



Culture Committee
Jan 8, 2013 - 5:00pm
City Hall, 3rd Floor - Committee Room #1

Present: Tracy Cotton, Mark Elliott, Angie Harris, Melenie Neamtz, Wynne Nicholson, Rick Rochon, Laurie Sadowski, Deb Slade, Kathy Summers, Peter Vietgen, Jennifer Wallace, Andrea Wilson (arrived at 5:45pm)

Regrets: Lilita Stripnieks, Brian Narhi, Steve Solski

Staff: Rebecca Cann, Jason Cadieux, Kim Payne, Kathy Powell

1. Welcome and Introductions

T. Cotton called the meeting to order and wished everyone a happy New Year.

2. Approval of Agenda

W. Nicholson asked to present the report on Arts Awards with the arrival of A. Wilson.

Motion: to approve the Agenda as amended:

Made by M. Neamtz

seconded by M. Elliott

Carried

3. Review of Minutes

Motion: to approve minutes from Dec 4, 2012

Made A. Harris

Seconded by K. Payne

Carried

4. Business Arising

T. Cotton noted that the Culture Committee meeting time will remain at 5pm as per the feedback provided from the committee.

5. Correspondence

R. Cann read email correspondence from Steve Remus of the Niagara Artists Centre [NAC] expressing various concerns with regard to SCCIP. Some discussion regarding the increased demand on the program, the challenges of managing continued investment in a strategic way. M. Elliott noted that although NAC's SCCIP application for Strutt 2013 was unsuccessful the event was well supported through a Fee-for-service agreement with the City.

Action: Jason to forward correspondence to the committee for further consideration.

6. Subcommittee Reports

SCCIP Committee – R. Rochon reported that the SCCIP committee will meet Jan 16th to review issues & concerns brought to the committee's attention by Carousel Players and the Niagara Artists Centre. The committee will welcome Jane Gardner and Pablo Felices Luna from Carousel Players as well as Steve Remus from the Niagara Artists Centre.



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Culture Plan 2020: Cross-Sectoral Steering Committee – J. Wallace reported that the Public Information meetings outlining first draft of the CP Priorities & Initiatives took place on December 6th at Russell Ave Community Centre and the Kiwanis Aquatic Centre. Consultants enjoyed a good turn out and the feedback has been incorporated in the most recent draft of the priorities. These revised priorities and more will be presented at the next meeting of the CP Cross-sectoral committee which will take place in late January or early February.

Cultural Services Office – R. Cann reviewed the research and community consultation process which has led to the drafting of the current culture plan priorities and initiatives. R. Cann shared the most recent draft of the priorities and asked the committee to reflect on the role of the Culture Committee within each of the priorities and asked the Committee to consider the following questions:

- Will these priorities achieve the goals outlined above?
- Which priorities and initiatives need the specific participation of the Culture Committee?
- From your perspective, are there any significant issues or opportunities that are not addressable within the Priorities and Initiatives provided?

Action: R. Cann to distribute list of questions via email.

R. Cann explained that the accompanying initiatives are not simply tasks to be accomplished but have been drafted to leave room for City staff and volunteers to take advantage of new developments and opportunities in the cultural sector down the line. Further discussion followed regarding methods of monitoring success, securing buy-in from Council and the challenges surrounding implementing initiatives and reporting across departments.

**Andrea Wilson arrived at 5:45pm*

Arts Awards Committee – W. Nicholson reviewed the Vision Statement for the new Arts Awards program and reported that the Arts Awards subcommittee reviewed concerns as expressed by management at their Jan 4th meeting.

How are the arts awards acknowledging amateur artists and/or arts organizations?

The subcommittee agreed that although the amateur artists are an important element of the local cultural scene, to acknowledge this particular group within the established or emerging categories wouldn't be appropriate. Awards by their nature seek to acknowledge excellence and to pit amateurs against professionals would be unfair. More appropriate would be to create a separate award for this category with a separate set of evaluation criteria that takes into account the philosophical differences between professional & amateur artistic practice. The subcommittee agreed however that with some slight editing of the language – amateur organizations could (and should) be recognized through the Making a Difference Award.



