

City of Kingston
Information Item to the Arts Advisory Committee

To: Arts Advisory Committee

From: Jane Karges, Chair

Date of Meeting: April 12, 2018

Subject: 2017 Arts Advisory Committee Report Card

Summary of the Discussion Item:

The Arts Advisory Committee serves as an avenue of communication and consultation between the arts community and the municipal government, it being understood that the arts involve creative expression in all its forms.

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the activities and accomplishments of the Arts Advisory Committee in 2017. The Chair would like to thank each Committee and Working Group member for their hard work on behalf of the artistic community of Kingston and for their support in creating this document.

Mandate Considerations:

The mandate of the Arts Advisory Committee is to ensure that City of Kingston arts policies and strategies serve the needs of the arts community and, in turn, the residents of Kingston. Through regular communication with staff and Council, the Arts Advisory Committee will foster awareness of the City of Kingston's corporate goals pertaining to the arts community. Its mandate includes reporting on the following to the Arts, Recreation and Community Policies Committee:

1. Ensure the continuing implementation of the recommendations contained in the Kingston Culture Plan;
2. Provide input into the development of arts policies and strategies offered by the City of Kingston to ensure relevance, innovation, accessibility, effectiveness and best practices;
3. Making staff and Council aware of changing conditions and opportunities within the arts, and;
4. Advising staff and Council as to the impact, actual and potential, of broader policies, programs and regulations on the Kingston arts sector.

Committee Priorities and Strategic Planning

The Committee engaged in discussions regarding committee priorities and strategic planning for 2017-2018. Discussions held over a series of meetings resulted in the following priority areas:

- Receiving delegations on a diverse range of arts topics from a diverse range of artists/arts community members in order to increase the awareness and knowledge of Committee members of all aspects of the arts.
- Improving the coordination between the City of Kingston and community organizations with respect to professional development.
- Connecting with rural residents and artists.
- Working with the business sector to gain an understanding of the arts ecology in Kingston and to raise awareness of the variety of City cultural programming available.
- Working towards the affordability and accessibility of arts programming for youth and for all geographic regions of Kingston (urban, suburban and rural).
- Examining community hubs for arts programming and potential collaboration with groups such as the Kingston Frontenac Public Library, Boys & Girls Club, and the Kingston Seniors Centre.

Discussion

The Committee received delegations from a variety of groups, building the capacity and knowledge of Committee members, as well as providing feedback to local arts groups and their partners. Delegations included:

- Marc Garniss, Festival Director, Kingston Canadian Film Festival, regarding filmmaking in Kingston.

- Michael Sheppard, Student's Commission of Canada and Youth 2 Kingston (YSK) regarding the Mayor's Youth Council and a potential Youth Arts Council.
- Donald Mitchell, regarding the establishment of the terms of reference for the Professional Development Working Group.
- Matt Salton, Executive Director, Reelout Arts Project, regarding LGBTQ issues and the arts community.

The Committee accomplishes a degree of its work through smaller Working Groups consisting of Committee members, City staff and members of the public. A brief summary of the work accomplished by the Working Groups is provided below:

Mayor's Arts Awards Nomination Working Group

The Mayor's Arts Awards is an annual recognition program that celebrates high artistic achievement and recognizes extraordinary contributions in and to the arts. By increasing the profile and appreciation of the arts, the Awards enhance the cultural vitality and civic identity of Kingston.

Established in order to identify award recipients according to the program criteria set out in the Terms of Reference for the Mayor's Arts Awards, this working group consisted of four Committee members (Councillor Neill, Barbara Bell, Bob Brooks and Jane Karges) as well as three members of the community (Jan Allen, Pierre-Luc Landry and Georgina Riel). The Committee took special note to ensure that an appropriate diversity of art and artists were represented on the Working Group.

Meeting over a series of months, the Working Group compiled a final list of recommended nominees as well as suggested future improvements for the nomination process.

The inaugural Mayor's Arts Awards were presented at a reception on December 4, 2017. The winners were:

- Creator Award: Armand Garnet Ruffo
- Creator Award: Su Sheedy
- Creator Award: Matt Rogalsky
- Arts Champion Award: Yessica Rivera Belsham
- Limestone Legacy Arts Award Winner: David Kemp

Award winners were also recognized by Mayor Paterson at the December 5, 2017 meeting of City Council.

