

Arts & Culture Advisory Committee

Minutes

Wednesday, December 01, 2021

Via Zoom at 5:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Justus Düntsch, Don Evans, Kate Leathers, Suzie Melville, Sandy Middleton, Pam Seabrook, Janice Slade

Absent:

Mo Al Jumaily, Danny Custodio, David DeRocco, Jennifer Hay

Guests:

Coun. Karrie Porter, Candice Turner-Smith

Staff:

Ashley Judd-Rifkin, Michelle Nicholls, Noora Rizvi

1. Call meeting to order (Chair)

5:07 p.m.

2. Recognition of Traditional Territories

S. Middleton acknowledged that the land on which the Arts & Culture Advisory Committee meets today is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples, many of whom continue to live and work here today. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and is within the land protected by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum agreement. Today this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples. Acknowledging this is a reminder that our great standard of living is directly related to the resources and friendship of Indigenous people.

3. Amendments to the Agenda

None

4. Motion to approve the agenda for December 1, 2021

Moved: D. Evans

Carried

5. Motion to adopt the minutes of November 3, 2021

Moved: J. Slade

Carried

6. Declarations of Interest

None

7. Presentations (invited guests)

Candice Turner-Smith, Chair of Artistic Festivals for the 2022 Canada Summer Games, taking place August 7 – 21, 2022, spoke with ACAC about the arts and culture components of the Games.

C. Turner-Smith noted the main festival site will be Niagara Place, beside Brock University, which will host events morning, afternoon, and evening. Events will include live performances from local artists, artistic exhibits, and elements of the Niagara Region's culinary scene. A Call to Artists went out in October and the deadline for submissions is December 10. Local artists are encouraged to apply. Daily attendance is projected to be 2,000 – 4,500.

C. Turner-Smith told ACAC about the "13 for 13" Festival, which pairs each of the 12 municipalities within Niagara Region, plus the Region itself, with a Province or Territory of Canada. Performance showcases will take place within each region, between August 6 – 21. St. Catharines is paired with Yukon and the showcase is scheduled for Thursday August 11. C. Turner-Smith also noted there will be opportunities for artists during the Opening Ceremony, Closing Ceremony, during the 13 for 13 Festival and at Niagara Place throughout the duration of the Games.

S. Middleton asked if the artist opportunities will be paid and C. Turner-Smith confirmed that yes, they will be paid.

C. Turner-Smith encouraged any St. Catharines-based artists looking to get involved connect with the City's Tourism office, and noted that she will provide her contact information if any members had further questions.

8. Business arising from the minutes

None

9. Business

a. 9.1 Arts Awards Subcommittee Report – No report

b. 9.2 SCCIP Subcommittee Report – No report

c. 9.3 Culture Plan Subcommittee Report – No report

d. 9.4 Cultural Sustainability Report – No report

e. 9.5 Report from Cultural Services Office – A. Judd-Rifkin / N. Rizvi

- At the Council meeting this past Monday (Nov. 29) the SCCIP Recommendations were approved. Staff will now notify the applicants and the remaining funds (a total of \$84,891) will be disbursed before the end of 2021.
- The Arts Awards was a great success! It was a hybrid event that took place on Sunday, November 21 at the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre and was also livestreamed. Eighteen nominees were honoured for their contributions to the St. Catharines arts community. Recipients were announced in six categories, including:
 - Curtis Tye for Arts in Education;
 - Elise Naccarato for Emerging Artist;
 - Peter Shea for Established Artist;
 - OPIRG Brock for Making a Difference; and,
 - Jean Bridge for Jury's Pick.

There were also performances by nominees Kathryn Sinopoli, Sarah Jerrom and Peter Shea, as well as a video presentation from Chorus Niagara. You can watch the entire ceremony on the PAC's YouTube page.

- Culture Days released their list of rankings last week and, for the second year in a row, St. Catharines came out on top as the overall #1 City in Canada with 192 events and activities! 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. Special shout-out to Culture Coordinator Michelle Nicholls who worked tirelessly to make sure we were #1 again this year!
- Speaking of Michelle, after 3.5 years as a valued team member of the Cultural Services office, Michelle will be leaving to accept a position with the City of Burlington as a Special Events and Festivals Coordinator. As most of you know, Michelle has excelled at managing and marketing cultural events, including the Arts Awards and Culture Days and she will be greatly missed!
- Lots of Public Art projects in the works right now for the Culture Office. N. Rizvi updated the Committee on all of them, as follows:
 - Private Watson Monument – No strategy for moving the statue yet, however it has been offered to the Niagara Military Museum in Niagara Falls, as they have a regional mandate. They are exploring funding options through Veteran's Affairs Canada to support 50% of the relocation cost. Looking for the monument to become an educational piece and part of their ongoing collection, which means they will take care of its upkeep going forward.

