



**Reno Arts & Culture Commission's  
Community Engagement Committee  
Meeting Minutes**

**Date: February 14, 2019**

**Time: 10:00 a.m.**

**Place: McKinley Arts & Culture Center Boardroom  
925 Riverside Dr., Reno, NV 89503**

<b>Committee Members</b>
Dana Hatjakes, Chair
Zoe Bray
Mario DelaRosa
Eric Fong
Esther Isaac
Yun Ku
Theresa Reilly
Chad Sweet
Vacant
Vacant
Vacant

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**AGENDA**

**Meeting called to order by:** Dana Hatjakes at 10:01 am.

**Present:** Dana Hatjakes, Chair, Zoe Bray (arrived 10:03 am), Mario DelaRosa, Erik Fong (arrived 10:04 am), Esther Isaac, Yun Ku, Theresa Reilly (arrived 10:08 am), Chad Sweet.

**Absent:** None

**Also present:** Alexis Hill, Arts, Culture & Special Events Manager, Megan Berner, Public Art Program Coordinator.

**1. Public Comment on Agenda Items or Other Matters –**

None

**2. Approval of the Minutes –**

Chad Sweet makes a motion, seconded by Esther Isaac. All in favor. Motion passes.

**3. Approval of the Agenda –**

Esther Isaac makes a motion, seconded by Chad Sweet. All in favor. Motion passes.

**4. Arts & Culture Commission Liaison Report –**

Hill summarizes. The Commission had two options for the Poet Laureate position and recommended Pan Pantoja. It will go to Council for final decision.

The proposal for City Artist was approved.

Hatjakes adds the Midtown Art Project was approved

The Signal Box program was approved.

Bicentennial Sculpture Park has been approved, with the addition of putting back two benches. There is an ongoing discussion about what benches will be put in.

Hill adds future agenda items include reconsidering Space Whale, and having a presentation during the Council budget meeting.

Berner adds the Arts Belong Here grants are open until the end of March.

## **5. Financial Report and Budget Update.**

### **a. Review and possible acceptance of the FY2018/19 Community Engagement Committee Budget.**

Berner summarizes. There has been \$11,000 set aside for the Community Engagement Committee for outreach and other uses they see fit.

Isaac asks if this money could be used for things like brochures and video and does it reside within the Community Engagement Committee or is it the Commission's budget?

Hill replies it could be used for those things; they have a City designer but some of the printing costs would come out of the money set aside. It is a part of the Commission's budget.

Berner adds that they now have an undergraduate community based research student to help with data assessment that may help in the future with outreach and surveys.

That information will be compiled in early May.

Reilly adds they should think about Spanish language outreach.

## **6. Discussion and possible appointment of new members to the Community Engagement Committee from the list of the following applicants in alphabetical order: Grace Davis, Michelle Duggan, Dahlia Dwedar, Jennifer**

Hildebrand, Jessica Koltz, Nathan Mix, Margot Murray, Bill Newman, Rossitza Todorova, Lee Willhelm.

Hill states the Committee can wait and see what candidates stick out most to them or wait and see who will apply. In the near future there can be interviews/time to get to know the candidates better.

Ku suggests narrowing down the names for the next meeting.

Reilly suggests that someone in the Committee do interviews or invites the candidates to see who will actually commit and show up. There is also the possibility of doing a phone interview.

Sweet suggests a Google poll.

Berner states that the only ones who have replied at all have been Grace Davis, Rossitza Todorova and Nathan Mix. Some new applications have come in since then.

Hill summarizes; Hill will send out a poll to the Committee members, the Committee will choose four people, and they can interview at the next meeting.

Isaac suggests having questions for the candidates.

**7. Discussion on using “the why” exercise (Reference: Simon Sinek TEDXPuget Sound – How Great Leaders Inspire Action to better establish the community engagement 2019 priorities).**

Summary:

WHY

- Quality of life/why Reno is unique/what is unique about this area
- Brings people together
- Defines the soul of the community
- Expression of our community
- Reflects identity
- Bringing people together
- Constant reimagine
- Art as social change
- Inspire/transform

- Catalyst

## HOW

- RACC is the 'how'

## WHAT (product)

- What are the Arts & Culture Organizations bringing to the community
- Art for the community

Hill states that this is something that can be discussed further and suggests the Committee thinks about things to add and bring it back at a later date.

## **8. Discussion on Community Engagement Committee direction and future plans.**

### **a. Midtown Public Art Project**

Berner summarizes the presentation:

- RTC Midtown Public Art overview
- Funding for the project
- Timeline for Public Art
- Public Art inspiration (Painted crosswalks, neon signs, arches)
- Monumental sculpture
- Sculptural seating in the streetscape

They received \$30,000 from the NEA, but would like to raise additional funding for things like artist travel.

RTC is giving funding for benches and bike racks, there will be further details in the future.

They are doing outreach to the NABs currently, and the general public will eventually get a chance to give feedback.

Hill adds the call is for artists, not projects. (A request for qualifications)

The top three will be chosen, be brought to Reno and have an opportunity to have a community meeting for feedback, and then create a proposal.

From there it will get narrowed down to an artist or artist team that will work with the community.

There are local artists interested.

The call is going through Coda Works.

The project must be completed by December 2020.

Isaac asks how they define districts? There are areas with their own character; UNR, the Brewery district, ect. What is the symbol of that district?

Berner replies that some cities have their own defined cultural districts with a process for becoming one. In Reno, there is no process, most are self-identified; they create their own image.

This tends to be more successful than the City trying to assign districts.

Hill states that on the art side of things as they get funding and grants they will work with the community on whatever identity they want.

They don't have to create a sign; it can be a piece of art that identifies the area, an example being the Virginia Lake dragonfly.

They should be the catalyst that brings neighborhoods together.

#### **b. Neighborhood Public Art Grants**

Berner states that a 'Reno minute' was created for the Art Belongs Here grant. It can be found on the Around the Arch blog.

(Zoey Bray leaves at 11:21 am)

#### **9. Announcements not anticipated at notice date**

Reilly states there was a rebranding at KUNR; the website has a better look. The new tagline is 'listen, connect, discover'.

They've relaunched the Reno Youth Radio; they are working with Reno high school students to create content and receive credits.

Ku states UNR has the opening for the arts building on February 22 at 5:00pm

**10. Set date, time and agenda for the next Special & Regular meeting and future RACC meetings.**

March 14<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Berner summarizes things for the future agenda: upcoming interviews, talking points for the Commission, bringing back 'the why' exercise, and a possible budget strategy.

**11. General public comment.**

None

**12. Adjournment.**

11: 28 am. Yun Ku makes a motion, seconded by Chad Sweet.