



Culture, Arts and Heritage Commission Meeting Agenda

December 12, 2024
12:00 PM

City Hall

Aspen Room, 1st Floor
415 W. 6th St
Vancouver, WA 98660

[Join online with Microsoft Teams](#)

Or call [+1 347-941-5324](tel:+13479415324), [638884765#](tel:+13479415324)

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. November 7, 2024

3. Workshop

- a. Arts Hub Activation Year-end Report
Speaker: Christine A. Richardson
- b. Budget and Project Overview
Speaker: Dave Perlick
- c. Cultural Access Program
Speaker: Dave Perlick
- d. 2023-2024 Grant Wrap Up
Speaker: Kirsten Hull

4. Community Forum

To provide public testimony, please see instructions below.

5. Commission and Staff Reports

- a. Cultural Services Manager
Speaker: Stacey Donovan

Culture, Arts and Heritage Commission

MEMBERS

Brad Richardson, *President*

Linda Reid, *Vice President*

Beth Harrington

Vacant

Lee Rafferty

Rebekah Percival

Ricky Gaspar

Rosalinda Mendoza

Russell Ford, CACC

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

415 W. 6th Street

Vancouver, WA 98660

TTY: 711

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b. Commission President
Speaker: Brad Richardson

c. Clark County Art Commission
Speaker: Russ Ford

6. Open Discussion & New Business

Adjournment

Community Forum Instructions

The public is invited to speak regarding any issue. Members of the public testifying are asked to limit testimony to three minutes. There are three ways to provide comments:

1. In Writing: Public comments can be submitted in writing (name, address, contact information and comments) via email to kirsten.hull@cityofvancouver.us by 5pm the day before the meeting.
2. Remotely: Pre-register by phone at 360-487-8307 or email kirsten.hull@cityofvancouver.us by 5pm the day before the meeting
3. In Person: Pre-register by phone at 360-487-8307 or email kirsten.hull@cityofvancouver.us by 5pm the day before the meeting or fill out a Public Comment form in person prior to the start of the Community Communications portion of the meeting

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Special Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 7, 2024

12 p.m.

Vancouver City Hall

Aspen Room

415 W. 6th Street

Vancouver, WA

Commissioners Present:

Richardson, Harrington, Rafferty, Reid, Percival, Ford, Gaspar and Mendoza

Commissioners Absent:

None

Item 1: Call to Order

The November 7, 2024, meeting of the Culture, Arts & Heritage Commission was called to order at 12:01 p.m. by President Richardson in Aspen Room at Vancouver City Hall and with Microsoft Teams. Gaspar and Rafferty entered at 12:05 and 12:12 p.m. respectively.

Item 2: Approval of Minutes

Motion by Harrington, seconded by Reid, and approved unanimously to adopt the minutes from October 10, 2024.

Item 3: Workshops

a. Interstate Bridge Replacement Program

Katherine Kelly, Policy Advisor for the City of Vancouver, presented determinations and findings in the draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Interstate Bridge Replacement (IBR) Program relevant to history and heritage.

Hayli Reff, Cultural Resources Program Manager for IBR, walked the Commissioners through the online open house materials explaining the Section 106 Review. Extensive materials on this topic were provided with the meeting materials.

Members

Brad Richardson
President

Linda Reid
Vice President

Beth Harrington
Vacant
Ricky Gaspar
Lee Rafferty
Rosalinda Mendoza
Rebekah Percival
Russell Ford, CCAC

**Parks, Recreation and
Cultural Services
Department**

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Richardson asked about traffic vibration impacts to the House of Providence and historical buildings on Main Street, noting extensive use of unreinforced, and in some cases unmaintained or degraded masonry. He encouraged the project team to adjust their assessment assumptions to account for the fragility of local buildings stemming from years of neglect and noted from personal experience that vibrations travel strangely beneath downtown Vancouver.

Richardson described differences between the National Historical Register and the county register standards, noting that the national register favors architectural heritage whereas the county register captures buildings rich with stories and important to local culture. Reff explained that the determination of eligibility analysis does include a community-based historical and cultural criterion and that the criteria are weighted equally for this evaluation process, as opposed to the nomination process which has weighted architecture more heavily.

