

# Cultural Council Minutes

## June 15, 2011

**Present:** Amy Whittenburg (Chair), Bhaj Townsend, Cathy Heffron, Marianne Francis, Nora Carlson, Sheila Mickool, Trent Latta, Ellen Miller-Wolfe (staff), Jeannie McGivern (staff).

**Absent:** Erik Gordon, Gaerda Zeider, Leah Kliger, Melissa Nelson, Rebecca Devere, Julie Huffman (staff)

### **REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Cultural Council reviewed the minutes of May 18. Trent Latta made a motion to approve the minutes, motion carried.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **CACHET**

The second CACHET event is tentatively scheduled for October 10, 2011. The top three potential venues are Kirkland Arts Center, International School, and Juanita High School. Henry Bischofberg will be the artisan. A change for the next event will be to ask participants for education topics for future CACHET events. Details of the Mayor's award will be discussed at the next Cultural Council meeting.

#### **Artilization**

It was reported that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday Art Walk had been successful and well attended. The Art Walk banner will be moved to different locations depending on availability. Ellen Miller-Wolfe confirmed that the Art Walk will not need a special events permit; however, there will be a charge to hang the banner. Ellen expressed that Artilization can ask artists to pay \$25 for placement but cannot prevent artists from City rights-of-way. Ellen added that the money collected will need to be submitted to the City. Parks would like to review placement of artists to make sure sidewalks are not being blocked. Marianne Francis and Bhaj Townsend will co-chair the Art Walk in Rebecca Devere's absence during the summer. Cultural Council members will meet with Sudie Elkayssi to explain this event and confirm banner hanging fees.

#### **Fundraising**

The silent auction will take place on Saturday, August 27, 5-8 p.m. at a downtown location yet to be determined. The event has been renamed "reART." Tagline: Silent auction to benefit Kirkland Arts, Culture and Heritage. Plans for procuring and collecting items, tracking information, and crediting donations are still in development. Les Utley has agreed to store artwork. Items may include: visual art, tickets to art events, art books, jewelry, musical instruments, and dinners. It was agreed items will be juried. Donators are asked to consult their tax advisors to determine the value of items. Ways to get the word out include Facebook, flyers, word of mouth, neighborhood association meetings, and media outlets. A deadline for artists to submit their work has not been determined.

### **Public/Private Art**

Cathy Heffron presented a report from the Public Art Committee and minutes dated May 18, 2011 regarding Fred Fulmer's offer to loan the City a totem pole (*please see* attached report). The committee also consulted a curator at the Seattle Art Museum who determined the totem pole did not meet the criteria set forth by the committee. The Cultural Council agreed with the Public Art Committee and Seattle Art Museum curator's findings.

Motion: The totem pole does not meet public art criteria and should not become part of the City's collection; however, the council is open to exploring option of installing the piece in a children's park. Marianne Francis seconded. Motion carried.

### **Action item: Public art**

Ellen Miller-Wolfe confirmed that the lease for the statue located on Park Lane has been renewed because the Cultural Council agreed to allow it to remain until infrastructure work was imminent.

### **2011 Goals for City Council Joint Meeting with Advisory Boards and Commissions**

Ellen Miller-Wolfe discussed the upcoming July 7 City Council joint meeting with advisory boards and commissions. The Cultural Council will have approximately 1-1½ minutes to present an overview of 2011 goals and accomplishments. There will be an important discussion after the presentations regarding how these goals and accomplishments tie in with City Council goals (e.g. Parks and Economic Development) and ways that the City can help. Ellen suggested that the Cultural Council get their revised goals into the record for Kurt Triplett and individual Council Members to review before the meeting. The Cultural Council made changes to the 2011 goal statement (see attached). The Cultural Council also provided the Chair with what the City Council can do to support the KCC including: funding; attending KCC events; connecting art and economic development (Richard Florida).

### **Staff Report for City Council regarding Future Options for Cultural Council**

Ellen Miller-Wolfe presented a draft staff report regarding future options for the Cultural Council (*please see* attached report). Ellen asked members to review the options and said her staff report will be separate from the Cultural Council's recommendation to City Council.

