

# BREMERTON ARTS COMMISSION

## REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes of May 14, 2025

*Approved*

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

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

**Staff Present:** AJ Williams (AC Liaison)

**Public Present:** None

**Absent:** Emerald Lessley

- 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 as is for the April 9, 2025, meeting. (Susan Blackburn/Michael Laughlin). (1SB/2ML). Tia Hudson and Cynthia Davis-Engelgau abstained.
- III. Public Comment:** No Public present.
- IV. Business:**

**Art Submissions:** A single artist submitted four individual pieces to be considered as one cohesive art submission. The committee found the artwork to be colorful, energetic, and visually engaging. However, concerns were raised regarding the format, specifically how the four separate pieces would translate to the Quincy Square utility box, as some sections could be obscured or distorted upon installation. To address this, Michael created a composite mock-up combining the four images to illustrate how the artwork would appear once applied to the utility box. Based on this presentation, the submission was accepted and will be forwarded to the Public Works Art Selection Committee for final review.
- V. Performing Arts Event Feedback:** Feedback from performing arts events will be incorporated into the master plan discussion.
- VI. Purchase Prize for CVG juried show in January/February:**

The Arts Commission discussed whether to continue participating in the Purchase Prize award for the CVG's Juried Show next year. There was general support for continuing the tradition, with a preference given to local artists who contribute artwork to the Gala auction. Commissioner Lynn will develop a detailed strategy and guidelines for the purchase process, emphasizing prioritization of local contributors. The final prize amount will be determined at a later date and will depend on the revenue generated by this year's Gala.
- VII. Gala Vote (Remitting a percentage of the Gala art donations back to the artists):**

The Arts Commission discussed returning a percentage of each artwork sale to the artists as part of this year's Gala. The conversation covered potential percentage amounts, formulas for calculating disbursement, and the logistical challenges of implementation. It was decided that a percentage of each sale (capped at 40%) will be returned to the artist. In light of this change, the People's Choice Award will be eliminated for this year's event. Lynn will draft updated artist submission forms, allowing artists to indicate the percentage (up to 40%) they wish to receive from any sale. AJ and Lynn will collaborate on the final disbursement calculations when the time comes.
- VIII. Discussion on having the Gala be a masquerade event? Vote on "Save the Date" Design:** The Commission explored a variety of themes to boost Gala attendance, including masquerade, beach party, and formal attire options. Concerns were raised about ensuring the theme is appropriate for families and children. As a result, it was suggested that the event invitation includes a note clarifying that this is a family-friendly event.

After discussion and a formal vote, the Commission selected “Masquerade” as the official 2025 Gala theme. Attendees will be encouraged—but not required—to wear masquerade attire. Michael presented a mock-up of the event invitation “Save the Date”, which was well received, and the Commission agreed to move forward with the proposed graphic. Michael and Lynn will work together to finalize the save-the-date wording. Once complete, Michael will present the final version for a group vote on the full design.

## **IX. Sub Committees Reports**

**Master Plan:** The group reviewed the updated draft of the master plan document, specifically the performing arts section. Points of clarification and amendment were discussed. The group agreed on the need for clearer descriptions of sections, including the background section and the vision statement. The AC discussed the feedback from the Creative District performing arts networking and strategizing event on April 21, 2025. Some key topics were:

**Social Media Promotion & Monetizing Gigs:** The group discussed strategies for promoting artistic events and turning performances into paying gigs. Suggestions included inviting venue owners/managers to networking events to share expertise on event costs and budgeting for performer pay. The potential for providing informational resources (e.g., busking permits) to artists was also noted.

**Busking & Community Engagement:** The idea of a "Busk Walk," a themed event incorporating buskers at various locations throughout the city, was proposed. This would create awareness of busking opportunities and provide a unique community experience.

**Community Collaboration & Artist Support:** Participants emphasized the importance of fostering collaboration between artists and groups to build community and increase visibility. The creation of artist support groups, potentially through joint events and the Arts Commission, was suggested as a key goal.

**Accessibility and Affordability:** The need for accessibility considerations in events and venues was highlighted. This included physical accessibility (e.g., ramps, elevators) and sensory accessibility (e.g., clear audio for hearing-impaired attendees). The group agreed to emphasize affordability and accessibility as priorities in future planning.

**Goals for Performing Arts in the Master Plan:** The group brainstormed goals for the community's performing arts, including: \*Increased collaboration and joint events. \* Creation of artist support groups. \* A "Busking First Friday" event. \* Culinary arts themed events (cook-offs, food truck festivals).

### **Upcoming Creative District Networking Events:**

**Visual Arts:** Scheduled for Monday May 19, 2025 at Rimbart Illustration Gallery in the Charleston district at 5:30pm.

**Literary & Culinary Arts:** Scheduled for Monday June 30, 2025, 5:30-7:30pm at Heathens Bakery

**Literary Arts:** Sarah, the current Poet Laureate was absent from the meeting but provided written report of her Poet Laureate activities to all AC members.

**Gallery of Arts/Maintenance:** No current updates. Update will be provided at next meeting.

**Support and Grants:** No current update.

**Creative District Update:** Already discussed in previous discussion.

## **X. Staff Reports/Updates:**

**Quincy Art Call:** A single artist submitted four individual pieces to be considered as one cohesive art submission.

**Art Wrap Update:** No new update. The two replacement wraps, one on Washington Avenue and one on Naval Avenue, have been completed and Public Works is in the process of adding the electronic components to the utility boxes.

**Art Panels:** AJ reported that the art panels for the Open Art Gallery were picked up from the Sheridan Park Community Center today by Public Works. While an exact installation date has not been confirmed, it is expected to be scheduled within the week.

**Charleston District Art Project:** Mural painting is scheduled to begin in May, weather permitting. Lynn previously shared details about the project at an earlier meeting. The Arts Commission will also participate in a Community Paint Day as part of the Charleston District art project (date to be determined).

- XI. Chair Report:** Lynn was contacted by Collective Visions Gallery regarding an Ecuadorian muralist interested in creating a mural in downtown Bremerton at no cost. Two potential locations were identified:

A bulkhead at 6th and Washington

A wall on 5th and Washington, across from the parking garage

To support this opportunity, it was suggested that the Arts Commission assist the artist in applying for a mini grant to help cover the cost of paint and supplies.

- XII. Commissioner Reports, Comments and Questions:** None

- XIII. Announcements:** Micheal shared an event at Olympic College Art Gallery, “2025 Annual Student Art Exhibit & Pizza Party” scheduled from 5pm-7pm May 29, 2025.

- XIV. Adjournment:** 7:04 PM by Chair Lynn Horton