

BREMERTON ARTS COMMISSION

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes of April 9, 2025

Approved

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

Commissioner's Present: Lynn Horton, Cynthia Davis-Engelgau (remote), Michael Laughlin (remote), Emerald

Lessley (remote), Asia Renee (remote) Susan Blackburn (remote).

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

Public Present: None

Absent: Tia Hudson

I. Meeting Called to Order at 5:30 PM by Chair, Lynn Horton

II. Approval of Minutes: A motion was made to approve the minutes with revisions for the March 12, 2025, meeting. (Michael Laughlin/ Emerald Lessley seconded). (1ML/2EL).

III. Public Comment: No Public present.

IV. Business:

Art Submissions: Received two art submissions intended for the Quincy Square call. AJ is checking with the artist about art being submitted to the correct category. Proposed to place eligible art in the general library instead of Quincy Square. Commissioner Micheal had concerns about copyright with a Harley Davidson-themed artwork. Motion was made to place both pieces of artwork in the library pending AJ's confirmation with the artist

2025 Work Plan Continuance: Cyn proposed 4x4 panels for the outdoor gallery, contingent on budget availability. Decision to table the proposal until the next meeting

V. Gala Vote (biannual, artists to receive portion of sales, minimum bidding):

Gala Frequency (Annual vs. Biennial): There was discussion regarding whether to host the gala annually or move to a biennial schedule. Concerns were raised about the performance of past galas and potential conflicts with other major events. After consideration, all Arts Commission (AC) members agreed to move forward with hosting the gala in the current year. The event is tentatively scheduled for September 13, 2025, with plans to evaluate its success before deciding on the frequency for future years

Artist Sales Commission: To encourage greater artist participation, the AC expressed interest in offering artists a percentage of the sale of their work. The specific commission percentage is still to be determined (TBD). Susan will reach out to local artists to gather input on reasonable and standard commission rates.

Minimum Bidding Strategy: It was noted that, in the past, artists were allowed to set their own minimum bid amounts. However, this approach may have unintentionally discouraged potential bidders. A suggestion was made to establish a consistent formula for setting minimum bids—potentially as a percentage of the artwork's estimated value. The exact percentage will be discussed and determined at the next AC meeting.

VI. 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 to be reviewed.

Areas Reviewed:

Bremerton Creative District: The focus remains on tackling two primary concerns within the Creative District, the lack of affordable space for artists and the presence of vacant buildings. These issues have been identified as key barriers to creative growth in the area. Efforts are underway to finalize the Creative District document, incorporating suggested wording improvements to better reflect strategic priorities and community needs.

Upcoming Creative District Networking Events:

- **Performing Arts:** May 22 at the Manette Saloon, 5:30 PM
- **Visual Arts:** Scheduled for May at Rimbart's in Charleston district — time TBD
- **Literary & Culinary Arts:** These groups will be combined for upcoming discussions due to smaller participant numbers — date and time TBD

Literary Arts: Sarah, the current Poet Laureate, had no new updates to report at this time. However, a flyer outlining the upcoming April Ars Poetica events has been distributed to all Arts Commissioners.

Gallery of Arts/Maintenance: No current updates.

Support and Grants: Krampus Bremerton initially applied for a mini grant; however, it was decided to withdraw the application and instead have the group apply under the Project Support Grant, which is a better fit for their proposal. There was discussion about increasing artist engagement with available grants. To support this effort, Lynn will post the grant application link on the Creative District website, and AJ will coordinate with IT to have it shared on the City's Facebook page to help attract more applicants.

Creative District Update: Lynn Shared the upcoming events and would encourage everyone to join upcoming meetings: Performing Arts: May 22 at the Manette Saloon, 5:30 PM, Visual Arts: Scheduled for May at Rimbart's in Charleston district — time TBD, Literary & Culinary Arts: These groups will be combined for upcoming discussions due to smaller participant numbers — date and time TBD

VII. Staff Reports/Updates:

Quincy Art Call: At this time, we have no submission to review. The groundbreaking is still scheduled for July 12-13, 2025.

Art Wrap Update: The two replacement wraps, on 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.

Charleston District Art Project: Mural painting is scheduled to begin in May, weather permitting. Lynn shared details about the upcoming project, which will feature a painted mural on the lower half of the wall and art panels installed on the upper portion. This design approach allows for both permanence and flexibility in showcasing local creativity

VIII. Chair Report: Lynn shared that she has been in contact with a muralist who is offering to create free murals for the community. She will follow up to clarify key logistics, including mural dimensions, who will cover the cost of supplies, and other project details. There was a suggestion to consider using a mini grant to help cover supply costs if needed, ensuring the project can move forward with community support.

- IX. Commissioner Reports, Comments and Questions:** None
- X. Announcements:** Collab Art Show, event scheduled from 6pm-9pm April 19th, 2025 at Olympic College Art Gallery. ARS Poetica April 2025 events flyer shared.
- XI. Adjournment:** 6:47 PM by Chair Lynn Horton