



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

Draft Meeting Minutes

Date: January 14th 2019

Time: 11:00 a.m.

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

| Committee Members |
|--------------------------|
| Nettie Oliverio, Chair |
| Dave Aiazzi |
| Eric Brooks |
| Bryce Chisholm |
| Mahsan Ghazianzad |
| Ahren Hertel |
| Matthew McIver |
| Carola Nan Roach |
| Barb Santner |
| Tamara Scronce |
| Vacant |

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Called to order by: Nettie Oliverio at 11:04 am

Present: Nettie Oliverio, Chair, Dave Aiazzi (arrived 12:05 pm), Eric Brooks, Bryce Chisholm, Geralda Miller (arrived 11:08 am), Carola Nan Roach, Barb Santner, Tamara Scronce

Absent: Mahsan Ghazianzad, Ahren Hertel, Matthew McIver.

Also present: Megan Berner, Public Art Program Coordinator, Sharon Honig-Bear, Arts & Culture Commission Chair, Marlene Olsen, Reno Rotary Club.

2. Public Comment on Agenda Items or Other Matters

None

3. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

Eric Brooks makes a motion to approve, seconded by Bryce Chisholm. All in favor.

4. Approval of the Agenda

Carol Nan Roach makes a motion to approve, seconded by Tamara Scronce. All in favor.

5. Financial Report and Budget Update

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

Berner summarizes, stating the only thing that has changed is the Art Belongs Here is now encumbered.

Eric Brooks makes a motion to approve, seconded by Bryce Chisholm. All in favor.

6. Discussion and possible approval of a call and timeline for the City Artist Program 2019.

Berner summarizes. She would like to get a timeline together for the City Artist. The artist would have an exhibition at the Metro Gallery, which doesn't necessarily need to be visual arts.

Scronce states that they should be proactive in promoting visual artists, as there are fewer venues, and few opportunities. Why isn't this devoted solely to visual artists? Perhaps there should be a discussion.

Berner points out that the Commission approved an artist residency, which is another opportunity for any type of artist (dance, writing, ect.)

Scronce states she likes the idea of announcing both the poet laureate and the artist laureate at the same time in the spring.

Berner states that there is a show opening today in the Metro Gallery that will be up until the end of February. There will be construction at City Hall around the same time, so the gallery will be empty from March until May.

If the artist is appointed in April or May there is still enough time for the second half of the year.

Scronce asks if leaving the gallery empty until June acceptable.

Berner replies they have to leave it open.

Berner asks for any more statements on the duties of the City Artist.

Miller asks if there will be a more detailed timeline to come.

Berner replies they will add it in, including the tenure being from June to the end of May of the following year, and expectations from the artist.

Nan Roach states that they could add the artist should do a talk about their work, along with curating the work, adding an educational component.

Scronce states that having this person in front of an audience, more than once, would be a good idea. Three times in one year: the curated exhibition, the solo exhibition and an artist laureate experience/closing statement. Three talks and two exhibitions.

Honig-Bear adds they should also do something in front of City Council. A personal testimonial on why and how the arts are important could have an impact.

Chisholm states he would like to see the call go out in December so that would give them more time.

Berner replies the problem with doing a call during December is that it's too close to the holiday season and no one responds. This has been tried in the past with the signal boxes and other projects and in the end the call had to be redone because there was no response.

Chisholm asks if there are any requirements or restrictions on the curated show.

Berner replies that she has included in the application process that the applicant should submit an idea for the curated show proposal.

Scronce adds that it isn't up to the PAC to choose a theme. This is a professional practice/exposure for the artist so they should take a professional approach.

Scronce states they need to provide the kinds of parameters that answer to city specifications only, and that the Committee does not design, curate nor direct the artists. Once they have been selected, they should have the professionalism to carry on.

Miller states that they need written expectations, because as they found with the poet laureate they were not on the same page. They could even create a calendar for those expectations.

Scronce agrees and adds that it is a public space and should be family friendly, or appropriate for all ages.

Oliverio asks if they have a motion.

Berner replies this will be in the call for the artists and will come back for approval, so they don't necessarily need approve of anything. They will see it in February and they can improve and tweak things as they see fit.

