CITY OF REDMOND
ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION
MINUTES

Thursday, April 22nd, 2019
Los Pajaros Gallery
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:
Risa Coleman - Chair
Kari Tai – Vice Chair
Victoria Bartow
Tifa Tomb (Late)
Marko Coady
Savita Krishnamoorthy
Angie Hinojos Yusuf
Jing Jing Wang, Youth Advocate

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED:
Cheri Fowler
Lynn Trinh

STAFF PRESENT:
Carolyn Hope, Park Planning & Cultural Arts Manager
Chris Weber, Cultural Arts Administrator
Amber Britton, Arts Program Coordinator

VISITORS
None

I. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME
Chair Coleman called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

II. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE
None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Motion by Commissioner Krishnamoorthy to approve the minutes of March 2019.
Second by Vice Chair Tai.
Motioned carried: 6-0

IV. NEW BUSINESS & GUESTS
a. New Cultural Arts Partnership (slideshow presentation)
Chris Weber let the Arts & Culture Commission know he had met with VALA prior to the meeting and with the purpose of keeping VALA involved with the City of Redmond since their gallery space has moved to Kirkland. Mr. Weber talked with VALA about working with the Redmond Community Center at Marymoor Village in curating the walls with art in the hallways and foray area and potentially producing some art talks and workshops in the lecture hall at the Community Center, in trade for space for their meetings or projects. VALA was also asked to organize 6 to 8 booths community interactive booths each night of So Bazaar, working with local non-profits in the area to provide fun thematic activities for the event. They would be hired to do this from the So Bazaar budget, similar to curating that has been hired in the past. Commissioner Coady recommended that the City prepare carefully and see how the first few things go before committing to multiple activities. Mr. Weber explained we would do a half year or one-year contract with them which was the standard. This would be a partnership between the City of Redmond and VALA supervised by Mr. Weber. Commissioners ask for updates at future meetings from Mr. Weber on what VALA was proposing and how the relationship was working.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Percent for Art Amendment Proposal (Slideshow presentation)

Carolyn Hope gave a brief overview of what the 2017 Public Art Plan included, elaborating on LACE–Leading Arts & Cultural Engagement, that was put in place to get artist input before art begins so art would be integrated into the project from the beginning of planning. Ms. Hope summarized that from the Art Plan, a project list was developed for public art and given priority with cost and length of time to complete. It was realized quickly that there wasn’t enough funding to complete the projects. Staff proposed changes to the ordinance through three study sessions with the City Council, but because there wasn’t full support of the City Council, they make additional changes which brought about this new draft. Ms. Hope let the Commissioners know she was seeing input and policy direction from the Art & Culture Commission. The following changes are being proposed for the new Art Plan:

- Ms. Hope explained that sustainable, reliable funding was the goal in proposing a new Art Plan. It currently is funded with just City funded projects for parks and buildings, but they found many projects didn’t go as planned and then the funds wouldn’t be transferred. Because of this, the funding source couldn’t be counted on to plan for the art. The transfer of the funding has been complex due to the different project managers and how many people were involved and the number of projects. Current planned projects on short term list are the SR 520 Trail/40th Tunnel, 152nd Street improvements, Outdoor integrated piece at City Hall Municipal Campus, Redmond Central Connector phase 3, Marymoor Village Gateway, Redmond Pool art potential in the pool upgrade which combined add up to $200,000 a year for 6 years. We currently have been received around $40,000 a year, depending on which projects go. If we expand the City projects, such as maintenance projects, transportation, and C.I.P., this funding could increase. Ms. Hope explained there was lots of debate about this, the pros and cons of different changes. In the end, it was decided that proposing a flat amount $200,000 a year be reserved from the general fund including an inflation factor would be best. This flat fee would enable the Arts team to do the planning and complete projects with funding they knew would be there. In six years when we have a new list of public arts projects and we could update the ordinance then once again, if the planned amount needs to be increased or changed in any way. This idea will be presented in the study session with the City Council in May. Commissioners expressed enthusiasm for the changes and thanked staff, past and present, for their efforts in putting the plan together.
Motion by Vice Chair Tai recommending that the City Council repeal Ordinance 1640 and replace it with an updated Public Art Funding Ordinance that allocates $200,000 a year for public art, with an annual inflation rate. This revised ordinance and funding allocation can be updated in the future with the adoption of a revised public art plan that updates the prioritized public art project list.
Second by Commissioner Coady
Motioned carried: 7-0

