

**Minutes of the GRC Gallery Public Meeting
Held on Monday May 12th, 2008
Stittsville Library**

Present

Sue Perley Robertson
Gerald Smith
Phil and Judy Dana
Bernice Wills
Margaret Walls
John Curry
Susan Bicket
Tom Matthews

John Madden
Ana Maria Rutenberg
Anna Funnekotter
Aud Sund
William Jackson
John Whitney
Bina Mirza
Angela Kilby

Louise Barker
Bev Ashford
Cindy and Peter Jackson
Amy Walker
Vera Van Barren
MaryAnn Camps
Jeanette Loh
Shokooh Salahi

Tessie Boretos

Agenda

Introduction

Welcome Tessie Boretos - Portfolio Manager Visual & Creative Arts Program
New Committee Members & Positions
Review Minutes & Acceptance - Meeting of April 28, 2008
GRC Exhibition Wall Space (proposed September 2008)

Tessie Boretos: To apprise the committee of the progress thus far

Next Steps to Discuss with Tessie Boretos

Responsibility for naming of space - our committee or the city
Requirements and time frame for hanging works / displays
Call to Artists - advertise & organize artists & works
Number of works placed, rotation, shows etc.
Other possible gallery locations - the old firehall
Letter sent to Councilor Qadri requesting information re: old firehall
Public/ Private Funding for a galley & next steps to take

Other business

Finalize name of Committee & Wall Exhibition / Gallery Space
Mission Statement, New Members, Additional Positions
Discuss and vote - works to be Juried and / or Curate
Discuss and vote - Jurors and / or Curators

Next meeting

Introduction

Sue Perley Robertson opened the meeting with welcoming remarks to everyone and introduced Tessie Boretos (Portfolio Manager Visual & Creative Arts Program)

Sue then introduced the secretary and co-chair (John Madden), the assistant co-chair (Louise Barker), the treasurer (Cindy Jackson), AnaMaria Rutenberg, Bev Ashford and Judy Dana

There were no objections or changes requested from the previous minutes. The minutes of the April 28th public meeting were accepted.

John Madden stated that future minutes would be published in PDF to avoid formatting and other problems that can occur across personal computer platforms.

Next Steps

Tessie Boretos then covered a number of items on the agenda.

Naming of the hanging Space

This was up to the current committee and its members. The City of Ottawa has no stipulations on the issue. However, translation of the name into French is an important consideration.

The number of shows held per year, the number of works on show, their rotation etc. are matters for the committee and the membership.

Other Possible Gallery Locations

The Fire Hall, a possible gallery location identified by Councilor Qadri, is now thought to be unavailable according to information from the City Property manager. Tessie also estimated that the costs to renovate the Fire Hall space could amount to a couple of hundred thousand dollars. Given the tight city arts budget, renovation is considered unlikely, as is finding any other standalone space.

Sue asked about possibility of identifying standalone space during the third expansion phase of the GRC. Tessie thought this was a real possibility.

Tessie stated that the most important and immediate action the committee should address is to form itself into a "not for profit" group, with a clear mandate, schedule and membership.

Phil Dana asked about the lighting and layout of the planned GRC wall space and signage. Tessie mentioned the layout at D'OMMA and explained the planned lighting and the lockable picture tracking/hanging system. This system is to be introduced into other galleries such as D'OMMA, Atrium and the Foyer.

No external signage is budgeted for but internal signage is.

Sue mentioned the lack of artists coming forward to participate in the GRC gallery initiative. The committee is seeking to encourage involvement through advertisements in many local papers, posting of it's minutes on the local Councilors web site and through communication with the local art groups (KAC, OMMA, WCAS etc).

Tessie stated that as soon as a "call for artists" went out for the wall space, the response and general involvement should improve. The city allows artists in a 150km radius of the city to eligible to hang on its funded spaces.

Tessie underlined the significant number of decisions to be taken prior to a "call for art" and pointed to an earliest opening for the gallery of October 17 2008. The current city schedule calls for the hanging system to be in place by September 26th 2008.

The following questions were raised:

Sue P-R: Asked what would the duties of the city staff in the GRC and what will covered by artist members

Tessie pointed out that hosting by artists is always better.

Gerald Smith: asked about the number of sitters required given that the 2 hanging walls are in different parts of the GRC.

Tessie suggested 2 sitters be planned for.

Peter Jackson: Asked about liability coverage for damage and vandalism.

Tessie stated that the city only provides coverage for damage caused by city staff. Vandalism is not covered. She mentioned that not for profit organizations could get discounted coverage.

Tessie mentioned that the issue of "public suitability" of works of art (nudity etc) and any complaints should be handled through the jury.

Sue P-R: Asked about charges for membership.

Tessie explained this was an issue for us.

Gerald Smith: Asked if there was any problem with multiple memberships of other galleries.

Tessie said there was no problem with this.

Tom Mathews: Asked if only local artists would be hung in the gallery.

Tessie reiterated that the gallery ethos should be one of openness and inclusiveness and the 150km-radius rule.

Tessie then moved onto a prepared document outlining the gallery space, the recommended timelines and the relationship of the gallery to the city.

In addition to the points in this document, Tessie highlighted the following

- The need for us to organize with a name, mandate, eligibility for membership, board members, bank account and not for profit status by June 2008
- The need for a website
- The need to schedule for a year in advance
- A call for artists to be made, possibly in May
- The need to meet, discuss and plan with the GRC staff
- The first invite and interior signage would be covered from city funds

Selling of Art

Tessie mentioned that we should handle transactions of selling art and we should be in a position to handle cash, credit or debit cards.

Following no further question, Tessie left with the thanks of the meeting.

Sue P-R then moved to other agenda items.

Other business

Committee name

A discussion on the committee name was held and number of suggestions put to the floor. These suggestions and the vote was as follows

Name	Votes	Decision
The Fringe Gallery	7 votes	
The Fringe Gallery Group	7 votes	
Ottawa West Arts Association	10 votes	Carried

The name Ottawa West Arts Association was adopted for the committee.

Mission Statement

It was suggested that the Association adopt a mission statement from existing ones (such as that on the Ottawa Galleries and Exhibitions brochure. Peter Jackson pointed out that we should pay close attention to the mission statement as it defines who we are.

Cindy Jackson volunteered and was tasked to come out with a number of suitable mission statements that could be discussed and agreed on through a vote at the next open meeting.

Discuss and vote - works to be Juried and / or Curate

Discuss and vote - Jurors and / or Curators

No discussion was held on these items.

Next meeting

The next open meeting will be held on June 2nd in Stittsville library from 6.30 to 8.30pm.

The next executive meeting will be held on May 26th at 7pm at the house of Cindy and Peter Jackson at 38 Lone Meadow Trail.

The meeting was closed at 8.20pm.