

**CULTURE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Thursday, September 9, 2021**

A Regular Meeting of the Culture Services Advisory Committee convened on Thursday, September 9, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Committee Room, City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC with the following persons present:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Trish Mandewo, Chair  
Councillor Dennis Marsden, Vice Chair (arrived at 7:10 p.m.)  
Candrina Bailey, Coquitlam Heritage Society  
Marie Del Cid-Luque (arrived at 7:04 p.m.)  
Julie Eastman  
Nora El Najjar  
Todd Gnissios, Coquitlam Public Library Board  
Philip Hartwick, Evergreen Cultural Centre  
Kim Hockey  
Elizabeth Hrynew  
Joan McCauley, Place des Arts  
Janice Mazon  
Jackie Weinkam, Festival Planners Network

REGRETS: Mandy Tulloch, Artistic Community Representative

STAFF: Lanny Englund, General Manager Parks, Recreation, Culture and Facilities  
Karen Basi, Cultural Services Manager  
Terra Dickinson, Cultural and Community Events Supervisor  
Jeri Hohn, Committee Clerk

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair welcomed the members to the meeting and led a brief icebreaker exercise.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**1. Minutes of the Culture Services Advisory Committee Meeting held on Thursday, June 10, 2021**

The Minutes of the Culture Services Advisory Committee Meeting held on Thursday, June 10, 2021, were approved.

At the Chair's invitation, the City's new General Manager Parks, Recreation, Culture and Facilities introduced himself and provided details of his personal and work history to the Committee. The Committee members welcomed him and introduced themselves in turn.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **2. Heritage Management Strategy Project Update - Presentation**

The Chair noted that the item had been deferred to a future meeting.

### **3. Community Events Restart**

The Cultural and Community Events Supervisor provided a presentation, referring to on-screen slides titled as follows:

- Community Events Restart
- Public Health Order Analysis
- Community Event Organizer – Increased Health and Safety Responsibilities
- Block Party Program
- Community Events Program Relaunch
- Feedback and Questions

The members expressed appreciation for the relaunch of the Community Events Program and their enjoyment of the Highland Games event recently held in the city.

### **4. Kaleidoscope Arts Festival – Presentation/Committee Input**

The Cultural and Community Events Supervisor provided a presentation, referring to on-screen slides titled as follows:

- Kaleidoscope Arts Festival
- Community Feedback
- Feedback and Discussion

The Committee considered the following focus questions:

- In future, would you recommend the Kaleidoscope Arts Festival be presented as multiple smaller events at various locations throughout Coquitlam and/or one large festival event at Town Centre Park?
- Would you recommend the 2022 Kaleidoscope Arts Festival have pre-registered and/or drop-in experiences?
- Are there any final comments or event ideas you would like to share?

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The pros and cons of offering multiple smaller events versus one large event
- The belief that events that are easily accessible by foot or local transit and offering a range of daytime and evening options for children and adults are optimal
- That programming was staggered throughout the daytime and evening during the Festival

In response to a question from the Vice Chair, the Cultural and Community Events Supervisor spoke to event best practices. She confirmed her belief that it could be valuable to undertake a municipal and industry scan to consider examples of successful pre-COVID

events and the ‘lessons learned’ where multiple event venues were utilized.

Discussion continued relative to the following:

- Council’s support for staff’s recommendation to take events back to the community
- The success rate of the performances, concerts, and programs offered during the 2021 Kaleidoscope Arts Festival
- Some details of the Festival programs that offered integrated arts and fitness performances and allowed multi-dimensional participation in the arts
- The benefits of having both pre-registered and drop-in events
- The nominal pre-registration fee and the City’s goal that it encourage participation and not act as a barrier
- The desire to ensure that, in future, the program registration system offer payment flexibility (beyond credit cards)
- The desire that the Festival retain some spontaneous, drop-in, no-registration-required programming
- Details of the 2021 Music and Movement Live Series and its intention to offer different ways for community to connect with and experience the arts
- The belief that it could be too early to plan the 2022 Festival due to the continuing evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic and its potential challenges
- The belief that smaller, distributed festivals that offer easily accessible drop-in events such as arts and jazz walks are enjoyable for participants
- The recognition that large or small, both sizes of festivals could be very successful

There was no input to the third focus question. The Chair encouraged the members to email the Cultural and Community Events Supervisor should they have any further comments.

