

MINUTES
ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Council Chambers
January 26, 2022 at 6:30 pm

Present: Councillor Nathalie Chambers (Chair), James Hesser, Jasmindra Jawandra, Jordan Macdougall (Youth), Kimberly Van Nieuvenhuysse, Sonia Nicholson, and Nik White.

Staff: Nadine Kawata, Planner (Community Planning); Silvia Exposito, Planner (Community Planning); Brenda Weatherston, Community Arts Programmer; Evelyn Wolfe, Archives Supervisor; Megan MacDonald, Senior Committee Clerk; and Austin Winters, Committee Clerk.

Regrets: Jordan Watters and Teri VanWell.

Minutes

MOVED by J. Hesser and Seconded by N. White: “That the Minutes of the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee meeting held November 24, 2021 be adopted as circulated.”

CARRIED

CHAIR’S COMMENTS / WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair asked for all members to introduce themselves and note topics of interest that they would like to see added to future agendas. The following was noted:

- Inquire about the CRD’s efforts to address funding performing arts facilities.
- Look at ways to incorporate inclusion, diversity and anti-racism into the Committee’s mandate.
- Contact the CRD to examine our funding model and to see where the money is being utilized and to inquire as to why some of the money isn’t being funneled back into arts facilities in Saanich.
- Look into new ways to engage the public such as a local history passport where people could get stamps in different places of cultural significance and then once completed potentially a token prize could be given out.
- Through a potential “Heritage Lens” project, Saanich Archives would be contacted to see if the photos within their directory could be used so that the public could take comparable photos to contrast the past and the present day.
- Examine how art can create community and the stories art creates in public centers such as decolonial art.
- Potentially create a mosaic of the Committee.
- Examine how the Committee is going to protect heritage in a changing world.

MOVED by S. Nicholson and Seconded by N. White: “That the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee add an agenda item to the February 16, 2022 meeting regarding actionable public history items to be completed in 2022.”

Carried

OVERVIEW OF ARCHIVES

The Archives Supervisor gave an overview on the Saanich Archives Department. The following was noted:

- Saanich Archives has a mandate to collect and provide access to the documentary of Saanich heritage which includes written documents, photographs, maps, plans and oral history recordings.
- 60% of the records the Archives has comes directly from the District of Saanich which includes minutes, plans, Mayor's office correspondence and other reports.
- The other 40% of the collection have been donated to Saanich Archives by the community and these items include photos, letters, diaries, community newsletters, and household records.
- The Archives has 2 part time staff.
- The Archives website can be found through the link below:
 - <https://www.saanich.ca/EN/main/community/archives.html>
- There is a reference room available for in person visits which is currently open by appointment only due to current COVID restrictions.
- The number of in person visits to the reference room has been down for the last few years due to flooding at the facility which occurred in 2019 as well as COVID restrictions.
- Archives inquiries by phone and email are available and there are typically hundreds of these such inquiries every year.

The following was noted in response to questions from members of the committee:

- Once a piece has been added to the archives collection they leave the archives through a formal process which must be approved by the archivist.
- For an item to be accepted by the Saanich Archives the item has to relate to Saanich geographically or historically and are typically records not artifacts.

2022 MEETING DATES / TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Chair confirmed that meetings will be held at 6:30 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of the month, except for July, August and December. The Terms of Reference were provided to members of the committee for informational purposes.

PROPOSED UPDATES TO SAANICH'S MURAL PROGRAM

Nadine Kawata, a Planner from community planning and the Community Arts Programmer delivered a presentation on the proposed updates to Saanich's Mural Program. The following was noted:

- Councillor Taylor proposed the idea of a new mural program at the December 6th Council meeting.
- Council directed staff through motion to report back options and implications for a new mural/street art program to increase opportunities and support for murals and street art in Saanich.
- Through that same motion Council also asked staff to:
 - Consider a funding program;
 - Create five or more murals a year on either public or private property in Saanich;

