

## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 9, 2025

12 p.m.

Vancouver City Hall

Aspen Room

415 W. 6th Street

Vancouver, WA

### Commissioners Present:

Richardson, Percival, Gaspar, Ford, Harris and Tan

### Commissioners Absent:

Reid, Rafferty and Mendoza

### Item 1: Call to Order

President Richardson called the October 9, 2025, meeting of the Culture, Arts & Heritage Commission to order at 12:02 p.m. The Commission met in Aspen Room at Vancouver City Hall and via Microsoft Teams.

### Item 2: Approval of Minutes

**Motion** by Percival, seconded by Ford, and approved unanimously to adopt the minutes from August 14, 2025.

### Item 3: Action Items

#### a. Appointment of New Members

Richardson described the application review subcommittee discussion. The subcommittee recommended that two commissioners, Tan and Harris, be reappointed, and that applicants Ruby Lewis, Terrance Burns, and Jeanne Bennett be considered for the vacant position resulting from Reid's upcoming term limit.

**Motion** by Ford, seconded by Harris, and approved unanimously to recommend the reappointment of Commissioners Tan and Harris and that Ruby Lewis, Terrance Burns, and Jeanne Bennett continue to the interview phase with the City Council Subcommittee.

## Members

**Brad Richardson**  
President

**Linda Reid**  
Vice President

Lee Rafferty  
Michelle Tan  
Rebekah Percival  
Ricky Gaspar  
Rosalinda Mendoza  
Russell Ford, CCAC  
Shon-Lueiss Harris

**Parks, Recreation and  
Cultural Services  
Department**

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### **b. Vancouver Cultural Access Program Name**

Burton reviewed the process to create a public facing name for Vancouver's Cultural Access Program and gave an overview of additional brand development tasks to come. The Task Force and staff felt it was important to include the word Vancouver in the name and limit the name to two words. 'Inspire Vancouver' was a clear winner in a ranked voting poll of the Task Force and Commission. Burton noted that the word 'inspire' is relevant to arts, culture, heritage and science and captures the program's intended outcome. 'Inspire' will also translate well into other languages and connects Vancouver's program to other Cultural Access programs across the state.

Richardson suggested creating opportunities for local design groups and artists to engage in the process. Harris suggested that involving them in the ideation stage could also illuminate candidates for future collaboration. The commission also suggested incorporating youth and members of the creative community in the production of program materials like instructional videos.

Commissioners Harris and Gaspar volunteered to join the brand development work group.

**Motion** by Percival, seconded by Ford, and approved unanimously to adopt 'Inspire Vancouver' as the public facing name of the Vancouver Cultural Access Program.

### **Item 4: Workshop**

#### **a. Vancouver Cultural Access Program Workplan**

Perlick gave a preview of the Cultural Access Program work to come in 2026. Richardson gave an introduction to the slides, noting that the increased workload may require more time from the Commissioners and highlighted the importance of running the Cultural Access Program well so demonstrable outcomes are delivered to the taxpayer and to serve as a model program for other jurisdictions in Clark County that may consider a program of their own.

Perlick gave an overview of the grant award process, noting it will be a year-round cycle supporting multiple types of grants and highlighted specific tasks for the Commission, including serving as program ambassadors, awarding the grants, and monitoring the overall program. Commissioners were asked to plan for increased materials to review before meetings, increased work outside of monthly meetings in subcommittees and at events, and to RSVP for monthly meetings.

### **Item 5: Community Forum**

None presented.

### **Item 6: Commission and Staff Reports**

#### **a. Cultural Services Manager**

Perlick gave the following updates:

- Hull will step into a new role serving the Cultural Access Program directly and Nilo will assume the staff support role for the Commission going forward.
- The request for proposals for the second phase design of the arts hub has been released for response.

#### **b. Commission President**

None presented.

#### **c. Clark County Arts Commission (CCAC)**

Ford gave the following updates:

- Clark County Open Studios is coming up on November 1-2<sup>nd</sup> and additional pamphlets are available at Art at the Cave.
- There will be a Northwest Sculptors Guild event at James Lee Hansen's studio on November 19<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m.
- Kadence Art Collective has started collaborations with Vancouver's NAACP and the School for the Blind.
- Ford noted that he is taking on increasing caregiver responsibilities at home and his availability for future Commission work is uncertain. Gaspar expressed his appreciation for Ford's wisdom and the work he has put in over the years.

### **Item 7: Open Discussion and New Business**

Hull gave an update on behalf of Rose Mendoza regarding the Flag Selection Committee. On October 4, the committee held a flag-raising ceremony featuring the six final designs. The next committee meeting will take place at the end of October, where they'll review community feedback and deliberate on the final designs. The final recommendation will then be presented at the November City Council meeting.

Richardson noted that both the flag process and outcomes have received criticism and there is confusion in the community about why the six finalists look so similar. He expressed disappointment that a project intended to capture community pride has led to such feelings of dissatisfaction. Ford responded to the comments, explaining that working with the vexillologist changed the committee's desired outcomes for the final design but noted that he had a similar moment of surprise when viewing the final designs side by side in the newspaper. Ford explained that the similarities arose through the process to narrow down the 137 entries using the committee's standards that emphasized flag design principles over aesthetics.

Harris added that the concerns from the public likely stem from a lack of information about the design process and expectations rather than poor design options and emphasized the importance of introducing the goals and expert guidance for a project like this long before opening the options up to public opinion so that folks have time to adjust their expectations. Gaspar added that listening to feedback is critical for any creative process and doesn't diminish the effort that went into earlier iterations.

Tan gave an update on the Performing Arts Center discussions. The committee has met twice since July. The August meeting was a working meeting where the committee discussed what type of center and operation model would be the best fit for Vancouver. In September, the committee met with the building designers and architects to review potential designs. The committee is leaning towards an 800-1000-seat center based on Vancouver's needs and competing centers in the Portland area. Tan stated that the biggest concern among the committee members is finance. The consultant team is working on a plan, cost estimate, and timeline to the committee in late October and to present a project proposal to City Council in December.

Tan requested that the Performing Arts Center project team present to the Commission in November or December prior to the presentation at City Council and encouraged the Commission to make it clear that Cultural Access funding is for the community, not for government use. Richardson reiterated that there is capital funding available at the state level for these types of projects and that the operating funds available to nonprofits through the Cultural Access Program is not an appropriate substitute. The Commission requested a presentation from the performing arts center team as Tan suggested and asked for at least 15 minutes of Q&A time after the presentation.

### **Item 8: Next Meeting – November 13, 2025**

Richardson gave a brief summary of agenda items planned for the November meeting.

**Item 9: Between Now & Then**

Commissioners were encouraged to attend the Dia De Muertos event at Esther Short Park on Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Adjourned**

This meeting adjourned at 1:34 p.m.