- Totem Pole – Taken down in 2019 and the plan is to restore it. COVID has delayed the process and now that the Geneva Street building where it is being stored has been sold, it will need a new home as of May/June 2022. N. Rizvi noted there should be space at one of the City's former arenas.
- Rodman Hall Sculpture Relocation Strategy – PAAC has accepted the staff's recommendations for new locations for the sculptures currently located on the Rodman Hall grounds. N. Rizvi brought a slide deck with photos to ACAC for information. N. Rizvi noted staff has been consulting with the Rodman Art Institute as well as various other City departments (Engineering, Parks, Facilities), the moving company and the conservator to create the current shortlist. Proposed locations are:
 - Carolina Blue (Reinhard Reitzenstein) – FirstOntario PAC Side Garden, adjacent to Stage Door on Carlisle Street. Will now may constitute a live tree lit with blue light, in relation to the bronze casting.
 - Settlement (Mary Anne Barkhouse) – Includes bronze sculptures and border gardens that take the form of a frontier dwelling and planted with a three sisters garden. Will be located adjacent to the Meridian Centre, in the green space beside parking lot.
 - The Race (William McElcheran) – City Hall garden.
 - Profile II (Sorel Etrog) – City Hall garden (opposite The Race).
 - Homage a la Vitesse (Marino di Teana) – FirstOntario PAC, Front Entrance, between flower planters.
 - Flowering of Time (John MacGregor) – FirstOntario PAC, Mann Raceway Plaza, bottom of staircase.

Idea is for all sculptures to be placed close to each other to form a sculpture walk; the Rodman Art Institute of Niagara will create interpretation materials to accompany the sculptures.

- A Tow Horse sculpture designed and created by Floyd Elzinga (and approved by PAAC during the previous Term of Council) is currently in production and will be installed at Old Lock 1 in Port Dalhousie in Spring 2022.
- Neil Peart Memorial Task Force – Currently working on fundraising campaign. A site has been selected at Lakeside Park for this memorial, and the Negotiated Request For Proposals (NRFP) has been circulated to a shortlist. Candidates have six months to develop their design proposals, which are expected to be submitted in mid-March 2022.

- Fallen Firefighters Memorial Task Force – Will be located at the parkette at the corner of Carlisle and Race Street. The Task Force is about to launch their fundraising campaign, and plans are being developed for a media event to be held soon. The top-rated proposal from the NRFP process was approved in November and construction will begin in 2022.
- Let It Glow – A project led by the City's Special Events and Tourism teams includes a number of windows decorated at the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre by local organizations, including Willow Arts Community, BlackOwned905, the Niagara Regional Native Centre and Brock University MIWSFPA. Let It Glow will launch Saturday, December 11.

One member requested an update on the Welland Canal Fallen Workers Memorial. Staff noted some trees were recently re-planted and the book that was created by the Museum will be re-published.

Motion to accept report: D. Evans

Carried

f. 9.6 Other Business

i. Terms of Reference Amendment

Staff is proposing that ACAC add a staff member of the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre to its membership. N. Rizvi noted that when ACAC was first conceived and the Terms of Reference were created, the PAC did not exist. Now, the PAC is an arms-length agency and a key piece of cultural infrastructure within the City. As such, N. Rizvi noted it is important for them to provide their expertise and weigh in on recommendations. The person could be Executive Director Colleen Smith, or a delegated staff member. N. Rizvi noted the importance of PAC having a voice at the table, and that she has reached out and that they are interested in participating and contributing to ACAC.

Motion:

To amend the Terms of Reference of the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee to include a staff member of the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre; and,

That this item be referred to the next meeting of the Cultural Sustainability Committee for approval.

Moved by: D. Evans

Carried

ACTION: Staff to present Amendment to Terms of Reference to Cultural Sustainability Committee scheduled for January 2022.

S. Melville asked if the representative from the PAC would be a voting member, and N. Rizvi noted they would be.

ii. Schedule of ACAC meetings: 2022

The Committee reviewed and discussed potential meeting dates for 2022. They decided that it should remain the first Wednesday of every month at 5:00 p.m., with the exception of January. It was proposed that the January meeting be cancelled and that the first meeting of 2022 take place February 2, 2022.

ACTION: Staff to organize SCCIP Subcommittee and Culture Plan Subcommittee meetings in January 2022.

ACTION: Staff to work with Clerks to put out call for new member in early January to fill vacancy on ACAC.

10. Date of next meeting

Wednesday, February 02, 2022
Via Zoom
5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

11. Motion to Adjourn

That the Arts & Culture Advisory Committee be adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Moved by: K. Leathers

Carried