

BELLEVUE ARTS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

July 7, 2020
4:30 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Virtual

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Commissioners Aldredge, Gulati, Lau Hui, Lewis, Malkin, Wolfeich

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Scott MacDonald, Manette Stamm, Department of Planning and Community Development

OTHERS PRESENT: None

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Commissioner Malkin who presided. All Commissioners were present.

Commissioner Malkin noted that because in-person meetings were prohibited by the Governor's emergency order concerning the Open Public Meetings Act, the Arts Commission would be holding its meetings remotely for an unknown period of time. He said that brought about the need to suspend several provisions in the Commission's bylaws. The preamble to the bylaws provides that if the bylaws do not address a procedure, such as rule suspension, the Commission may rely on the City Council's rules of procedure, Resolution 8928. Section 13 of that resolution allows a City Council procedural rule to be temporarily suspended where a suspension is requested and no objection is offered.

A motion to suspend the remote participation provisions, Article V, Paragraph G of the Commission's bylaws, was made by Commissioner Lewis. Absent objection, Commissioner Malkin declared the motion to be adopted and the provisions to be suspended.

A motion to suspend the oral communications provisions in Article VI and Article VII of the Commission's bylaws was made by Commissioner Lewis. Absent objection, Commissioner Malkin declared the motion to be adopted and the provisions to be suspended.

A motion to suspend the order of business provisions, Article VI, Section D, of the Commission's bylaws, was made by Commissioner Lewis. Absent objection, Commissioner Malkin declared the motion to be adopted and the provisions to be suspended.

2. COMMISSION ELECTION

A motion to nominate Commissioner Malkin to serve as Chair was made by Commissioner Gulati. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lewis.

There were no additional nominations for Chair.

The motion to elect Commissioner Malkin to serve as Chair carried unanimously.

A motion to nominate Commissioner Lau Hui to serve as Vice Chair was made by Commissioner Wolfteich. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lewis.

There were no additional nominations for Vice Chair.

The motion to elect Commissioner Lau Hui to serve as Vice Chair carried unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

A. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Aldredge. The motion was seconded was by Commissioner Gulati and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Minutes

It was noted that Commissioner Lau Hui was indicated in the minutes as being present when in fact she did not attend the meeting.

Motion to approve the March 3, 2020, minutes as amended was made by Commissioner Wolfteich. The motion was seconded was by Commissioner Lewis and the motion carried unanimously.

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Malkin noted that no opportunity for oral communications could be made during the meeting. Instead, all written comments received prior to 3:00 p.m. were to be read or summarized into the record.

Arts Program Assistant Manette Stamm confirmed that she had received no written communications.

5. ACTION ITEMS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. COVID-19 and the Local Arts Community

Commissioner Gulati asked if the Commission would be conducted virtual meetings in August and September. Arts Community Manager Scott MacDonald said there were no current plans to hold in-person meetings and that virtual meetings would be conducted until told otherwise.

Assistant City Attorney Catherine Drews explained that King County was currently operating under the Phase II order. Until there is a change in that order, no in-person gatherings will be held. She said the city was also awaiting more guidance from the Governor's office concerning the Open Public Meetings Act given that the waivers were set to expire.

Mr. MacDonald stated that Covid-19 has been particularly hard on the arts and cultural sectors in the community. He said estimates he had seen put the percentages of staff layoffs at over 60 percent across the sector. Everyone in every organization has a different story to tell, as does every artist. While there have been some positives, there have been far more negatives and there is no way to sugarcoat the story into one that has the arts community thriving. There are no parallels for the situation in recent memory. Even the economic crash in 2008 did not trigger shut downs across the arts and culture sector.

Most events for 2020 in Bellevue have been canceled. The grantees to whom awards were given are along with city staff scrambling to determine how to honor their grants in the new environment. Along with all of the large events, including the arts fairs and the Fourth of July celebration, were canceled, along with numerous cultural festivals. There are a few cultural events planned for the fall months, but they remain tentative and in a holding pattern to see how things play out. The 2020 Wintergrass event in February was held successfully just prior to everything shutting down, but the event slated for February 2021 has been canceled.

Performing arts organizations have been particularly impacted. Theaters cannot seat patrons, and projections through instruments are not the best situations during a pandemic. Theaters like Meydenbauer Center has a seating capacity of 410. Factoring in social distancing, their seating capacity would fall to between 70 and 75. Apart from simply changing the entire experience, that also changes the economics, wiping out revenues. Organizations like the Village Theater, which has 500 seats, can seat only 125 with social distancing, but that still is not economically feasible, thus they are looking at March 2021 as a possible reopening, effectively putting their entire program on hold for a full year. Pacific Northwest Ballet and the Seattle Symphony are looking dates between March and June of 2021 for possible reopening dates.

