at City Hall

Second by Commissioner Tai

Motion carried 9-0

V. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Staff Report – (Memo) Chris Weber and Lorna Velasco

April is National Poetry Month, and City of Redmond’s Poet Laureate has created a pocket poem entitled, “Still Standing.” The poem is a celebration of the resiliency of the City and its residents and will be available at various community centers this summer.

There are two Redmond Art Season grant recipients whose projects are underway. The first is the arts organization Apex (Artists Personal Exchange), a program by Marko Coady. They are producing a series of videos highlighting Redmond artists. The first video is on Circus Artist Vivian Tam, here is the link to the profile: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXiuyCRHpgYLTN6esdR-10Q>

Tina Velazquez Hays is working on her temporary public art that inspires engagement and connection between Redmond residents and our seniors. The installation will be up at Downtown

Park on May 7th until August 6th, residents are encouraged to send messages through an online form. The online form writing is available here: <https://forms.gle/LKNSig12LpZ1tydg7>

The Public Art Intensive Eastside is currently planned for Fall of 2021. City of Redmond is partnering with lead curator Elisheba Johnson and Marcia Iwasaki. This is a basic training overview to visual artists who wish to learn how to develop their work for the public realm. There will be guest speakers during the three Saturdays workshops in September culminating into an opportunity to apply for a temporary public art grant from the City.

The City of Redmond continues to follow Washington Covid-19 guidelines. All parks and trails remain open, while facilities are closed through June 2021. City Hall will stay closed through June. The City is still offering online activities. The City maintains a Play Safe plan available at Redmond.gov/PlaySafe.

All signature events are cancelled for 2021 (Derby Days and So Bazaar), Redmond Lights is pending, if approved, will center around a light installation experience at Downtown Park for 2021.

The City of Redmond has several permanent Public Art projects currently in progress. This includes four City led projects, (SR 520 Pedestrian Tunnel, Redmond Pool, Bear Creek, and 152nd Ave Improvements) and four Sound Transit projects (Overlake Village Station, Redmond Technology Station, SE Redmond Station, and Downtown Redmond Station).

The Redmond Pool by Pete Goldlust and Melanie Germond has completed design and currently in fabrication.

City of Redmond has commissioned master carvers Tyson Simmons and Keith Stevenson in partnership with the Muckleshoot Tribe's carving department for the lower Bear Creek archaeological site. They will be carving a House Post representing a Coast Salish Long House.

152nd Ave Horatio Law has finished the design phase, and is working with the planning team on the implementation process.

Public Utility Art Boxes are on hold due to approval issues and weather, the process will restart in Spring.

Sound Transit has several projects spanning four stations. There are two projects at the Overlake Village Station that are currently in the fabrication phase. Artist Yuri Nakamura's project will be located at the entrance plaza and artist Leo Saul Berk will be at the pedestrian bridge.

The Redmond Technology Station also features two artists, Kate Sweeney and Dan Webb. The work of these artists are complete and finishing up with installation.

The SE Redmond Station will feature artist Nova Jiang, whose artwork will be featured in the western façade of the parking facility. Yeggy Michael's work will be a mural at the front entrance of the station.

The Downtown Station features ten artists who will design a total of 50 art pieces made of mosaic tile and porcelain enamel, these artists include, Abraham Awalom, Nancy Blum, Jasmin Brown, Ken Gonzales Day, Malayka Gormally, Cable Griffith, Lauren Iida, Julianne Paschkis, Kenji Stoll, and Angelina Villalobos.

- b. Commission Retreat Planning – Chair Angie Hinojos, Vice-Chair Bobby Ives, and Commissioner Savita Krishnamoorthy

The Art and Culture Commission retreat is on April 22nd from 6:30pm-8:30pm, the meeting will be held online. The purpose of the retreat is for the Commissioners to get to know each other before doing the deeper work, and as an opportunity to envision future work. The emergent conversations, key points, and issues will be included as part of the 2021 work plan.

This is the last meeting for Commissioners Kari Tai and Bobby Ives. The Art and Culture Commission and City Staff are truly honored and grateful for their investment and commitment to the arts and cultural work in Redmond.

VI. COMMISSION UPDATES/DISCUSSION

- a. Talk Time
- b. Future Agenda Item Ideas

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Ives to adjourn the meeting
Second by Commissioner Tai
Motion Carried: 9-0
Meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm

UPCOMING MONTHLY MEETING

Virtual Meeting
Thursday, March 11, 2021
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.