Richardson advocated for preserving elements of historic landscape such as the stretch of West Reserve Street between E 16th Street and E 20th Street.

b. 2025-26 Proposed Budget Update

Dave Perlick, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services director, gave an update on recent budget workshops at City Council. The proposed reduction strategies for the department remain the same; most of the discussion centers on the Cultural Access Program recommendation. There is intent to adopt the tax program starting January 2025 and Council has encouraged staff to not rush conversations about the process and outcomes. The ordinance will be presented on Monday, November 18. If enacted, collection would start in April 2025 and the Culture, Arts & Heritage Commission will serve as Council's advisor on the program.

Item 4: Action Items

a. Recommendation from Application Review Subcommittee

The terms of Rebekah Percival and Brad Richardson will end at the end of 2024 and both members are eligible to reapply. A subcommittee of the commission reviewed the 9 applications received. Reid summarized their recommendation.

Motion by Ford, seconded by Harrington, and approved unanimously to recommend Brad Richardson, Rebekah Percival, Carol Ross, Benjamin Moll, and Terrance Burns for consideration by the City Council subcommittee. Richardson abstained.

b. Cultural Access Letter

Richardson presented a draft letter from the Culture, Arts & Heritage Commission. The Commission corrected one typo and added the following paragraph on economic impact:

"Beyond these cultural and social benefits, it is important to recognize the significant economic impact of the creative economy on our city. Supporting the creative sector drives local job creation, strengthens small businesses, and attracts tourism— all essential components of a resilient and vibrant economy. Investments in arts and culture enhance Vancouver's competitive advantage, helping to retain talented individuals and drawing new businesses to the region. Creative industries generate substantial revenue, and each dollar spent within this sector circulates through our local economy, stimulating additional growth and spending across other sectors."

Motion by Harrington, seconded by Ford, and approved unanimously to send the Cultural Access letter to City Council with the above changes.

Item 5: Commission and Staff Reports

a. Cultural Services Manager

Donovan gave the following updates:

- Julie Mercado has resigned from the commission. The timeline for filling her position has not been established yet.
- The arts hub will host a First Friday in December and the Arts Centered is also considering opening the building to the public for workshops a few days in December.

b. Commission President

Richardson gave the following updates:

- Richardson spoke with Councilmember Paulsen about Cultural Access.
- VDA has painted the planters along Evergreen Blvd over the I-5 overpass.

c. Clark County Arts Commission

Ford gave the following updates:

- The Lifetime Achievement Award ceremony for James Lee Hansen was a success. Harrington encouraged the commission to continue to document and archive local cultural events.
- Ford shared ideas for student art shows to connect youth into the arts community. The arts hub and the Main Street Promise project were suggested as potential venues. Several commissioners had suggestions and the item will be placed on a future agenda.
- Richardson and Mendoza suggested hosting a tour of the arts hub specifically for arts education professionals. Gaspar suggested providing scholarships or other opportunities for youth to earn money from their art.

Item 6: Community Communications

None presented.

Item 7: Commissioner Update and New Business

Harrington will attend an early screening of Hold My Beer, a film produced with Culture, Arts & Heritage Grant award. A public screening will be held in January 2025.

Richardson gave an update on the Firsts Monument discussion hosted by Washington State Historical Society at the Clark County Historical Museum. The Firsts Monument is a WSHS-owned monument installed on City property. The monument was built in 1925 and highlights milestone dates of settlement at Fort Vancouver, contending that Fort Vancouver was the first civilization in the area because it was brought here by settlers. The goal of the event was to create a space for community conversation about the monument and to hear the community's feelings outside of a decision-making process. Richardson reported that the event went well and that numerous perspectives were represented. Richardson suggested that WSHS develop a training program accessible to municipalities to extend conversations to locally owned monuments.

Richardson offered to prepare a letter to Jay Rood on behalf of the Commission.

