

Cultural Arts Commission Minutes

April 8, 2021

The Cultural Arts Commission met in the Richardson Room on Thursday, April 8, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Catherine Burdette, Chair
Anthony Pampillonia, Vice-Chair
Ted Kollaja
Kevin Todora
Amy Taylor
Sandy Palisch
Elizabeth Gonzalez

Kim Quirk, Former Vice-Chair

MEMBERS ABSENT:

CITY STAFF PRESENT: Shanna Sims-Bradish, Assistant City Manager
Kyle Kepner, City Council Liaison

1. Chair Catherine Burdette called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose to discuss the following agenda items:
2. Introduction of New Member Ted Kollaja.

New member Ted Kollaja shared with the members of the Cultural Arts Commission information about his architecture background and family connections to Richardson. He stated his excitement about joining the Cultural Arts Commission.

3. Receive Update on Black History Month Art Contest.

Former Vice-Chair Kim Quirk provided an update on the winners of the Black History Month Art Contest, in which she represented the Cultural Arts Commission. 124 submissions were received for the art contest and four winners were selected. She stated that she enjoyed judging both the essay and visual arts contests and suggested that next year these responsibilities should be divided between two members.

She recommended that the Cultural Arts Commission look at the online platform used to judge these contests to see if this platform would work well for evaluating arts grants submissions. Assistant City Manager Shanna Sims-Bradish stated she would add a demonstration of this platform to the agenda for the May 13th meeting.

4. Review and Discuss Refinements to the 2021-2022 Arts Grants Guidelines and Evaluation of Submissions.

Cultural Arts Commission members reviewed the current draft of the 2021-2022 arts grant guidelines and provided feedback on three key aspects:

- Eligibility – after some discussion the Cultural Arts Commission decided to open up eligibility to all non-profit arts organizations performing in Richardson, not just those who had received funding in prior years
- Two Phase Review of Applications – After some discussion, the Cultural Arts Commission agreed to complete a preliminary review of all applications to determine if all applicants should be interviewed. Assistant City Manager Shanna Sims-Bradish will bring back a suggested strategy to achieve this goal at the May 13th meeting for review
- Questionnaire – The Cultural Arts Commission preferred to create a questionnaire form to answer specific questions in lieu of a narrative approach. Assistant City Manager Shanna Sims-Bradish will develop a draft questionnaire for the Cultural Arts Commission to review at the May 13th meeting.

Chair Catherine Burdette thanked everyone for their feedback and stated that these documents would be reviewed and finalized at the May 13th meeting.

5. Receive Update on Plans for the Spring 2021 Arts Workshop.

Assistant City Manager Shanna Sims-Bradish provided an overview of the April 14th virtual workshop focusing on virtual fundraising strategies with Kaitlin Guthrow. Cultural Arts Commission members discussed strategies to increase the amount of survey responses received from attendees.

6. Discuss “WeCreate408” Idea from the San Jose Office of Cultural Affairs.

Sandy Palisch presented information from the City of San Jose that encouraged citizens to do something creative each day in April by partnering with local arts organizations. Cultural Arts Commission members discussed different approaches for this concept to work in Richardson including what type of technology platform would work best, organizations to partner with and the duration of the event.

Assistant City Manager Shanna Sims-Bradish stated that she would explore this idea further and bring back thoughts at the June 10th meeting for the Cultural Arts Commission members to discuss further.

7. Review and Discuss the 2021 Cultural Arts Commission Calendar.

The next Cultural Arts Commission meeting will be Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in the Richardson Room.

8. Review and Discuss 2020-2021 Cultural Arts Grants Recipients.

Cultural Arts Commission member discussed recent and upcoming performances of Repertory Company Theatre, Richardson Symphony Orchestra and Richardson Reads One Book.

Chair Catherine Burdette shared information about a recent Girls Scout zoom meeting she participated in regarding the arts and STEM efforts. Ted Kollaja shared information about actors being able to audition for New York performances virtually while being in Richardson.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business of the Commission, Chair Catherine Burdette adjourned the meeting at 7:41 p.m.