

Minutes

APRIL 9, 2008 ARTS COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING

PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET, SEATTLE

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Jean Mandeberg, Chair
Leann Johnson, First Vice Chair
Steve Sneed, Second Vice Chair
David Brown
Kent Carlson
Cindy Hill Finnie
Maureen Greeley
Sen. Jim Honeyford
Kate Jones
Rep. Lynn Kessler
Sen. Jeanne Kohl-Welles
Marty Loesch
Bill McKay
Noël Moxley
Rosita Romero
Brom Wikstrom
Shauna Woods

STAFF PRESENT

Kris Tucker, Executive Director
Bitsy Bidwell
Mark Gerth
Janae Huber
Lisa Jaret
Lou MacMillan
Leslie Pope
Willie Smyth
Alice Taylor
Mayumi Tsutakawa

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Monte Bridges
Chris Bruce
Mary Ann McCurdy
Lanie McMullin
Joan Penney
Rep. Mary Skinner

GUESTS

Mary Langholz, WSAA
Kjristine Lund, Lund Consulting
Nikki Morton, Pacific Northwest Ballet
Dennis Sellin, Lund Consulting

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mandeberg called the meeting to order at 10:14 am.

Lund Consulting distributed questionnaires to inform the planning process and today's work.

WELCOME

Chair Jean Mandeberg welcomed the Commissioners, and Kjris Lund and Dennis Sellin, Lund Consulting. Chair Mandeberg spoke about the Commission's opportunity to work collaboratively to review and discuss the principles, pathways, and recommendations. These will be part of a plan that will refer to and used for advocacy and future policy making within the Commission.

STRATEGIC PLANNING SURVEY RESPONSE

Chair Mandeberg turned the meeting over to Lund and Sellin to lead the review process. Lund spoke about the importance of this moment in strategic planning, when the Commission would discuss recommendations.

Lund said it was a time to ensure that the recommendations meet the goals of the Commission and the Agency to make a difference in a focused and relevant way. Lund referred to the strategic pathways of Community, Stewardship, and Education. The Findings are facts related to the role of the Arts Commission in Washington, and those facts ground the Recommendations. The Principles provide a filter through which to view the Recommendations.

Lund noted that is important to be clear about the roles and responsibilities of the Commissioners and staff. Commissioners reviewed the *Guiding Principles* and *Strategic Pathways*.

Lund said that today's work involves identifying recommendations to achieve each pathway, and she encouraged Commissioners to think about how WSAC could bring all the programs of the Commission together to meet the principles under each pathway.

Lund said the three pathways show that WSAC resources are leveraged along strong themes to achieve results.

SMALL WORK GROUP SESSIONS

Kris Tucker and Lund provided instructions for breakout sessions. To involve Commissioners, staff and guests in discussing recommendations under each of the three pathways, Lund distributed "Recommendation Concepts" (attached) as the basis for discuss. In May, the Commissioners will see the developed Recommendations

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS BY CONSULTANTS

Chair Mandeberg reconvened the meeting at 1:23 pm for a summary of the breakout sessions, provided by Tucker, Lund and Sellin. Commissioners then used a written voting process to prioritize the recommendations.

COMMUNITY PATHWAY (SUMMARIZED BY LUND)

(by recommendation number as listed on the handout)

1. General debate to define “community,” by geography versus community of interest. Many groups felt community of interest should be expanded to integrate within the broader community. Discussion about untraditional partnerships.
2. This recommendation (local arts agencies) needs more clarity. The needs of each organization will vary depending on its stage of development.
3. Suggestions include video conferencing. Identify and clarify technology opportunities.
4. Each group strived to clarify what international cultural exchange means and questioned how this recommendation would serve WSAC’s mission.
5. Discussion groups looked to the Wallace work for good models for supporting underserved communities.
6. Concern about the focus of staff shifting to marketing public art skills, while there was also interest that this might link to the cultural plan. There was also concern about legalities.
7. Is the CVI a tactic or a goal? Does it inspire or measure? Other methods can provide evidence-based results and advocacy tools to speak with people about the arts.
8. Support organizations to expand accessibility; link to existing WSAC policy.
9. Revolving loan fund may be defined too narrowly. Other untraditional ways could be pursued, such as microfinancing.

Lund mentioned groups felt public art appeared to be isolated within the Community recommendations and could be more interwoven. There was interest in the vision of a vital community focusing on non-traditional partnerships, rather than repeating existing things already being done, due to our scarce resources.

STEWARDSHIP PATHWAY (SUMMARIZED BY SELLIN)

State Art Collection

- A. It was suggested to move recommendation # 4, public art master plan, to #1, pooling.
1. There was concern that pooling might result in unintended consequences because not all communities are equally prepared to apply for public funding to obtain public art.
 2. Re-siting of works was suggested. Training was expanded to include artists and partner agencies.
 3. Digitized systems are important for education. GPS was suggested as a tool for tracking the location of public art.

Arts Organizations

1. “Grants that are modest in size” was felt to be a self-defeating and unclear concept by all three groups. Artistic excellence, creativity, and the program’s geographic reach were discussed.
2. Assessment of the results of the Building for the Arts program needs further exploration before pursuing.

Individual Artists

Include outreach, mentoring, and development strategies for artists of color, immigrants and refugees, and underserved communities.

Traditional and Folk Arts

Support for folk artists relates to the Individual Artists category. Partnerships might include

other arts agencies, businesses and corporations interested in promoting traditional folk arts. Long-term digital storage could be tied into the state art collection. Are there other partners? How can this information be used for education purposes?

Promoting the Arts

1. and 2. Concern about how to do this with available funding.
4. Elected officials could be involved in announcing grants; media should receive grant release information.
5. Strong leadership includes educators. The new heritage center may be an opportunity to build visibility with legislators. Virtual tours were suggested.

EDUCATION PATHWAY (SUMMARIZED BY TUCKER)

K-12 Public Schools

1. Consortia are valued for developing long-term, sustainable partnerships and developing local support. WSAC supports 20-25 consortia in the state, and there are a total of 295 Districts. Is "all" possible?
2. Establish concerns about effective practices as demonstrated on the local, national and statewide levels.
3. The arts teaching workforce must include artists and teachers.

Early Learning

Many potential partners were identified. A model might best be developed with partners. Some discussion included early brain development.

1. How are the arts addressing and contributing to early learning, and where can we learn from other pilot efforts?

Life-Long Learning

Interest in developing conversations about how life-long learning is integral throughout the work of the agency. For example, in digitizing our state arts collection and folk arts collection, those resources could be developed as an educational resource for all ages. The arts can contribute to healthy aging. Model projects were discussed.

Advocacy education and education advocacy themes were mentioned throughout these discussions. To be good advocates of the arts, Commissioners must educate themselves and their constituencies about the arts. Lund will work with Tucker, the Interim Committee, and WSAC staff to further develop these recommendations. Recommendations will be sent in the May Commission Meeting packet and will be further discussed at the Commission Meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Mandeberg reminded the Commission of the May 13 and August 5-6 Commission Meetings. Chair Mandeberg thanked Commissioner Brown for the hospitality of the Pacific Northwest Ballet boardroom. Commissioner Brown spoke about the early and life-long learning opportunities at the Pacific Northwest Ballet, including Mommy & Me programs for 4-5 year-olds, outreach to Bellevue Public Schools, and adult education opportunities to provide learning in and about dance.

Chair Mandeberg adjourned the meeting at 1:55 pm.