

**ARTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
April 22, 2025
City Hall, Conference Room #6**

Attendees: Chairman Mary Lee Ryba (attended online), Vice Chair Abby Light, Commissioner Summer Ward, Commissioner Chuck Ethridge, Commissioner Tracey Benson, Commissioner Nora Crabtree, Commissioner Cynthia Newkirk, Commissioner Charlotte Doutriaux (attended online), Commissioner Kate Walker, Councilmember Amy Evans, and Troy Tymesen

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Ryba called the meeting to order.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION: None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Vice Chair Light corrected the name of the Emerge Operations Manager to "Jaiden" Haley. Commissioner Walker made a correction on page 2, adjusting the remaining Emerge fund to "a little bit under" \$12,000.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Ethridge, seconded by Commissioner Light, to approve the March 25, 2025 meeting minutes. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT: Mr. Tymesen reported that Fund 076 (Public Art Fund – Ignite) had no expenses for March 2025. Fund 074 (Public Art Fund – 1%) incurred a \$70.00 expense for plaques for the city-owned artworks "Reins" and "O'Keefe 8" sculptures. Fund 077 (Public Art Fund – Maintenance) is accruing interest and had a \$19.38 expense for plexiglass protection for the plaque of the "Reins" sculpture installed at Riverstone Park.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Benson, seconded by Commissioner Ethridge, to approve the March 2025 Financial Report. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

COMMISSIONER/ STAFF COMMENTS: Mr. Tymesen stated that the Council approved a one-year extension of the city's contract with Emerge for youth art scholarships during the Tuesday, April 15 Council meeting. He noted that last year, \$25,000 was allocated for this program, and the remaining funds will continue to be used for various Emerge scholarship programs. Chair Ryba added that CDA Poet Laureate Jennifer Passaro read a poem during the meeting.

DISCUSSION ON PERFORMING ARTS FUND FOR POP UP WORKSHOPS AND OTHER PROGRAMS: Chair Ryba requested that the agenda title be edited to "Discussion on performing arts funding for one or two entities, possibly \$5,000 each for pop-up workshops and/or other programs." She explained that the Subcommittee met and is in the process of drafting requests for performing arts proposals, which include project review, eligibility, guidelines, timelines, budget, and selection process. She emphasized that the Subcommittee would like to request funding to proceed with issuing the request for proposals and a press release. Mr. Tymesen

asked for the plan for executing this initiative, noting that it should be brought to the Council to request budget authority. Councilmember Evans mentioned the updated ordinance, and Mr. Tymesen explained that the specifics would depend on the final proposal, as the ordinance states “Purchases for and/or support of performing arts.” Commissioner Ethridge suggested that the idea could be open to project proposals similar to past federal grant opportunities but on a smaller scale. Mr. Tymesen reiterated the need to seek Council permission. Councilmember Evans expressed support for the initiative but emphasized the importance of following the proper process, noting that this is a discussion item on the agenda, not an action item. Mr. Tymesen recommended developing criteria to see how it would fit. Chair Ryba mentioned that the initiative would be similar to the Emerge program but focused on performing arts, using a process similar to the ArtCurrents program. Commissioner Ward stated that they are considering using Fund 074 - Community Arts Partnership to open a project grant initiative for various performing arts organizations or projects. She added that the parameters have not yet been determined. Commissioner Ethridge noted that they are still unsure which types of expenditure would be permissible and expressed a desire to include a range of entities, not just professional organizations. Councilmember Evans inquired about approximate costs, and Commissioner Ethridge responded that the Aspire Community Theater show would cost \$25,000. Commissioner Benson added that costs would vary depending on production elements, with some projects costing \$5,000 or less, such as venue fees. Commissioner Ethridge mentioned that the summer shows at North Idaho College are six-figure projects due to royalties and payments to all involved. Commissioner Benson stated that funding sponsorships could cover costumes, set design, or technical supplies. Chair Ryba highlighted other avenues such as summer concerts and Music Conservatory shows. Commissioner Ethridge estimated that they are looking at \$10,000 to \$15,000 in funding. Mr. Tymesen agreed that the amount seemed reasonable but noted that the fund does not have ongoing cash inflows. Commissioner Ward suggested that this initiative could be a pilot project to see if it could be implemented annually. Mr. Tymesen emphasized the need for Council approval of the concept and parameters. Commissioner Ward stated that they aim to submit a refined proposal. Commissioner Benson suggested announcing the call in October, and Chair Ryba agreed that October is a good target date.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES:

