CITY OF REDMOND
ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION
MINUTES

Thursday, August 8, 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:
Kari Tai — Vice-Chair
Cheri Fowler
Savita Krishnamoorthy
Marko Coady
Tifa Tomb
Bobby Ives (Late)

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED:
Risa Coleman – Chair
Lynn Trinh
Angie Hinojos Yusuf

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

VISITORS:
Dan Ullom of Brick and Mortar Books of Redmond Town Center

I. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME
Vice-Chair Kari Thai called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

II. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE
None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Motion by Commissioner Tomb to approve the minutes of July 2019 with changes
Second by Commissioner Fowler
Motion carried: 6-0

IV. NEW BUSINESS & GUESTS
a. Sound Transit Public Art Update (ST2 & ST3) (Memo and Powerpoint) Kurt Kiefer

Kurt Kiefer from Sound Transit gave updates on the progress of current public art projects and upcoming projects in Redmond. There are two projects underway at Overlake Village Station, one is by Leo Burke and the other is by Yuki Nakamura. Yuki Nakamura will be located on the plaza of the station, no new details as project is in the early phase of development. Leo Burke will be on the pedestrian bridge and designed as an extension of the natural landscape. Leo’s process uses projected pixels of individual script that corresponds to a certain color. Each color is then hand painted by an assistant in order to add texture and warmth to the digital design. Commissioner Coady asks when the project will be installed and if there was an unveiling, Mr. Kiefer responded that it will be in place by May 2020 but uncertain of specific plans for the unveiling. For the Redmond Technology project, there are two public artists involved, Kate Sweeney and Dan Webb. Kate Sweeney will be mounted in the ceiling of the garage, each metal piece measuring 60ft x 40ft. Dan Webb’s piece is at the entrance of the N Station and will be three stones pushed together by large sculpted hands measuring 4ft x 8ft x 5ft.

Downtown Redmond Link Extension is a designed build project, which is a different construction model, where Sound Transit has developed a set of criteria for the design builder to realize their project. This is the 4th or 5th design build project and has allowed for flexibility in the process for any dramatic changes. The following are the goals of the Sound Transit Art programs with the City of Redmond:

1) Enliven and humanize stations for passengers and community
2) Bring the textures (literally and figuratively) to the stations that architecture can’t provide
3) Grow and support a diverse pool of artists
4) Support the industries that, in turn, support artists
5) Align as much as possible with the goals and aspirations of the City of Redmond
6) Connect the artwork projects to Redmond’s character
7) Help with promotion of Redmond’s economic development

Commissioner Krishnamoorthy asks if there are new artists working in digital media. Mr. Kiefer responded that there are but the maintenance of technical and digital art can be extensive.

The two stations in the Downtown Redmond Link Extension considered for the next design build projects are Southeast Redmond and Downtown Redmond (final names still in consideration):

1) Downtown Redmond Station
   This station is in the Redmond Central Connector and configured for the Light Rail Station. The station will be elevated thirty feet from the ground and has a tail track component that serves as a holding station for trains. The plan for this section is for a design build partnership to have up to twenty-five double sided panels for artwork either for a singular artist or a chorus of artists, similar to the SODO track murals or the Los Angeles expo lines.

2) Southeast Redmond Station
   There is a potential to create art on the wall from the garage to the station that is viewable from city streets. Design builders for this station can have an option in one of the towers to have glass art work.

Mr. Kiefer asked the Commissioners to speak to any character issues of the public art, keeping in mind where they hope to see Redmond in the future. Commissioner Fowler wants to ensure that diversity and representation of the community is recognized and happy to see the opportunity for a chorus of individual artists to bring vibrancy and color to the projects as well as different expressions. Commissioner Coady agrees, but there is a fine balance between being inclusive and having diversity but not want political correctness to drive artwork too much, projects need to find ways to fold in cultural aspects into the art without being heavy handed or hokey. Mr. Kiefer wants to cast a broad net
and will assemble a panel to select the artists. Commissioner Tomb like the idea of supporting the smaller industries, she would also like to see youth reflected in some way, to help emerging artists feel encouraged and part of society, and that their art is valued as well. Commissioner Fowler added that this goes for elder artists, Commissioner Tomb agreed that elder artists should also feel valued.

