



**Reno Arts & Culture Commission
Draft Meeting Minutes**

Date: May 7, 2019

Time: 5:00 p.m.

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

Commission Members
Sharon Honig-Bear, Chair
Geralda Miller, Vice Chair
Dave Aiazzi
Bryce Chisholm
Mario DelaRosa
Doug Erwin
Erik Fong
Dana Hatjakes
Nettie Oliverio
Colin Robertson
Shaughn Richardson
Naomi Duerr, City Council Liaison

AGENDA

Present: Geralda Miller, Vice Chair; Dave Aiazzi, Bryce Chisholm, Mario DelaRosa, Dana Hatjakes, Nettie Oliverio, Shaughn Richardson .

Absent: Sharon Honig-Bear, Chair; Doug Erwin, Erik Fong, Colin Robertson.

Also Present: Alexis Hill, Arts, Culture & Special Events Manager, Megan Berner, Public Art Program Coordinator, Naomi Duerr, City Council Liaison.

2. Public Comment

Geralda Miller comments. There was an email from Colin Robertson that stating he feels he would be best if he stepped away from his position on the Commission.

Miller would like to fill his position as soon as possible and bring this back at the next meeting.

3. Approval of Minutes

April 9, 2019.

Dave Aiazzi makes a motion to approve, seconded by Nettie Oliverio. All in favor: 7, 0 abstain, 4 absent.

4. Approval of the Agenda

May 7, 2019.

Nettie Oliverio makes a motion, seconded by Dana Hatjakes. All in favor: 7, 0 abstain, 4 absent.

5. Presentation and request for funding from Sierra Arts Foundation not to exceed \$10,000.

Tracey Oliver presents.

Oliver would like to remind everyone of the importance of the relationship between the Sierra Foundation and their partners, including the City of Reno.

Since the 1980s there has been a steady decline in the arts in education.

Art in education is important; art in education teaches skills and knowledge that transfers to academic and non-academic subjects.

Sierra Arts hires teaching artists to teach art integration and/or teen empowerment through the arts.

There is an alarming increase in teen self-harm and suicide and the arts can teach emotional well being.

The programs created by the Sierra Arts Foundation use local talent to support and nurture future talent.

Every third Wednesday the Sierra Arts Foundation offers a program called Art Talks.

Miller asks about a previously discussed subject, 'artist services'.

Oliver replies she feels it's important to sit down one-on-one, as a group and reevaluate the relationship between this body and Sierra Arts, and Sierra Arts being the arm of the City that can take action with the individual artist.

The previous visit was to let the Commission know that they are primed; the artist registry is ready to go, but it wasn't part of this ask.

Miller states she was wondering how much of the grants went to education.

Oliver states that the ask today is only about 10% of what Sierra Arts plans to spend, along with their partners in art education. She understands that they cannot lean on just one body for funding/support.

Miller asks why they chose education.

Oliver replies it is something familiar and very important and until Washoe County steps up in the education department concerning arts, Sierra Arts will put arts integration into the education system.

Tia Flores comments stating we are in crisis mode; when we have the highest rate of self-harm and suicide in teens there is an imperative need for the arts to step in and help.

Oliverio states the question is will they continue to support Sierra Arts in the way that has been historically important for the community.

Miller states she is questioning the shift in the Sierra Arts ask because of the fact that there are so many education grants.

Oliver replies stating it was the safer ask. She expects the City to start funneling more of its art needs through Sierra Arts.

Flores comments some of their teaching artists they hire include the artistic director of the Bruka Theater; this allows them to bring their art to the City. They are paid professionals.

Dave Aiazzi states because his wife is on the Bruka board he will step out of the conversation.

Chisholm states he likes what the Sierra Arts does, but they have been in discussion with Council and it doesn't seem like much is going to change for the rest of the year.

Richardson states that he feels like the more art there is, the better. As is, art is not remotely considered important in the educational system.

Chisholm asks if this is within the budget.

Hill replies yes, it was approved and earmarked in the initial budget. It is not encumbered yet.

Shaughn Richardson states since he works for one of the schools he will remove himself from the conversation.

Nettie Oliverio makes a motion to approve the funding for Sierra Arts Foundation in the amount of \$10,000, seconded by Dana Hatjakes. All in favor: 4, 1 against: Geralda Miller who states her reason is she would like to see something other than education, and 2 abstentions – Dave Aiazzi, Shaughn Richardson.

6. City Council Liaison Report.

Naomi Duerr presents.

Duerr has mostly been working on the Midtown project, including bringing a stakeholder committee together to discuss art.

There will be a meeting on Thursday if anyone wants to participate.

The stakeholders include businesses, neighbors, historians, planners, advocates, etc.

Hill adds that some of the funding will go towards the design elements of the project. This can include banner poles, lights in trees, midtown stamps on each block, identifiable coins for each block, special manhole covers/trash cans with the Midtown logo, historical plaques/markers.

Duerr states that they started from no discussion about the arts and are now at \$480,000 towards the Midtown project.

Another project she is working on that is sponsored by the Girl Scouts is 'Be Safe, Be Seen'. The previous project (flags to cross the street) was at \$1,000. This project, with possible sidewalk murals, is estimated about \$4,500.

Duerr has been looking at a call for art for various wards for neighborhood art. No one came forward with a proposal for Art Belongs Here for Ward 2. Duerr proposes an art project for Huffaker Park.

Duerr is planning on working with Parks on a multi-year project. She looked at the mask art piece in the Playa Park with the thought of perhaps relocating it to Huffaker Park.