### Key discussion items:

At the request of the City Council City staff is preparing options for how the Cultural Council might continue to operate in these recessionary times.

Ellen provided examples of how the Cultural Council requires City oversight to operate and that oversight is not easily covered by current City resources. Also the Cultural Council in its fund raising role is very different from the boards and commissions the City oversees and therefore can be difficult to service. (She gave the example of using the City website for an online auction.)

Ellen Presented the following options for Cultural Council discussion:

**Option #1** – Status Quo (Staff indicates this is unsustainable)

**Option #2** - Hybrid (Retain some responsibilities such as public art curating and offload others )

**Option #3** - Focus on Cultural Tourism (Seek funds from Tourism Development Committee lodging taxes for staff and projects).

**Option #4** - 501c3 (Generally unsatisfactory to Cultural Council)

The following were reactions to the options that will be fleshed out at a follow-up meeting:

- While valuing the tie to the City, the Cultural Council also feels that City requirements can be onerous.
- There was support for the cultural tourism idea and possible funding of staff and projects that meet tourism requirements.
- There were several opinions in favor of the status quo. Several suggested that this would also include acknowledging fiscal realities while supplementing the budget through fundraising, sharing staffing responsibilities, and returning to Council in better times for funds.
- All felt that the City needed to demonstrate the importance of the arts to its culture and economy by continuing to have a Cultural Council.

Amy Whittenburg expressed she would like the Cultural Council to reach a full consensus and advocate together as a group. The Cultural Council agreed to hold a special meeting to discuss in detail options to present to the City Council. It is anticipated that the majority of members can attend this meeting. Jeannie McGivern agreed to hold the Rose Hill room for June 28 and June 30 from 4–6 p.m. Amy will poll the Council and let Jeannie know the confirmed date for the special meeting.

Ellen will submit her staff report by July 10.

**Adjourn with reminder that July meeting is at NW University.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

**Subject:** FW: Public Art Committee Minutes, May 18, 2011 Meeting

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 08, 2011 8:25 AM  
**To:** Ellen Miller-Wolfe  
**Subject:** KCC - Public Art Totem Pole Report, redone

**Kirkland Cultural Council  
Public Art Committee  
May 18, 2011**

Present: Ellen Miller-Wolfe, Cathy Heffron, Trent Latta, Gaeda Zeider, Linda Paros.  
Absent: GG Getz, Leah Kliger

Report on Offer of Totem Pole Loan

On May 18<sup>th</sup>, an artist came before the committee to offer the loan of a piece of his work to the City of Kirkland. After the artist had departed, the committee discussed the work based on the criteria by which the committee is guided.

As several members were not present at the meeting, this report was written after taking their emailed opinions into account.

**The Committee Criteria and comments:**

**1. Artist Qualifications**

- **Who is the artist? What is his or her background in public art?**

Fred Fulmer, an employee of the City of Kirkland, offered the loan of his hand carved Totem Pole to the City for an undetermined length of time. Mr. Fulmer is part Tlingit and the pole represents his family crests, the eagle and the bear. The pole was carved two years ago and is currently stored.

**2. Conceptual compatibility of the design with the immediate environment of the site**

- **Is the piece appropriate for the selected location? Does it enhance the structure near it? Is the scale appropriate?**

Totem poles are not native to this area, a Duwamish area, and so it would be inappropriate to place one within Kirkland.

**3. Enhances the existing city collection or adds diversity**

- **Does it meet the level of quality based on the city's current collection?**
- **Does it add to the diversity of our collection?**

The quality does not meet the level of the current collection.

It would add diversity to the collection.

**4. Condition, durability, installation, and maintenance requirements of the art work**

- **What are the materials? Are they durable, sustainable, green? Is it easily maintainable to ensure the quality will be preserved over time? Does the artwork present any safety issues?**

The totem pole is carved of yellow cedar. It would be easy to mount, costing about \$200. At this time Mr. Fulmer is planning to repaint it. It would be insured by the City and, according to Mr. Fulmer, has a value of about \$12,000.

**5. Aesthetic Merit**

▪ **How will the artwork be received by the community?**

Because of the craftsmanship and general quality of the pole, it would be critically evaluated by our community. Kirkland is considered a town which values its art and so would be concerned about the artistic value of the totem pole.

