

City of New Port Richey
2020 Cultural Affairs Committee Annual Report

The Cultural Affairs Committee was created to make recommendations and to advise the City Council on the financial sponsorship and creation of cultural activities for the education and recreation of the citizens.

We as a city have much to be grateful for in recent accomplishments with our fantastic Recreation & Aquatic Center. A Christmas performance by the World Class Florida Orchestra and the Florida Big Band during a day of art and music around Orange Lake and Sims Park.

Our City has come together in many aspects including a new working relationship with the Richey Suncoast Theater that has been a long time coming. Also of note, preparations for landing the MAPS, Museum of Anthropology Paleontology and Science. I have personally been actively involved to bring this to our area in a combined effort with Pasco County Schools. This has been a phenomenal opportunity and our next step is to branch out to the Schwettman School Campus, extending our programs and developing a cultural center/museum that we will certainly be proud of.

Another monumental art project with our City Library is the Art On The Go program. It has not gotten as much traction or response as we had hoped for. The intention from the beginning was to make the loan of a piece of art as simple as getting a book and we wanted that to be " free", no holding a credit card on file. Just make it the exact same way we check out books by putting the painting in a box and off you go to enjoy culture for three months and then bring it back so someone else can enjoy it. I am asking that our city attorney make that change to foster growth in this program. The art piece is mine to lose and was never meant to make money, but to help advance culture in our City.

The Cultural Affairs Committee has worked tirelessly on the Sculpture Walk project to be on display around Orange Lake and in Sims Park. We are currently in the process of accepting applications from artist and will then review the art and make a recommendation to City Council.

Respectfully,

Richard Melton

Richard Melton,
Cultural Affairs Committee Chair