



CITY OF ELLENSBURG

Minutes of Arts Commission, Regular Meeting

Date of Meeting

October 12, 2023

Time of Meeting

4:00 PM

Place of Meeting

**Council Conference Room
501 North Anderson Street
Ellensburg, WA 98926
And remotely via Zoom**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call of Members

Chair Alex Eyre called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm

Present: Alex Eyre, Jerry Dougherty Erin Oostra, Jill Scheffer, Jeffrey Snedeker

Absent: Courtney Blackstock, Brian Kooser, Council Liaison David Miller

Guest: None present

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Approval of Agenda

By: Commissioner Snedeker

Seconded: Commissioner Dougherty

In Favor: Eyre, Dougherty, Oostra, Scheffer, Snedeker

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Approved. Motion Passed: 5-0

3. Approval of Minutes

3.A Minutes from September 2023

Motion: Motion to approve the September 2023 Arts Commission minutes.

By: Commissioner Scheffer

Seconded: Commissioner Snedeker

In favor: Eyre, Dougherty, Oostra, Scheffer, Snedeker

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Approved. Motion Passed: 5-0

4. Budget/Financial Report

4.A YTD 2023 Arts Commission Budget Update

Staff liaison gave budget update and highlighted budgetary changes for September.

5. New Business

5.A Poet Laureate: Ellensburg Walking Chapbook on the theme of Unity
Commissioner Eyre reviewed the Walking Chapbook project with the commission.

Action: No action taken/No action required

5.B Commissioner Scheffer proposed offering art scholarships as part of the 2024 budget. There was discussion regarding by all present. Commissioner Eyre will add to agenda for the meeting with City Attorney and City Manager on Oct. 27th and report back on discussion at November's meeting.

6. Unfinished Business

6.A Action Item Updates:

1. Art in the Park Selection Process:

The City and Arts Commission would like more art downtown. Commissioner Eyre and Commissioner Dougherty are in discussion with Director of Parks & Recreation, Brad Case and reviewing options. No further movement at this time

2. Potential Mural Wall-Whippel Park: Commissioner Dougherty confirmed that the building is owned/operated by CWU Dining Services. Staff Liaison reached out to CWU and got the contact information and introduction to the Director of Dining Services, Dean Masuccio, Next report will be at the November meeting.

Action Item: Connect with Director Masuccio to discuss options for a potential mural on the Whippel Wall (back wall of Dining Services warehouse on 5th and Dolar Way)

3. Poet Laureate Contract/Projects-Meeting scheduled with City Attorney and City Manager to review terms of contract. The meeting has been rescheduled for Friday, October 27th. Staff liaison reviewed contractual recommendations to present to City Manager and City Attorney at the meeting and asked Commissioners to review and bring back any changes prior to the October 27th meeting.

4. Hosey Art Update: Nothing new to report

- Update:

- **Action Item:** Commissioner Eyre and staff liaison will reach out to Richland WA Arts Commission to find out what company they used to move the large Hosey Art piece they acquired.

7. Subcommittee Business

7.A 1. Ellensburg Art & Cultural Alliance: Eyre/Snedeker/staff liaison

Update:

- Submitted LOI for Creative District Application and it was accepted. We were sent the link and invitation to the Creative District Application. We are 40 % complete with the application. Deadline for submission is Dec. 2nd. Need LOS from Arts Commission—Commissioner Eyre will provide.
- The presentation of the Makers Space/Performance Space Feasibility Study will take place at the CenterFuse Board Meeting at 4:00 pm on Wed. Nov. 8th at 207 N. Pearl Street.
- EACA have selected a URL and have selected Manastash Media to build the logo.

2. Funding: Dougherty/Scheffer

Update: Funding update is the selection of recommended 2024 Project Grant awardees.

3. Public Art: Eyre/Dougherty

Update: Bus Shelter Art: Need active inventory of existing bus shelters, with and without public art. Staff received the inventory list from Dept. of Transportation.

Action Item: Staff will send inventory list to Commissioners.

Paul Rogers Park could be a good option for some of the Hosey pieces. Also talked with Brad Case about the nodes and the desire to use some of the pieces in the nodes.

4. Advocacy/Public Relations: Kooser/Snedeker

Update: No report at this time.

New item: Work with staff liaison on PR campaign regarding 2024 project grants once awarded.