## **5. Sub-Committees’ Updates**

The Chair invited the Sub-Committees to provide updates regarding the work they had undertaken since the last meeting.

### Sub-Committee A

The Group Leader of Sub-Committee A spoke to the status report circulated to the Committee in advance of the meeting titled “Culture Services Advisory Committee (CSAC) Subcommittee A Status Report – September 2021”. He noted that a Sub-Committee member would speak to Topic 1 and he would speak to Topic 2.

A Sub-Committee member spoke to the scope of the Sub-Committee’s work noting that, as previously agreed by the Committee, the topics covered in the status report were two short-term action items taken from the City’s Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategic Plan (ACHSP), as follows:

- Topic 1: Promoting youth, cultural diversity, and inter-culturalism in programming
- Topic 2: Address the lack of visual arts display space

The Sub-Committee member addressed Topic 1. She spoke to the organizations and cultural centres that were researched, the methods of research used, the findings, and the conclusion “that Coquitlam enjoys a robust array in the quantity, type, and timing of activities promoting youth, cultural diversity, and inter-culturalism in programming”.

She noted that the Sub-Committee had given some preliminary thought to how programming relative to Topic 1 could be further advanced in Coquitlam and, should the Committee wish, a deeper exploration of the topic could be undertaken by the Sub-Committee. She referenced a list of seven potential questions (included in the status report) that could be asked to help explore the topic further.

The Sub-Committee Group Leader spoke to Topic 2, noting the list of cultural centres and facilities that were researched, the methods of research used, the key findings for each cultural centre/facility, and the potential that could exist to create opportunities for private spaces in the city to act as host venues.

He noted that the Sub-Committee had given some preliminary thought to how opportunities for increasing visual display space could be leveraged and that, should the Committee wish, a deeper exploration of the topic could be undertaken by the group. He referenced a list of five potential questions (included in the status report) that could be asked to help further explore the topic, and spoke to the Sub-Committee’s summary and conclusions to date.

The Chair thanked the Sub-Committee members for the robust amount of work that they had undertaken and invited the Committee to discuss the questions posed within the status report.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Clarification that the questions were meant to encourage discussion rather than elicit specific answers during the meeting
- That the Sub-Committee wished to remain within its scope of work and, therefore, did not make recommendations about its findings to the Committee
- The role of Sub-Committees to research and provide information and of advisory committees to consider the material and, if desired, make recommendations to Council
- The observation that in order to fully consider how Topic 1 programming could be further advanced in Coquitlam, more information such as governance, intended outcomes, and costs would need to be considered
- How the Sub-Committee had decided upon the list of organizations and centres researched for Topic 2, and what goals it hoped would be accomplished
- The suggestion that, should the Committee wish it, the Sub-Committee could explore the potential for visual display locations at other civic and private facilities

- The suggestion that, as an exploratory step, the Sub-Committee could determine whether the City has policies, criteria, and/or guidelines for public art displays in place
- The observation that, regarding both topics, it could be helpful to the Committee if the Sub-Committee were to identify gaps and/or distill the items it saw as needing the most attention into manageable pieces
- The suggestion that with respect to Topic 2, it could be helpful to leverage and collaborate with local arts organizations who already have a public art processes in place, and extend those processes to other potential display spaces in the city
- The desire to discuss possible opportunities and/or the pros and cons that could come from expanding the City's funding and involvement in cultural groups
- Clarification that budget decisions are the purview of Council so the question of a budget for visual arts displays was not a topic for the Committee's discussion
- Whether the Sub-Committee had identified enough gaps to suggest that there could be value in the City taking a more active role in promoting public art and, if so, the potential for the Committee to make a recommendation in that regard
- The Sub-Committee's desire to work within its mandate and, at the same time, to identify gaps relevant to both topics
- The desire to consider how best to identify ways to leverage, expand, and promote cultural groups' display knowledge and good work within the community

