

Arts Commission Retreat – Notes

Session One – Vision. January 13, 2021

Held at Soulflags Art Community Center

The Arts Commission began their two-session retreat by holding elections for Arts Commission Chair and Vice Chair. The group asked if Commissioner Lugo would like to continue in the role of Chair. She stated that she was happy to have someone else serve that role. Commissioner Andrews stated that she was interested.

Vice Chair Carlson called the vote to elect Trieste Andrews as the 2022 Chair for the Arts Commission. Unanimously passed.

Commissioner Carlson agreed to continue as Vice Chair. Commissioner Planton made a motion to nominate Tima Carlson for Vice Chair. Lugo seconded. Unanimously passed.

The Commissioners conducted an ice breaker exercise. Then they began a discussion of a Vision for the Arts Commission.

The following notes were collected on flip charts during the Arts Commission retreat. Staff have categorized the comments in the hope that this makes them easier to read and identify important themes.

Summary of major themes:

- Available to all and in all city projects
- Oregon City known as a place for the arts
- Sustainable, brings resources to the community
- Reflects our history including the role of indigenous people
- Celebrates our connection to nature, special natural elements of this place
- Ability to be an economic driver

From Commissioner Planton - Important Principles to Consider:

Accessibility - Art is available to every regardless

Advocacy - supports community and citizens

Equity - Art is fair and impartial

Diversity - Both in promotion/messaging and artistic medium

Community - Art should bring people together to discuss and reflect on our past and future

Innovation - It should nurture a creative community and spur on a culturally rich community

Inclusion - Art should not exclude anyone and we should work to gather input from the community

Sustainable - Program should be set up for long term success and art should promote core principles which are timeless

Authentic - Art should speak truth and not shy away from reality

1) Art as Connector and Art for All Residents

Allow more places for Expression

Neighborhood Projects – Mini-grants

Identify spaces/polling the people

Every City Project has an Art Element to it

Art Integrated into Oregon City Culture

Art Advocacy for the Community and For Art in the Community

Create a sense of community

Looking to the Community for ideas

Recognition of the cultural achievements of the community

Supportive/Information available

Support neighborhood ideas

2) Connecting Arts and History

Honoring Indigenous People

Cultural Access – art available to all

Place-making Name

Art Historic Truth

The True History of Oregon City/Honors

Art displayed along the natural beauty of the River/Education

Community Connected to the past and the future (ART)

3) Art Celebrates and Connects with Nature

Connections to the rivers

4) Oregon City Becomes Known as an Arts Destination/The Arts as Economic Driver

Art supports Economic Growth

Art connections Oregon City with surrounding Districts

Partnerships – Build on partnership with the City and art organizations

Establishing a Clear Presence

A Clear Process for People to get Involved

Art Director/Staff

(Encourage/support) Diversity of art (all art forms)

5) Arts Commission Supports Resources for the Arts

Resources to help people access the Arts

Innovation/Experimentation

Mini Galleries all over the City

Multi-cultural Festival/Event

More resources for Creative People – Information clearing house

Arts Commission as a “Resource Bridge,” as Enablers for the Arts

Make it easier to create Art – less costly and clear process (city process is clear – example: murals in Oregon City)

Note: Application to develop a new mural in Oregon City will be on the City’s website by end of January

Support/Identify funding for Projects

6) Specific project ideas:

- Art Center
- Three Rivers Art Festival
- Creation of public art
- Art Walk

Discussion of website and social media

Other themes:

INSPIRE

Engage/Curious/Connect – Encourage curiosity

Sustainability

ALIVE

Establish a positive connection with City Commission

Arts Commission as Leaders for the Arts – informing and providing direction to City Commission

Help each other/connect with each other

Exercise: Fill in the blanks. “The Arts in Oregon City _____, _____, and _____.”

Are Prominent

Thrive

Engage, Bring together, Beautify

Are Impactful

Are Community-Driven

Equitable Access/Enjoyed by All

Are Distinct/Innovative

Brief mention of topic of Advisory Committee vs. an Active Arts Organization – group does not want to replicate the efforts of others or compete for resources, but rather identify resources to bring to the community as a whole. Arts Commission as “enabler” as “bridge” as “Community for ideas.”