



**CITY OF KINGSTON  
ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING NO. 04-2012  
MINUTES**

**Thursday March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 9:00 a.m.  
Councillors' Lounge, City Hall**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Ms. Jocelyn Purdie, Chair  
Ms. Kristiana Clemens, Vice-Chair  
Councillor Liz Schell  
Ms. Karen Dolan  
Mr. Sunny Kerr  
Ms. Katherine Porter  
Mr. Matt Rogalsky  
Mr. Matt Salton

**STAFF PRESENT**

Ms. Jannette Amini, Committee Clerk  
Mr. Brian McCurdy, Cultural Director  
Ms. Susan Powley, Committee Clerk  
Mr. Colin Wiginton, Manager of Culture

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Mr. Rob Wood, 8020 Info Inc.

**REGRETS**

Ms. Lynne Kenny  
Mr. John Palmer

**THIS IS NOT A VERBATIM REPORT**

**MEETING TO ORDER**

Ms. Purdie, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Moved by Mr. Salton  
Seconded by Mr. Kerr

**THAT** the agenda be confirmed.

**CARRIED**

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Moved by Councillor Schell  
Seconded by Ms. Dolan

**THAT** the Minutes of Arts Advisory Committee Meeting No. 03-2012 held on Thursday February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012 be confirmed.

**CARRIED**

**DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

**DELEGATIONS**

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## BRIEFINGS

- i. Ms. Jan Allen, former Chair of the Arts Advisory Committee spoke to the Committee regarding the inception of the Arts Advisory Committee. She noted that the need for an Arts Advisory Committee was based on research by the Advocacy Committee of the Kingston Arts Council in its report presented to the Arts, Recreation and Community Policies Committee (ARCP) in March 2006. She noted that an interim committee was created in late 2006, which eventually recommended the creation of the City of Kingston Arts Fund, annual financial support to the Kingston Arts Council to administer this fund, and the creation of an official Arts Advisory Committee as a Committee of Council that was approved in August 2007. The Arts Advisory Committee itself was meant to act as an avenue for communication between the City and the wider arts community and the Kingston Arts Council was asked to be part of the nominations process to ensure that those members appointed to the Committee were the best qualified to represent the interests of the arts community. A copy of Ms. Allen's briefing is attached to the record in the Clerk's Office.
- ii. Mr. Rob Wood, 8020 Info Inc. provided the Committee members with an overview regarding priority setting. He also provided a framing document titled 'Setting the Stage for Priority Setting: Concepts & Reference Points' as a reference tool to help guide the discussion that was to ensue. A copy of the submission is attached to the record in the Clerk's Office.

## BUSINESS

### a) **Priority setting exercise**

Mr. Rob Wood, 8020 Info Inc. lead a priority setting exercise to assist in guiding the work of the current Committee. A survey working document was distributed separately to which he noted 8 submissions and 2 phone calls were received.

#### i. **Reactions to the Advance Input**

Councillor Schell noted that it is City Council that holds the authority to make decisions on behalf of residents and it is important for Council to know that the community is behind the arts in Kingston.

Mr. Kerr felt a sense of challenge due to the large scope of work to be done.

Ms. Clemens noted there were many issues identified as part of the advance input and that it lacked concrete focus and direction. She suggested the Committee develop needs to develop steps and focus.

Ms. Porter noted there were many words left undefined and, in particular, questioned what defines what is meant by the term "professional art". She also asked for clarification if this Committee is advocating for professional arts groups or community arts groups.

Mr. Rogalsky would like to encourage more artists in residence, including recognition thereof, and cited the example of the Poet Laureate.

Ms. Dolan was most interested in the number of issues that demanded the Committee's attention.

Ms. Purdie was encouraged that with regards to the mandate of the Arts Advisory committee most people were in agreement.

Mr. Wiginton noted it needs to be clear with respect to roles and responsibilities between Cultural Services, the Arts Advisory Committee and the Kingston Arts Council and the need to ensure that the Cultural Services Department is not replacing or duplicating what may be happening in the community. He noted there is always a desire for additional funding and questioned, from a strategic point of view, if the City should be supporting individual artists or arts organizations. In relation to the funding question, he also noted that it is important to be clear about what is realistic.

Mr. Salton expressed scepticism about the strategic planning process as a lot of ideas get expressed around the table; however not a lot of action takes place. He questioned how many of these ideas will be carried out.

ii. **Clarifying mandate**

Ms. Porter felt that "non arts programs" are missing from the Committee's mandate and, if the City is considering broadening the mandate of the Arts Advisory Committee, there is a larger group of people within the community that should be taken into consideration, including amateur artists as well as disabled dance or theatre groups.

Mr. Kerr suggested that, if this Committee is helping to shape a Public Arts Policy, it would be an ideal role for this Committee to bring these other groups into the policies along with discussions about audience building.

