

CITY OF BURIEN, WASHINGTON

**Art Commission
MEETING MINUTES**

Date: May 22, 2007

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Arts Commission Members Present:

Shelley Brittingham
Paul Conrath
Rochelle Flynn

Victoria Hall
Laurie Haslund
Dane Johnson
Kathy Justin

David Ketcherside
Patricia Mejia
June Yormack

Staff Present:

Debbie Zemke, Recreation Manager
Al Parisi, Cultural Arts Supervisor

Guests:

Randi Lacey, past Arts Commission chair and member

Call to Order:

Rochelle called the meeting to order.

Minutes:

April minutes were approved.

Black Rock Arts Foundation's Temporary Art Proposal for Town Square Park

Dane reported that Black Rock Arts Foundation met and approved the proposal. Ignition NW approved the proposal as well. Dane asked Debbie for guidance in presenting to the City Council.

Debbie recommended a motion from the Commission that they endorse the proposal. Paul and Rochelle suggested scheduling meeting with Public Works Director Steve Clark and Parks Director Michael Lafreniere along with Debbie to explore details of having a permanent installation area designated in Town Square Park for the artwork. Steve knows all technicalities of site plans and would be the knowledgeable source in this area. Shelly mentioned that the budget for artwork transportation and installation would need to be identified.

Rochelle asked where these pieces were intended to be placed. Dane wants to have the first installation targeted for Town Square but is open to other areas as well. Rochelle would like to see the pieces in various locations around Burien including the Transit Center, 152nd Street, downtown, and other high visibility areas. Dane said that this project could turn into a rotating art program that would encourage the additional artists to apply. The general idea is to keep the program going. Randi said that there are additional pads to accommodate artwork on 152nd Street. It would be helpful to better understand the size and weight range of the proposed pieces.

Dane said that the first time that potential costs will be preparing the proposed site with the materials that are needed for the installation.

Victoria inquired about the budget of the installation of the first piece in San Francisco. Dane said that the first piece was a communal project. The second piece worked into the San Francisco waterfront and was produced by volunteers. To bring transport a piece to the Seattle would cost approximately \$2,000 as well as volunteer time, trucking and insurance. For example, the artwork piece that went up that was similar in scope to the FLOCK piece was assembled in the park in front of City Hall in San Francisco. The impact consisted of trenching and lighting installation. \$1500 was put into the piece to make it publicly accessible.

Laurie asked about how many pieces Burien would have and how would the selection process work. Dane said that the Arts Commission would choose the pieces and propose their selection to the City. This could be the first program like this outside of the Bay Area. Dane explained that Black Rock Arts Foundation is a non-profit organization whose mission is to support and promote community-based interactive art.

A motion to endorse the program concept and proposal for further study and discussion was presented.

The motion was approved. Dane requested the next steps proceed as soon as possible.

2008 Arts and Culture Grant Funding Priorities and Review Criteria

Per the Commission's earlier discussions, Rochelle forwarded the letter to the City Council requesting an increase for 2008 Arts and Culture grant funding. The City Council will be reviewing this issue this fall. If approved, additional funding will be in effect beginning in January, 2008. Debbie presented a draft Mission Statement with a document that identified possible funding priorities, eligibility, and review criteria for applicants' funding consideration.

Paul and Rochelle expressed their concerns about the language that encourages Burien arts organizations to participate in the Strawberry and Arts Festival. There was further discussion as to whether the grant intended to fund both art groups and individual artists. Debbie noted the eligibility criteria that did not limit the applicants to groups or individuals but rather requested an affiliation with a 501-3c organization. It was mentioned that both the City of Seattle and 4 Culture allow individual artists to apply to their programs, and that perhaps the 501-3c requirement for individual artists shouldn't be required.

Under "funding priorities", Dane would like to continue discussion about the previously-awarded grant recipients. Dane would like the previous year grant awards to be taken into consideration. Paul said that the awards should not be limited to Burien-based organizations. Shelly said we should still make sure that Burien-based arts organizations and artists can get funding. Paul wants a diverse selection of art from all disciplines. Laurie noted that some Burien arts organizations depend on us as their local jurisdiction for funding. Rochelle wants to see support for local organizations continue and is equally excited about encouraging innovative projects from new organizations.

Dane is uncomfortable with the proposed criteria listing provision of “arts education experiences for underserved and/or low-income youth”. He suggested we establish the terms “underserved populations and multiple demographics” in the language. Dane expressed concern about the suggested criteria for groups that encouraged their participation in the City’s Arts Festival. Debbie explained that this was intended to be suggested criteria, not a requirement.

Committee and Project Reports

Performing and Literary Arts

Shelly and Rochelle met with Gayle from “Page 2 Books” to discuss an overall vision of what a literary arts plan could look like in Burien. The plan would support literacy and be inclusive of new efforts and diverse forms of literacy. They brainstormed about possible groups that might want to be involved in this program. They also discussed how information could be shared between literacy groups and explored the needs and concerns of these organizations. The next steps will be to identify how to support current efforts and create a work plan.

Visual Arts

Arts Education

Victoria went to an ArtStart meeting where there was discussion of where art is going in the schools. Last week was Arts Education week. (See www.artsedwashington.org). Victoria met with Highline High School visual art teacher Lisa Bade and talked about District art teachers getting together to further discuss where the arts are headed in the public schools. They are interested in getting their students art out in the community and having visiting artists come into the schools. There is also interest in an environmental art project. Victoria would like to also explore creation of community mural projects. As a teacher at Puget Sounds Occupational Skills Center, she is facilitating the appearance of OSC students’ “Trash Fashion Show” at the Strawberry and Arts Festival.

Downtown Art Walk

A meeting will take place with Victoria, Rochelle, Gina, Laurie and Al. It was noted that the Ballard Art Walks have now started bringing in Trunk Shows for crossover into the artistic community.

Public Art

Rochelle announced that there was a meeting on April 23 with the City Council about Dan Corson’s Town Square public artwork. There have been numerous letters and e-mails from citizens to the Council that oppose the piece. The Town Square developers (Urban Partners) have also expressed their concern. The City Council expressed their views pro and con. There will be further discussion on June 4th with the City Council.

Mike Martin, Steve Clark and Urban Partners developer Dan Rosenthal will also meet on this issue prior to the Council meeting. This is an opportunity to have a conversation with the developer to see what his concerns are. Councilmember Krakowiak wants the process to start over.

Staff Report

Debbie expressed her appreciation to Rochelle for all of the additional time that she has contributed during the Town Square public artwork discussion. As Commission chair, she has been required to attend meetings, speak to the press, and answer numerous questions from the public on a daily basis.

Debbie reported on a meeting with Michael and website consultants regarding the possibility for the City to support production of a new Arts Website that would be independent of the City's official website. This would enable the postings of art blogs, photos, event calendars, and related art interests.

Al reported on the continued planning for the Burien Strawberry and Arts Festival which is happening next month during the weekend of June 23 -24.

Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes prepared by Al Parisi, Cultural Arts Supervisor and Debbie Zemke, Recreation Manager.