

WASHINGTON STATE ARTS COMMISSION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 6, 2021

Commissioners Present

Robin Avni
Andre Bouchard
Wesley Jessup
Linley Logan
Claudia Castro Luna
Lee Lyttle
Joan McBride
Monica Miller
Catherine Nueva España, Second Vice Chair
Faaluaina Pritchard
Justin Raffa, Chair
Charlie Robin
Rosanna Sharpe, First Vice Chair
Senator Lisa Wellman
Sheree Wen
Representative Sharon Wylie

Commissioners Absent

Dr. Kelvin Frank
Reinaldo Gil Zambrano
Jasmine Mahmoud
Diane Martindale
Representative Jacquelin Maycumber
Judy Tuohy

ArtsWA Staff Present

Glenda Carino, Communications Manager
Miguel Guillén, Program Manager, Grants to Organizations
Karen Hanan, Executive Director
Linnea Ingalls, Program Specialist, Grants to Organizations
Leslie Pope, Executive Assistant
Annette Roth, Community Development Manager
Savanna Perez, Fiscal Analyst 2
Michael Wallenfels, Community Relations Program Assistant
Joe Wolfe, Deputy Director

Guests & Speakers

None were in attendance

Call to Order / Land Acknowledgement / Roll Call

Raffa, ArtsWA Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Raffa welcomed new commissioners Claudia Castro Luna, Rep. Jacquelin Maycumber, and Reinaldo Gil Zambrano. Senator Chris Gildon has resigned from the board and Raffa acknowledged him and thanked him for his service.

Raffa read ArtsWA's land acknowledgement that was crafted with input from Native American commissioners.

Roll call was conducted and a quorum was verified. Raffa asked for a MOTION to approve the agenda; the motion was made by McBride, seconded by Pritchard, and passed unanimously.

The public is welcome to attend ArtsWA Board of Commission meetings, but comments will only be accepted during the designated public comment period. Today, and on future agendas, there will be room for public comment at the end of the meeting. Public comment is limited to two minutes per guest and is not a discussion period. There were no members of the public present at this meeting.

Governor's Arts & Heritage Awards

Guillén reviewed the program and panel recommendations (*packet pp. 1-13*). The Governor's Arts & Heritage Awards recognize and honor individuals and organizations for their significant contributions to the Washington's creative vitality.

In 2021, the **Luminary Awards** recognize artists and cultural organizations that stood as shining lights for their communities. Those whose leadership and steadfast efforts kept hope alive in their communities – even as they were facing pandemic devastation themselves.

The Luminary Awards had two categories, Organization and Individual. Each of ArtsWA's four regions could award one Luminary award in each category. To be eligible, individuals or organizations must:

- Have contributed to the arts and culture landscape of Washington State during the pandemic.
- Have shown outstanding community leadership in the arts during and related to the pandemic.
- Be current Washington residents or have been based in the state at the time contributions were made.

The Luminary Awards nominations were evaluated for:

- Role in the arts and culture field is clearly defined in the nomination letters
- Contributed to the arts and culture landscape of Washington State during the pandemic
- Shown outstanding community leadership during and related to the pandemic

Guillén extend thanks to those commissioners who led the regional panels that evaluated the applications. A total of 54 nominations were received, some of which were multiple nominations for the same individual. Distribution was well spread across the state because of the regional panel approach. As to be expected, King County did have the most nominations due to population and arts activity density.

Miguel read the panel recommendations. There are two nominations per region, one for an individual and one for an organization, except the central region, where there were no individual nominations.

Raffa asked the board for comments. Avni added that the Asia Pacific Cultural Center partnered with the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department to provide drive-through covid testing and later used their building for covid-19 vaccinations. They did a lot of work to address the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on BIPOC populations.

McBride thanked all the commissioners involved in the process of developing these wonderful nominations.

Raffa reminded the Board that Governor Inslee has the final approval for these awards. The information is embargoed until the Governor has reviewed and approved the recommendations. This process usually takes a few weeks, and the Board when approval is granted.

A MOTION to approve panel recommendations for the 2021 Governor's Arts & Heritage Awards – Luminary Awards, and the list of declined nominations, as included in the board packet was made by Senator Wellman and seconded by Lyttle. Conflicts of interest were identified as: Pritchard (Asia Pacific Cultural Center); Avni (Asia Pacific Cultural Center); Miller (Gallery One); Robin (Gallery One). The motion passed unanimously with four recusals due to conflicts of interest.

