

**CITY OF SEQUIM  
CITY ARTS ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES  
VIRTUAL MEETING  
SEQUIM, WA  
November 16, 2020**

## CALL TO ORDER

The City Arts Advisory Commission of the City of Sequim, Washington met virtually using teleconferencing software on Monday, November 16, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 3:06 p.m., with Chair Ross Brown presiding. The meeting was quorate.

## ROLL CALL

City Arts Coordinator Aurora Lagattuta conducted roll call. Commissioners Susan Boudreau, Ross Brown, Craig Robison, Suzanne Horne, Mary Lofstrom and Council Liaison Mayor Armacost were in attendance.

Commissioner Maggie Taylor was not present.

## CONSENT AGENDA

### 5.1 Minutes

MOTION: Commissioner Boudreau moved to approve the final agenda. Commissioner Horne seconded. VOTE: 5 in favor, 0 against. Motion carried.

### 5.2 October Expenditures and Revenue

MOTION: Commissioner Boudreau moved to approve the final agenda. Commissioner Horne seconded. VOTE: 5 in favor, 0 against. Motion carried.

### 5.3 Expense Approval for Website and Video Work

MOTION: Commissioner Lofstrom moved to approve the final agenda. Commissioner Brown seconded. VOTE: 5 in favor, 0 against. Motion carried.

## REPORTS

1. Commission Chair Brown informed commissioners about the Sunshine Festival.
  - A. At this moment there will be a Fun Run and nothing else is planned. He will be putting up some lights in Carrie Blake Park perhaps before March 1st.
  - B. Brown will put up a light show at Port Angeles Arts Center from Dec.5-February. He hopes that the Sunshine Festival will do something like this next year.

2. Commission Vice Chair Horne stated that she contacted musicians to send in videos. Arts Coordinator Lagattuta confirmed that one musician's submission was received.
3. Arts Coordinator Lagattuta referred commission to see attached Expense Approval. Lagattuta explained that there are extra funds in CAAC 2020 budget. This money needs to be used by the end of 2020 or it will be roll over to the general fund. Lagattuta presented a proposed use of funds. Commissioners passed motion for expenses (see consent agenda item 5.3).

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### *7.1 Creative Placemaking Update by Arts Coordinator*

**7.1A** Arts Coordinator Lagattuta explained that due to its high-profile location, Centennial Place plans will include a long process for public engagement and input. Whatever is eventually designed for Centennial Place will most certainly tell a story about Sequim, so we would like to make a thorough commitment to community engagement. Sequim, like any living, growing town, is going through a lot of changes. This project aims to engage the local community in conversations about the identity of Sequim. Questions include: What stories do we tell about this place? What do we need in our community now? What legacy do we desire to create for Sequim's future?

The plan for community input on the design of Centennial Place will be like the 'People's Project' in that the community will be asked to contribute input and will eventually vote on the final components/design elements of this corner. The decision process will occur over a minimum of 2 years. 2021 will focus on brainstorming, compiling and synthesizing all the information into 5-7 achievable design options. In 2022, local citizens will be invited to vote on their top selections.

For 2021, we will release surveys both online and mailed for public feedback. These surveys will ask not just what nouns/objects people desire in Centennial Place but also asks for verbs (what do you want to do in this space). They will also include a creative component. See what Austin is doing in a pandemic survey as an example here: <https://www.artonthecorridor.org/share-your-story> If possible, (pandemic depending,) we will also engage live with the community via pop up tents at events/farmer's market and public talks. Surveys, both mailed and online, will be released no later than April/May.

In addition, Lagattuta explained that this plan also proposes to release a "Call for Artists" to assist in this dialogue. Artists will be asked to submit a proposal for an art project that includes community engagement. CAAC will select 2 artists who will be asked to engage with the public (again, either virtually, through mail or live) and then reflect their findings back to the community. Their work will be presented live or filmed in November 2021. Each artist will receive a \$500 stipend for project expenses. Submissions open in February.

Commission Chair Ross Brown clarified that artists will be part of the outreach process. Brown explains that surveys and outreach want to move away from objects to verbs, from things in the space to what people want to do in the space. Brown stated that as an artist this is an interesting process.

Commission Vice Chair Horne stated that basically we will be asking artists to create some kind of symbolism be it a song, a painting or a short story. Commission Chair Brown agreed and added that it could also be an interaction.

Commissioner Lofstrom stated that all this sounds great to her but there needs to be a space where the interaction is presented. Lofstrom added we still need to make sure we make a beautiful space at Centennial Place beyond these artistic expressions. Arts Coordinator Lagattuta agreed and explained that work will be presented either live at the Civic Center or video, pandemic depending. Lagattuta added that making Centennial Place beautiful is important and there is not a budget for it until 2022 at the earliest nor a formal planner so the call for artists provides time for community engagement, research and refinement.

