



**Reno Arts & Culture Commission
Public Art Committee Minutes**

Date: August 20th, 2018

Time: 11:00 a.m.

**Place: McKinley Arts and Culture Boardroom
925 Riverside Drive, Reno, NV 89503**

Commission Members
Nettie Oliverio, Chair
Eric Brooks
Mahsan Ghazianzad
Ahren Hertel
Matthew McIver
Carola Nan Roach
Barb Santner
Tamara Scronce
Vacant
Vacant
Vacant

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Called to order by Nettie Oliverio at 11:01 am

Present: Nettie Oliverio, Chair; Eric Brooks, Mahsan Ghazianzad, Ahren Hertel, Matthew McIver (arrived at 11:08 am), Carola Nan Roach, Barb Santner, Tamara Scronce. Also present: Megan Berner, Public Art Program Coordinator, Sharon Honig-Bear, Reno Arts & Culture Commission Chair.

2. Public Comment on Agenda Items or Other Matters –

Eileen Gay, local mosaic artist, conveys her greetings and support.

3. Approval of the Meeting Minutes – July 16th, 2018 Minutes of the Public Art Committee

Tamara Scronce moves to approve, seconded by Ahren Hertel. Eric Brooks abstains due to absence. All in favor: 7, 1 abstain, 0 absent.

4. Approval of the Agenda – August 20th, 2018

Eric Brooks moves to approve, seconded by Tamara Scronce. All in favor: 8, 0 abstain, 0 absent.

5. Financial Report and Budget Update –

a. Review and possible acceptance of the FY2018/19 Public Art Budget

Megan Berner states that not much has changed. The Playa Project has been moved from Requested to Encumbered. The Light Chimes is in progress as another, more visible, avenue is being explored and remains in the Requested column.

Two items have been added: Sculpture for Pine & Center Streets and Waves of Light installation on the side of the downtown AT&T building.

Tamara Scronce makes a motion to approve, seconded by Eric Brooks. All in favor: 8, 0 abstain, 0 absent.

6. Discussion and possible approval of a request to expand the Downtown Dog Park mural onto the ReTRAC vents on the north of ReTRAC West

Megan Berner summarizes the progress of the dog murals, stating that a great deal of work has already been done. There has been interest to expand the mural to the North side of the vents with the small issue of the electric boxes to the north, that any painted dog portrait would not be visible to the public.

Tamara Scronce recommends painting a simple design but no dog portrait on that side, just for consistency.

Megan Berner brings up issues with funding; adding additional design wasn't budgeted and the Truckee Meadows Park Foundation will need to be approached to make sure the artist will get paid if the decision to expand the mural is made.

Tamara Scronce motions to approve under the following conditions for stipulations: the original contract for the first vent to be applied to and honored for the second vent in terms of artist payment per portrait, that the Truckee Meadows Park Foundation is responsible for contracting and financing the background with the requirement from the Public Art Committee that this be contracted with the original artist, and the City's future engagement with the signal boxes to complete the visual aesthetics with the project.

Seconded by Ahren Hertel. All in favor: 8, 0 abstain, 0 absent.

7. Discussion and possible approval to support the placement of artwork on a pedestal in the public right of way near corner of Center and Pine streets in front of new business Sizzle Pie in an amount not to exceed \$5,000

Megan Berner summarizes that this was brought before the Committee under a separate project under downtown student housing that part of the public amenities there were going to be pedestals for artwork put in. The same planner is involved in this project.

Berner also states that the business is willing to pay for the pedestal and the Committee could possibly match funds.

Tamara Scronce asks what is the overall advantage of such a project? Scronce also reminds the Committee that the budget isn't increasing so to keep acquiring more pedestals and sculpture pieces will take up more resources to keep and maintain any additional pieces.

Berner responds that it would be City property and as such it would be an addition to the City art collection with the possibility of rotating pieces out and outreach for future collaboration with local businesses.

Ahren Hertel brings up the point that purchasing a piece of sculpture and keeping it in one place could add a sense of local pride, and that a stationary piece of sculpture could also serve as a landmark.