5. Artwalk: Blackstock/Scheffer/Oostra:

a. Commissioner Oostra gave a presentation on an Ellensburg Art Map/Art Guide. Discussion on what should be included (boundaries should follow creative district boundaries and include parking)

Action Items: Commissioner Oostra will start with a draft. Jerry will research some historical background/guidance to assist with the project.

b. Commissioners Scheffer and Oostra met last week to discuss the Art Walk sign design. EAC logo on top with dry erase board so that venues could update each month.

c. Discussed the potential for an “after hours” event for after the art walk at select rotating venues.

Action Item: Continue to research options and discuss.

d. Commissioner Scheffer suggested developing a musician laureate that could play during Art Walk at each venue to help increase visibility.

Action Item: Continue discussing at later date.

e. 2024 is the 25th Anniversary of the First Friday Art Walk. Commission discussed planning for the event/year.

Action Item: Create Artwalk sub-committee and staff will meet to build 25th Anniversary Campaign along with Commissioner Kooser/Snedeker regarding PR for the campaign.

f. Staff Liaison: Would like Commission approval to terminate contract with Mariposa Venue due to lack of payment. Invoice voided.

Action Item: Staff will send written notification to Mariposa and Commissioner Eyre will pick up the sign.

8. Citizen Comment : None

9. Staff Update/Discussion Items: Working on EAC Council Presentation for Nov. 6th Council Meeting

2024 Project Grant Application/Awards:

a. General discussion regarding the submissions:

b. Received 34 submissions totally \$68,000.00. Several first-time submissions.

c. Notes regarding assessment process and application parameters:

- Some applications are applying for operational expenses.
- Some applicants may only need \$1,300.00 for the project and are struggling to justify the full amount within the application process. Consider revising \$1,000/\$2,500 levels:
 - 1) Up to \$1,000.00/individuals—Up to \$2,500.00 for organizations
 - 2) Grant amount must be used in full for either individual or organization.

d. Commissioners voted on the 2024 Project Grant recommended awardees in three separate motions:

Motion One: Motion to approve funding for The Nutcracker, by Ellensburg Dance Ensemble in the amount of \$2,500.00 and recommend for council approval:

By: Commissioner Dougherty

Seconded: Commissioner Oostra

Discussion: None

Approved: Commissioner Snedeker, Commissioner Oostra, Commissioner Eyre

Opposed: None

Abstained: Commissioner Scheffer, Commissioner Dougherty.

Motion is Approved. Motion Passes

Motion Two: Motion to approve funding for Downtown Entry Mural by NuWave Gallery in the amount of \$2,500.00 and recommend for council approval:

By: Commissioner Dougherty

Seconded: Commissioner Scheffer

Discussion: None

Approve: Commissioner Eyre, Commissioner Dougherty, Commissioner Snedeker, Commissioner Scheffer

Opposed: None

Abstain: Commissioner Oostra

Motion is Approved. Motion Passes

Motion Three: Motion to approve funding for Birdsong' at the Palace Cafe in 2024, by Justin Gibbens for the amount of \$1,000.00, Kairos Lunch Concerts, First Fridays October to March, by Carrie Michel for the amount of \$1,000.00, Weight, by Crista Ames for the amount of \$1,000.00, Ellensburg Fiddle Project, by Jenny Humphrey for the amount of \$1,000.00, People with Puppets, by Gayle Scott for the amount of \$1,000.00, New Music for Two Guitars-Recording Live!, by Tamara and Neil Caulkins for the amount of \$1,000.00, Trimpin Exhibit, by Gallery One for the amount of \$2,500.00, 2024 CWU New Music Festival, by CWU New Music Festival for the amount of \$2,500.00, Ellensburg Music Preservation Project, by the Kittitas County Historical Society Inc. for the amount of \$2,500.00, VTC's 2024 Rising Star's Production: The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood, by Valley Theatre Company for the amount of \$2,500.00, Mardi Gras Night Parade, by Blue Bear Puppet Lab for the amount of \$2,500.00, Buskers in the Burg Event, by the Ellensburg Downtown Association for the amount of \$2,500.00, Ellensburg Big Band Swing Dance Project for the amount of \$2,500.00, PiE (Poetry in Ellensburg), by Inland Poetry for the amount of \$1,500.00 and for recommend for City Council for approval.

By: Commissioner Dougherty

Seconded: Commissioner Scheffer

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Motion is Approved. Motion Passes

10. Commission Representative Update: None at this time

11. Adjournment: 5:33 pm