B. Artist in Residence Options (presentation)

Mr. Weber reminded the Commission that Maya’s second term is coming to a close and that he is currently working on a new Call for Artists to fill that position. The Call will be created and brought to the Commissioners. Mr. Weber suggested some ideas for changes and asked for input from the Commissioners and present the following options: 1) Keep current program and scope, main difference being that we don’t currently have a location for the residence portion of it, as we have no studio space. 2) Make it a Downtown Park residency. 3) Digital artist in residency using Downtown Park as the focus.
Commissioners asked for background and wanted to know what types of artists had applied in the past. Ms. Hope explained there had been a wide variety of applicants and provided some examples. Commissioner comments included expressing concern with challenges of getting people out to events of the residents, not supporting digital residency exclusively because it is too limiting, showing support and enthusiasm for the Downtown Park residency because of exposure, accessibility, and flexibility. Commissioners also stated support for Downtown Park as inspiration for art, but not necessarily having to happen at Downtown Park, giving that option to artists. Concerns about inclement weather and storage were expressed for using Downtown Park as a residency and encouragement was given to have active participation where artists and the public can interact and create together, and examples of connecting the community through school programs. It was suggested that past examples be included in the Call so residents would know what had happened in the past. Mr. Weber thanked the Commissioners for their input and said he would bring a proposed Call for Artist and bring it to the Commission for review.

C. Redmond Lights Artist Call (presentation)

Only change from previous year is the word “Winter” instead of “December” holidays. Commissioners expressed support and enthusiasm for the artists from last year that came from the Call and did not feel there needed to be a change. Mr. Weber said for site examples he would like to add “Bouyant” as an example of past art. Commissioners requested research on other light festivals occurring to make sure we are of competing events artists might be doing.
Motion made by Commissioner Tomb to approve the 2019 Redmond Lights Call for Artists with the change of the site example for Bouyant and additional research on timing. Second by Commissioner Hinojos Yusuf.
Motion carried: 7-0

VI. COMMISSION UPDATES/DISCUSSION

A. Field Trip Proposal

Field trip proposal was made to visit the Luke Wing museum. New Exhibit opening May 9th. Suggested date is June 6th, leaving City Hall at 5:30pm. Tentatively set, Mr. Weber to confirm. Because there will be a quorum for this meeting, it is an official meeting.

B. Role in Events
Discussion on Arts Commissioners role in City of Redmond signature events such as Derby Days, So Bazaar, etc. Ms. Hope provided examples of past participation. Amber Britton was asked what Mercer Island had done at events when she oversaw the Arts Council there so Ms. Britton provided examples of their participation and programs. Mr. Weber described the themes for Redmond Derby Days and So Bazaar and gave examples of ideas, including coordinating international games to go with the “Game on” theme for Derby Days. Commissioners were asked to think about what they would like to do, different opportunities and be prepared to discuss at next month’s meeting.

C. Joint Meeting Prep (presentation)
Ms. Hope shared the current presentation that has been put together to present at the Joint meeting. The plan is to introductions with quick round robin intros. Arts & Culture trivia will be presented by Commissioner Coady. Commissioner will Tai will present on successes. Priorities will be presented including Percent for Art Ordinance, Privately Developed Public Art Amendment, Cultural Art Center, emphasizing cultural inclusion and thanking the Mayor for his support of the arts.

D. Future Agenda item ideas
Chair Coleman requested future agenda items to be discussed at the next meeting. This will be a new request at the end of each meeting. Commissioner Tifa suggested an Earth, Wind, and Fire cover band for So Bazaar. Mr. Weber said he would be creating air, fire, and water playlists for between acts at So Bazaar. Jing-Jing asked for setting tangible goals for measuring inclusion. Commissioner Bartow was thanked for her contributions and time served on the Arts Commission.

VII. ADJOURNMENT
Motion was made by Commissioner Bartow to adjourn the meeting.
Second by Commissioner Tomb
Motion Carried: 7-0
Meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

UPCOMING MONTHLY MEETING
Next meeting:
Thursday, May 9, 2019
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Redmond City Hall