CITY OF REDMOND
ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION
MINUTES

Thursday, July 11, 2019
Redmond City Hall, Room 130 (1st Floor)
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
Cheri Fowler
Savita Krishnamoorthy
Lynn Trinh
Angie Hinojos Yusuf
Marko Coady
Bobby Ives
Jing Jing Wang, Youth Advocate

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED:
Tifa Tomb (Excused)

STAFF PRESENT:
Carolyn Hope, Park Planning and Cultural Arts Manager
Chris Weber, Cultural Arts Administrator
Lorna Velasco, Cultural Arts Coordinator

VISITORS:

I. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME
Chair Risa Coleman called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

II. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE
None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Motion by Commissioner Fowler to approve the minutes of June 2019
Second by Commissioner Yusuf
Motion carried: 8-0

IV. NEW BUSINESS & GUESTS
a. **SR 520 proposal - Motion to Approve (Memo, Powerpoint & Tele-Conference) Synthesis Design**

Synthesis Design + Architecture is seeking approval for the SR 520 Regional Trail Project, #PridePortal artist concepts, so they may move forward with design plan creation, art creation, coordination with the engineering team on incorporating the design into the plans and specifications for the bid packages and installation. Lead Designer Alvin Wong, through tele-conference and Powerpoint presentation, lead the Arts and Culture commissioners through the art concept, design elements, fabrication, and technical characteristics of the project. The artist’s proposal will be a permanent public artwork that will transform the SR520/40th Street tunnel from an infrastructural underpass into a portal using three-dimensional, optical illusion. Mr. Wong reiterated that the hashtag and Instagram culture has shifted greater interest toward museums by increasing the number of attendees, and, decreasing the average age of the attendees by generating interests through social media engagement. The public artwork will incorporate constructed perspective through the use of gridlines to create an optional illusion for a three-dimensional immersive space. Noting that the Seattle metropolitan area has the 5th largest LGBT population, along with the deep investment of Microsoft and other businesses in elevating the presence of LGBT community, the use of sunset colors will reference rainbow colors in representing the symbolism of pride as part of the tunnel design. The glazed porcelain tiles fabricated by Artaic uses robotics to create mosaic patterns, the tiles themselves are also wear resistant and durable.

Arts and Culture commissioners begin discussion with criteria in mind. Commissioner Coady asked Mr. Wong if the Artaic company responsible for making the tiles could reproduce the same tiles in case of vandalism and for ongoing maintenance, Mr. Wong will follow up. Commissioner Yusuf wanted Mr. Wong to ensure close partnership with WASDoT, (Washington State Department of Transportation) on using the best lighting for both art and tunnel and recommends an uplit approach rather than downlit. Commissioner Yusuf and Trinh commented on the significantly high percentage of dark tiling used and to keep this in mind in later designs and how this will effect overall lighting of space. Commissioner Trinh and Commissioner Krishnamoorthy both appreciated the inclusiveness to the LGBTQ community, Commissioner Trinh commented that the efforts that the City of Redmond in doing to tie in the LGBTQ community within its social fabric will continue to make our community strong. Youth Advocate Wang added that the LGBTQ community is fairly active in Seattle but not as much in Redmond, the tunnel will speak to higher social engagement. Vice-Chair Tai felt silhouette of trees provided great contrast. Chair Coleman agreed that the tunnel does evoke stepping into a new world and also voices concern what ongoing maintenance would look like. Chair Coleman also poses the question whether this is inclusion by being exclusionary to other groups in the Redmond community. Commissioner Ives asked what potential liability there might be if the site prove too popular as an Instagram space. Commissioner Fowler also has concerns similar to Coleman regarding inclusion, she likes the vibrancy of the colors.

Motion by Vice-Chair Tai to approve Synthesis Design’s Proposal for SR 520 Regional Trail projects, #PridePortal with the following conditions, minimize public liability by revisiting lighting and color and gain greater clarity on maintenance of cost.
Second by Commissioner Coady
Motion carried: 7-1

b. **Discuss opportunity for 152nd Ave NE Public Art (Memo and Powerpoint) Carolyn Hope**

There will be a redevelopment project that will have a future call for public art on 152nd NE . This is a transportation project that will be part of main street in Overlake Village. This has been part of a collaboration between Parks and Transportation for the past 10 years. The Public Art Plan from 2017 noted Overlake 152nd and Gateway as priority sites. 152nd NE street is a pedestrian street, that will have amenities, bike lanes, parking, retaining walls, and a permanent wall. The plan is to integrate the artist early on with the engineering structure and planning process. There are opportunities to create art on the retaining walls, or actual gateways over the sidewalks. The discussion is to speak to what other elements could be included, and if there are opportunities that were missed. Chair Coleman suggests exploring grant partnerships to secure more funding.
Youth Advocate Wong gravitated to gateway concept as it echoes inclusion, Commissioner Coady agrees that a gateway is compelling. Commissioner Yusuf sees great potential in inviting a variety of artists to see more dynamism in the art that is created.

