

Oregon Cultural Trust Board Meeting Minutes



December 20, 2023

Virtual Meeting

Board Members Present: Nicki Price, Chair; George Kramer, Vice-Chair; Gayle Yamasaki, Treasurer; Sean Andries; Nathalie Johnson; Bereniece Jones-Centano; Rep John Lively; Gustavo Morales; Myong-Hui Murphy; Deb Schallert, Chris Van Dyke

Board Members Absent: Sen Bill Hansell

Staff Present: Kat Bell, Grants & Office Coordinator; Raissa Fleming, Trust Assistant; Carrie Kikel, Communications Manager; Brian Rogers, Executive Director; Aili Schreiner, Trust Manager, Liora Sponko, Senior Program Manager

Partners Present: Eliza Canty-Jones, Oregon Historical Society, Adam Davis, Oregon Humanities; Kuri Gill, Oregon Heritage Commission

Others Present: Sophorn Cheang, Business Oregon Director; Mark Gharst, Business Oregon Policy & Government Affairs Manager

Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

Price called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.

Business Oregon Update

Rogers provided a history of the Oregon Cultural Trust.

Cheang said that Price and Kramer participated in meetings with the leadership of the Oregon Arts Commission to explore feasibility of combining the agencies. At that time, the Cultural Trust Board decided they didn't want to combine. However, the topic is being explored again by the Governor's office to combine during the 2025 legislative session. Though part of the exploration is see if the combined agency will be a standalone quasi state agency, Business Oregon enjoys having the Trust and the Arts Commission.

Gharst said currently the Trust with the Arts Commission represents 1% of Business Oregon's budget and thinks the Trust would potentially have greater success on their own than with Business Oregon.

Yamasaki asked what concerns were expressed by Price, Kramer and Andries during their meeting with Cheang. Price said they discussed their version of events during the past

feasibility meetings and what led to their decision to ultimately decide they didn't want to merge with the Arts Commission. Price said the decision was based on

- Trust is a funding mechanism
- Deserved to have their own leadership
- Consolidation would diminish the power of the culture
- They are two different organizations with two different roles
- Diminish role of the Cultural Partners
- Consolidation would further confuse the roles of the Cultural Trust and Arts Commission

Schallert asked how Film and Video and Travel Oregon evolved to be quasi state agencies because they didn't have to consolidate. Rogers said yes, they both used to be part of Business Oregon but were able to get a more stable funding stream in the legislature so that they could become their own agency with oversight from Business Oregon.

Cheang said she expects the Cultural Trust Board to provide the leadership and direction of how the structure of this could work. Yamasaki asked if the Arts Commission will be providing the same direction or if the Board will be meeting with Arts Commission. Cheang said the first step is she will report back to the Governor's office and then she will discuss with each board separately then everyone should get together.

Rep Lively asked how becoming a separate agency helped position us better in front of the legislators. Cheang thanked him for his comments and said it show up better without the barrier of Business Oregon programs.

Kramer said he is not convinced merging is good idea, but he is not concerned with where we are housed, Price said she supports a general fund increase for the Arts Commission.

Minutes

Schreiner said there is a correction to the minutes. At the bottom of page 2, the sentence "Harrelson is also on Chemeketa Cultural Center board" should read "Harrelson was also on the Chehalem Cultural Center board." Kramer moved approval of the Minutes from the August 31, 2023 meeting as amended. Seconded by Schallert. Motion passed unanimously.

Cultural Partner Updates

Sponko presented report.

Gill presented report.

Canty-Jones presented report.

Strategic and DEIA Plan Updates

Schreiner presented plan. Andries thanked Schreiner for putting plan together. Price agreed and is ready to move forward on approval. Rep Lively said this a critical document to reference during this time.

Kramer moved approval of the Strategic Plan. Seconded by Jones-Centano. Motion passed unanimously,

Campaign Update

Kikel presented report. Kramer asked if the robust marketing is funded by license plate. Kikel said yes. Kramer asked if the sales were holding steady. Kikel said there was a dip last month that concerned her but she expects it to pick back up.

Executive Director Report and Legislative Update

Rogers said he is working on the admin fix in the short session and getting things set up for the long session in 2025.

Trust Board and Staff Updates

Price said board elections and officer updates at the February meeting. Please reach out to her in the next month or so. She is thrilled to go to Washington, DC with the Roundhouse Foundation regarding the healing arts.

Public Comment

None.

Adjourn

Price adjourned the meeting at 11:40 am.