



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

Draft Meeting Minutes

Date: February 11th 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 Mclver
Geralda Miller
Carola Nan Roach
Tamara Scronce
Vacant

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Called to order by: Nettie Oliverio at 11:00 am

Present: Nettie Oliverio, Chair, Dave Aiazzi (left at 12:03 pm), Bryce Chisholm, Mahsan Ghazianzad (arrived at 11:01 am), Ahren Hertel, Matthew Mclver, Geralda Miller, Carola Nan Roach, Tamara Scronce.

Absent: Eric Brooks .

Also present: Megan Berner, Public Art Program Coordinator.

2. Public Comment on Agenda Items or Other Matters

None

3. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2019.

Bryce Chisholm makes a motion to approve, seconded by Geralda Miller. 2 abstain on grounds of absence; Matthew Mclver and Ahren Hertel. All in favor: 7, 1 absent, 2 abstain.

4. Approval of the Agenda

February 11, 2019.

Geralda Miller makes a motion to approve, seconded by Bryce Chisholm. All in favor: 9, 1 absent, 0 abstain.

5. Financial Report and Budget Update

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

Berner summarizes. There has been \$500 added to the signal boxes. The Lake & Center Street windows will have new artwork soon; UNR photography and prints from Eukong Koh's printing class. There has been some communication issues with the professor's at UNR. It will probably be hung in March.

Aiazzi brings up transparency in the budget.

Berner states they can display the budget differently; she can add another page that has the breakdown of some of the projects.

Scronce makes the suggestion of an annual art report.

Dave Aiazzi makes a motion to approve, seconded by Geralda Miller. All in favor: 9, 1 absent, 0 abstain.

6. Discussion and possible approval of a call and timeline for the City Artist Program 2019 not to exceed \$4,000.

Berner summarizes. There will be a Commission meeting tomorrow; many of the things discussed today will be on the Commission agenda.

Berner has added in some details including making sure the requirements, expectations and timeline for the artists are clear.

The deadline is April 10th.

Scronce states she has an issue with the language, in particular 'community engagement requirements' and 'it may require one or more of the following'. There is some confusion. Scronce would like to make it clear that community engagement is not a 'may include'.

It was discussed that there would absolutely be a City Council presentation and there could be a second mandatory community engagement.

Miller agrees and proposes they change it to read as mandatory City Council presentation.

Berner states she can change the language to City Council presentation is required, making any additional community engagement not a requirement but something the artist may potentially be interested in. She would prefer to leave it open and let the artist choose something that matches their interest.

Miller adds that it should follow in the strategic goals of the Commission; diversity, equity and inclusion.

Berner reminds the Public Art Committee that they are asking the artist to do three public talks; the City Council presentation, two exhibitions, and one curated exhibition.

Aiazzi states he does not think they can require a presentation; the artist will likely have to do the three-minute public comment before City Council. Getting on the agenda is extremely difficult.

Aiazzi also suggests there is the possibility of using the same talk for all three engagements. There is no limit on what community engagement could mean; it should be something approved by staff.

Scronce suggests removing the closing talk but still include four engagements; two artist talks throughout their time as City Artist, the City Council three minute presentation mandatory requirement and an additional community engagement as a representation as the whole, that is geared towards the strategic goal of fulfilling the diversity, equity and inclusion.

City staff can include guidelines and recommendations for this activity.

Nan Roach suggests putting a timeline within the contract.

Aiazzi asks how the 'potential purchase' will work and expresses concern over creating unrealistic expectations from the artist. Who will decide what piece of art to buy, who decides what the price is, ect.

Berner replies that's why she added 'potential' and that it could be chosen from the exhibition the artist will put on; if it's something that the Committee and the Arts & Culture Commission feels fits into what they want to purchase to have it in the indoor public art collection.

Aiazzi suggests putting this into the contract.

Scronce states that it adds value; having an art piece purchased by the City is a prestigious honor and shows that this position is of a higher caliber.

