

# Arts & Culture Advisory Committee

## Minutes

**Wednesday, November 25, 2020**

**Via Zoom at 5:00 p.m.**

### **Present:**

Mo Al Jumaily, David DeRocco, Justus Düntsch, Don Evans, Kate Leathers, Suzie Melville, Sandy Middleton, Connor Wilkes. Coun. Carlos Garcia

**Regrets:** Karissa Fast, Jennifer Hay, Emily Kovacs, Chad MacDonald

### **Staff:**

Phil Cristi, Ashley Judd-Rifkin, Lori Mambella, Kathleen Powell

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- 1. Call meeting to order (S. Middleton)**  
5:01 p.m.
- 2. Recognition of Traditional Territories**
- 3. Introductions**  
P. Cristi introduced himself to those who hadn't met him.
- 4. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda**  
The committee decided that it wanted S. Middleton to provide an update on Rodman Hall. It will be added just before Buisness arising from the Minutes.
- 5. Motion to approve the amended agenda for November 25, 2020**  
**Moved: S. Melville** **Carried**
- 6. Motion to adopt the minutes of August 27, 2020**  
**Moved: J. Düntsch** **Carried**
- 6.1 Update on Rodman Hall**  
S. Middleton provided an update to ACAC regarding Rodman Hall. The building and grounds of Rodman Hall have been sold by Brock University to a developer for potential mixed commercial/residential use. The collection housed there (when it

was Rodman Hall Art Centre) will be transferred to Rodman Hall Art Centre Inc., a newly formed organization run by a board of directors, chaired by Jean Bridge. Coun. Garcia noted that Rodman Hall itself is a designated Heritage building. S. Middleton suggested that now is the time to advocate for a public art gallery.

## **7. Business arising from the minutes**

Item 9.6 – Other Business from the August 27, 2020 minutes included a request for information about the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre \$3 ticket surcharge that helps to fund SCCIP.

P. Cristi addressed the question, noting that Finance confirmed the ticket surcharge applies to every ticket sold, except family and kids shows; school shows; and the PAC's Film House. The large discrepancy between 2019 and 2020 numbers, as outlined in the Report to Council, was the result of refunds applied to tickets purchased for shows that were cancelled due to COVID-19. P. Cristi noted that other sources for funding SCCIP have been proposed for 2021, with the hope of keeping the SCCIP budget at \$400,000.

P. Cristi offered to request more information about the ticket surcharge as it applies to local vs. out of town shows, and then to provide more clarification to the committee through A. Judd-Rifkin.

## **8. Correspondence**

None

## **9. Business**

### **9.1. Arts Awards Subcommittee Report – A. Judd-Rifkin**

Update provided in the report from the Cultural Services Office.

### **9.2. SCCIP Subcommittee Report – No Report**

### **9.3. Culture Plan Subcommittee Report – No Report**

### **9.4. Cultural Sustainability Committee Report – S. Middleton**

- S. Middleton reported that there were a lot of updates from the CSC's most recent meeting. She will get the meeting minutes and forward them to ACAC. She also noted she will continue to forward minutes from future CSC meetings.

### **9.5. Report from Cultural Services Office – A. Judd-Rifkin**

- Culture Days was a huge success! Running from September 25 to October 25, staff kept busy helping SCCIP-funded activity and event organizers carry out their plans. This year, when Culture Days released their list of rankings, St. Catharines came out on top as the overall #1 City in Canada! (This is up from #10 in just mid-sized cities in 2019.) We were very happy with this year's

community engagement, both at in-person, socially distanced activities and with the wide variety of virtual offerings.

- Arts Awards Update: The 2020 St. Catharines Arts Awards were a great success! The in-person event was postponed from its original early May date (due to COVID) and, instead, took place virtually on October 25. It was livestreamed from the stage of Partridge Hall at the FirstOntario PAC and capped off the month-long Culture Days event. All nominees were celebrated, and five award recipients were honoured. Juliet Dunn and Peter Shea performed 2 songs live from the Partridge Hall stage. A video of the event is still available on the PAC's YouTube page, and short videos of the recipients receiving their awards will be uploaded to the Culture Office's social media accounts over the next month. To date the video has 3023 views, which is 10x the number that can usually see it in person! Planning for the 2021 Arts Awards has not yet begun as we await info on the 2021 budget.
- SCCIP update: all SCCIP funds have been allocated for 2020. A. Judd-Rifkin continues to gather and process final reports. 2021 timelines & deadlines have not been finalized – likely early in the new year. We plan to host a virtual "Town Hall" event to check in with SCCIP-funded organizations and artists regarding COVID, funding and the overall cultural atmosphere after so many months of shutdown. It's being planned for the first quarter of 2021 and we encourage any interested ACAC members to help organize and facilitate.
- We have been working on a project with two Brock University students involving the City's Culture Plan. The students are contacting some of our municipal comparators to ask about Culture Plans and if/how each municipality's plans are being renewed. The report the students prepare will help inform some of the Culture Plan work we hope to undertake in the short term.
- The Annual Juried Exhibit – More Than Words: Truth & Reconciliation – had a virtual opening on Nov.20. A total of 13 art pieces were chosen for exhibition. You can find a video of the virtual opening on the City's YouTube page. For anyone who is interested in seeing the exhibit in person, you can book a time to visit City Hall on Thursdays.
- CSO staff continue to work in the office.

There was some discussion around SCCIP dates and timelines, with A. Judd-Rifkin noting that the Cultural Services Office is preparing a few different scenarios regarding specific programs offered and deadline dates. It was noted that any change to current programs (such as once again offering the Arts and Culture Community Revitalization Program) would have to be approved by Council.

**Motion to accept report: D. Evans**

**Carried**

## **9.6. Other Business**

### **9.6.1. 2021 Workplan**

There was a discussion around the 2021 Workplan, and how items from the 2020 workplan that weren't completed due to COVID could stay on the 2021 plan. Staff also noted some key areas of the Culture Plan that could provide additional focus items for 2021. A. Judd-Rifkin will update the workplan accordingly and circulate to the committee before the next meeting.

D. DeRocco provided a short update on the Neil Peart Memorial Task Force, noting different locations around Lakeside Park were chosen as potential memorial sites, in order to give artists more freedom in their visions. Staff are currently developing a Request For Proposals and the Task Force is already starting to fundraise.

K. Powell gave an update on the Fallen Firefighters Memorial Task Force, which is beginning to fundraise for a memorial that will be located at the corner of Race and Carlisle Streets.

S. Melville congratulated S. Middleton on receiving a St. Catharines Standard Reader's Choice Award.

## **10. Date of next meeting**

Wednesday, January 06, 2021  
Via Zoom  
5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

## **11. Motion to Adjourn**

That the Arts & Culture Advisory Committee be adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

**Moved by: D. DeRocco**

**Carried**