7. Discussion and possible approval of new signal boxes to paint for 2019 program in an amount not to exceed \$10,500.

Berner summarizes. She has marked on Google Map the locations of possible signal boxes to choose from and asks which boxes will be priority. There are 4 that will be repainted for this round, and 2 that will be removed entirely (the first on Lake Street and Center, and the second on Commercial). That will leave them 13 new boxes to be chosen.

Oliverio states there is a new councilperson in Ward 4 who has not been fully embraced by the arts community, having a signal box in the ward 4 area would help her. Having signal boxes in industrial areas would help improve the run down appearance.

Berner asks for locations and is open for suggestions. They can open up the range of the signal boxes, moving away from having them in the downtown area. The furthest signal box south is Bryce Chisholm's, which is at the South McCarran and Virginia intersection.

Oliverio asks if there is a fire station that is getting a mural.

Berner replies that Ralston fire station 4 is back on track for spring of this year.

Miller states that she would like to push Vassar and Holcomb streets for mural tours.

Berner announces the chosen locations, which include:

- Sutro & Wedekind
- Sutro & Oddie
- Fourth & Valley
- Fourth & Sutro
- Fourth & Sage
- Harvard & Plumb
- Vassar & Holcomb
- Virginia & South Meadows
- South Meadows & Double R
- Steamboat & Veteran
- Stead & Lear
- Golden Valley & North Hills

Berner states there are currently 12 locations; they have one more to choose.

Miller states she would make an argument for the far south of Reno. It would be a way to invite those residents to embrace the arts, and want to come into the city to see more art.

Berner announces the 13th location is Wedge Parkway & Mt. Rose highway.

Chisholm states that he would be willing to paint a signal box for free.

Scronce states she appreciates his offer but would like a formal process for doing so.

Berner states that this can be put on the next agenda. There is no need for a motion; the list will come back for the call and the Committee will have a chance to further comment and approve.

Oliverio moves item 12a up, followed by item 10.

8. Discussion and possible recommendation to the RACC for temporary sculpture placement on the City Plaza of Future Past by Kate Raudenbush in an amount not to exceed \$102,631.

Not discussed due to time constraints.

9. Discussion and possible recommendation to the RACC on an agreement with AT&T for Waves of Light.

Not discussed due to time constraints.

10. Discussion and possible approval of a second call for sculpture for two pedestals in Bicentennial Park not to exceed \$25,000.

Berner summarizes. This item was added prior to the Council voicing their concerns. There was the idea of having a call for the last two spaces to be filled so the pieces could be installed all at the same time.

One concern is reaching different artists and getting higher quality submissions.

Scronce asks if they have any idea as to why they received so little submissions or interest in the call. Perhaps they should reach out to communities that have robust public art programs.

Aiazzi states if the Council chooses to not spend their money from this other fund, there will be money to fund the first round, but not for the second. This is a concern.

Honig-Bear states they have set aside large amounts of money for some new initiatives, and if it comes down to it they have made a commitment to the park, even if it means taking money out of other projects.

Aiazzi argues that it doesn't have to be done this fiscal year. Perhaps they could choose one a year and get something really fantastic. Not something that just fits into the budget, but something they want to have.

Oliverio adds that there is a cost to doing the installation. The goal is to have all pads and pedestals filled with a piece of art. If it's possible to do all pieces all at once then it saves money. Pulling out equipment for individual installation will be more costly in the long run.

Miller asks when the deadline for the call would be.

Berner replies it wouldn't get approved until February, if they do agree to do it, so the call would be in April.

Brooks recommends that perhaps they have the current artists leave their pieces on the pedestals until something can be figured out, giving them a small stipend.

Berner replies they can't do that; it's already been discussed that it wasn't an option by the City attorney's office.

Aiazzi asks do they have that in writing. He wants an actual letter from the attorney that states what they can and can't do.

Oliverio asks whether or not they want to wait on a call.

Miller responds they would like a letter, from the Public Art Committee to the RACC.

Nan Roach asks if they can just skip having a special meeting and have the members of the RACC write a letter.

Oliverio states there are too many unknowns and a lot depends on the January 23rd meeting.

