

**CITY OF BURIEN, WASHINGTON**

**Arts Commission  
MEETING MINUTES  
Date: September 27, 2016  
Time: 6:30 p.m.**

**Arts Commission Members Present:**

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|---|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shelley Brittingham     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dane Johnson       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Melinda Behrman |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alistair Christopherson | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kathy Justin       |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Erik Christopherson                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Salmon     |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sybil Davis             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Catherine Wendland |   |

Erik Christopherson was excused.

**Staff Present**

Steve Roemer, Park, Recreation and Cultural Services Director  
Casey Stanley, Recreation Manager  
Gina Kallman, Cultural Arts Supervisor

**Guests Present**

Stefan Nelson, Cultural Arts Specialist, Highline Public Schools

**Minutes**

Meeting called to order. August 23rd, 2016 minutes were approved.

**Highline Public Schools—Current and Future Art Programming**

Stefan Nelson, Cultural Art Specialist for the Highline Public Schools, briefed the Arts Commission on current happenings in the District. He shared a new development, as the Evergreen campus will be changing from a small school campus to a comprehensive high school in the near future, giving all students greater access to arts education. He also shared an update on the Arts Corps three year program happening at many of the elementary schools, and shared information on what types of arts programming are available to Highline elementary students. An exciting program is a partnership with the Seattle Art Museum. The Museum provides bussing for all 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classes (1,500 students) in the district to the Olympic Sculpture Gardens, and Stefan provides teacher training to prep students before the visit.

**Arts Commission Purpose/ Past Work Plans**

Commissioner Shelley Brittingham shared with the commission that this discussion will happen at the October meeting. Staff will send out past work plans to Commissioners before the October meeting.

**Area of Focus**

**Education-** no report

**Public Art-** Parks Director Steve Roemer discussed the next step for the request to Council for greater funding opportunities for the Art in Public Places fund. He shared the request letter with the commission and the commission provided some changes, including the possibility of per capita funding. The commission approved the request letter (attached). The request letter will be presented to the Council at the October 17<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting.

The commission briefly spoke about the Art in Public Places Plan. Commissioners Melinda, Michael, and Ali volunteered to serve on a Public Art Advisory Committee and will meet in early November to create a plan to bring back to the Commission for discussion.

**Cultural Art District Discussion**—The commission had a brief discussion on how to move forward with this project. This topic will be the focus of the November meeting, and staff will invite City of Seattle Arts and Culture Staff Matthew Richter to speak at the November meeting about creation of the Seattle Cultural Districts.

**Staff Report**

**Parks Director News**—Steve shared information with the commission including requests for the 2017-18 budget that would add funding for the Art Specialist to have more hours, as well as more program funding for Wild Strawberry Festival and Music in the Park. He also shared news about the resignation of the City Manager and plans for replacement.

**Events**—Staff shared a report on the Arts-a-Glow Lantern Festival. The September 10<sup>th</sup> event went well with 2,500-3,000 people in attendance. 2017 will be the 10 year anniversary of the event.

**Additional items**

Meeting is adjourned.

*Whatever the form, public art instills meaning—a greater sense of identity and understandings of where we live, work, and visit—creating memorable experiences for all. (Americans for the Arts)*

The Arts Commission is recommending changes to Ordinance No. 238 to generate additional Art in Public Places funding. This funding will be used for works of art installed in public places to expand citizens' awareness and appreciation of public art.

At this time the ordinance is written to collect funding for the 1% for Art Program from "Qualifying Capital Improvement Projects". "Qualifying Capital Improvement Projects" are defined as *projects funded wholly or in part by the City of Burien for construction or remodeling of government owned public buildings, transit centers and parks.*

Due to the way the ordinance is written, at this time there are no funds going to the Art in Public Places Fund. At this time there are no plans for municipal construction (except possible public works facility), transit centers are not developed by the city, and parks construction has been paid for by grants due to very limited CIP funding.

Unfortunately, grant funding is not available for the Arts in Public Places Fund. Currently there is only \$30,000 in the Arts in Public Places Fund. This funding could be depleted by as early as 2017.

An increase in public art in the City of Burien would increase the appeal of the city to residents and developers and be an economic development driver. The Arts Commission would like to encourage the Council to increase CIP funding, as this would provide positive growth for the city as well as greatly improve the opportunity for art funding. The arts commission is also suggesting the following changes to increase funding opportunities.

#### **Current Funding Request**

1. Yearly transfer of funds from General Fund to Art in Public Places Fund:
  - a. Provide ongoing funding of \$25,000 annually into the Arts in Public Places Fund or
  - b. Provide ongoing funding from a per capita formula, which would allow for growth in the fund as the city population grows. The commission would like to recommend a \$.40 per capita for the Art in Public Places Fund at this time. With a population of 48,000 this would equal \$19,200.

#### **Future Funding Opportunities**

2. Add to list of "Qualifying Capital Improvement Projects":
  - a. *Public Works Projects such as roads, sidewalks, bridges, etc. funded wholly or in part by the City of Burien.* This would benefit the Art in Public Places Fund if the CIP budget is increased.
3. Place wording in the ordinance to direct a portion of a hotel/motel tax to the Arts in Public Places Fund. The Arts Commission understands that the city is looking at developers of Hotel/Motels and that this is an opportunity that could be in the city's future.
4. Place wording in the ordinance to encourage developers to consider creative ways to engage artists and present works of art in their projects. These funds provide for the acquisition of existing art or for the commissioning of new works of art. The art may be an integral part of the architectural and function aspects of the project, or a separate formal element of the site. The commission would like to spend time with staff looking at ways other cities have worked with developers to increase the public art in their cities, and come back to the Council with recommendations. Options may include:
  - a. Including art in the incentive package given to developers
  - b. Setting aside a percentage of mitigation fees for public art projects
  - c. A requirement to incorporate public art in the project or pay an arts fee. This could include an additional provisions, such as a specific minimum threshold of construction costs for the program to apply.

