



ARTS COUNCIL MINUTES

FEBRUARY 12, 2020 – ARTS COUNCIL RETREAT

Call to Order

The joint meeting was called to order by Chair Erin Vivion at 5:08 pm at Mercer Island Community & Event Center, 8236 SE 24th Street, Mercer Island, WA 98040.

Attendance

- Arts Council Members Present: Damian Schwiethale, Amy Barnes, Matt Lome, Xixi Shakes, Suzanne Skone, Gaylene Vaden, Erik Gordon and Erin Vivion
- Arts Council Members Absent: Anumeha
- Staff: Sarah Bluvus, Katie Herzog, Diane Mortenson

Minutes:

It was moved by Suzanne Skone; seconded by Erin to:

Approve the minutes.

Passed 8-0

Updates/Changes:

Diane Mortenson provided a Parks & Recreation staff update/changes.

MercerFest was announced to the Arts Council.

Sarah Bluvus gave an update on OPMA training.

Keeping Members Engaged:

Chair Vivion gave an overview of how the Retreat will be hyper focused on

- Engagement – How to be better in the community
- Communication – what will make us feel like we are participating
- “All hands on deck” for projects
- Open communication on ideas

Discussion followed and included:

- Getting the community to value the work that is done. Make sure the work AC puts out is known where it’s coming from.
- If the community can be engaged more, then AC will feel more excited and gaining value.
- Involve community of sub-committees, small projects, engage past AC members.
- Create a volunteer database or a “community volunteer core.” Create online sign ups to help volunteer on projects.
- Chairs should do something bigger than just the minimum. Don’t think of more, but expand what we have.
- Education element on what “arts” do for the community. Showcase the tangible benefits.

2019 Accomplishments and 2020 Projects Review

- Art venue map to jointly advertise with other art organizations.
- Worked on Comp Plan
- Aubrey Davis Plan
- Creative Consultancy

-How do we create/sustain momentum with these projects?

-Logistic barrier: Share point or teams instead of city emails. Working on shared drives, email for definite.

Damian talked about having a set of “Guiding Principles”

- On and off Island recruiting for high value
- Sustainability
- Arts & education - pre & post shows at MMIP
- Wealth of art groups to tap into (on/off Mercer Island)
- Build a culture, it’s ok to experiment
- Long term strategies of why we’re doing things

It was discussed that members may be certain skills that could help other members/committees. Sarah discussed a board matrix for skills that could also be used for recruiting.

- Gaylene: Editing on communications
- Erin: List of other involvements on and off Mercer Island that could benefit this group.

2020 Priorities:

Staff vs. Arts Council Work

- Staff: contracts, agreements, invoices, admin-type duties
- Arts Council: Resourcing art, bands, programming, marketing, recruiting volunteers

Sarah talked about having a list of those guiding principles/common goals for bringing ideas to the board. A foundation needs to be laid first.

Budget explanation (Diane Mortenson)

Art of the Water update

Event leads: Damian, Suzanne, Erin

Friday, March 27 | 7-9 pm, Community Center

Total ticket sales to date: 10/200

- Runners at each station are needed. All members should be in attendance to help.

Creative Consultancy Reminder/Update:

Project leads: Erin, Amy, Sarah

2018/2019: Applied for the first round of this new grant program from 4Culture

2019: Received \$10,000 grant to work with creative consultant/artist George Lee to reimagine the Greta Hackett Outdoor Sculpture Gallery

2020: Beginning engagement with George in March and applied for additional funding in the second round

Round 1: Pre-Design Activation Prototyping

- Collaborate with Arts Council task force test and identify promising improvements to enhance the outdoor gallery using signage, lighting, and spatial framing (temporarily installed from June to September 2020)
- Final product: Loose concept design of improvements

Round 2: Requested \$30,000 to:

- Integrate Phase I work into related Town Center developments
- Develop an “Artist Signature Detail” to extend from the outdoor gallery through the rest of Aubrey Davis Park

Other 2020 Events:

- Art Uncorked: Save the Date, Friday, September 11, 2020
- Mostly Music in the Park:
 - Poster Contest (Matt)
- Public Art Policy
- Gallery Exhibits
 - Sponsor the gallery exhibits, music, promote “Meet the Artists,” Culture pairing, promote more and invite friends.
- Friday Films
- Budget Planning
- Branding & Messaging

Adjournment

Chair Vivion adjourned the meeting