Mr. MacDonald said not surprisingly there have been impacts in regard to funding. Many organizations are heavily built on educational programming. While those additive elements are on top of their core mission, they are often where the organizations make their money. Some organizations have been able to capitalize on revenue-generating virtual experiences, but not at their full capacities. Music Works Northwest has been able to transfer 50 percent of its students to a paid virtual experience.

To the credit of the Northwest community and beyond, there have been a number of different relief funds created. There are, even so, challenges for organizations where the sums offered are not large. An organization receiving a \$5000 grant might possibly be able to sustain only a single employee. Additionally, the awards are highly competitive. One of the most successful programs, at least initially, was the Payroll Protection Program. Through that program, organizations were awarded loans based on a percentage of their payrolls. The loans, if used in accord with the program rules are forgivable. The program resulted in many organizations keeping close to the mark of being fully staffed through mid-June at which time the funds ran out. Since then, nearly every organization with paid staff has had to lay people off or impose significant reduction in hours of around 50 percent.

On the positive side, Mr. MacDonald said he was not aware of any organization that has closed down in Bellevue. On the negative side, the school programs conducted by organizations, such as Emerald Ballet Theatre and the Village Theatre's Pied Piper program, have been canceled for the foreseeable future, leaving kids out. However, the organizations that offer educational components have been the most successful at transferring to virtual environments. That is a positive for Bellevue given how many Bellevue organizations offer educational programming. Philanthropy has increased across the board, though the increase has not by any means matched the lost revenues. There have been new donors step forward, and in fact 70 percent of the ArtsFund relief fund were new donors, while for the Artist Trust 76 percent of the donors for their relief fund were new donors. Hopefully the arts will be able to harness the new donors and come out on the other end with a much stronger support network.

On the Eastside, the community came together very quickly. What started as the executive directors of Kids Quest and the Bellevue Arts Museum getting together once a week to talk about the different loan programs, funding options and staffing levels has grown into the

Eastside Arts and Culture Coalition, a group of about 25 to 30 organizations across the Eastside. It is a good thing to have the arts coming together and speaking with a strong voice. Among other things, it gives the Council a touch point. Mr. MacDonald said Bellevue has been co-leading the organization and working to see it grow, and has been working on ways to collaborate with other Eastside cities.

The city's first move to support the arts was to put up a list of local and national resources for artists and arts organizations. Most cities and counties have done the same. There have been one-on-one meetings with arts organizations that are either based or work in Bellevue to better understand what they are going through. There have also been meetings with arts businesses. The hope is to expand the conversations to include artists. Much of the city's budget is sales tax based and as such impacts are projected, including to the arts program. Ways are being sought to support artists and organizations with existing funding. Much of the funding is tied up in the grants program and in public arts projects, but ways are being explored for getting money out the door.

Work has progressed on updating the Power Up program to focus on resiliency and moving into the virtual world. The program has been opened up to all Eastside organizations. The focus is on recovery and planning for the future. The focus on capacity building is not appropriate during a time of just trying to stay alive. Work has been undertaken to align grant deliverables agreed to before the pandemic with the new reality that most art events will be online in 2020. An arts audience participation survey was launched in partnership with Redmond, Kirkland, Issaquah, Renton and the Eastside Arts and Culture Coalition. The survey will close on July 17 and it is focused on better understanding the community's comfort level as things do start to come back. The survey also seeks to know if there are plans for any hybrid or modified experiences, such as drive-in theater performances or dance performances in parks. The survey is available in eight languages and responses have been received in seven of them so far. In all there have been over 650 responses.

Work is under way to re-envision Bellwether 2020. It has been moved to start in December and it most likely will go a little longer.

Chair Malkin raised concerns about the event happening in the winter, especially moving a lot of the events outdoors. Weather could be an issue. Mr. MacDonald clarified that all of the events will be moved outdoors with the exception of some virtual events. Chair Malkin said he would not want to see the event canceled, but said he was also concerned about staging the event and having no one attend because of the weather. Mr. MacDonald said some very interesting things are lined up. He pointed out that Snowflake Lane happens outdoors in the winter and is always well attended. It is hoped that Bellwether will be something people who live in the downtown can see from their living room windows, and for those driving or walking by. More than likely the elements will be largely light-based with a minimum of ten medium to large projections around the city, though there will hopefully be some smaller companion art projects that also would be outdoors. A proposal is being developed that will potentially be at the scale of one of the downtown's skyscrapers in terms of a projection or light element.