Tamara Scronce directs Megan Berner to look into the details of the pedestal including lighting, security issues, height, width, etc.

Eric Brooks motions to move forward in putting a piece of public art on the right of way on the corner of Center and Pine Streets with the stipulation that the business matches the \$5,000 and direct Megan Berner to bring back the specifics on the size, and foot print and the Committee will then move forward in deciding a call for artists, engineering and placement.

Tamara Scronce seconds. All in favor: 8, 0 abstain, 0 absent.

8. Discussion and possible approval of repair work on Waves of Light by Nancy Mooslin installed on the AT&T building in an amount not to exceed \$2,000

Megan Berner summarizes the history of the Waves of Light installation piece, that there was some confusion about ownership of the installation and after further research Berner found that the piece was specifically made for the AT&T building and the City does not own the piece. AT&T has matched \$2,000 to fix the lighting while Berner states she will revisit AT&T to discuss further restoration of the piece. The responsibility of maintaining the piece ultimately belongs to AT&T, who have indicated they want no responsibility for Waves of Light, however are willing to work with the City towards a solution.

Berner continues that as of August, 2018 the damage is as stated: two glass panels are broken, none of the lighting fixtures work, and the lighting used for the Waves of Light is so old that no one manufactures those specific parts any longer.

Berner states that moving the piece is not recommended as the piece was specifically built to fit into that particular space on the building.

The price to fix the two panels of Waves of Light is estimated at \$6,200 while the estimated cost of fixing the illuminators and replace the fiber optic cables is \$4,000

Carola Nan Roach states that the decision made here will set precedence for all future dealings with the community and maintenance of art in public spaces.

Tamara Scronce brings up the point that fully restoring Waves of Light might not even be worth it given the area it is located in, and it may be money wasted as it would likely end up getting destroyed all over again.

Barbara Santner offers the possibility that the City could take over the maintenance/ownership of the piece if AT&T fully restores Waves of Light first.

Sharon Honig-Bear points out the possibility of combing the future event, Light Festival, with the restoration of Waves of Light.

Megan Berner states that more research will need to be done to understand exactly when the piece was commissioned and to further negotiate with AT&T.

9. Discussion and possible approval of a call for artists to paint a mural in Midtown at 924 S. Virginia St. reflecting the region's heritage and cultural history

Megan Berner summarizes that there has been interest for a community mural that also represents the cultural history of early indigenous peoples of Nevada. Councilman Delgado has given \$3,500 to go towards the mural.

Carola Nan Roach motions to approve, seconded by Eric Brooks. All in favor: 8, 0 abstain, 0 absent.

10. Discussion and possible recommendation on future plans for the Space Whale

Megan Berner summarizes that the lease for the Space Whale is coming up in September and is looking for direction. Berner continues to summarize that the Reno Arts & Culture Commission has also

discussed future plans for the Space Whale and brought up concerns with the expense of removing the whale, maintenance, and the re-negotiation of the lease.

Sharon Honig-Bear states that the City most likely does not want ownership of the Space Whale and due to current political events, this probably isn't the time to discuss the purchase of a large scale piece given the general public's attitudes towards the purchase of public art, but points out that waiting until elections are done will give the Committee time to consider future possibilities for new art to replace the Space Whale.

Tamara Scronce brings up the question of empty space vs filling the space, asking if the Committee should renew the lease for however many years to have an art piece for the public or should there be empty space until something else can be placed.

Eric Brooks brings up the budget, that the Space Whale was set at \$64,000 for the first year and the City could get an extraordinary piece of art for much less. That there is opportunity and interest to display other work yearly for a cheaper fee.

Megan Berner states that the City is not capable of maintaining the Space Whale, so purchasing the piece would add a large staff and maintenance cost.

Tamara Scronce recommends revisiting the contract with certain stipulations that include a deadline to remove the piece, better maintenance on the piece, a penalty for non-maintenance, a penalty for non-removal, a declaration that the City is not interested in purchasing the piece, but may extend the current lease for a short time and that these should be included in a written letter to the artist.

