

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

Thursday, May 13, 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
Latha Sambamurti
Cari Scotkin
Menka Soni
Helen Teixeira
Ishita Suri, Youth Advocate

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED:

Savita Krishnamoorthy
Amani Rashid

STAFF PRESENT:

Chris Weber, Cultural Arts Administrator
Lorna Velasco, Cultural Arts Coordinator
Loreen Hamilton, Deputy Director
Eric Dawson, Public Works
Chris Roberts, Opsis Architecture
Jim Kalvelage, Opsis Architecture

VISITORS:

Fidelma McGinn, Scan Design Foundation

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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 Sambamurti to approve the April 2021 minutes
Second by Commissioner Scotkin
Motion carried 5-0

IV. NEW BUSINESS & GUESTS

New item announced that Commissioner Lynn Trinh has stepped down from the Art and Culture Commission and City Staff will be posting the application for new commissioners.

- a. Introduction to Thomas Dambo's Troll Project (Memo and Presentation) Fidelman McGinn
Fidelman McGinn is the president of Scan Design Foundation, a Pacific Northwest private foundation with a mission to grow, develop, and encourage the relationship between the US and Denmark.

Scan Design Foundation is commissioning a series of public art installations, created by Danish artist, Thomas Dambo, to be installed in the summer of 2022. The multi-site project showcases the story of the Nordic Trolls with a message of protecting the environment and will weave in Coast Salish storytellers. The trolls are about 50 feet in dimension, each will have a unique character informed by the site using locally sourced and recycled materials.

Scan Design Foundation is leading the effort in fundraising and is currently looking for fiscal partnership, corporate sponsors as well as partnerships with private and public agencies. Ideally, the project will have several municipal site partners across the Puget Sound region, in order to provide free access to the Nordic Trolls. This partnership entails provisions such as public access, liability insurance, maintenance, and finishing costs between \$15,000-\$20,000. For more information on the project go to: www.thomas-dambo.com.

Discussions ensued on upcoming project timeline, initial site ideas, liabilities, and specifics on ongoing maintenance. Ms. McGinn informed the Arts and Culture Commissioners that the goal between May and October of this year is to secure site partners throughout the region and to inspire the artist to create work specific to the site. Chair Hinojos asked if the storytellers will be contracted, Ms. McGinn responded that the contracting will be done by the National Nordic museum. Commissioner Soni asked about specificity on safety and maintenance, to which Ms. McGinn responded that they will rely on the public agency partnerships, specifically on City and State parks for the ongoing maintenance of the trolls and that there are specific release of liabilities within by the parks system.

- b. Senior and Community Center Public Art Opportunities (Presentation) Loreen Hamilton, Eric Dawson Jim Kalvelage, and Chris Roberts

The project timeline for the Senior and Community center is on track for the new building to open late 2023. Public meetings are ongoing with cost estimate approval by City Council set for July 2020 and for all contracts to be approved by April 2022. Ms. Hamilton walked through the design concept of the building and Mr. Dawson gave a rough estimate of \$41 million dollars for completion. The building will be LEED gold certified using high quality, resilient, and sustainable materials that will last 50-100 years.

The majority of the public art opportunities for the building is located in the exterior with potential to include the public areas inside the building. Currently there is \$300,000 allocated from the 1% for public art and the plan is to bring an artist concurrent with the site concept phase in partnership with the architect.

Jim Kalvelage of Opsis Architecture indicated several locations for public art: 1) Northeast corner near the senior lounge and entry patio 2) Main entry to the community center 3) Southeast corner 4) Middle section near the dining terrace and walking trail. Indoor areas include: 1) Pass through area which may include a hanging installation from the second floor 2) Pass through floor area integrated into the concrete material 3) North to South wall as gallery space 4) Lobby area wall between senior lounge area and annex.

Discussions ensued with Chair Hinojos asking for the possibility of integrating art into the construction budget to free up the 1% public art allocation. Mr. Kalvelage responded that there could be ways to integrate utilitarian art into the hardware and also art into the landscaping budget. Commissioner Scotkin thought the initial plan looks great and that there are opportunities to create art in ambient spaces such as

the seated and walking areas or as wayfinding elements. Chair Hinojos also offered that community voice and engagement need to continue to fully usher ownership of the space and creative placemaking. Mr. Weber, along with City Staff will continue to work with Arts and Culture Commissioners in order to fully integrate public art into the new center.

c. Public Art Intensive Eastside Contract and Call (Memo and Presentation) Lorna Velasco

The Public Art Intensive Eastside is a program first piloted in Redmond in the Fall of 2020 to support local artists, taking after Seattle Office of Arts and Culture’s Public Art Bootcamp started by Marcia Iwasaki and sustained in partnership with Elisheba Johnson. The program was designed to make the public art field more accessible by training the next generation of public artists. The workshops were facilitated by seasoned public artists, covering topics on contracting, fabrication, maintenance, design concepts, and social practice. As part of the workshop, participants were taught to apply for a temporary public art project displayed at Redmond Lights.

This was a successful program that included 15 Eastside participants, 8 of whom received a temporary public art grant for Redmond Lights, 2 received a Redmond Art Season grants, and a few continued and received other projects from other municipalities.

