



## Arts and Heritage Hub Steering Committee: Meeting Notes

**Project:** Arts and Heritage Hub

**Meeting Date:** Thursday, July 7, 2022

**Meeting Location:** Zoom

**Attendance:** Ora Steyn / Arts Council of Ladysmith and District Representative  
Quentin Goodbody / Ladysmith and District Historical Society Representative  
Jeff Richert / Ladysmith Maritime Society Representative  
Marsh Stevens / Town of Ladysmith Councillor  
Ben Checkwitch / Checkwitch Poiron Architects Inc.  
June Caluza / Checkwitch Poiron Architects Inc.  
Kelty McKinnon / PFS Studios Landscape Architects  
John Marston / Design Consultant  
Allison McCarrick / Chief Administrative Officer, Town of Ladysmith  
Chris Barfoot / Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture, Town of Ladysmith

1. Ben Checkwitch welcomed the attendees and acknowledged with gratitude that the project takes place on the traditional, unceded territory of the Stz'uminus First Nation. He noted that a meeting with elders had occurred the day before. He displayed the architectural drawings of the Artists' Studio Building and showed plans and renderings with different subdivisions of the interior plan layout. He reviewed and explained the various spaces of the building. He noted that the project was costed and was currently over budget. He described how the project tried to recall various aspects of longhouse or big house construction.
2. Quentin Goodbody asked if walls were moveable. Ben Checkwitch responded that walls were not moveable but had wall/partitions that could be added or removed. Ben added that the front facade reflected the importance of canoes in Stz'uminus culture.
3. A question was asked if public access was possible through the main entry space. Ben Checkwitch responded with that area could be publicly accessible but would be controlled at the discretion of the artists's operation inside the building.
4. Quentin Goodbody asked about the suitability of the concrete floor and the exterior wood deck. Ben Checkwitch responded that these were working studios and not meant to be pristine spaces. This was further support by Allison McCarrick.
5. Quentin Goodbody asked if the studio spaces were appropriate for carving. John Marston responded that the space were conducive to carving, painting and other forms of art production.
6. Kelty McKinnon reviewed the landscape design drawings with the group. The main idea was to create a large exterior multi-purpose gathering space that could accommodate performance, events and everyday events and informal gatherings. The landscape attempts to tie the building and the landscape together. Kelty took the team through the various spaces and elements of the landscape design.
7. John Marston described the sketches that he had produced that were used to inform the landscape design. Kelty McKinnon described how she has incorporated ideas from the Stz'uminus Elders regarding water, plant species and materials. She described how John Marston sketches were used to inform different aspects of the design including the benches and vertical elements as well as the overall plan.

8. Quentin Goodbody was concerned about vehicle access and what size truck could be used. Kelty McKinnon described how vehicles could access the area, but that there was not access for large semi-trailers. Quentin noted a concern about how elements of industrial heritage could be displayed in the landscape. Kelty described which tracks would be active or removed. Quentin noted that if the locomotive was in the shed there would be no interior room left to work. Kelty noted that the landscape was envisioned as a working landscape. Quentin asked if he could meet on site to review the landscape design to which the design team agreed.
9. Jeff Richert asked about vehicle access and Ben Checkwitch and Kelty McKinnon reviewed the plan to describe how vehicle access would work. Jeff noted that there would be push back from marina users on the idea of temporary closure of Oyster Bay road because they use it for parking. Kelty, Ben and Chris Barfoot showed where other areas for parking was being created. Chris described how road closed would work.
10. Jeff Richert noted that he liked the textures that were being employed and how indigenous elements were being incorporated. He asked about pavers near the railroad track and how that tied into the history of the tracks. Kelty went into a further description of the materials could be incorporated near the tracks.
11. Kelty McKinnon asked what surfaces would be appropriate for the working landscape. Jeff mentioned that gravel and board walk were discussed.
12. Marsh Stevens asked about the circular element at the front and it had evolved. Ben responded that the design had been changed to make it more affordable. Marsh noted that the deck was an important part the building. Marsh mentioned that pavers had sometimes been problematic in other areas of Ladysmithj but that crushed fines worked well.
13. Ora Steyn noted the design was “absolutely beautiful” and that she was looking forward to it. She had further question about the surfaces to which Kelty McKinnon addressed.
14. Ben mentioned that future iterations of the building would be designed to be less expensive while incorporating the feedback form all stakeholders. He also mentioned that the landscape design would be costed by a cost estimator.
15. Quentin Goodbody asked if he could meet on site with the design team. Ben said that a meeting would be arranged. Allison McCarrick said that the town would also attend this meeting.