Answering a question asked by Commissioner Lau Hui, Mr. MacDonald said originally a number of performances were planned for 2020 at the Meydenbauer theater and the Bellevue Arts Museum. Because those proposals were fairly well developed prior to the pandemic, the opportunity has been taken to pre-record the performances at different places throughout Bellevue over the summer months. One possible site is the Bellevue Botanical Garden. Another venue could in fact be inside the Bellevue Arts Museum, so long as the social distancing thresholds are met. Meydenbauer Bay Park and other locations are also being considered. The recordings will be released online on schedule as part of Bellwether 2020. A

series of virtual talks is also being planned and curated by Gary Shagan(?), a long-time arts writer for the *Seattle Times*.

Commissioner Wolfeich asked how the pandemic will affect the work of the Allocations Committee for 2021. Mr. MacDonald said he had not been told that that work would be impacted for 2021. The budget will be transmitted to the Council in September, after which more specifics will be known.

Commissioner Gulati asked if grants made to organizations for events that will not happen in 2020 will still the funds, and if the funds could be reallocated to organizations that are doing real work online, such as teaching music. Mr. MacDonald said funding that has been committed cannot be reallocated until it is known for sure an organization will not be holding their event. More resolution on that front is needed before moving on to a new program. To date only one organization has been clear about not wanting to even try to put on events in 2020.

Commissioner Gulati pointed out that some artists have not been able to apply for government help for various reasons. She asked if 4Culture or King County will be giving the city any additional funds to pass on to organizations. Mr. MacDonald said he was not aware of 4Culture having any additional funds. The money they put into its cultural relief fund was borrowed from 2021 revenues, much of which comes from lodging taxes. They have been looking at redistributing or canceling some of their grant programs. There is the potential for cities to get some funding should there be a federal relief package.

Commissioner Aldredge asked if the marketplace that was going to be part of Bellwether could be transferred to an online option, allowing artists to sell their work. It would be especially good to have it during the holidays when people are more inclined to spend. Mr. MacDonald said plans were being made to move the physical market to 2021. The pandemic has forced a rethink of 2020 and has allowed for a shifting of many projects into 2021. He allowed that an online marketplace could make sense and said he would like to follow up on the idea during the larger Bellwether update at a future meeting.

Chair Malkin asked if the same Bellwether consultant team would remain onboard going forward. Mr. MacDonald said effectively the team is planning both 2020 and 2021 simultaneously. There will be no room left on their contract to do anything beyond 2021.

Mr. MacDonald said there are a number of collaborations going on currently between Bellevue and other Eastside cities. The Heart of Bellevue campaign is largely being run by the Bellevue Downtown Association, though the city is helping by guiding and assisting. The idea is to market the return and particular attention is being given to featuring activities and cultural things. The way Bellwether is being thought about for 2020 is half art experience and half arts in Bellevue and that perfectly aligns with what the Bellevue Downtown Association is doing with the Heart of Bellevue campaign.

Mr. MacDonald said it remains unknown what the long-term impacts of Covid-19 will be. Little is known about how long the pandemic will run or how the economy will return. When and if a vaccine will be created is unknown, and it is not understood how people's habits, where they will want to live, or the types of things they will want to do will change. Staff will provide the Commission with regular updates moving forward.

B. Portable Art Collection Call

Mr. MacDonald said the call is a response to getting the money in the budget out the door as soon as possible, and with an eye on the Bellevue arts collection mission of targeting new

voices. In the past the city has purchased mostly sculptures intended to be sited in a permanent location. Just by going after portable artworks the collection will be diversified. The focus is on the space between an aspiring artist and a professional artist. The previous call for the portable art collection entailed purchases up to \$25,000, though there was only \$25,000 budgeted. Two purchases were made totaling just under \$10,000. While open to artists from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Alaska and British Columbia, the two purchases were made from a single artist. There is a desire to broaden the collection and it is a good time to do so given the need to support artists. The program mirrors a program Seattle recently released that had a price of \$2500 per artwork and a goal of purchasing art from up to 60 artists. Bellevue's program is of course smaller in that it will pursue art from a minimum of ten artists, and the area has been narrowed to King, Pierce and Snohomish artists. There is an additional budget beyond purchasing works for framing and display. Purchased works will be sited through Bellevue in public buildings, with a focus on publically accessible locations.