**The committee recommends:**

Since the quality of the piece does not meet the standards in our criteria, it should not become part of our collection. However, it was suggested that if the City Council feels that they would like to take up Mr. Fulmer's offer, perhaps it could be place in a children's park area.

Submitted and reported by:  
Cathy Heffron  
Chair, Public Art Committee  
Kirkland Cultural Council

## CACHET MEETING

June 6, 2011

### CACHET Event:

Leah reported that the Bischofbergers offered to present the art of violin making at the program for our next CACHET event in early October, possibly on Monday the 10<sup>th</sup>. We need to plan this event after the conclusion of Bookfest at Parkplace Books.

Leah will check with Christopher at KAC to see if this is a possible location for the CACHET event. We discussed accessibility issues at this location, especially if the event were held upstairs.

Melissa will check into the possibility of hosting the next CACHET event at the International Community School. It was mentioned that the Bischofberger's children attended school at ICS.

Juanita High School was named as a possible location to focus on the new annexation area of Kirkland.

Suzanne visited LWHS Theater as a possible location and she overheard that the theater might not be able to allow outside groups utilize the facility this year.

Other possible venues mentioned as possibilities were Kirkland Women's Club, Peter Kirk Community Center, the Orthodox Church across from Kirkland City Hall, and the School of Prophetic Arts.

### CACHET Program:

A suggestion was made to have live or recorded strings music playing during the meet and greet period of the event to set the tone for the evening.

Deb Twersky and Jim Kelly from 4Culture will be providing the educational program following Henry Bischofberger demonstrating the highlights of violin making and performing on violin as well.

Following the program, Amy will ask for suggestions from the group about ideas for future educational program at other CACHET events.

### CACHET Mayor's Award timeline:

January 4 <sup>th</sup> :	Nominations submitted
February 9 <sup>th</sup> :	Last day to submit nominations
February 13 <sup>th</sup> :	CACHET members review nominations
February 15 <sup>th</sup> :	KCC members' final selection
March 5 <sup>th</sup> or 12 <sup>th</sup> :	CACHET Event and Awards ceremony

Next meeting possibly August 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **Cultural Council Options**

**Background:** The Kirkland Cultural Council was founded in 2003 when a group of citizens raised money to purchase the Ballentine sculpture collection for the City of Kirkland. Its mission, delineated in Council Resolution R-4353, was to advise the City Council on public art, particularly donated public art pieces, and to promote strategic planning and development for arts, culture and heritage in the community. At the time of the Cultural Council's creation, the City Council recognized that decisions regarding public art acquisitions can be sensitive, and acknowledged the benefit (and buffering) that a citizen board could provide. The resolution also anticipated that the Cultural Council would eventually become a 501c3.

In the intervening years, the Cultural Council has taken on additional roles, most notably in 2007, the oversight of the 1% for art program. The program requires that capital projects over \$500,000 provide a percentage for public art. And, in recognition of its expertise and outreach in public art, the Cultural Council has been invited, (most recently in the cases of the Bank of America settlement and Parkplace), to participate in art selections for private development interests.

Through seeding major art and cultural events such as the Artists Studio Tour, Kirkland Uncorked and the Seattle International Film Festival, overseeing a feasibility study for the Cannery, and developing a Strategic Plan for the Arts, the Cultural Council has taken on many projects that support local art, culture and heritage, and, by extension, supported the local economy during difficult economic times. (See Cultural Council Accomplishments).

**Recent Activity:** In 2010, the Cultural Council established CACHET, a collaboration of art, culture and heritage organizations in Kirkland, and through the auspices of CACHET, sponsored the first art competition for best individual artist and art organization. Also in 2010, downtown revitalization was launched, an effort to return an art presence to downtown Kirkland. The Cultural Council's hard work resulted in the return of monthly artwalks and spurred the proliferation of lively pop-up galleries to fill vacant retail spaces on a temporary basis. The 2011 workplan (see attached) calls for the continuation of many of these previous efforts along with an artist housing initiative and fund raising effort.