Creative Districts

Roth reviewed the program and panel recommendations (*packet pp. 14-15*). Three applications were evaluated for certification as creative districts: Rainier Valley (SE Seattle); South Columbia (Kennewick); and Bainbridge Island.

The proposed Rainier Valley creative district is in southeast Seattle, running along Rainier Avenue through Columbia City into Rainier Valley. It is a long and narrow creative district about 2-3 blocks wide and around 3 miles long. This shape is different than most existing creative districts, which tend to be compact and in a square or rectangular shape. This long, narrow shape is not without precedent. There is a similarly shaped district in Lakewood, Colorado, that is also along a major thoroughfare that is long and narrow. There is a great deal of arts and culture that already exist in this area. The Columbia Hillman area is a cultural district within the city of Seattle that will be encompassed within this creative district.

Rainier Valley had submitted their first application in February. Upon review by a panel, it was decided not to certify at that time because the application did not reflect the true diversity of the area. This second submittal incorporates more of the area's diversity within the community. The panel unanimously recommended certification of this application.

The South Columbia district includes the historic downtown of Kennewick. The civic center, city offices, library, and museum are within the boundaries. The creative district is along the Columbia River. The city wants to revitalize the historic district of Kennewick, including its existing public art, and current arts activities. This creative district is relatively urban, with a city feel, while most creative districts certified to date are suburban or rural.

Bainbridge Island creative district boundaries are within the primary downtown area. The ferry terminal is the terminus of the district. Bainbridge Island has many community arts activities. It is a great place to ride a bike and travel around the city. There are many arts and cultural fairs, weekend bike tours, and day visitors. It is a compact creative district, about a few blocks long and approximately six to eight blocks wide, making it easy to navigate on foot or bike. The panel made a few comments on this application, which is quite common. Often panels have questions about the content within a creative district application and request more information, for changes to be made to the materials submitted, or bring the suggestions into their plans for the first year. Bainbridge Island responded, and the panel approved their application.

Sharpe asked which groups were not represented in the first application. Roth said Rainier Valley is probably one of the most diverse regions in Washington. The application requests demographic information for the community in its entirety, not just in the area submitted for consideration as a creative district. Rainier Valley's first application was centered around the African American community, but demographically, the African American community is 25% of

the community and the Asian population is 40% of the community. The application did include Asian and other communities in the area but did not demonstrate that well in the application. We want to ensure that creative districts are truly representative of the community and all groups within a community have an opportunity to participate. Rainier Valley had been working to represent all of its diverse groups but had not expressed it well in their first application. Once they received feedback and changed their steering committee members to reflect their diversity, their second application better reflected their diverse community.

Sharpe said Rainier Valley is historically an African American community that has been pushed out because of gentrification. It is important that the area hold onto the legacy of its African American community origins to respect history, and to honor the legacy, because of redlining, that it was an African American community originally. Roth said this history is mentioned in the application, the creative district leadership is African American, many African American centered activities such as drumming, are included in the application, and will also ensure inclusivity. Rainier Valley's committee has found a way to balance its historic nature as a primarily African American community while recognizing the community makeup today.

Senator Wellman said creative districts are an economic engine activity, create business and support business growth in the arts. The Department of Commerce is creating a sector lead for the creative economy and thought a connection with ArtsWA might be helpful. Hanan said ArtsWA is working with the creative sector lead closely. ArtsWA has a seat on the creative economy study. ArtsWA is also partnering with Commerce on outreach for the Building for the Arts program and launching website information on the BFA program soon.

A MOTION to approve the panel's recommendations to grant Rainier Valley Creative District, South Columbia Creative District, and Bainbridge Island Creative District certification as creative districts with a \$7,000 grant each was made by Pritchard, seconded by Sharpe, and passed unanimously with no conflicts of interest.

Adjourn

Hanan said the state vaccine mandate is a huge initiative for the state. The deadline for state workers to be fully vaccinated is October 18, when state agencies may have to separate up to 8% of state employees who are not vaccinated. All ArtsWA staff and board members have been verified as fully vaccinated. ArtsWA staff were vaccinated before the mandate was put into place. Compared to other state agencies, ArtsWA is doing extremely well in this regard. She appreciates everyone's cooperation and said that together, we are stronger and moving forward.

Raffa thanked commissioners for deciding to be vaccinated. He personally believes it is an important step for the arts field, particular in the performing arts sector.

Raffa said the new Native American ad hoc committee, led by Dr. Frank, is holding its first meeting tomorrow. Raffa also reviewed the upcoming important dates listed on the agenda.

Raffa adjourned the meeting at 11:02 a.m.