Commission Chair Brown talked about the need for finding ways to get people involved with art. The two artists commissioned will be starting the process of public engagement with art. At the end of the day, this is a place we want to get people together and help them interact. Brown added that this project also allows for the city to become educated on art engagement and its potential. Arts Coordinator Lagattuta commented that the commission does not need to decide the entire engagement process because the two selected artists can assist with the process.

Commissioner Lofstrom mentioned that there is a lack of a city planner to make Centennial Place and asks how this process will look. Arts Coordinator Lagattuta agreed with Lofstrom's concern and added that she hopes that more time will provide more opportunities to communicate, clarify and refine how exactly Centennial Place will be built and funded.

Commission Chair Brown stated that the commission will want to stay updated with council and let them know what they are up to. Arts Coordinator Lagattuta shows commission a [timeline for Centennial Place and council announcements](#), which includes updating council in January, 2021 and providing a general budget for Centennial Place on the CIP for May, 2021. Top 5-7 ideas for public vote will be presented to council in early 2022.

**7.1B** Commission Chair Brown suggested to commission that everyone send questions/thoughts/ideas to Arts Coordinator Lagattuta by Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>.

## *7.2 Review of 2021 Programming Plans by Arts Coordinator*

Arts Coordinator presented proposed [Programming Goals](#) and [Timeline](#).

**7.2.A** Commission Chair Brown emphasized that without the live gallery the shows are not the same and the arts coordinator time could be better spent. People are desiring connecting so something like a sign art show could better serve that need. Arts Coordinator Lagattuta mentions that the city's "Be Kind" Initiative could overlap with sign art exhibit if desired.

Commissioner Lofstrom stated that one primary thing we have an issue with is that we need a place that is not mail or internet to share information. Lofstrom suggests a large bulletin board that could be placed in Centennial Place.

**ACTION:** Arts Coordinator Lagattuta will follow up with city to about placing a large bulletin board in Centennial Place.

Commission Chair Brown proposed discussing what materials would be best for signs displayed in the parks. Arts Coordinator Lagattuta explained that city does not think there are lot of good quality metal signs available in recycled stock. Commissioner Lofstrom asked how the signs would be placed in the parks so that people could not just pick them up and walk away. Commission Chair Brown asked Lagattuta to follow up with city and see if signs can be place in a more permanent way.

**ACTION:** Arts Coordinator Lagattuta will follow up with city about which specific parks can display art and if signs can be attached in a permanent way.

Commission Chair Brown suggested to commission that everyone again think about programming and send ideas and comments to Arts Coordinator Lagattuta by Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>.

## *7.2B City's 2021 Year of Kindness*

Arts Coordinator Lagattuta asks for a commission volunteer to be involved. Lagattuta is not clear what specific duties this commissioner will do. City did mention need for banner designer but she is not clear if this is a role to be filled by commissioner or not. Commissioner Robinson volunteered.

## *7.3 "Youthful Expressions" Update by Jury Head, Mary Lofstrom*

Commissioner Lofstrom reported that the Jury process was easy and good. Juror Mary Beth Beuke provided Lofstrom with her feedback which Lofstrom relayed: 'The jury process was good. The image quality was not always good, would ideally like improved.' Commission Chair Brown explained that in the past a class for photographing work has been considered.

Commissioner Lofstrom commented that she spoke with her daughter, a graduate of Sequim High School and she provided the following suggestions: 1) do a lot of marketing, showcase artwork in auditorium, 2) promote with posters, 3) ASB is a student body team that makes posters and could place posters up for art show s, 4) need to inform students just not in art classes but in all classes for greater influence and inclusion.

## NEW BUSINESS

### 8.1 pARTners Group Meeting Update by Vice Chair Horne

Commission Vice Chair Horne reported on the meeting. All the organizations are slowing continuing their programming. Horne was most impressed with OTA reporting that they are trying to teach High School classes and she is curious to learn more. Horne commented that at least three to four times the meeting was called a much-appreciated therapy session.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

None for this meeting.

## ADJOURNMENT

Commission Chair Brown invites the commission to spend time between now and next meeting on Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup> to think about what we would like to do for 2021. What are we doing to keep hope alive?

MOTION: Vice Chair Horne moved to adjourn meeting. Commission Chair Brown seconded. VOTE: 5 in favor, 0 against. Motion carried. Commission Chair Brown adjourned the meeting at 4:46 p.m.