Portable artworks are a major part of public art collections. Currently Bellevue has only seven portable works in its collection. The call will be open to both 2D and smaller 3D works. It includes electronic and video art, but the price per work would need to include the necessary operating hardware. The call would be due on August 17 following which a three-person panel of two arts professionals and the Chair of the Arts Commission or his designee.

Commissioner Gulati said if Chair Malkin did not want to participate, she would volunteer to do so.

Commissioner Lau Hui asked if the intent is to run the program annually. Mr. MacDonald replied that unfortunately the program is only budgeted for every other year. The next opportunity to make purchases would be 2022. Commissioner Lau Hui asked if the deadline of August 17 allows for enough time to get word out. Mr. MacDonald said in general calls do not allow for more than a month to apply.

Commissioner Aldredge asked if there is language in the call that gives preference to minority communities and those who are not historically well represented in typical art collections. She added that there are considerable conversations ongoing about classic art museum and public collections being very white centric, and it would be wise for the Commission to think very carefully about how the call is curated and how selections are made. Mr. MacDonald said the call notes that a segment of the collection is devoted to artworks that raise the discourse on the defining aspects of Bellevue civic life, exploring the diverse identities of residents, converging cultures, international connections, technological currents and the interplay between nature and the urban experience that makes Bellevue's environment unique. Additionally, the selection criteria includes artistic merit and compelling themes relative to the mission of the collection. Commissioner Aldredge suggested that language was far too open ended and said it would be tone deaf of the Commission to not give the issue of white-centric collections serious consideration. The selection criteria should make the point very clearly. Mr. MacDonald stressed the need to be consistent with procurement law and limiting the field of applicant's works. He said he would need to check with the city attorney's office about the legalities involved. If necessary, the call deadline could be pushed back a month.

Commissioner Lewis said if it can be done, the call should be made sooner rather than later.

Chair Malkin concurred and suggested the guidance given to the panel could include taking into consideration the question of diversity. Commissioner Aldredge reiterated her desire to see the language of the call itself express interest or give weighting to diverse artists. Chair Malkin said that could be done by simply adding language to the application encouraging diversity. Mr. MacDonald said that certainly could be done. The unknown is whether or not the selection criteria could go beyond merely encouraging diversity.

There was consensus to add language to the application encouraging diversity.

Mr. MacDonald clarified that the two options under discussion were to see if the selection criteria could be changed, which would push the call back a month by bringing the issue back to the Commission for approval; and to amend the call language encouraging diverse artists to apply.

Chair Malkin recommended the latter. He said that would avoid having the call appear as though the Commission were only looking for submittals from the diverse community.

Mr. MacDonald said calls are typically published on the city's website along with the websites of 4Culture, the city of Seattle and to social media. He said it could also be pushed to residents in King, Pierce and Snohomish counties.

Commissioner Gulati suggested notice should also be posted to the Facebook page hosted by Artist Trust. Mr. MacDonald added that notice will also be sent out to the city's diverse list-serve.

A motion to recommend approval of the Portable Artworks Call as amended to modify the language to encourage the diverse community to participate was made by Commissioner Lewis. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Aldredge and the motion carried unanimously.

C. Eastside Artist Roster

Mr. MacDonald noted that on March 3 a number of Commissioners directed staff to explore the development of a roster of artists living or working on the Eastside. The goals are to identify artists working locally, to connect them with information about opportunities, and to direct to them specific types of opportunities to the roster. The roster would be open to all artists living and working in east King County, which is defined as Bellevue, Bothell, Duvall, Issaquah, Kirkland, Mercer Island, Newcastle, North Bend, Redmond, Renton, Sammamish, Snoqualmie and Woodinville, along with the unincorporated areas of east King County. Anyone who considers themselves an artist can be added to the non-juried roster. The roster will be used as a resource for selecting small public art projects of up to \$30,000, with a particular view toward emerging artists seeking to establish themselves in the field of public art. It will also be a source for curators working on future Bellwether events.

Mr. MacDonald clarified that the roster would be open to all kinds of artists, including musicians, performers, visual artists, conceptual artists and multimedia artists. He said staff does not have the capacity to referee the roster, so if someone says they are working in east King County the claim will not be verified. Additionally, artists that make it onto the roster but later move away will not be removed from the list unless requested by the artist. The roster will open on August 1 and will remain open for as long as the city finds it helpful.