In response to a question from the Chair, the Sub-Committee Group Leader noted that the Sub-Committee had time to explore the topics further and would be pleased to take input from the Committee regarding further refinements to the report, or whether to finalize the report as it stood.

Discussion continued relative to the following:

- Appreciation for the dialogue to date
- The possibility that further work by the Sub-Committee to clarify issues and identify gaps could result in the Committee making a recommendation to Council
- The possibility that should Council be presented with a recommendation, it could direct staff to undertake work relative to the information provided in the report

The Culture Services Manager thanked the Sub-Committee for its work and provided background regarding the short-term action items (topics) drawn from the ACHSP and researched by the Sub-Committee. She spoke to two options that the Committee could consider relative to the work of the Sub-Committee, i.e. that if the Committee was satisfied with the level of information in the Sub-Committee's report it could be put forward to Council for information as is, or the Committee could ask the Sub-Committee to provide additional clarification for discussion as part of a final report to be presented during the Committee's November meeting.

Discussion continued relative the following:

- The challenge of drilling into such broad topics like “How to promote youth, cultural diversity, and inter-culturalism in programming”
- The opportunity for the Sub-Committee to focus on identifying gaps for the information of the Committee and, potentially, for Council
- The suggestion that the potential around hiring practices in diversity and multiculturalism, education, and policy development relative to arts programming could be one topic for further exploration

In response to a question from the Chair, the Sub-Committee Group Leader confirmed that, based upon the Committee’s input, the Sub-Committee could refine and prioritize the questions asked in the report, provide further focus, and identify observed gaps.

The Cultural Services Manager spoke to the potential for gaps identified by the Sub-Committee to be linked to priorities on the City’s 2021 Business Plan, including the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiative, Youth Strategy, and Public Art Program, and the possibility of exploring gaps through the Committee’s future work plan items.

The Chair requested that the gaps observed as part of the Sub-Committee’s research and/or follow-up work be identified within its final report for the information of the Committee.

#### Sub-Committee B

The Group Leader of Sub-Committee B provided a verbal update regarding the work undertaken by the group since the last Committee meeting. She noted that one member of the group had recently moved to Vancouver Island and, as a result, the group’s previous shortlist of ideas/ways to foster engagement in Coquitlam neighbourhoods had been reduced from four to three, as follows:

- Visual Art Walk Experience
- Neighbourhood Welcome Baskets
- Youth Neighbourhood Entrepreneur

She noted that the group was in the process of completing its written report and planned to present it during the November Committee meeting. A Sub-Committee member noted that the group had identified some gaps and would have further information for the Committee to discuss at that meeting.

## **6. Facility Updates (Standing Agenda Item)**

There were none.

**7. CSAC Members' Roundtable / Emerging Cultural Issues (Standing Agenda Item)**

The Chair invited Committee members to share details regarding upcoming events or emerging issues in their communities.

The following information was shared:

- That the City and Coquitlam Public Library (CPL) had jointly engaged a consultant to conduct a review of library services in Coquitlam and public input would be sought as a part of the review process
- That CPL had initiated a Community Action Group and should members wish to get involved, information was available through the CPL website and the Library's social media feeds
- That Evergreen Cultural Centre's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season Launch would be held the weekend of September 16 – 19, and would be offered both in-person and via an online live-streaming service.

**OTHER BUSINESS****NEXT MEETING DATE – Thursday, November 18, 2021****ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT

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CHAIR



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Jeri Hohn  
Committee Clerk