Adjourned

This meeting adjourned at 1:46 p.m.

Vancouver arts hub building temporary activation activity update

Dec 12,
2024

theARTScentered / Executive Dir. Christine A. Richardson

Data highlights....

- May 2024 - Hosted first groups
- Number of tours:
 - Large groups: 12
 - Small groups: 22
 - Individuals - 85
- Hours of community use:
 - Weekly average: 38.4 hrs
 - Monthly average: 167 hrs
 - YTD total: 1,022 hrs
- Oldest participant: 87 yrs old
- Youngest participant: 5 yrs old

Activity highlights...

- Ballet / modern dance groups
- Youth theater programs
- Adult theater programs
- Vietnamese dance and traditional arts
- Aztec dance groups/families
- Mexican Folklorico dance groups
- Scottish bag pipe/drum band
- Latino music group
- Indian dance group
- Board & group/team meetings
- Visual art workshops
- Live model painting workshops
- Papercraft workshops
- Fiber arts workshops
- Art therapy workshop

Sample of groups/artists using the spaces in 2024...

- Cottage Dance Academy
- Starbird Theater
- Vietnamese Community of Clark County
- Vancouver Ballet Folklorico
- ARTSTRA
- SW Washington Watercolor Society
- Tlaloc
- Angelica Aztec Dance
- Susan Dingle/ Poet Laureate
- Metropolitan Performing Arts
- Journey Theater
- Northwest Oil Painters Guild
- Columbia Fiber Arts Guild & sub groups
- Fort Vancouver Pipe Band
- Vancouver Symphony Orchestra
- Los Internacionales
- Society of Washington Artists



Thank you !!





CITY OF
Vancouver
WASHINGTON

2023-2024 Culture, Arts & Heritage Grants

Kirsten Hull

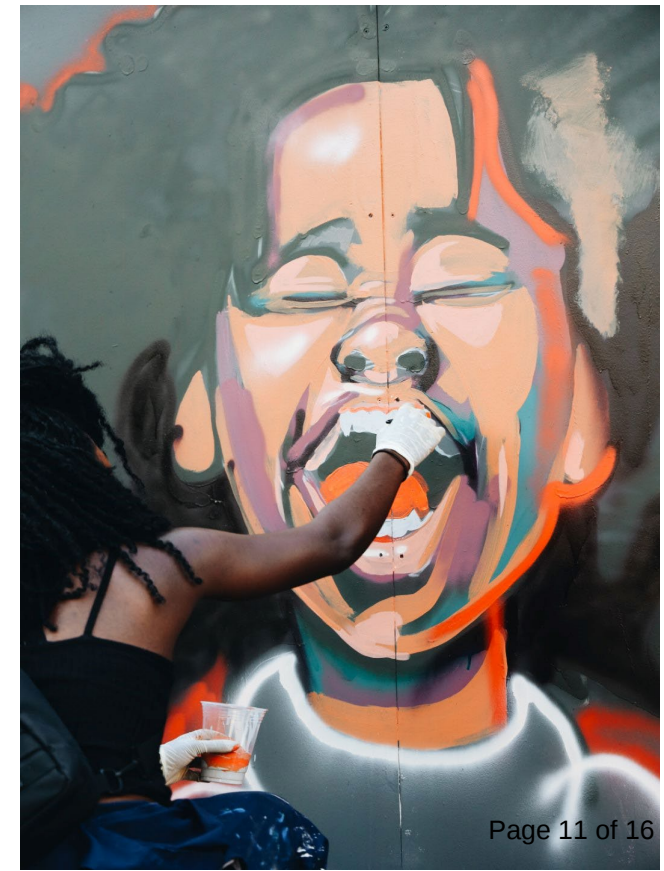
Support Specialist,
Parks, Recreation, & Cultural Services
December 12, 2024