Chair Malkin suggested using the term "visual arts" in the first sentence of the mission statement instead of "public art projects." The portable art collection will not necessarily consist of public art projects. He asked where the roster will be stored and Mr. MacDonald said the online grants portal will be adapted and used as the place for people to submit their materials. The roster will be held as private to the city of Bellevue. Language could be added to the application asking if the applicant would want to opt in to other cities have access to their contact information and submitted materials.

Commissioner Aldredge said the roster will be a great beginning that can be tinkered with as time goes on.

Commissioner Gulati asked if building the roster will cost the city of Bellevue any money. Ms. Stamm said the only cost will be in the form of staff time.

Commissioner Gulati suggested there would be benefit from having the Eastside cities work together in building the roster, and where there are hard costs each city could pitch in to cover them. Mr. MacDonald said there has been work done toward removing barriers to supporting artists, particularly on the Eastside. The thrust of the roster is to facilitate that. If the roster were for Bellevue artists and Bellevue projects, if Redmond were to have an art opportunity, they would not necessarily be able to connect with the Bellevue artists via the roster, and that would be a loss for the Bellevue arts community. Given that development of the list will not cost anything other than time, it should be open to the other Eastside cities, which is in line with the Cultural Compass and the notion that Bellevue is the heart of the Eastside.

A motion to approve the Eastside Artists Roster Call as revised was made by Commissioner Wolfteich. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lau Hui and the motion carried unanimously.

5. COMMISSION QUICK BUSINESS – None

6. REPORTS

A. Commissioners' Committee and Lead Reports – As Noted

Mr. MacDonald confirmed that he had been tapped to serve as the new Arts Community Manager. He said he was happy to be taking on the challenge during a difficult but rewarding time.

B. Project Updates from Staff

Mr. MacDonald reported that the city is working with the restaurants and retailers in Old Bellevue to identify ways to help them during the Covid-19 crisis. One option for restaurants is to create temporary outdoor seating on Main Street, an idea that came from Old Bellevue stakeholders. Microsoft has agreed to be the sponsor for any associated costs. The project could potentially include a mural. Guidance has been provided to Microsoft on that element, and staff have also been working with the community regarding what the mural could look like.

With regard to grants, Mr. MacDonald informed the Commissioners that as noted many grantees are not currently able to fulfill their original grant conditions given the prohibitions against in-person events. Other avenues are being explored. Funds not spent in 2020 cannot be carried forward into 2021, so organizations that cannot fulfill their grants cannot just move their events to next year.

Mr. MacDonald shared that the artist for the 130th Streetscape public art project has given consideration to the feedback offered by the Commission. The artist has developed a new artwork concept that will be brought back to the Commission in the coming months. The bells are still in the proposal but the form of the artwork is significantly different.

Mr. MacDonald said Bellwether will be the subject of a agenda item at a future meeting.

Concerning the Downtown Park Public Art project, the Commissioners were told construction on the park has begun. The final fabrication and installation contract for the artwork is still being negotiated with the artist, but there have been delays due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Chair Malkin asked if the maintenance question had been resolved for the project. Mr. MacDonald said the artist will be providing a maintenance plan. He said he had conducted an additional round of references on the artist's projects. None of them reported any maintenance needs beyond an annual power wash, and all remarked positively on the high quality of fabrication. He said he was confident that once the project is completed it will be possible to keep it looking fresh.

Turning to the Lattawood Park project, Mr. MacDonald reported that installation is slated to occur in the second half of July. It likely will be complete by the end of August. The only thing that could possibly hold up the project is the fact that the bollard lights are backordered because of the pandemic. They supposedly will arrive in the middle of July. All of the manufacturing of the artwork is wrapping up, including the engraved tops.

In regard to the public art collection, Mr. MacDonald said staff has revised the scope of the maintenance RFP to focus on artworks that are in need of repair. Two of the major restorations are included in the scope, namely *Garden of Alternatives* and *Arc with 4 Forms*. It is hoped the work will be at least scheduled in 2020 if not under way or completed in 2020.

There are a couple of items in the collection that are facing different conditions or situations that will require a more in-depth discussion by the Commission at a future meeting. The two works have been in storage for 12 years. Parks has indicated it does not want either piece sited in a park based on their artistic merit. One of the works is a bronze figurine of a young girl reading a book and it was donated to the city by the Shirley family. There could in fact be a site for that work within a city facility; that option is being explored. The other work, however, should be considered for deaccessioning.