Public Art Working Group (PAWG)

The Public Art Working Group (Committee member Jocelyn Purdie and members of the public Teresa Carlesimo, Lynne Kenney and Dylan Robinson) focused on the advancement of specific projects throughout 2017. A Request for Information and Request for Proposals were issued for the Alderville First Nations Commemoration Project, and discussions were had surrounding the composition of the judging jury. An RFP was also issued for submissions for public art as part of the Victoria Park project.

For the Rideau Heights Community Centre project, it was determined that the original project scope of an outdoor screen and projector was not appropriate and that research should be conducted to find public art opportunities that were better suited to the community. The Working Group was also made aware of a community arts project that was part of the previous Wally Elmer Community Centre. Digital scans were made of the community created 'footprints', and the scans were then to be printed and installed alongside a text panel on the construction fencing surrounding the new community centre building site.

The Working Group worked with staff from Kingston Transit to identify opportunities to display public art on both the interior and exterior spaces of Kingston Transit buses and shelters.

Additional work undertaken by the Working Group included:

- Creating an inventory of appropriate spaces for public art, focusing on areas outside of the downtown core of Kingston.
- Working with City Recreation & Leisure Department staff to identify opportunities for public art as part of upcoming parks development work.
- Working with staff from the Kingston Frontenac Public Library regarding a legacy project for poet laureate Helen Humphreys, to be included as part of the renovated Central Branch of the library.
- Meeting with stakeholders such as Kingston Police and the Downtown Kingston BIA to discuss a graffiti management plan and legal graffiti walls.
- Discussing art call projects for the Invista Centre, which would include wraps for pillars on the interior of the building as well as a mural on the atrium high wall.

With an increased emphasis is being placed on public art for 2018, the PAWG will continue its valuable contributions to this important area of work.

Professional Development Working Group

The Professional Development Working Group (Committee members Tricia Baldwin, Jane Karges and Danika Lochhead and members of the public Angela Elster, Marc Garniss, Elizabeth Hesp, Mariah Horner, Don Mitchell, Ashley Newton, Chantal Prud'homme, Georgina Riel, Dylan Robinson and Michael Wheeler) was established in 2017, with a mandate to help strengthen the arts sector through:

- Researching and identifying professional development opportunities relevant to the arts sector;
- Forging stakeholder relationships;
- Supporting the efforts of local organizations involved in the arts sector; and
- Identifying actions and activities that the Arts Advisory Committee may pursue to ensure additional professional developments opportunities are provided to individual artists and arts organizations.

Working Groups members presented a timeline to the Committee in October 2017, alongside recommended public member appointments to the Group. It was established that the Working Group would conduct research and interviews with stakeholders in Q1 2018, with a draft report to be provided to the Committee in Q2 2018 and a final report completed in Q3 2018.

It was determined that the focus of the Working Group would be establishing current professional development opportunities and identifying gaps. Research would be conducted on international best practices as well as consultation with a diverse and specialized community of artistic leaders. Consultation would also be conducted to determine the desired fields of learning for the arts community.

In addition to the work completed by Working Groups, the Committee as a whole accomplished a number of items, including:

- Received information and provided input regarding the potential establishment of a Youth Arts Council.
- Provided feedback to City staff regarding Culture Days festival.
- Approved the 2018 Kingston Arts Council Plan for Administration of the City of Kingston Arts Fund. The Committee provided valuable feedback regarding procedures for handling potential conflicts of interest under the new adjudication model for the arts fund.
- Placed an emphasis on encouraging diversity within the Committee, and the arts community as a whole. The Committee received a briefing regarding the City of Kingston Engage for Change project and placed a focus on ensuring representation from Indigenous/First Peoples communities in the work of the Committee and the arts community in Kingston.

Future Outlook

Moving forward, the Committee will continue to assess its priorities as identified on Page 2 of this Report Card, with a particular focus in the following areas:

- Continuing a focus on diversity within the Committee. The scope of diversity includes cultural diversity, amateur and professional artists, equitable arts practices, Indigenous representation, and diversity of language, and ability, age, gender, class and sexual orientation.
- Inviting delegations from the arts community to address the Committee, thereby increasing the knowledge of Committee members regarding the wide range of arts activities in Kingston.
- Examining the best practices of other communities, such as Montreal and Austin, to see what lessons learned can be transferred to Kingston's arts community.
- Assisting the development of the arts community throughout all of Kingston, including rural areas.
- Establishing a connection with the business sector, particularly through the Professional Development Working Group, to raise awareness of City cultural programming and to explore strategies to ensure the sustainability of Kingston's arts and culture landscape.

Recommendation:

That the 2017 Arts Advisory Committee Report Card be approved as a summary of the work accomplished by the Arts Advisory Committee.