



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

**Date: June 17, 2019**

**Time: 11:00 a.m.**

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

<b>Committee Members</b>
Nettie Oliverio, Chair
Dave Aiazzi
Eric Brooks
Bryce Chisholm
Mahsan Ghazianad
Ahren Hertel
Matthew McIver
Geralda Miller
Carola Nan Roach
Tamara Scronce
Vacant

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**AGENDA**

**1. Call to Order/Roll Call**

Called to order by: Bryce Chisholm at 11:07 am.

Present: Eric Brooks, Bryce Chisholm, Mahsan Ghazianad, Matthew McIver, Geralda Miller, Carola Nan Roach, Tamara Scronce.

Absent: Nettie Oliverio, Chair; Dave Aiazzi, Ahren Hertel.

Also present: Megan Berner, Public Art Program Coordinator.

**2. Public Comment on Agenda Items or Other Matters**

None.

**3. Approval of the Meeting Minutes** - April 19, 2019 of the Public Art Committee Special Meeting and May 20, 2019 Minutes of the Public Art Committee.

Eric Brooks makes a motion to approve both, seconded by Geralda Miller. 7 in favor, 3 absent, motion passes.

**4. Approval of the Agenda** - June 19, 2019.

Geralda Miller makes a motion to approve, seconded by Eric Brooks. 7 in favor, 3 absent, motion passes.

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

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

Berner summarizes.

This is the last month for the fiscal year 2018/19.

The Bicentennial encumbered was amended with an additional \$50,000 and there is currently \$14,000 left. This will be enough for the construction bid and installation.

The final Space Whale encumbered funding and the rest of the monthly payment that has not yet been invoiced.

Midtown Public Art will be rolled over into next year's budget.

The Signal Box Program is in progress, with about five signal boxes done. There will be an update at the next meeting.

Art Belongs Here budget will be rolled over into next year's budget.

\$20,000 has been allocated for maintenance.

\$7,000 is unallocated and there is \$30,000 for the Opportunity Fund; these will be combined.

Scronce asks where the Poet Laureate and City Artist funding falls into.

Berner replies that is in the RACC budget.

The Poet Laureate has \$1,000.

The City Artist has been allocated \$4,000. There is a \$2,000 stipend with the potential for purchase for the Metro Art Collection.

Tom Drakulich, the first City Artist will be ready to install in the last week of June in time for Artown.

Tamara Scronce makes a motion to approve, seconded by Eric Brooks. 7 in favor, 3 absent, motion passes.

## **6. Discussion and possible recommendation on plan for City Plaza Art.**

Berner summarizes.

The Council did not give any additional funding; there was only about \$5,000 additional funding in the RACC budget this year.

Brooks asks if the City Manager will extend the contract again.

Berner replies she doesn't have the ability to do so without Council approval; she will be meeting with the City Manager and the Mayor in July.

Miller summarizes her research into the replacement of the Space Whale.

After going through the honorarium pieces and other Burning Man pieces Miller would like to share her findings with the Committee.

The Space Whale is a substantial sculpture that has now become iconic and synonymous with Reno. Replacing it presents some challenges.

When considering a replacement for Space Whale it is important to think about the scale of the piece; it would be bad form to replace Space Whale with something much smaller.

Cosmo, Roger Heitzman is a kinetic sculpture that is up for consideration as a replacement piece.

The total height is 14 feet. The kinetic part of the sculpture is high enough to where no one will be climbing on it.

Chisholm states that they do have a smaller budget, so they may have to purchase a smaller piece.

Miller states that the piece also ties into the David Boyer kinetic sculptures already in place in downtown Reno.

Chisholm asks if it saves them money by purchasing a piece coming back from Burning Man.

Miller replies it could; instead of paying for transportation the artist can just drop the piece off at Art Tech to be cleaned and assembled.

Berner states that they should keep in mind that Burning Man is becoming a little stricter in their requirements for engineering and that helps with finding suitable art.

Wings of Glory, Adrian Landon and the Dusty Sparks is another consideration.

It is a large sculpture at about 40 feet high. The horse is mechanical and has the capacity to shoot fire.

Scronce asks about maintenance for the piece. Long-term maintenance is something that would have to be looked into.

Berner adds that within the contract the artist is usually the one responsible for maintenance.

Mclver asks if it would be possible to include the fire component.