Nettie Oliverio streamlines the above stipulations to a letter written to the Commission rather than to the artist directly, that says the Committee is interested in neither purchase nor lease of the Space Whale. Additionally, from the Public Art standpoint and from the Commission standpoint we do not think either of these conditions is in the City's best interest. Oliverio offers to write the a letter stating the above points, Cc Sharon Honig-Bear to add any points from the Reno Arts & Culture Commission to be sent to Megan Berner.

Carol Nan Roach adds one last point, that there should be an emphasis on the maintenance until removal of the Space Whale.

11. Discussion and possible approval recommendation on City of Reno Galleries

Megan Berner summarizes the current model of how the galleries (and Bicentennial Sculpture Garden) is run is in a transitional stage, and a call for art option is no longer possible. If a call for art was issued it would have to be first come, first serve.

Berner asks what the true purpose of having the art galleries is, what intentions we have for those spaces, and how they fit into the mission of Public Art Committee and asks that we remember that the Committee is a government entity.

One solution is a third party to take over the spaces, however there still would be an issue with the jury process but the Committee would be allowed to add stipulations.

Berner adds that the space could be for student art work only.

Carola Nan Roach asks if it would be possible for the professor or teacher to choose work for the spaces.

Tamara Scronce states that if the Committee goes in the direction of art in education there is the possibility of looking into outreach education as the arts have virtually been erased from public school education and there are very few outlets and opportunities for young adults interested in art.

Megan Berner brings up a second idea of using in conjunction with the gallery spaces an artist in residence/artist laureate. There is the possibility to hire a local artist to work with the city, curate the space, have a dialogue with their art, and possibly have a long term project to work on while in residence, within the Metro gallery space.

Tamara Scronce asks that the Committee uses the time they have now, before the start of a new fiscal year to nail down what exactly will go into a student gallery. Is the Committee looking for elementary, high school or college age groups? How does the Committee identify educators who would be invested in their student's interest in art?

Sharon Honig-Bear applauds the Committee for coming up with so many ideas on such short notice and adds that the Reno Arts & Culture Commission also struggles with the idea of talking about art with the community, and engaging the youth.

Tamara Scronce adds that this is not a long term solution, that this is to keep the McKinley galleries from being empty, which would be a loss for the community.

Megan Berner suggests that we use the Center and Lake Street windows as an example; the highly public glass cases house art work from local community art classes and suggests reaching out to college art classes to fill the gallery spaces.

Eric Brooks recommends extending the exhibition periods.

Nettie Oliverio brings up other arts organizations in the city that get very little recognition; the VA Arts Festival being one.

Megan Berner suggests that the Committee continues the conversation and to put the galleries discussion as an agenda item for the next meeting.

Eric Brook motions to program the Metro Gallery with Zoey Bray's Basque Exhibition, January-March and the rest of the fiscal 2018/19 year with the architecture show. Seconded by Ahren Hertel. All in favor: 8, 0 abstain, 0 absent.

12. Update on Valley Wood Park, Creatures of Nevada, Kinetic Banners, and signal boxes.

Megan Berner summarizes the updates; Valley Wood Park is done, the serpent has been stained instead of painted, as to not trap moisture underneath the paint and crumble the concrete. The Creatures of Nevada is still in process.

The Kinetic Banners fundraiser has been moved to September 20th

The Signal Boxes have no updates as the current round has been done and painted, but older boxes are currently being assessed for repair or re-paint.

13. Announcements not anticipated at notice date

Megan Berner announces the EDAWN Business Arts Luncheon is on September 13th

Nettie Oliverio announces as she has worked with the community foundation the new low-income dorms are looking for artwork for the hallways that measure at 220 feet each.

14. Set date, time and agenda for the next meeting.

To be announced later due to conflicting schedules, there will be a poll to change the day of week the Committee meets in September.

15. General Public Comment.

Tamara Scronce gives her appreciation towards Megan Berner, Alexis Hill and City Staff.

Eileen Gay admires the Committee's determination in the face of challenge

16. Adjournment.