



FRIENDS OF LAST THURSDAY ALBERTA STREET ART WALK

Vendors Sub-Committee

Date: Monday, 26 April 2010 @ 6pm
Location: North Precinct, 449 N.E. Emerson, Portland, Oregon 97211
Attendees: Chuck Bloom, Sarah Edwards, John Gano, Jeanie Golino, Jake Gano, Jeanne Hackney, Stephanie Reynolds, Peter Siracusa, and Fredrick Zal
Minutes Prepared by: Fredrick Zal
Minutes Distributed: Friday, 30 April 2010

History

The Alberta Arts District in Northeast Portland is located along NE Alberta Street within the Vernon, Concordia and King neighborhoods. The very name of the district owes greatly to the Last Thursday Alberta Street Art Walk, which began in 1995 and helped the area emerge from years of 'red lining' and neglect. The distinctive nature of this monthly event has been the respectful, collaborative and mentoring role that businesses and artists established to foster a diverse community.

Key to the success of the monthly Art Walk, and the emergence of the Arts District, has been street vendors. Primarily artists, and then food vendors, came to support the small handful of art galleries, artist studios, and cafes and create a celebration of our community. There has always been a respectful and entrepreneurial nature to the street vendors and business owners, which we desire to continue. An example of this would be artist Kim Hamblin, whom stills shows her professionally acclaimed art work at Guardino Gallery, but would also vend her art on the street in front of the gallery on months when she did not have a formal show inside. Similarly, Held Belts vended for years during the Art Walk and Saturday Market, before choosing to open a retail location along the street. Many street vendors sell their work through local shops and restaurants year round. Of a similar entrepreneurial nature are the food cart vendors that have established a pod to compliment the other storefront food establishments along Alberta Street.

Similar to the Art on Alberta 501(c)3 mission, we feel that it is important to:

- Inspire and connect the community through the arts as we celebrate our diversity;
- Promote local art and food vendors by giving beginning, emerging, as well as established vendors a venue to experience their work.

We would also like to note the supportive nature of the community, and highlight that most community events are established / sponsored by citizens and businesses based in the Vernon, Concordia and King neighborhoods. The event is often compared to other local events, such as First Thursday, Mississippi Street Fair, Art Hop, Art in the Pearl, PDX Open Studios, etc, but it is important to acknowledge the unique nature of our event. It has taken much hard work to create our community, we are proud of our spirit, and desire to patron locally.



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TOPIC	PROPOSED ACTION[S]
Intent	
<p>Establish a 'Culture of Place', where vendors, businesses, patrons, and neighbors will work together to create a wonderful monthly celebration of art and community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey Art and Food Vendors [temporary and permanent]; • Create a means of communication, such as through e-mail distribution and/or web site posting[s]; • Communicate with the neighboring residents and businesses.
Community Involvement	
<p>Vendors should help foster the 'culture of place' and mentor new vendors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a 'code of conduct' that may be shared both formally and through community mentorship. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Trash; ○ Respectful relationship with businesses and property owners; ○ Sound transmission; ○ Hours of operation; ○ Public alcohol / drug consumption and/or intoxication; ○ Pedestrian access; ○ others to be established.
Types of Vendors	
<p>There are four [4] general types of vendors at this time: art, food, performance, and other.</p> <p>It is our intent to be supportive of art and food vendors whom can have a respectful, entrepreneurial, and mentoring relationship with the established businesses that compose our diverse community.</p> <p>We believe that vendors should be focused upon vending items that are creatively inspired, consciously manipulated, or artistically altered objects that are hand-made, one of a kind, or limited edition. We desire that the vendors only have items that they have personally made.</p> <p>[Performance artists (musicians, dancers, etc) will be addressed through other sub-committees as they relate to access and sound issues.]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally speaking, it is our intent to be fully inclusive of any / all types of vendors, to not limit free speech, or entrepreneurial spirit. • We would like to consider policy / language that is more supportive of emerging artists and a child setting up a lemonade stand, then for Cricket Wireless or Red Bull vendors. [Community focused 501(c)3 kiosks will be considered.] • We would like to maintain a respectful relationship between local businesses and temporary vendors, and may consider the exclusion of some vendors based upon the desire to strengthen our emerging community. • We would like to encourage larger community businesses to be supportive of the event through in-kind and fiscal contributions, instead of vending directly; • Food vendors must be in compliance with Multnomah County Health Department requirements.



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Street Access	
<p>Motorized vehicles will not be permitted inside of the Street Closure. This includes set-up and strike. Vendors may briefly unload outside of the Street Closure signs [except for 15th and 27th due to Bus access], park their vehicle in the neighborhood, and then return to set up. No vehicle is to be moved in or out during the hours of the Street Closure, no exceptions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be coordinated with the Traffic / Parking sub-committee; • Pedestrian access in width and height to be maintained at all times per City of Portland's Title 33.654 Rights of Way code; • Vendors are to begin packing up their work thirty [30] minutes before the re-opening of the street to vehicular traffic to allow space for increased pedestrian activity on the sidewalks. • 'Convenience' access permits for set-up / strike were considered, plus potentially for 'art cars', or if the vehicle is integrally part of the vendor's display / sale of items. • Fees for food carts / trucks should have a 'sliding scale' based on the size of the business. This will be coordinated with other sub-committees; • Creating 'villages' or 'pods' for food vendors was considered. • An extended street closure permit beyond the direct time and space of the event will allow the community to have both the responsibility and authority to create a positive environment for all.
Fees	
<p>The question if vendors should be charged a fee was raised.</p> <p>The general answer is that "NO" artists should never be charged a fee to vend their personal work.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vendors should contribute 'in-kind' through community activism, communication, and clean-up as ambassadors and mentors for our 'culture of place'. • Vendors are to be responsible for 'leaving no trace' by having a visible trashcan and helping to clean the area in which they are granted permission to vend by the adjacent business and/or property owner[s]; • Finding ways to 'pay' regularly attending and active artist 'ambassadors' through in-kind donations or vouchers from local businesses was mentioned; • Street access fee[s] were discussed [see above], and will be coordinated with the Traffic / Parking sub-committee;
<p>At the 05 May 2010 meeting of the Coordinating Committee, Sarah Edwards will share the Vendor committee's ideas with the broader group.</p>	
<p>A number of these issues will need to be coordinated with the funding, and volunteers sub-committees.</p>	
<p>Reference Links:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> http://www.artonalberta.org http://www.mississippiave.com/streetfair.html http://www.firstthursdayportland.com http://urbanartnetwork.com/pdx http://www.artinthepearl.com http://www.portlandopenstudios.com http://www.portlandonline.com/bps/index.cfm?a=53453&c=34564 http://www.mchealth.org/mchealthinspect/foodsafte.htm

These meeting minutes were prepared by the Friends of Last Thursday Alberta Street Art Walk, Vendors Sub-Committee. The minutes reflect the author's understanding of discussions and provide a record of the agreements reached at the meeting. Should any of those present have different recollections, or find errors or admissions in the minutes, advise the author in writing within five [5] calendar days of receipt of the meeting notes. The Friends of Last Thursday Alberta Street Art Walk is open to all, and encourages neighbors, artisan, vendors, patrons, and others to provide their constructive input towards the creation of an exemplary monthly celebration of the arts and the community that we may enjoy together.