

Sammamish Art Commission
Retreat
February 7, 2010
Sammamish City Hall
11:00 am – 2:30 pm

Attendance

Commissioners: Barbara Jirsa; Carol Ross; Deborah Akerstrom; Daphne Robinson; Molly Strange; Bala Subramanian; Rochelle Wyatt

Alternates:

Bharath Sankaranarayan, Vinita K., Jingyu Li;

Art Fair Co-Chair Anna Macrae

Work began with the charge that set the Arts Commission in place via its charter which includes the following:

- Encourage development of the fine and performing arts within the community
- Promote and facilitate public participation and involvement in the development of the arts
- Encourage, conduct, sponsor or so-sponsor public programs
- Advise City Council in connection with cultural and artistic endeavors and projects in which the City becomes involved

The goal for the retreat is to create a high level vision and a basic frame work for making the vision a reality.

Each participant took time to express their hopes for what the cultural landscape might look like in Sammamish 10 years forward and what citizens would remember as favored cultural experiences. Included in those thoughts were: programs unique to the area, programs that provide interaction, programs of excellence in our own backyard, unique one of a kind experiences, youth focused activities and involvement, hands-on activities for all ages, classes, demonstrations, contests, offerings of joy, performances, programs that offer new connections.

From the vision, possibilities for connections and big picture programming emerged. Common threads were identified and the themes were distilled into ones that could be clustered and supported by a committee. Partnership in creating programming or cultural experiences was a preeminent focus.

The main areas of concentration include:

- Community Building Events
- Visual Arts
- Performing Arts
- Marketing/Communications
- Venue Management

A youth component or element will be included in each of the areas of concentration.

Members self selected based on the groups, their interests and expertise. Each group met to briefly begin to shape the different areas of focus.

Work to flesh out projects and program and possible partnerships will continue with the next Commission meeting on February 22nd.

The retreat ended at 2:45 pm.