

## Cultural Council Retreat Wednesday October 16, 2007

In attendance: Linda Meuter, Eric Synn, G.G. Getz, Boris Srdar, Robert Larson, Kathy Feek, Mary Jane Vinella, Jennifer Bushnell, Mia Coolidge, Thomas Gant, Tracy Burrows, Tammy McCorkle

- 1) Review of Cultural Council Accomplishments  
What went well? What were the barriers to accomplishing more?

### Accomplishments:

- See timeline

### Barriers:

- Limited time – lack of dedicated funding, staffing
- In the beginning the Cultural Council needed to explain who they were everywhere they went and other art groups may have seen them as competition
- Feel that worth has been proven to the City Council, but still need to work on worth and perception of outside art agencies.
- Lack of clear goals for moving forward, the Cultural Council has built up a good infrastructure and need to now move things forward.

### Ideas/thoughts:

- Do an article in the paper on the Cultural Council
- Look for opportunities or items that will be good for an article
- Decide if the Cultural council is instigators or coordinators.
- Since infrastructure has been established, what does the building/future look like?
- Should the Cultural Council be a clearing house of all the arts in Kirkland? What would it look like? What is the Cultural Council role in tourism?
- Sit down with arts agencies and find out what they need and what the Cultural Councils role should be.
- Who would be in favor of coordinating the big picture art plan ( ) or continue doing the Cultural Council Art plan with just the group ( )
- Kirkland Art Vision – Accessible Art and Promotion
- There is a group of people interested in doing more with the Cannery, if something is not done owners may decide to move on and look further into selling the Cannery.
- Coordinate and improve the arts in Kirkland.
- Develop better relationships with other agencies in Kirkland, perhaps through a monthly meet and greet.
- Add funding in the arts plan and how things will be funded.
  
- Is the Cultural Council at a place where they want to continue doing a 1, 2 or 5 year plan between themselves or are they at a place of needing and wanting to

involve others in the planning including the community, City Council, etc and do a big picture art plan? Do the other players want a large scale art plan for Kirkland?

- In the past the group has found things the group has been interested in and went off and did them. Rather than only using the energy of the Cultural Council is it possible to energize and use the energy of the community to move the Cultural Council and art in the community forward?
- How can the community get involved on a different level?
- How can the Cultural Council be creative in using the resources that are available? How can they get a staff person? What is the next step?

When originally implemented the Cultural Council Task Force said that for the group to be successful they can advise, take things to the City Council, represent the arts to the community and City Council. They cannot create, implement, follow projects through to the end, etc. To move past just being an advisory group a staff person is really needed. The Cultural Council has gone in a full circle and is back to talking about the need for a staff person. Without a staff person the Cultural Council has hit a glass ceiling and cannot do more than they currently do.

#### Long Term Strategic Plan for the Arts:

Role of Cultural Council: Needs to be further defined

Current KCC Projects (2007-2008):

Get a group from the KCC together to develop the scope of a strategic plan (Kathy, Jennifer, GG, Linda, Boris, Eric)

Prepare Strategic Plan (consultant and whole KCC)

Art in Private Development (Bob, Kathy, Boris, Tom & 4Culture)

% for art (point person – Bob, Kathy)

Steward the Public Art Collection

Cannery (Linda, Committee)

What to do with \$50,000 (whole KCC)

Promote art in the neighborhoods (Leah, Jennifer)

Building relationships (Mary Jane, Eric, Mia)

Youth Film Festival (Mia, Boris)

Include Sustainability in all that is done.

Stakeholders/Who should be involved:

- Arts groups in Kirkland – take ownership
- Community

- Neighborhoods
- Youth
- City Council
- Local Businesses
- Schools
- Churches
- Hospitals/Major Institutions
- Chamber of Commerce
- Kirkland Downtown Association
- Kirkland Business

How do we engage stakeholders?

- Start with the art groups
- Hire a company to do a strategic arts plan and help us get to the core issues (4Culture, Polling, )
- How does the Cultural Council support and relate to the City Strategic Plan/mission/vision?
- Pick key pieces/components that strategic plan should be around
- Start with Cultural Council to get key components
  - Events
  - Policy
  - Pedestrian friendly downtown
  - Built environment
  - What is the role of the arts in Kirkland in the future that may be different or the same as today
  - Education, how do people get to participate in the art?
  - Performing art – not just in seats, but also in the streets
- Listen to other groups, survey, etc.
- What about adding art to the Concourse event?

Things that have to be added in any City wide arts plan:

Fund raising: Need to keep finances in mind when making plans  
 Way to build strong relationships with arts groups and community  
 Sounding board role  
 Set up structure

Ideas for using the \$50,000:

- Tangible great piece
- Consultant or staffing
- Something that will have a wide impact on the City
- Creating a plan for a consist way to use resources in the future
- Reach out to the community to get support in the future
- Develop a system of distributing funds in the future

- Develop a plan to provide some financial support or incentive for the neighborhoods to contribute financially and want to put art in the community.

Things to do:

Have others that have done a strategic art plan come in and talk about the process, the cost and why they chose to do it that way

\*\*Spend some funding on developing a strategic plan – speak with others about costing

11/14: Will meet 3-6 to review other City strategic plans and begin process for RFP

\*\*Bring names of potential consultants

Report on what is happening with \$ at every meeting