Ms. Velasco proposed a continuation of the program for Fall 2021. Ms. Elisheba Johnson, the project manager of the 2020 program will be contracted again, with support from Marcia Iwasaki. Ms. Johnson will curate and hire the facilitators, organize and provide access to the curriculum, serve as panelist in the selection of participants, and provide overall guidance for the successful implementation of the program.

A public art call will be out in June for artists to apply for the Public Art Intensive Eastside program. The Public Art Intensive Eastside is a free, three-day, five hour workshop series that will be from September 18-October 2. The program will be limited to up to 20 artists, age 18 and above, living in and around Redmond. The public call highlights eligibility, selection criteria, and the application process and deadlines. The program is looking for an inclusive and diverse pool of artists, emerging artists, artists from historically under-represented communities which may include diversity in gender identity, ethnic and cultural identities, abilities, and artists from communities of color.

Motion by Commissioner Sambamurthi to approve the Public Art Intensive Eastside Call
Second by Commissioner Soni
Motion carried 5-0

Motion by Commissioner Sambamurthi to approve the Public Art Intensive Eastside Contract
Second by Commissioner Scotkin
Motion carried 5-0

V. OLD BUSINESS

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

Staff report is a repository of ongoing projects, some are long term projects that may not have changed for further questions, connect with City Staff.

The City of Redmond continues to follow Washington Covid-19 guidelines. All parks and trails remain open, while facilities are closed through June 2021. We are currently in Phase III. 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.

There are several 2021 Redmond Art Season projects happening over the next few months. Due to limitation in public gathering, modifications and changes needed to happen in the original grant projects while still sustaining work by artists for Redmond residents.

Tina Velazquez Hays' "From Me to You, From You to Me", is a community engagement work project that elicits messages of connection from our greater Redmond community to our elders. The artist asks for the community to submit a message or a note that she will compile into letters and cards and shared during the weekly senior lunch pick up by the Senior Center staff at City Hall. The art installation was installed May 7th and will be up until August 5th. To submit a letter as part of this project visit: <https://forms.gle/LKNSig12LpZ1tydg7>

Apex, an artist led group creating a place for artists to meet and showcase their work in various medium, is presenting a gallery show at Centro Cultural Mexicano in downtown Redmond. The Art show is called No Criticism in celebration of Apex artists and the diverse work they create. The gallery opened May 5th and will be up until May 21st. There is a reception this Saturday, May 15th at Centro from 1pm-2pm. Gallery hours are from Monday-Friday from 10am-5pm. Apex was an arts program that was awarded in 2020 but had to postpone their gallery show for 2021.

Tifa Tomb, Redmond resident and award winning filmmaker received the 2020 Redmond Art Season Grant but had to postpone her film shoot and is now set to premier her short film this weekend called Creak! A live animated short film that tells the sweet story of 10 year old Zemarcus and the Blue family. The film will be featured at ACES, the Artists of Color Expo and Symposium, this Saturday May 15th at 3:10pm. This is a free event, but you need to pre-register through Eventbrite: To Register: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/aces-artists-of-color-expo-symposium-2021-tickets-153716962573?mc_cid=2d6dbce0be&mc_eid=ae55378830

Wolfberry Studio, originally a 2020 Redmond Art recipient also had to postpone their gallery show "Rainbow on the Eastside". The gallery showcase will be hosted by Centro Cultural Mexicano from June 1-26th and will be the first gallery show for Eastside LGBTQ+ artist. <https://rainbowontheeastside.wolfberrystudio.com/>

Poets in the Park by Redmond Association of Spoken Word, also a 2020 grant recipient will recreate their programming in celebration of local poets virtually, June 5-6 are the tentative dates for this event.

Black Cinema Collective, 2021 recipient was originally a drive thru film event, however due to changes in funding levels and the phase requirements, they have modified their project into a projected film installation at Buoyant in Downtown Park through the month of September, a curation of intercultural engagements of Black and Brown artists and/or stories of human connection across colonial diasporic peoples in the Black American and South Asian contexts.

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). Pete Goldlust and Melanie Germond will be installing their work May 21st for the façade of the Redmond Pool.

VI. COMMISSION UPDATES/DISCUSSION

a. Talk Time

-There is an opening for Vice-Chair, the June meeting will be an opportunity to nominate an Arts Commissioner

-Commissioner Sambamurthi is organizing and producing a virtual spring festival under Northwest Share in collaboration with Washington State Parks and the National Endowment for the Arts. The Spring Festival is on May 22 from 12pm-3pm. For more information go to: www.nwshare.org. Also Northwest Folklife is celebrating its 50th anniversary during Memorial Day weekend. The event will feature live streamed performances, workshops, panels, contests, and other activities. To find out more go to: www.nwfolklife.org.

-Commissioner Teixeria asks City Staff to pass on the information to the Recreation team on teaching artists available through the recently canceled Bellevue College continuation program.

b. Commissioner Retreat Re-Cap/De-Brief

Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Sambamurthi

Second by Commissioner Scotkin

Motion Carried: 5-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm

UPCOMING MONTHLY MEETING

Virtual Meeting

Thursday, June 10, 2021

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.