

Whidbey Arts Forum, January 18, 2017

Moderators: Stacie Burgua and Rene Neff

This will be the first of (hopefully) an annual gathering of all interested arts-related constituents. The agenda will include introductions of the attending Langley Arts Commission members; around-the-table introduction of the attendees; followed by the introduction of the guest speaker. After that speech, the floor will be open to feedback and Q&A from the attendees, and encouragement to have a voice in what an annual arts forum would look like.

The goals for an annual Arts Forum are to:

- provide an opportunity for artists and arts-related organizations, businesses, and interested parties to talk about their work, concerns and issues
- create a space that allows constituents to consider the Arts as a whole (the bigger picture) and the impact on our community
- allow opportunity to work together and create ideas to utilize the Arts to improve the quality of life in our community, as well as enhance economic vitality
- offer educational opportunities related to the Arts to improve skills and create “spark” (workshops, guest speakers, etc.)
- inform and support the efforts of the Langley Arts Commission and the City of Langley

Who’s invited?

- Individual artists
- Arts organizations
- Galleries
- Anyone interested (school district?)

Marketing

- Drews List
- City of Langley
- Langley Chamber of Commerce
- Individual email lists
 - Island Arts Council email list
 - Other?

Agenda

- Welcome
- LAC introductions
- Attendee introductions
- Speaker introduction
 - Mayor Tim Callison, “Recognition of the Arts as a Valuable Asset in our Community”
- Open for Q&A and discussion
 - What is important to constituents?
 - Who do they want to hear from?

Staffing

- LAC: Venue set-up and break-down; hors d’ oeuvres
- WICA: venue set-up and break-down; no-host bar

Whidbey Arts Forum Agenda

Jan. 18, 2017

- WELCOME! *Stacie Burgua, Rene Neff*
 - Introduce Langley Arts Commission Members
 - Introductions around the room
 - Video from Langley Main Street

- Guest Speaker: *Mayor Tim Callison*
 - Why are we here?
 - Funding for Langley Arts Council

- Previous projects proposed by Arts Forum to LAC - *Stacie and Rene*
 - 4 outcome goals and progress
 - Banners and Poles
 - LAC approved the purchase of 2 poles, WCT and Outcast
 - WCT and Outcast will purchase their own banners
 - Annual Meeting
 - Arts Calendar
 - Now managed by the Chamber (see Resources sheet)
 - Kiosk for Performing Arts in downtown Langley
 - Working on developing purpose
 - Advertising performing arts events
 - Ongoing art project/demo inside the kiosk
 - A piece of art could evolve over time
 - Other related projects in the City
 - Sea Wall Park Committee Report

- Announcements: *Stacie, Frank or Callahan if there*
 - Ghost Light
 - Arts Alive and Langley Street Dance

- Open Discussion by participants – *Stacie, Rene*
 - Ideas/suggestions of how to expand the Arts focus in Langley
 - Prioritize

- Close and Thank You - *Stacie*

Minutes of Arts Forum, Wednesday January 18, 2017 at 5:30 PM, Whidbey Island Center for the Arts, Langley WA.

After signing in and enjoying finger foods and a choice of beverages, attendees sat at the many tables set up in Zech Hall. Stacie Burgua, Executive Director of WICA, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. She asked the members of the Langley Arts Commission to stand and introduce themselves, and then asked people at each table to introduce themselves to the larger group.

Langley Mayor Tim Callison presented a new video by Robbie Cribbs, "A Walking Tour of Langley." This video is beautifully made and was very well received.

Mayor Callison then talked about Langley, "The Village by the Sea," in terms of creating an environment that attracts people. He noted that Langley's land area is approximately 1 square mile, about the same as that of Alderwood Mall. The concerns of Langley differ from those of the Mall, however, and he cited a list of ten among which are the arts. Among Langley's attributes are high citizen volunteerism and 65% voter participation. In terms of the arts, specifically the Creative Vitality Index published by the Washington State Arts Commission, whereas the state average for 2012 was 2.0, Langley's CVI was 3.06. Mayor Callison talked briefly about the 2016 accomplishments of the Langley Arts Commission, the variety of programming at WICA, and the yearly calendar of Langley events. He then addressed the topic of funding and mentioned that Langley has applied for some 2.2 million dollars in grants. Langley has received \$90,000 from the Rural Counties Economic Development Fund. There was an 18% increase from the Sales and Use Tax last year. And he mentioned that the Port of South Whidbey may possibly be instrumental in encouraging businesses to move here.

Following the Mayor's presentation, the existence of the Langley Public Arts Consortium (LPAC) was introduced. LPAC is the fundraising arm of the Langley Arts Commission (LAC). Sculptor Pat McVay pointed out that since the City had a 501.C3 status for the arts, the LPAC should encourage donors to purchase art works from artists and then donate them to the City; in that way they would receive an IRS tax benefit. Stacie Burgua pointed out that the LAC meetings are open to the public. Councilwoman Rene Neff, in describing City Budgeting for the arts, said that the LAC and Parks and Lands are budgeted on alternate years.

Rene Neff did a brief review of requests from the 2016 Performing Arts Forum: 1. an Annual Arts Forum; 2. more Poles and Banners for publicity; 3. an events Kiosk in the downtown area; 4. an events Calendar. Item 1. has been accomplished with tonight's 1st Annual Arts Forum, and more poles have been purchased for the banners (item 2). The Kiosk has yet to be realized, but there is an online Calendar of Events (items 3 and 4). Much of this past year has been devoted to discussions on improving Seawall Park.

Open Suggestions: (Note, a list of these were recorded by Rene Neff and are attached to these Minutes)

Many suggestions were for more opportunities and support for youth in the arts, including mentorships. An online forum for both established and young artists was requested (it was

pointed out that a superb online presence is already available with Whidbey Life Review). Bus tours, street buskers, more murals, more evening events, more poetry readings, possibilities with the Middle School, etc. Possibility of an arts festival cooperation between Port Townsend and Langley was another suggestion, as were questions regarding Choochokum and an Artists in Action day.

Announcements:

Art marketing workshops are available at the Blue School in Clinton. There will be an Artists in Action event on July 8, 2017 - the same day as the 45th Annual Langley Street Dance. The HUB after-school hangout at the Langley United Methodist Church will reopen January 23, 2017. The Saratoga Orchestra is in concert January 22/23, 2017.

Conclusion:

It was suggested that the Arts Forum meet at least biannually. If there are arts projects underway, they could be presented as fact and could be used not only to aid in other projects getting started but could be featured in the Arts Forum. It is important that existing arts groups reach out in collaboration with each other.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Divelbess, LAC Secretary