V. OLD BUSINESS

a. Moving Art Center Producers Update -Motion to Approve (Memo) Chris Weber and Lorna Velasco
The Redmond Moving Art Center is a mobile stage, created by the Brooklyn-based artist Janet Zweig, brings contemporary art idea into the heart of Redmond. A public call was sent out to community groups in May to be part of Welcoming Week, but only received one application. Bellevue Martial Arts Academy, is an organization that has been around since 1991 and is located Redmond, has applied for the first time for the City of Redmond arts application. Ms. Velasco shared that this organization will produce an event called “Warrior Arts of the Philippines” that will showcase traditional Filipino Martial Arts, followed by a one-hour, free, self-defense instruction for girls and women ages 13 years and above. Founder, Myrlino P. Hufana is looking into integrating traditional dance and music. The selection panel was comprised of commissioners and staff, all felt that this is a meaningful event for Welcoming Week.

Motion by Commissioner Coady to approve the proposal for 2019 Moving Art Center by the Bellevue Arts Academy.
Second by Commissioner Krishnamoorthy
Motion carried: 8-0

b. Project Updates - Chris Weber
   i. So Bazaar
   The programming for So Bazaar will be arts focus featuring multi-disciplinary arts including music, dance, poetry, storytelling, cultural dance performances, films, wandering artists, public art including Favianna Rodriguez’s “Migration is Beautiful”, Maja Petric’s AIEye Redmond, and Centro Cultural Mexicano’s thematic sculpture, “Flower Song” will make its debut. There will be an increase of food trucks, from 10 to 18, 10 interactive community booths, beer garden, and Brown Street will be activated.
   ii. Artist in Residence Extension
   The public call for a new Artist-in-Residence extended deadline is coming up on July 26th. Maja Petric will continue her residency in a limited way until the end of the year with her “Levitating Landscape” to be remounted for Redmond Lights.
   iii. Poet Laureate
   Raul Sanchez, City of Redmond’s new Poet Laureate is brainstorming his work plan and will be attending So Bazaar and the next Arts and Culture Commission meeting. Current Poet Laureate, Melanie Noel, completed final project. Commissioner Kari shared her participation in the workshops led by Ms. Noel, she was guided through the natural landscape as part of generating work. The final project is comprised of a booklet with the collected work of the participants and the poems will be read during Poets in the Park, July 10, 5pm in Anderson Park.

VI. COMMISSION UPDATES/DISCUSSION

a. Talk Time Commission Chair Risa Coleman
   i. Derby Days Booth
   Commissioners will sign up to volunteer during 2 hour time slots. Booth will highlight Redmond Arts Commission’s work and highlight and enlist support for the AIEye Redmond project by Maja Petric.
   ii. So Bazaar Booth
Commissioners to create thematic activity for RACC booth. A subcommittee is formed comprised of Commissioners Ivers and Vice-Chair Tai to help with thematic activities.

iii. Proclamation and Activities for National Arts & Humanities Month (October)
The National Arts Humanities is coming up in October. The City will create a proclamation and there will an an opportunity to highlight an individual or an organization that will be recognized for their contribution to the arts and humanities. Commissioners were asked to submit their recommendations that included Eva Moon, APEX, Centro Cultural Mexicano, VALA, the Teen Center, Rainbow Teen Advisory Board. Discussion will continue at next month’s commission meeting.

iv. Fall Art Walk
Commissioner Coady reminded commissioners of the Senior Center art walk on September 28 and asked to help promote the event. There will also be a July 20th Celebrate the Trail guided walk starting in the Redmond Central Connector.

b. Future Agenda Item Ideas
Commissioners ask to have more time built in for conversation in the monthly meetings.
Commissioners and Staff joined in honoring outgoing Youth Advocate Wang for her impactful contribution as part of the Commission from 2016-2019.

VII. ADJOURNMENT
Motion was made by Vice-Chair Tai to adjourn the meeting.
Second by Commissioner Coady
Motion Carried: 8-0
Meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

UPCOMING MONTHLY MEETING
Next meeting
Thursday, August 8, 2019
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
City Hall, Council Conference Room