

Cultural Arts Commission Minutes

October 14, 2021

The Cultural Arts Commission met in the Richardson Room on Thursday, October 14, 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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

CITY STAFF PRESENT: Shanna Sims-Bradish, Assistant City Manager
Ken Hutchenrider, 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. Review and Discuss Feedback/Suggestions Regarding the 2021-2022 Arts Grant Submissions/Review Process.

Cultural Arts Commission members provided thoughts regarding the 2021-2022 arts grants submissions and review process. Feedback provided by members included positive feedback about the addition of questionnaire, wanting to continue pre-review of the applications, liked reviewing arts grants submissions electronically and appreciated having assignments on which member would lead each interview.

Improvements or ideas suggested by Cultural Arts Commission members included providing guidelines for the leader of interviews, possibly looking at 20-minute interview time slots, providing guidance to arts organization to not reiterate their submission during the interview and possibly submitting a video clip about your arts organization prior to the interview and sending videos in advance in the interviews. Cultural Arts Commission members also discussed possibly developing questions to be responded to during the interview and sending these questions in advance. Cultural Arts Commission members discussed options for increasing visual arts grants applicants.

Cultural Arts Commission members also discussed the grant notification process and how best to handle concerns by arts organizations. There was also discussion regarding the timing of the presentation of the recommendations and action taken by the City Council.

Chair Catherine Burdette thanked everyone for their feedback and stated that the art grant submission process would be reviewed again in April 2022.

3. Discuss Cultural Arts Commission Liaison Assignments.

Cultural Arts Commission members volunteered to serve as Cultural Arts Commission liaisons to arts organizations for 2021-2022. Assistant City Manager Shanna Sims-Bradish stated that she would contact arts organizations to let them know of their liaison assignments the week of October 18th and provided general guidelines about the responsibilities of a liaison.

4. Discuss Plans for the Fall 2021 Arts Workshop.

Assistant City Manager Shanna Sims-Bradish provided an overview of the in-person workshop planned for October 20th that features a panel discussion on rebuilding audiences. She also shared information about a networking happy hour at Lockwood Distillery that will be held after the workshop.

Assistant City Manager Shanna Sims-Bradish stated that she would provide summary of feedback from the Fall Workshop at the November meeting to review and discuss.

5. Review and Discuss a Modified Proposal for the “We Create 408” Idea and Discuss Next Steps.

Assistant City Manager Shanna Sims-Bradish reviewed the summary of information provided by the City of San Jose regarding the “We Create 408” idea. She also reviewed a proposal from the City of Richardson Communications Department to promote Richardson events called “Richardson Things to Do”. Cultural Arts Commission stated that they liked the general idea but suggested refinements such as the ability to send pop-up notification and to find a different title for the promotional campaign. Assistant City Manager Shanna Sims-Bradish stated that she would provide this feedback to the Communication Department for their consideration.

Cultural Arts Commission also discussed the opportunity to use a future Arts Initiative Grant opportunity to fund a local arts organization that could implement the creativity focus of the “We Create 408 idea” in Richardson.

6. Discuss Cultural Arts Commission Representatives for Judges for Martin Luther King and Black History Month Contests. Discuss Options for the 2022 MLK Essay Question.

Elizabeth Gonzalez volunteered to be a judge for the Black History Month art contest and Sandy Palisch volunteered to be a judge for the Martin Luther King essay contest.

Cultural Arts Commission members reviewed possible essay questions and selected the following question: “Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, ‘Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that.’ What issue would you ‘shine your light on’ if you had the opportunity and why?”

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

The next Cultural Arts Commission meeting will be Thursday, November 11, 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 Richardson Symphony Orchestra, Richardson Reads One Book and Richardson Theatre Centre.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business of the Commission, Chair Catherine Burdette adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.