The Facilities and Asset Management department has asked that the work *Longboat Reed Rookery* be moved to a new location at City Hall. The pond in which the work is sited would then be removed. One complication involves the Visual Artists Rights Act under which direction would need to come from the artist regarding resiting the work. A second complication is the fact that the piece is in need of a major restoration. The work has not functioned fully for some time given problems with the fiber optic lighting that have been damaged by ultraviolet light. The materials alone for restoring the work have been estimated at between \$30,000 and \$50,000. The labor is estimated at about \$10,000, and according to the materials manufacturer, the restoration work will likely need to be done very 10 to 15 years. The work was appraised as part of the process and if fully functional is worth \$175,000. The maintenance cost every ten years would equal roughly a third of its value.

Commissioner Aldredge asked if the artist has been part of the conversation thus far. Mr. MacDonald said the artist Dan Corson was a very successful artist on an international level. After working for many years as an artist, he purchased a chocolate farm on the big island of Hawaii. He has been contacted about the work but has not expressed much of an interest in what is done with the piece, though he is willing to offer some advice on siting it. He will be kept in the loop.

Chair Malkin asked what happens to works that are deaccessioned. Mr. MacDonald said works can be given back to the artist or disposed of. Deaccessioned works are not supposed to have a financial value. He said a future discussion with the Commission will include the deaccession policies.

Mr. MacDonald *Bellgate* is not a work the city wants to deaccession nor is it in need of any major maintenance. The site on which it stands is slated for redevelopment and the property manager has asked the city to move the sculpture. Besides the fact that the work was designed for the pedestrian corridor, now called the Grand Connection, the most complicating factor is the ownership of the piece. The primary owner is the Bellevue Allied Arts Council, an organization reduced to only a single member who died earlier in the year. That person's husband technically retains ownership but could decide to dissolve the organization. If the organization is dissolved, their ownership will transfer to the Bellevue Arts Museum. The Bellevue Arts Museum does not, however, want the artwork. The dues of the Bellevue Allied Arts Council are past due and the organization has until September to either pay the dues or officially lose control of the artwork. The city owns one-third of the work and could work with the current majority owner to effect transfer of his interest to the city. Failing that, the city could wait until the Bellevue Arts Council organization is dissolved and ownership of the work transfers to the Bellevue Arts Museum and negotiate with that organization instead for ownership. With construction on the site set to occur in early 2021, the timeline does not conform with what will be needed to figure out a new site or to come to an agreement with the property owner about keeping the work on their property.

Commissioner Aldredge asked if there would be any tax benefit to the majority owner from donating his share to the city. Mr. MacDonald said he could look into that approach. One complicating factor has been that he has not returned any phone calls since the death of his wife.

Chair Malkin asked if the work could be put into storage, if in fact the city does gain full ownership, and reinstalled as part of the Grand Connection. Mr. MacDonald said the cost of storage would be substantial. The best solution will be to try to keep the work on the current site and that is the path the city will pursue.

Ms. Stamm added that the work was designed to be on the pedestrian corridor between 106th Avenue NE and 108th Avenue NE. There is not, however, much space left there and the property is actually the only remaining site that could hold the work.

Commissioner Wolfeich asked if any aspect or part of the mural on the DOXA church will be preserved before construction begins. Mr. MacDonald said his understanding was that the work will be fully destroyed. The artist is in fact planning to get video of the demolition.

With regard to the funding allocations for 2020, Commissioner Wolfeich asked if there were situations where funds were transferred to an organization in anticipation of an event going forward, only to see the event canceled. Mr. MacDonald said the city does not allocate funds prior to events, rather funding is allocated after events have concluded. There is a question concerning the organizations that lost rental fees for events that had to be paid up front. The City Attorney's office has been asked to weigh in on whether or not the city can reimburse for those costs even though the events never took place. For many organizations, if they had not received the grant, they would not have organized the event.

Mr. MacDonald referenced a letter received from Putter Burt thanking the Commission for the grant awarded to her organization.

Mr. MacDonald noted that according to the Commission's bylaws, Commission meetings are not held in August. The Commission can, however, vote to hold a meeting during that month and he asked if the Commissioners would be willing to do so. He said there are plenty of items to discuss.

A motion to schedule a Commission meeting for August 4 was made by Commissioner Lewis. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gulati and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. MacDonald informed the Commissioners that the application period for those applying to fill the vacant Commission seat was set to end on July 8. The selection typically involves the Chair and the Council liaison along with staff.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Malkin adjourned the meeting at 6:28 p.m.