Duerr has worked with Megan Berner and Alexis Hill to format the budget. She feels there are further improvements that can be made. She would like to see for the next year a 'clean budget presentation'.

7. Financial Report and Budget Update

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

Hill states where 'approved budget' is for this fiscal year they will add a column with 'C' or 'E' to show the new budget, so line items can be compared.

'Encumbered' will be moved to the other side of 'Spent'.

The main change for this budget will be Arts Education SAF. It was in balanced and is now in encumbered.

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

Berner states the Bicentennial Sculpture Garden encumbered money is about to be spent.

Light Chimes is the one thing that has changed as the final amount was invoiced.

Hill states they will continue to work on improving the budget and bring it back for approval.

Bryce Chisholm makes a motion to accept both budgets, seconded by Shaughn Richardson. All in favor 7, 0 abstain, 4 absent.

Aiazzi adds that concerning room tax, he has been pushing that instead of being split 50/50 he has requested 50% for parks, 25% for Arts & Culture and 25% goes back to the Council for non art related things.

Dave Aiazzi left at 6:10 pm.

8. Project/Special Reports Update.

a. Grants Committee Update.

Berner states the Plan 2020 Ad Hoc Committee is meeting on Thursday to discuss grants and possible changes to recommend to this body.

b. Public Art Committee Update

i. Discussion and possible approval of recommendation of three artists to move into round 2 of the Midtown Public Art program from the list of the following artists: Hunter Brown, Eileen Gay, Saori Russell

Berner summarizes.

All three artists will be visiting in June and will be at the design review committee. They will give a short presentation.

Hill states that the artists will likely meet with the Commission as well.

Berner states there will be a site visit as they will be submitting a proposal for an art piece. Those proposals will come back to the Commission in July.

Bryce Chisholm makes a motion, seconded by Nettie Oliverio. All in favor: 7, 0 abstain, 4 absent.

ii. Discussion and possible approval of recommendations of 20 artists to paint signal boxes for the 2019 Art Signals program.

Shaughn Richardson makes a motion to approve, seconded by Nettie Oliverio. All in favor: 7, 0 abstain, 4 absent.

iii. Discussion and possible approval of recommendation for the public art signage created by Andy Tibbets in an amount not to exceed \$8,000.

Berner summarizes.

The idea is to have signage that is sturdy and easy to replace.

There will be around forty signs total made, costing around \$110 each.

Public Works has agreed to install.

Shaughn Richardson makes a motion to approve, seconded by Bryce Chisholm. All in favor: 7, 0 abstain, 4 absent.

9. Discussion and possible approval of a timeline for NEA Our Town Lincoln Highway Grant.

Hill summarizes.

Council approved the acceptance of the \$100,000 and the City's commitment of the matching \$100,000.

The NEA will highlight Reno as a stand-out city because of the project in their press release.

Reno is the 4th fastest creative growing economy in the nation.

Miller asks if it is possible to get information from the NEA for community outreach.

Hill states she can forward Miller what they initially released, and once the press release is available she can forward that as well.

Berner summarizes the timeline.

The earliest beginning date for this project is July 1, 2019, though it doesn't have to start right at this date. From whatever date is chosen, they will have two years to complete.

September would be the start of initial outreach.

A call for artists would be approved November/December.

In February/March of 2020 artists would be chosen.

The artists will do community outreach for the concept of the final project.

Installation is mid-late 2020/2021.

10. Updates on ongoing projects.

a. Art Belongs Here

Berner summarizes.

There were nine proposals turned in and seven projects that received funding.

Be the Change Project and Asa Kennedy is doing a mural on the underpass off of Wedekind Road.

Erik Burke is doing a mural on the Washoe County parking garage on Center Street, across from the downtown public library.

Reno/Sparks Indian Colony and Customink is working with the Boys and Girls club to create a mural on the Keystone underpass.

Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation/Biggest Little Dog Park is working with Mike Burke to install artistic bike racks.

Reno Air Races/Reno Fire department with Kendal Leslie to create a mural for the Fire Station 9 in Stead.

Reno Bike Project/Reno Brewery District with Mike Burke to create artistic art benches created out of repurposed bike parts.

Reno Rodeo Michael Gray will be installing in front of the Livestock Events Center with a horse shoe that lights up.

Miller states that she is disappointed that the community mostly stuck with murals; she would like to have seen more diversity in art.

Hill suggests that they might take murals off the next time, just to foster creativity.

Hatjakes states baby steps; a good way to approach this is to thank the community for their participation and encourage them to think even bigger.

Berner states the City Artist applications were due so the Public Art Committee will be looking at those on the May 20th meeting.

There are about a dozen entries.

The Public Art Committee approved working with the Nevada Arts Council for the Metro Art Gallery at City Hall.

The current exhibition is 'Words and Images', which includes broadsides from the Black Rock Press.

June 20th is the reception.

There will be de-installation at the Bicentennial Park on the 18th and there will be one installation and the need to install two new foundations. Those will be installed in late June.

11. Announcements not anticipated at notice date.

Hill states there is the Business and Arts luncheon on September 12th

Nominations opened on May 1st

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

June 11th 2019, 5 pm.

13. General Public Comment.

Eileen Gay states she enjoys coming to the meetings.

Chisholm states he agrees there are too many murals, but there has been positive feedback.

14. Adjournment.

Bryce Chisholm makes a motion, seconded by Nettie Oliverio. All in favor: 6, 0 abstain, 5 absent.