Culture, Arts & Heritage Grant Program

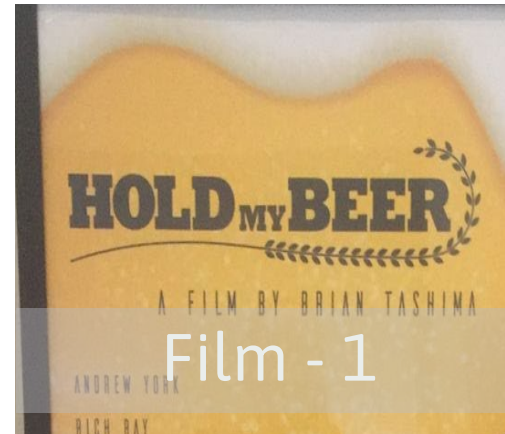
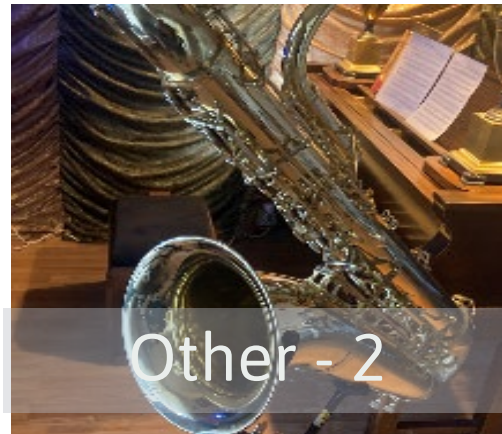
The program funds projects that:

- represent the best of our creative community
- demonstrate high artistic quality, innovation and creativity
- reflect, celebrate, and preserve the heritage and diversity found in the Vancouver community



2023-2024 Round of Grants

\$92k awarded to 15 projects



2023-2024 Grant Project Status

Organization Name	Description	Award	Status
Autism Empowerment	Hold My Beer, short film/pilot episode of Vancouver-based series	\$10,000	In Progress
Bike Clark County	A map showing public art with safe routes for walking and biking	\$5,000	Canceled
Bravo! Vancouver	Concert series bringing performers to VSD elementary schools	\$5,000	In Progress
Columbia Dance	Dance enrichment program at Orchards Elementary School	\$2,100	Complete
Historic Music P. P.	3 Grants: Musician compensation, marketing, and bass saxophone	\$15,000	In Progress
Journey Theatre Arts	Camp collaboration with Camp Hope for underserved youth	\$2,000	Complete
NW Performing Arts	1950s version of A Tale of the Nutcracker with tap and acro dance	\$5,000	Complete
Ke Kukui & Ricky Gaspar	Artist fees and mural materials for 2023 Great River Arts Festival	\$10,000	Complete
Vancouver Ballet Folk.	2 Grants: 2023 Dia de Muertos Luminaria and 2024 rehearsal space	\$13,000	In Progress
VHA	Mural painted by Cowlitz artists at youth apartment building	\$10,000	Complete
Vanc. Master Chorale	75 th Anniversary Christmas concert with Magenta Theatre actors	\$5,000	Complete
VDA	Mural on Evergreen Blvd overpass with spot-the-picture game	\$10,000	Complete

Of 15 projects, 10 are complete, four are still in progress, and one has been abandoned



2023-2024 Program Impact

Summary of Final Report data

“We went into this project excited to bring all the values and joys of dance to a group of students whose parents do not have the resources to get them to dance classes after school. We anticipated reaching maybe 20-40 students in this first year. We were thrilled to reach 80 students!

“...80 children, mostly from families living below the poverty line, felt valued and invested in. They experienced the joy of dance and the impact of having art in their lives on a weekly basis. The kids grew more confident, more creative, and more connected to one another through their shared study of dance.” – Columbia Dance

- 6000+ attendees
- 35000+ viewers
- 25+ volunteers
- 92 project partners
- \$57,000 est. value of in-kind and volunteer support



Lessons Learned

Thoughts for future programs

Changes made in 2024-2025:

- Application feedback period
- Offsite workshops
- Artist as applicant
- Simplified application, budget
- Online resources

Questions for future:

- Limitations of reimbursement-based grants
- Balance between specificity and complexity, accountability and paperwork burden
- Building capacity around the grant program



Thank You