For next steps, Mr. Kiefer will work with design builders to establish locations of upcoming projects, then assemble a panel in the fall or winter, evaluate the pool of artists in the current roster to see if it meets the goal of a diverse pool, if note advertise again.

b. Welcoming Redmond (Memo and Powerpoint) Chief Tommy Smith and Carolyn Hope

Fire Chief and Interim Police Chief, Tommy Smith, is a great champion of Welcoming Redmond Initiative set to launch in September. The initiative is part of the City’s cultural inclusion and diversity efforts. Chief Smith began his presentation holding a single sheet of paper being broken apart to serve as a powerful metaphor of what it’s like to be a person of color working in a dominant culture constantly assailed by assumptions, racial jokes, and all the while carrying the burden of representation. Chief Smith thanked that Arts and Culture Commissioners and Staff for catalyzing the adoption of the Cultural Inclusion Ordinance for the City of Redmond. This laid the groundwork to build a more welcoming Redmond, to build an environment where you feel you belong regardless of where you come from. Chief Smith emphasized that demographics has changed, in Redmond 40% are non-white, 1 of 3 are foreign born, and there is a need to be intentional in fully engaging the community and for the community members to know they can access and be a part of the government. A video will be available for city employees and eventually for citizens of Redmond, in multiple languages, that clarifies the goals of the Welcoming Redmond Initiative.

Carolyn Hope shared with the commission that this is the fourth year the City of Redmond has participated in Welcoming Week. This year, various city departments are producing a dozen community events from September 13th- 22nd, and and the City is partnering with other eastside cities and with Eastside Refugees and Immigrant Coalition, (ERIC). The events are throughout the eastside comprised of a broad array of programming. At every event, multi-lingual handouts will be provided to help the community learn about accessing all city services, from emergency services to recreation, translation, immigrant services, planning, utility, and basic information about city government. Ms. Hope reminded the Commissioners that although their role is broad when it comes to the ordinance, it is to find programs and artists aligned with our values, it is to help improve ways we engage with our diverse community, identify programming opportunities, suggest improvements to policy and procedures, find ways to bring in a more diverse artists, and look into a more inclusive public call. The Welcoming Redmond team will provide periodic updates to the Commissioners and that there will be an upcoming training for Staff and Commissioners in deconstructing bias set for October.

Ms. Hope asked the Commissioners to look into evaluating commemorative observances that should be acknowledged through the Welcoming Redmond lens that would include a City Council proclamation, in addition, programming to support these observances.

Discussion ensued on various activities and programming, this included bringing in speakers in partnership with Bellevue, quarterly lunch and learns, partner with the Library that already has a robust curriculum, and trainings on de-escalation and conflict resolution.

c. Marketing Updates (Memo and Powerpoint) Bethany Kennedy

Engagement Manager Bethany Kennedy presented to the Commissioners marketing and communication strategies to engage and inform the community. There are various forms of communication that spans print, in the form of weekly Park and Recreation newsletters and Park Activity Guides, and digital media
in the form of the website, online calendar, and social media. These various marketing channels are available to the Arts and Culture Commissioners as marketing support of the various activities and programming that comes out of the commission. It is helpful to schedule into the marketing workplan a timeline that allows for significant lead time. Discussion ensued on potential collaborative opportunities with eastside communities for cross-promotion.

d. Team Building & Goal Setting - Chris Weber
As the summer events come to a close, Chris Weber sees an opportunity for the Staff and the Arts and Culture Commissioners to pause and reflect and look into improving processes, work plans, and ways of communicating. Mr. Weber will connect with the Arts and Culture Commissioners to find a time to schedule in a retreat, followed by a diversity training for all members of the Commission.

V. OLD BUSINESS

a. Artist in Residence Update - Chris Weber
Artist in Resident Maja Petric created two temporary public art pieces that will be displayed at So Bazaar. There were a total of five artists that applied for the Artist-in-Residence, Staff and two Art and Culture Commissioners will participate in the Interview and Selection Panel on August 23rd.

b. Humanities Month - Chris Weber
October is Humanities Month, a proclamation is scheduled to happen in City Hall and activities around the celebration of arts of humanities are scheduled throughout the City. Mr. Weber will continue his outreach for suggestions on a group or individual to honor.

VI. COMMISSION UPDATES/DISCUSSION

a. Talk Time Vice-Chair Kari Tai
   i. Creative Consultant Update
      Susan Robb as creative consultant will be at So Bazaar to share her work with the public. There will be a new call for the 4Culture Consultancy grant, the City is looking to apply in partnership with the planning commission around the 2020 census.
   ii. So Bazaar Booth Activation
      Former Youth Advocate Wang, Commissioner Ives and Vice-Chair Tai are organizing activities for the Arts and Culture So Bazaar Booth for all three nights.

b. Future Agenda Item Ideas

VII. ADJOURNMENT
Motion was made by Commissioner Ives to adjourn the meeting.
Second by Commissioner Krishnamoorthy
Motion Carried: 6-0
Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

**UPCOMING MONTHLY MEETING**
Next meeting
Thursday, September 12, 2019
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
City Hall, Council Conference Room