- Consider compensation for artists and how to fairly compensate them; and
 - Report back to Council on funding requirements quickly so it could be considered in 2022 budget cycle.
- The definition of murals within Saanich is “an artwork that is either painted or applied directly on a wall or other large permanent surface and typically covers the whole wall or a large portion of it.”
- Murals are important within communities because they:
 - Create community connectedness and excitement;
 - Create a sense of place;
 - Promote collaboration among partners and communities;
 - Involve participation;
 - Promote and present equity, inclusion and diversity;
 - Reduce graffiti and tagging in problem areas;
 - Promote economic vibrancy and active transportation.
- The current process for mural selection is for artists to contact staff to discuss their mural proposal, after which staff gives some guidelines as to information the artist must provide to staff.
- Artists have the option of either going to a formal art jury process for their proposed mural or they can bring it to Council for approval.
- Staff has reached out to artists and community associations that have applied for murals in the past to better understand how to improve the process.
- Staff has also reached out to varying departments within Saanich to ensure appropriate policies and procedures are followed.
- The first phase of the mural program proposal begins with a mural pilot which upon completion will lead to phase two.
- The mural pilot will be a Saanich-led initiative to pilot mural procedures, raise awareness and spark interest with the community, businesses and artists.
- This pilot would allow staff to work within a short time frame to get the murals started and the murals would be on public property within the public’s view.
- The pilot would be Saanich funded and a selection committee would be used to select artists for the pilot project.
- Approximately 2 to 4 murals will be installed on public property and will be completed by the end of 2022 if approved.
- Phase two, which will begin in 2023 if approved, will involve developing the mural program through two streams focused on:
 1. Community led mural projects
 2. Business or private property owner led mural projects
- The first stream of the second phase will support community-led mural projects with resources and funding through a new Community Grant.
- Eligibility for this stream would be limited to community associations and the murals could be located on either public or private properties so long as it is within the public’s view.
- A new grant stream is being proposed for which some requirements may be established that necessitate community associations to match Saanich’s funding contribution or provide in kind services.
- The second stream of phase two focuses on businesses or private property owners who may want to come forward with a mural proposal.
- This stream would be separate from the community grant proposal as it would not be publicly funded and the location will be privately owned, but it must still be within the public’s view.
- The mural program will develop an artist roster/directory; develop a mural guide with guidelines on processes, procedures, and requirements for both of the program streams; and establish a community grant for the first stream.

The following was noted in response to questions from members of the committee:

- Part of any agreement that is made with a business or community organization for a mural will include yearly maintenance or restoration for approximately five years or less.
- A budget number for this mural program is still being established, thus a definite number is not available at this time, but each mural wall should cost roughly \$5,000 to \$10,000.
- A one-time funding number of approximately \$50,000 may be asked for the pilot project in the 2022 budget, while recurring annual funding will be requested for the mural program.
- The potential to establish a canvas directory of possible mural spaces for artists to choose from was brought forward.
- Anti-graffiti paint was raised as a potential tool to consider for this program to reduce the amount of yearly maintenance and restoration.
- A Saanich Mural Festival was brought up as a potential means to encourage and promote community and artist engagement.
- Community groups and artists that have been engaged about this potential mural program have given positive feedback.
- Once the program has been formulated further staff will come back to provide further updates to the ACH Committee.

MOVED by N. White and Seconded by J. Hesser: “That the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee bring forward to Council that the Committee strongly supports the proposed updates to Saanich’s Mural Program and advise Council to seriously consider its implementation into the upcoming Budget.”

CARRIED

DRAFT CADBORO BAY LOCAL AREA PLAN

Due to technical difficulties, Silvia Exposito, a Planner from Community Planning and the Project Manager of the Cadboro Bay Local Area Plan (LAP) was not able to deliver her presentation and this item was postponed to the February ACH meeting.

ARCHITECTURE ALPHABET COLOURING BOOK

Committee member S. Nicholson gave a brief overview of the architecture alphabet colouring book. The following was noted:

- The colouring book was the result of a collaborative partnership between the ACH Committee, the Saanich Heritage Foundation and Saanich Archives.
- There was no budget for this project and it came as a result of members volunteering their time.
- The book educates on architectural terms and features photographs from Saanich Archives that have been converted and can be coloured.
- The book is currently online only and can be found at this link below:
 - [https://www.saanich.ca/assets/Local~Government/Documents/Committees~and~Boards/SHF/ACH-SHF_Colouring_Book_\(2\).pdf](https://www.saanich.ca/assets/Local~Government/Documents/Committees~and~Boards/SHF/ACH-SHF_Colouring_Book_(2).pdf)

The following was noted in response to questions from members of the committee:

- There was an inquiry into the number of times the colouring book has been downloaded from which the committee clerk said he would look into that information.

CRD REGIONAL ARTS FACILITY UPDATE

The committee was provided the link to subscribe to the CRD minute and agenda updates which can be found below:

- <https://www.crd.bc.ca/about/board-committees/board-committees-and-commissions/performing-arts-facilities-select-committee>

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is Wednesday, February 23, 2022.

Councillor Chambers, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary