

BREMERTON ARTS COMMISSION

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes of March 12, 2025

Approved

Hybrid Meeting: In person at Sheridan Park Community Center w/ virtual option.

Commissioner's Present: Cynthia Davis-Engelgau, Lynn Horton, Tia Hudson, Michael Laughlin (remote), Emerald Lessley (remote), Asia Renee (remote).

Staff Present: AJ Williams (AC Liaison), Sarah Steinke (Poet Laureate)

Public Present: Jim Cline (Charleston District)

Absent: Susan Blackburn

I. Meeting Called to Order at 5:31 PM by Chair- Lynn Horton

II. Approval of Minutes: A motion was made to approve the minutes with revisions for the February 12, 2025, meeting. (Cynthia Davis Engelgau/ Emerald Lessley seconded). (1CD/2EL).

III. Approval of Agenda: A motion to approve the agenda with an addition regarding the Gala. Decided to include the gala topic under subcommittee reports. Approved by (Cynthia Davis/Tia Hudson) (1CD/2TH)

IV. Public Comment:

Jim Cline President of the Charleston Business District- Jim discussed collaboration on the mural project on the Wyckoff overpass with The West Sound Arts Council and Bremerton Arts Commission.

V. Welcome Bremerton Poet Laureate:

Sarah Steinke was welcomed as the new Poet Laureate for the City of Bremerton. She expressed enthusiasm for contributing to the Literary Arts Subcommittee.

VI. Business:

Art Submissions: No art submissions currently.

Purchase Prize Award for CVG: Two pieces of art were purchased from the West Sounds Arts Council from this year's CVG Gallery. Both pieces were donated and will be displayed in various city owned facilities as public art. There is ongoing discussion about adding plaques to accompany the artwork, recognizing the donation source and providing details on the purchasing process.

2025 Work Plan Continuance: Lynn distributed a copy of the 2025 Work Plan to all commissioners at the February 12, 2025 meeting. She suggested updating a few sections each month to streamline the process and ensure all commissioners' ideas are incorporated effectively.

VII: Sub Communities Reports

Master Plan: The Arts Commission (AC) is in the process of updating its Master Plan. Commissioner Lynn has provided a framework outlining key sections that need to be addressed and revised. She would like all members to engage representatives from different areas to review and contribute to the draft.

Areas Reviewed:

- **Historical Influence on Art and Culture:** No changes have been made from the previous Master Plan.
- **Museums & Attractions:** This section remains unchanged.

- **Festivals & Culture:** Updates have been made to emphasize inclusivity and ensure comprehensive representation of local festivals. New additions include cultural events such as the Pacific Islander Festival, Juneteenth Freedom Festival, Filipino American Turno Ball, Quincy Square Jazz Festival, Kitsap Carver's Artistry in Wood Show, various car club gatherings, Wazgoose Kitsap events, and more.
- **Performing Arts & Music:** Updates have been made to incorporate new performing arts groups into the Master Plan and to highlight youth-focused activities. Notable additions include the Bremerton West Sound Symphony and Chorale, The Kitsap Jazz Orchestra and other local music groups. Furthermore, greater emphasis has been placed on youth engagement, with the inclusion of activities such as the Daddy-Daughter Dance and expanded recognition of high school performing arts centers.
- **Literary Arts:** Changes were made to include poetry boxes and free and public libraries.
- **Culinary Arts:** Changes to update and include Bremerton as a cultural foodie community with diverse international American cuisine. Events include Armed Forces Festival Pancake Breakfast, Summer Brew Fest, Taste of Kitsap, Wine Festival, and Evergreen Kitchen. Include Evergreen Kitchen and other culinary programs in the master plan.

Literary Arts: Commissioner Cynthia asked if Sarah (Poet Laureate) would be interested in writing a poem for the Arbor Day Celebration on April 25, 2025.

Gala: Commissioner Michael proposed that the Arts Commission (AC) consider hosting the gala biannual instead of annually, consider allowing artists to receive a portion of sales by encouraging participation while also reducing burnout. Additionally, he suggested strategies to enhance bidding competition and increase artist satisfaction. A tentative date has been set for the next gala on September 13, 2025. At the next meeting, the Commission will vote on the gala's frequency and the artist commission structure.

Gallery of Arts/Maintenance: Cyn is currently working on cataloging and categorizing all artwork throughout the city. Art panels have been delivered and are being stored at the Sheridan Park Community Center awaiting installation.

Support and Grants: Krampus Bremerton has applied for a mini grant; decision has been placed on hold pending approval, and consideration of a "project support grant" as an alternative.

Creative District Update: A new state-level Creative District liaison has been appointed. Commissioners Lynn and Cyn held a Zoom meeting on March 10, 2025, to discuss relevant updates with Aaron Semer. The statewide Creative District Conference is scheduled for June 5-6, 2025, in Tenino, WA, all committee members are encouraged to attend.

VIII. Staff Reports/Updates:

Poet Laureate: Already reported on.

Quincy Square Groundbreaking: The call for art has been completed and distributed to all Arts Commission (AC) members for review. Final details need to be added including cabinet dimensions and installation specifications, before being finalized. AJ will distribute the call to all Arts Registry members, the Creative District, and post it on the City's website by the end of the week.

Art Wrap Update: The two replacement wraps one Washington and Naval have been completed and Public Works is in the process of adding the electronic components to the utility boxes.

Art Panels: The completed Bremerton High School art panels have been delivered to Sheridan Park Community Center, with installation expected to be completed by Public Works within the month.

Additionally, an art panel at the Open Air Gallery was vandalized, and a replacement is currently in progress.

- IX. Chair Report:** None
- X. Commissioner Reports, Comments and Questions:** None
- X1. Announcements:** Collab Art Show, event scheduled from 6pm-9pm April 19th, 2025 at Olympic College Art Gallery.
- XII. Adjournment:** 6:57 PM by Chair Lynn Horton