Councillor Schell noted Council recently passed, by unanimous decision, the Walk of Fame that honours the Tragically Hip and it would be an opportunity for this Committee to make recommendations regarding this initiative.

Ms. Porter suggested it would be beneficial for this Committee to continue being informed of the educational programs being offered through Culture Services.

iii. **Proposing priorities**

Mr. Salton suggested a priority be the closing of the Empire Theatre; however he suspects that a major issue with the Empire Theatre is that there would be a one year "non competition" clause associated with its purchase or lease. Mr. McCurdy noted Downtown Kingston is also concerned with the closing of the Empire Theatre

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and could be a potential ally in formulating a response to this situation. Mr. Wood suggested clarifying the issues, considering options and impacts and considering recommendations.

Ms. Porter expressed concern regarding the lack of information received by this Committee. She questioned why this Committee was not informed that a portion of the repurposed Harold Harvey Arena was to be used by Public Works when it could have been used by other arts groups to create an arts hub.

Ms. Clemens suggested a priority be cultural mapping for reasons noted above with respect to the Harold Harvey Arena.

Mr. McCurdy suggested a priority be identifying any existing gaps that impact the arts community such as requirements for rehearsal space, theatre production space, or community art galleries and determine solutions.

Mr. Rogalsky noted many groups such as independent groups fall under the radar and cultural mapping will help in this as it provides a tool to map these lower level activities.

Mr. Salton questioned what cultural mapping would look like. Mr. Wiginton explained that cultural mapping is based on developing an arts-related database that has the potential to be presented in the form of a map. He also gave an example of how the Kingston Arts Council is in the process of developing a database using their new interactive arts portal and that the Arts Advisory Committee could assist with promoting the use of this tool within the community to help build a community generated database.

Mr. McCurdy suggested a priority of the City should be to look at the specific needs of professional artists within Kingston and to identify what the City could do in order to help those artists earn a living and succeed in their chosen profession. He also identified that it will continue to remain unclear what the City can do without this information.

Ms. Porter noted these discussions are bouncing from amateur artists to those who need to pay rent so it is important to be clear about who is being addressed. With respect to funding artists and arts groups, it needs to be communicated to them that funding is contingent upon giving back to the community. With respect to thoughts on the Empire Theatre, she cautioned this Committee is not aware of the costs associated with running that theatre.

Ms. Purdie suggested public art should be a priority and noted some initial steps could be taken such as education sessions to inform the broader community about what public art is and can be.

Mr. McCurdy noted there needs to be a desire from the community in pursuing the Empire Theatre, including ideas on how it could be used. If there is community will to pursue this issue, staff could come up with a preliminary plan and details.

Mr. Wiginton cautioned that this Committee needs to understand the Council priorities that have been set for this term of Council and any priorities set by this Committee should fit within the Council priorities to achieve support and approvals. This Committee would benefit from making sure that their efforts align with that of the City as a whole.

Mr. Kerr noted that public art is an important priority and is something tangible this Committee could do. He questioned how a Public Arts Policy is created and if this Committee have an opportunity to provide input.

Mr. McCurdy cautioned that the arts is only one piece of what the Cultural Services Department is responsible for and noted that heritage is a much larger component than the arts right now. Within the Kingston Culture Plan, there is far more emphasis on moving the heritage community forward and staff are trying to balance these priorities given the time required for planning, implementation and the public consultation process. He suspects the Public Art Policy is next in line after the Cultural Tourism Strategy and Cultural Heritage Strategy.

Ms. Porter questioned the role of the Kingston Arts Council and questioned if they should be more present in the community to build awareness and help disseminate information through its newsletters.

**iv. Summation of Priorities and Next Steps**

<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>REAP ASSESSMENT</b>
Empire Theatre (clarify, options, respond, recommendations)	Right Away
Cultural Mapping (including grass roots, DIY groups)	Apply Effort
Identifying Gaps (i.e. rehearsal space, gallery space etc.)	Apply Effort
What artists need to prosper	Apply Effort
Definitions of “artists” or “arts organization” (arts philosophy (business model)) “Role of Government” (Kingston Arts Council, Arts Advisory Committee and whose voice are you representing)	Right Away
Public Art	Right Away
Progress Reports (i.e. Kingston Culture Plan, J.K. Tett Centre, Isabel Bader Centre)	Ongoing
Walk of Fame	Right Away
Creative Cities	Ongoing

**MOTIONS**

**NOTICES OF MOTION**

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Meetings are scheduled to be held on the second Thursday of each month beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the Councillors' Lounge as follows:

- 12 April
- 10 May
- 14 June
- 12 July
- 09 August
- 13 September
- 11 October
- 08 November
- 13 December

Any updates regarding the location, date and time will be noted on each meeting agenda and on the City meeting calendar at: <http://www.cityofkingston.ca/calendar/meetings/all/>.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Ms. Clemens  
Seconded by Councillor Schell

**THAT** the Arts Advisory Community meeting do now adjourn.

**CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 10:56 a.m.