Honig-Bear states that in the six or so years she has been on the Commission there has been no special meeting, but that doesn't mean that there couldn't be one. It is an important issue. There are four commissioners present, and it is a possibility that they can write the letter.

There is the issue of not being able to disclose the background of buying versus renting art pieces at the park to the Council, but now it is on public record. Perhaps if the Council has an understanding of the history of the sculpture park they will back off a little and allow it to go through. Then the decision of making a call for another two pedestals can come back at the next meeting.

Aiazzi states they can approach an artist and ask them to do a sculpture and not do the call.

Aiazzi states that the sculpture on the City Plaza is rotating and isn't met with the same conditions as the Bicentennial Park, why can't the sculpture garden be rotated like City Plaza?

Oliverio states that they should table the discussion and wait to see what comes from the January 23rd Council meeting. Other items have been tabled.

11. Arts & Culture Grants Update.

a. Neighborhood Public Art Grants

Berner states she has printed flyers and will pass them out at the State of the City. She has been going to the NABS and will continue to go to them in February. People have been excited about the project.

12. Update on ongoing projects.

a. Bicentennial Park

Berner summarizes. The project was supposed to go to City Council last week but was pulled due to funding questions. There is a new councilmember who also questioned where the money was coming from, why was it being spent, etc. The Chief of Staff took it off the agenda and it will be brought back for January 23rd after the Council has time to be briefed.

Benches were an issue, brought up by Jenny Brekhus. There was a constituent who wanted benches put back into the Bicentennial Park.

Brooks states there was an issue with homelessness, which is why the benches were taken out.

Aiazzi states does this mean that the Council will come to Arts & Culture for money for the benches?

Berner replies she doesn't know what the answer is right now.

Marlene Olsen speaks. She was able to speak to a couple of councilmembers and got some feedback. Regarding the benches, they were deliberately removed, as there was a major issue with homelessness within the park. There were some negative feelings in taking out the benches. Olsen states she would like to be clear that this wasn't an ego thing for the Rotary, the concept was presented when they were looking for ideas to memorialize the 100th anniversary for the Rotary.

The City at the time already had an interest in revitalizing the area.

The Rotary raised \$73,000 and \$32,000 of that was donated. There is still \$8,000 waiting for direction to do something in the park.

The stones were used in place of the benches as they had some artistic value, and they came from the old City Hall some years ago.

Even though the area is much more inviting to visit now, there are councilmembers who want to scrap the entire idea. This presents a problem as there are now big structures in the park that will look terrible without any sculpture on them.

The Council has now put the Rotary in the position of defending themselves on the issue, which is not a pleasant place to be. There was also the issue of buying permanent art for the sculpture garden.

Aiazzi asks if the Rotary had a contract with the City, and it might be a good idea to pull that to remind them of the original intent.

Santner states that by having art on the pedestals, it brings in foot traffic, which in turn keeps vagrancy down. That was the original intent.

Miller states that she brings tours within the area to talk about the sculpture garden. If there's no art, there's no art tour.

Honig-Bear states that what is needed is education. The Council doesn't understand the background and previous events that created the current sculpture garden. Marlene Olsen has put together an excellent memo directed towards Council members, reviewed by some of the members of the Commission.

Aiazzi states that this is the culmination of what they've dealt with for 2 or 3 years. The City does not appreciate the arts, does not fund the arts, does not listen to the Arts & Culture Commission and do not themselves seek out the arts within the community. The Council says they are for the arts, but not when it comes down to voting for them.

Scronce states that something must be communicated.

Miller states the Committee can write a letter to the RACC. They need to be in front of city council more, and communicating more.

Aiazzi states that one positive note is that the councilmembers are listening to the constituents; this can be used in favor for public art.

13. Announcements not anticipated at notice date

None

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

February 11th, 2019 at 11:00 am

Brooks states he will be out of town but there is the possibility of using Skype.

15. General Public Comment.

Marlene Olsen thanks the Committee.

Berner thanks Barb Santner for her involvement on the Committee, as this is her last meeting.

Steve Smyth speaks. He states likes the art project at the Crystal Peak Park and recommends the Commission work with Tesla.

16. Adjournment. 1:10 PM

Geralda Miller makes a motion, seconded by Eric Brooks.

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