Aiazzi states that at some point they will have to decide on a process.

Scronce states this could be a request at the conclusion of the year; that the artist provides their portfolio with prices for the Public Art Committee and the City of Reno Arts & Culture Commission for consideration for City purchase.

Miller states that by leaving in the \$2,000 potential purchase it will bring in a higher caliber of artist.

Aiazzi asks how the artist will get paid.

Berner replies they can split it up; half up front, half later.

Scronce agrees; splitting it up can facilitate some money for an exhibition and the other thousand can be incentive to make sure they fulfill their obligations. This should be reflected in the contract that the artist will not receive the second thousand dollar payment if obligations are not met.

Tamara Scronce makes a motion to approve with the amendments to the description of expectations in relationship to public talk.

Dave Aiazzi seconds the motion. All in favor: 9, 1 absent, 0 abstain.

7. Discussion and possible approval of call for artists and name for the 2019 signal box program in an amount not to exceed \$10,500.

Berner summarizes the list of possible names:

- Signals of Art
- Art Signals
- Outside the Box
- Art on the Box
- Energize!
- FAB (Fine Art Box)

Art Signals has the most votes.

Berner states the deadline will be March 13th and she will add the new name in.

Geralda Miller makes a motion to approve the call for action for the Art Signals program, seconded by Ahren Hertel. All in favor: 9, 1 absent, 0 abstain.

8. Discussion and possible of a call for artists for Midtown Public Art in an amount not to exceed \$66,000.

Berner summarizes. RTC and City engineers have asked to have an idea of where the artwork will go by July/August.

Berner would like to add a map or photograph. The review process will go through CodaWorks.

The \$6,000 will go towards artist travel.

Scronce states that it's been a long time since they've had a project of this size.

Aiazzi states that he feels as though this is a little premature; they still don't know how much money they will have and they should have specific locations for the art before talking to RTC. They need to decide if there should be one big piece, or many small pieces – there should be some more discussion.

Scronce states her concern with any more delays; the process takes a significant amount of time as it is. She reminds the committee that they have already gone through much deliberation and is not rushing into the request for qualifications.

The Committee should be guiding instead of reacting.

(Dave Aiazzi leaves at 12:03 pm)

Berner states that as of right now are no extra funds. There is money coming from RTC, specifically for benches and bike racks. This will be a separate call.

There is the idea of setting up a time for the artists to meet with the community and have a conversation with the business owners/people living in the area, which will influence what the artist designs.

Scronce states her concern is slowing the process down will get them backed against a wall and prevent them from making good creative decisions.

Berner adds in the RACC will be approving the three finalists as well as the final artist.

Tamara Scronce makes a motion to approve, seconded by Geralda Miller. All in favor: 8, 2 absent, 0 abstain.

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

Berner recommends combining Item 9 and 10.

10. Discussion and possible recommendation to the RACC on programming temporary public art on the City Plaza.

Chisholm asks how long is temporary.

Berner replies it is a two year lease.

Miller states she is excited about getting something new in place of Space Whale and she would like to use her Burning Man connection to find out what projects will be available after the 2019 Burning Man season. The process will be started next month, after Burning Man chooses their projects; Miller will know then what projects will be available (including what pieces are in storage) to present to the Committee to replace Space Whale.

Berner states she has a concern in that they will not know the quality of the work, unless they know who the artist it.

Scronce states they are spending \$66,000 on permanent work, yet discussing spending \$102,000 on temporary work. This bothers her; shouldn’t this be the reverse?

Berner states that this is what was budgeted in the call for art in Midtown. It is a feasible question to ask if they should do temporary work in this location.

Scronce states it isn’t wise to spend \$102,000 on temporary work. It’s fantastic to have work on the City Plaza, and to have work that can be changed out, but when there is a limited budget it is not feasible.

Berner states that there is the potential to do calls for purchase. They can still do a rotation with pieces, and it would be an investment. This could be an option.