**At Issue:** In the current economic climate, the City has had to cut back or curtail many community activities. In the case of the Cultural Council, the City Council determined that there would be no 2011-12 dollars budgeted for the Cultural Council. Instead, the Cultural Council has relied upon a small grant from King County's 4Culture in the amount of \$8,000 that enables CMO staff member Julie Huffman to spend 5 hours a week on Cultural Council work between March and September. These 4Culture funds are not expected to increase and may in fact decrease. 4Culture also has suggested that it may require a City match in the future. In addition the Cultural Council anticipates raising approximately \$5,500.

Despite limited funding, the Cultural Council continues to take on significant projects, all of which require staff oversight. It is not uncommon for a Cultural Council project to require guidance from the City Attorney's Office, Finance, IT and Parks Departments and coordination by the City Manager's Office. This also is the case with the fundraising efforts the Cultural Council has undertaken to support its work.

These impacts to City resources that are not budgeted for are the main reason for bringing the status of the Cultural Council to the City Council's attention. In addition, the resolution that created the Cultural Council intended that it become a 501c3, and that expectation has been reiterated by more recent City Councils. Staff is requesting that the City Council reflect on the Cultural Council's continuing status and provide direction as to what model the Cultural Council might take in the future.

**Options for the Future:** What follows are several possible options that have been generated to begin the discussion with the assumption that other options also might be developed and evaluated:

**Option #1, Status Quo** – The Cultural Council would operate as it has for the past year. Staffing would be provided on a limited basis for monthly meetings and for public art review. Other subcommittees would meet independent of staff, and check in only when the City imprimatur is required.

**Comment** – This option is not sustainable as staffing is inadequate to service the needs of the Cultural Council including assuring that work is compliant with City requirements. A sustainable option would require additional funding. It is estimated that approximately \$25,000 is needed to fund a quarter time position to staff the Cultural Council.

**Option #2, Hybrid** – In this option, the City retains some Cultural Council duties and others are either terminated or adopted by other groups. An example is retention of the public art function by providing for a curatorial board to be accessed on an as-needed basis to make recommendations to the City Council regarding loans and permanent acquisitions to the City collection including 1 percent for art projects. Other desired functions could either migrate to a 501c3 or an existing arts organization.

**Comment** – The Cultural Council has expertise in curating public art. However, those instances where that expertise is needed are limited; thus the idea of calling a curatorial board together on an as-needed basis. Other functions of the Cultural Council also may merit continuation. However, given scarcity of resources, migrating them to either another existing organization or a new 501c3 may be the most workable solution.

**Option #3, Focus on Cultural Tourism** – This model would incorporate cultural tourism as a line item in the Tourism Development Committee (aka Lodging Tax Advisory Board) annual budget. The funding is limited to the marketing and promotion of tourism.

**Comment** - Currently individual events such as the Artist Studio Tour and Kirkland Uncorked are funded in part out of LTAC money. In the future, a specified amount could be set aside for arts-related events and programs each year. This option would require support by the Tourism Development Committee. If programs are to be staffed by the City, a decision to fund staffing for cultural tourism out of the LTAC budget also would need to be made. Currently there is .6 FTE devoted to the LTAC.

**Option #4, 501c3** – This option would make the Cultural Council completely independent of the city.

**Comment:** While this option has been discussed since the Council's creation, it is not the Cultural Council's desired outcome at this time. The Cultural Council believes that its legitimacy is in part related to its connection to the City. Also, some concern has been raised by other arts organizations that the

competition for dollars will put the Cultural Council at odds with local arts groups when their intent was to be supportive of local arts agencies. Often local arts agencies, even as non-profits, are funded with government dollars. A city-wide community fund also has been suggested that could incorporate an arts component.

**Conclusion:** The City of Kirkland is known for arts, culture and heritage. Two signature institutions, the Kirkland Arts Center and Kirkland Performance cater to residents as well as to visitors. Galleries are key to the attractiveness of downtown. Programs including Studio East and the International Ballet School are critical to making sure there are both performance artists and knowledgeable audiences going into the future. Although the Cultural Council is not a direct provider of these services, it symbolizes for many the City's commitment to the arts. Although City budget for the Cultural Council has diminished, there continues to be a commitment to help the Council find a new way of operating in the new economy that we all must confront.