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Motion: to recommend that the Arts Awards subcommittee investigate the feasibility of an Amateur Artist Award

Made by P. Vietgen

Seconded D. Slade

Carried

Are organizations/collectives eligible for nominations to the Volunteer Award?

After some discussion the subcommittee agreed that Volunteer awards should stay focused on acknowledging individuals. If an organization pooled its resources to 'volunteer' for a specific purpose then perhaps the peer jury would consider the nomination however this exception would be handled on a case by case basis.

There's potential for negative perceptions regarding cash awards to patrons, volunteers & educators. Should these funds be automatically gifted to an arts organization of the patron/volunteer/educator's choosing?

The subcommittee noted that this issue was discussed at length and after consultation with Jane Gardner & Natasha Pedros, it was decided to recommend that cash awards be given equally to all winners across the board. If the winner of a particular award wanted to donate their cash prize to a particular organization than this should be left up to the individual. After some discussion the Culture Committee agreed with the current protocol as written and approved in the Arts Awards Program.

The creation of a permanent award for the Arts Awards.

Although discussed at length at the subcommittee level, the desire to establish a *permanent award* for the St. Catharines Arts Awards was not included in the program as approved by the Culture Committee. Considering details for the new awards program are still being ironed out AND Council approval is still at least a month away it's safe to assume Barry Casement will not have ample time to complete the awards by June. The subcommittee agreed that pursuing permission for "single source procurement" to engage Barry Casement to create the 6 awards is no longer practical. Instead the subcommittee recommends presenting each award winner with a framed certificate along with the cash prize. The subcommittee also would like firm direction from the Culture Committee on whether or not they should pursue establishing a permanent award for 2014. P. Vietgen noted that PAAC has discussed the idea of assisting with a call for artists to design the new award. After some discussion of the potential challenges of establishing this type of award it was agreed that the committee should move forward with their plans as stated.

Motion: to present certificates and cash awards for 2013 and to further investigate the development of a permanent award for the 2014 Arts Awards Program.

Made by W. Nicholson

Seconded by A. Harris

Carried

M. Elliott asked for clarification on how past awards winners were commemorated after the Arts Awards. A. Wilson reminded M. Elliott that the Wall of Fame concept as originally proposed included acknowledgment of local artists who had not received an arts award and was therefore beyond the scope of the subcommittee. M. Elliott suggested that the Wall of Fame concept should



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be retooled to focus on winners only and ideally, be some form of permanent recognition in a public space. W. Nicholson noted that the subcommittee would revisit this concept at future meetings.

7. Reports:

Cultural Services Office - R. Cann reported that the format for the Spring/Summer Leisure Guide has been revised. The Culture Section has been augmented to include Museums, Arts & Culture and will no longer feature a Participate in the Arts section. Plans are underway to move the SCCIP deadline to May 31st allowing for successful applicants to receive funding closer to the beginning of the season. R. Cann looks forward to receiving finalized Best Practices and State of Culture reports from the Lord Cultural Services very soon.

Public Art Advisory Committee – P. Vietgen reported that the Dec 20 meeting was canceled. Next PAAC meeting is scheduled for Thurs Jan 17, 2013

Performing Arts Centre - M. Elliott noted that revised PAC drawings are just passed 50% and they're looking great, next meeting to review completed drawings should take place in late Jan.

Heritage Committee – B. Narhi. None

St. Catharines Museum – K. Powell reported that Christmas programming went smoothly and now it's back to work! Museum staff is gearing up for an exciting year of exhibits and programming.

8. Other business:

None

9. Round table

K. Payne noted that Brian York is the new manager of EDCS

A. Harris - Chorus Niagara [A Mighty Cry](#) - written by a native of St. Catharines March 2nd 7:30pm. Chorus Niagara is celebrating its 50th anniversary. The organization is trying to raise \$50,000 at their [6th annual Sing-a-thon](#). Those interested in sponsoring A. Harris should touch base with her before the next meeting.

M. Neamtz – Folk Arts Multi-cultural Centre has returned to their permanent home at 85 Church St.

10. Next Meeting:

Tuesday Feb 5, 5:00pm to 6:30pm Committee Room 1 – 3rd Floor – City Hall

Motion to terminate – J. Wallace
Meeting terminated @ 6:30pm