Miller asks what is a realistic yearly temporary cost to have a piece of art on City Plaza.

Berner states it is about \$20,000 for transportation and install for a large sculpture, so about \$45,000.

Scronce states her point would be that they could own the piece, the amount of money they have spent on it as a temporary piece, all of that value exists in owned work. They need good art.

Nan Roach asks whether or not they can have permanent pieces in the Plaza.

Miller responds she likes the idea of having temporary pieces that rotate.

Berner adds that having the Space Whale has added value, and has brought a lot of people to the downtown area, but she isn't sure how you could put that into numbers.

At some point there needs to be a discussion about long term maintenance as well.

Berner adds the possibility of countering Kate Raudenbush's proposal.

Miller offers to come back to the Committee with whatever Burning Man art pieces they provide her with. If not for 2019, then for 2020 they will have a better idea of going forward; what's available, what's the cost, cleaning costs, etc.

Berner states that there is a substantial footing installed where Space Whale is, as well as one on the other side of the Plaza. There is the option of moving an installation on the City Plaza.

Scronce adds that there is also the option of finding other park locations that may be more appropriate. Looking into finding future sites for large-scale work is something to think about.

Berner states they could buy art with the idea of potentially selling (or leasing) it to a private development for placement.

Oliverio states that there is the possibility of looking at City slip-land for art placement. There are a number of small pieces of land that do not work for development (buildings, parking lots) but could be a potential place to lay down a foundation for an art piece in an area that otherwise has nothing.

Scronce makes a motion to report to the Arts & Culture Commission that the Committee is considering other options for City Plaza art work, including additional art work for consideration instead of a single piece, discussion of creating a purchase and rotation program, and a timeline with the intention of bringing said points back to the Committee by the April meeting with the goal of research, investigation other options and to make a decision to place artwork new artwork on City Plaza by September 2019.

Geralda Miller seconds the motion. All in favor: 8, 2 absent, 0 abstain.

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

Berner summarizes. The Arts & Culture Commission is hesitant to get involved without a guarantee that AT&T wouldn't shut them out or take the artwork down anyway.

Berner has discussed the issue with the City attorneys and the only way there will be any sort of contract (because the art work is on private property) is to do an easement agreement that will have to go through Council.

AT&T is willing to work with the Commission but does not want the responsibility of maintaining the work.

The PAC would like to recommend to the RACC to commit the \$2,000 and if they want to move forward with the easement we can work on that simultaneously.

Berner states she will bring the issue back for the March RACC agenda.

12. Discussion and possible approval of a gift for Barb Santer for her service on the Public Art Committee in an amount not to exceed \$200.

Oliverio summarizes.

Geralda Miller Makes a motion to commission Tia Flores for an art piece for Barb Santner, seconded by Ahren Hertel. All in favor: 8, 2 absent, 0 abstain.

13. Update on ongoing projects.

Berner summarizes. The issue with Bicentennial Park has been resolved, the funds are coming from room tax and the project is moving forward for an April installation.

The Ginnever will be taken out this month and there will be a footing created/it will be raised up and rocks will be put in the planter.

Fire Station 4 is moving forward, Mike Lucido will begin to paint in March.

Two UNR students are now working with Berner through a community engagement course. They are both communications majors and they will work on social media.

Oliverio states the RACC members have been active in involving themselves at the City Hall Council chambers. In public comment they thanked the Rotary Club for everything they have done.

14. Announcements not anticipated at notice date.

Chisholm states the City of Sparks is doing workshops with Springboard for the Arts. Since they are building the downtown corridor area they have money for art and are looking for community engagement. The Punk Rock Flea Market was over the weekend at the Generator. Lots of people were there.

Scronce states the University Arts Building Grand Opening will take place February 22nd, at 5:00 pm.

Miller states she has applied for the at-large City Council position and asks for support.

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

Monday, March 18th 11:00 am

16. General Public Comment

None

17. Adjournment.

DRAFT