Berner states yes; if it was a special event and if a fire marshal was present.

Miller states it could be a fun transition from a giant whale to a giant winged horse.

What is the vision for City Plaza, should the City have an artistic vision?

Scronce states they should think about what happens to the piece afterwards as well. An example being 'Believe'- where will it go after the Plaza? A sculpture park is an idea, but they would need the budget for it.

Brooks asks what if they put nothing at all on the Plaza?

Miller replies that is another discussion they can have. It may send a message to City Council about the value of art and having an iconic piece associated with Reno.

Scronce states that with her own experience within the University that particular strategy doesn't work. Once they take out the piece and not replace it, they may miss it for a moment but then it will remain unfunded and forgotten.

Nan Roach suggests getting the ball rolling; even if the piece doesn't work out its better to consider some pieces than do nothing.

The Flybrary, Christina Sporrong is another piece up for consideration.

Miller states that if they do find something iconic and over budget, perhaps they should go to the City Council.

Brooks states his thoughts are that they could leave the space empty for a year if Council isn't on board, but have a contingency plan of having a replacement after that year. It is unsettling that the Council could just walk away from the entire project.

Berner states that one reason why the Space Whale artist is dragging his feet may be because of leveraging; the longer it stays the more pressure there is to let it stay.

Currently parts of the Space Whale are covered in duct tape.

Mclver suggests choosing three pieces or more to further research, which may include:

- Bee or Not to Bee, Mr. & Mrs. Ferguson
- Wings of Glory, Adrian Landon and the Dusty Sparks
- Chakra Cannon, Joshua Pipic and Cannon Crew
- The Flybrary, Christina Sporrong

Berner suggests that the Committee does some research for recommendations.

Scronce adds that they shouldn't limit themselves to Burning Man pieces only. They would have to have the recommendation ready by July. Perhaps there should be a special meeting.

Berner states that making a recommendation to the Commission in August would work with the timeline.

Mclver asks if there is the possibility of corporate sponsorship.

Berner states that if funding goes above a certain amount they would have to have approval from the City Council.

Miller states she can research the kinetic piece, Wings of Glory and Chakra Cannon, Flybrary piece and bee piece to bring to the next meeting.

**7. Discussion and possible recommendation of a new member to fill the vacant position for the Public Art Committee.**

Berner states that today is also the last meeting for Carola Nan Roach, so there will be another vacancy open in addition to the one that is already there.

Scronce recommends doing some homework for three candidates:

- Cynthia Albright
- Lindsey Ellington
- Paul Quade

Miller suggests getting the three candidates to come to the next meeting.

Nan Roach adds sending an invite would show who was serious about the position and who wasn't.

Staff direction to invite all candidates to the next meeting to introduce themselves.

Tamara Scronce makes a motion to approve, seconded by Geralda Miller. 7 in favor, 3 absent, motion passes.

**8. Update on ongoing projects.**

**a. Fire Station 4**

Berner summarizes.

The mural has been finished and there will be a dedication on June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

**b. Bicentennial Park**

Berner summarizes.

There are no new updates; there are bids out for the construction and there is the hope that it will be installed sometime in July.

**c. Midtown Public Art**

Berner summarizes.

There was an RTC meeting in which the artists made a presentation and interacted directly with the community.

The artists' final proposal (which will not be in person, but through videoconference) will be July 11 and will be agendaizing a PAC special meeting.

**d. Art Belongs Here**

Berner summarizes.

One piece has been installed, 'Good Luck' horseshoe on the Reno Rodeo grounds, at the Livestock Events Center on Wells Avenue. The piece lights up at night.

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

McIver states he will be having a reception at Sierra Arts this Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

Berner states there will be a closing reception for the Nevada Traveling Initiative from the Nevada Arts Council at the Metro gallery at City Hall on Thursday as well.

**10. Set date, time and agenda for the next meeting.**

There will be a special meeting on July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 9:00 am.

The regular meeting will take place on July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 11:00 am.

**11. General Public Comment.**

Nan Roach states she is part the Great Basin women artists group and will be having a reception Saturday, July 6<sup>th</sup>.

Geralda Miller states that there will be mural tours every Saturday over the summer.

**12. Adjournment.**

Geralda Miller makes a motion to approve, seconded by Eric Brooks. 7 in favor, 3 absent, motion passes.

Meeting is adjourned at 12:32 pm.