

SPECIAL ARTS AND CULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

October 11, 2013

PRESENT: Ms. Laura Simpson, Vice Chair
Ms. Susanne Chui
Councillor Wayne Mason
Mr. Jonny Stevens
Mr. Alex McLean
Ms. Jessica Kerrin

REGRETS: Mr. Gordon Whittaker, Chair
Ms. Monique LeBlanc
Mr. Bruce Johnson

STAFF: Ms. Elizabeth Taylor, Manager, Events & Cultural Initiatives
Mr. Jamie MacLellan, Public Art Facilitator
Ms. Julie Vandervoort, Legislative Support
Ms. Leticia Smillie, Cultural Planner

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 20, 2013

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Mr. Stevens that the minutes of September 20, 2013 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Mr. Stevens that the agenda be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES: None

5. DEFERRED ITEMS: None

6. REPORTS:

6.1. Review of Applicants to Committee Grants Program (Arts and Crafts Stream)

- **Observations and Comments**
- **Diversity of Applicants**
- **Implications for Committee's Mandate**

The document by Ms. Peta-Jane Temple, Team Lead, Tax, Grants and Special Projects, titled "Overview of Cultural Funding Sector: Community Grants Program 2011-2013" was before the Committee.

The Committee entered into a discussion of the Overview and examined a number of questions including the following:

- Who is able to obtain services and resources and who is excluded?
- How is "merit" defined?
- How does the appeal process function?
- What is "budget capacity?"

Staff explained that "capacity" refers to HRM's budget and ability to fund and that Regional Council has identified focus areas for funding. Staff added that it may be possible to clarify these areas and also to further define merit criteria in an improved application process. Ms. Elizabeth Taylor, Manager, Events & Cultural Initiatives, noted that in the initial allocation of funds, a percentage of funding is held back as it is not uncommon for some decisions to be appealed.

Committee members raised the issue of whether, in a new process using anonymous peer review, the jury's decisions would be appealed or reviewed by Regional Council. Staff responded that this question would need to be explored with Legal Services. Councillor Mason requested that the minutes reflect his view that artists take risks that may or may not "succeed" and it should not be an HRM criteria to only fund projects that already have significant support. Committee members agreed that this view needs to be reflected in SACAC's recommendations or preamble.

6.2 Review of Informal Committee Survey

- **Highlights and Implications for Committee's Mandate**
- **Use of Survey Tool Going Forward**

The Committee entered into a discussion of the survey and the following issues:

- Staff are currently working on a new definitions of "hallmark" and "local" events
- There is a need to address confusion in the application process about what falls under "recreation" and what is an art event
- The potential role for SACAC to have a voice or to endorse existing recommendations or funding approvals so that an idea gains weight and support
- Provincial arts organizations, HRM-based artists/projects, and the value of "city building"
- How an HRM arts council might use HRM funding to leverage other levels of funding and how such a council might advocate for HRM and national or international sister city arts partnerships or events

6.3 Moving Towards Recommendations

- **Mapping a Framework**
- **"Blocks" or Headings**
- **Key Information/Research Outstanding**

The Committee agreed that each member would write Headings that could be edited later. Suggested Headings included Core Funding to Organizations, HRM Arts Council, Structure and Development, Anchor Organizations, Introduction/Philosophy, Relationship Building, Grants to Individual Artists, Increased and Reallocated Funding (with long-term goals and benchmarks for increases).

The Committee also discussed the pros and cons of "top-up" funding from HRM to the provincial Arts Council with these funds earmarked for HRM-based artists. The Committee agreed to continue discussing this point at the next SACAC meeting.

6.4 Wrap and Homework

Ms. Simpson asked members to review the summary on municipal models provided by Ms. Kelly Wilhelm, Head, Policy, Planning and Partnership Section of the Canada Council. Ms. Simpson also noted that she would open a Google Box with a summary

of the ideas discussed by SACAC and the sample Headings and other members could access the drop box and contribute.

7. **ADDED ITEMS:** None
8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING – October 25, 2013**
9. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Julie Vandervoort
Legislative Support