Coeur d’Alene Arts Awards: Chair Ryba stated that the subcommittee will have a meeting on May 6.

ArtCurrents: Chair Ryba shared updates from Commissioner Sichelstiel, noting that the Call to Artists has been released and a press release was issued on April 15. She also mentioned that the subcommittee is considering not renewing some artworks for the second year. Commissioner Walker highlighted that the subcommittee is reviewing data from the Otocast Audio app to identify less popular artworks and those that garner the most interest. They also revised submission criteria for this year to enhance the quality and creativity of the work. Mr. Tymesen explained that the City is not really doing well selling the artwork that is commissioned and displayed on public property. He mentioned that the ArtCurrents artworks are contracted for one year subject to another year extension, and there’s significant effort required to install and uninstall the art pieces. Commissioner Walker added that this year’s criteria are based on the pieces that were sold and aim to give artists more time to create new artwork specific to the Northwest. Mr. Tymesen reiterated

that the final selection of art pieces will depend on the decision of the Selection Committee.

Arts Commission Applicant Review: Chair Ryba announced that Commissioner Alesa Momerak submitted her resignation.

Visual Arts: Vice Chair Light stated that the new Museum of North Idaho opened last week and invited the Commissioners to visit. She mentioned the North Idaho College Student Art Exhibition happening until May 9 at Boswell Corner Gallery; the Arts Buzz meetings through the Arts and Culture Alliance every first Friday at the Chamber; and the Art Walk every 2nd Friday of each month.

Marketing & Technology: Chair Ryba noted that the Green Energy Dragon and the newly installed sculpture “Reins” at Riverstone will be added to the Otocast Audio Tour.

Emerge Art Scholarships: Chair Ryba thanked Mr. Tymesen for sharing that the Council approved the contract with Emerge.

Mural Projects: Chair Ryba stated that with the resignation of Commissioner Momerak, there is a need to designate a Chair for the subcommittee. She asked the members of the subcommittee who would like to be designated as Chair. Vice Chair Light volunteered for the position.

New Member Training/Policies: Chair Ryba announced that there are currently two vacancies on the Commission.

Wastewater Treatment Facility Art Project: Chair Ryba shared that Commissioner Sichelstiel posted updates on Instagram about the dragon dedication on April 24 and also shared them on her own media platform. She encouraged everyone to do the same. Chair Ryba requested Ms. Mateski distribute the press release to the Commissioners and asked them to attend the event. She mentioned that she would be unable to attend, but Vice Chair Light will lead the event. Councilmember Evans will serve as the emcee, Poet Laureate Jennifer Passaro will read her original poem, and Mayor Woody McEvers, Wastewater Director Mike Anderson, and artist Melissa Cole will deliver messages.

Poet Laureate: Chair Ryba expressed her thanks to Jennifer Passaro for reading her poem during the April 15 City Council meeting. She added that Ms. Passaro has been very busy and receiving so many requests to speak at many organizations.

Guidelines Development: Chair Ryba stated that the subcommittee will meet next month.

Music and Arts Festival: Chair Ryba stated that the subcommittee name should be “CDA October Arts and Humanities” since this is only about marketing the events. She added that the subcommittee will meet in May.

ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Light seconded by Commissioner Walker to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

The meeting ended at 4:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Jo Anne Mateski
Executive Assistant