



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

Date: August 13, 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
Shaughn Richardson
Vacant
Naomi Duerr, City Council Liaison

AGENDA

Meeting called to order by: Geralda Miller, Vice Chair at 5:00 pm.

Present: Geralda Miller, Vice Chair; Bryce Chisholm, Mario DelaRosa, Doug Erwin (arrived 5:40 pm), Erik Fong, Dana Hatjakes, Nettie Oliverio, Shaughn Richardson.

Absent: Sharon Honig-Bear, Chair; Dave Aiazzi.

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

2. Public Comment

Eileen Gay comments the RACC is awesome.

3. Approval of Minutes

June 11, 2019.

Nettie Oliverio makes a motion to approve, seconded by Bryce Chisholm. All in favor, motion passes.

4. Approval of the Agenda

August 13, 2019.

Nettie Oliverio makes a motion to approve, seconded by Shaughn Richardson. All in favor, motion passes.

5. City Council Liaison Report.

Absent.

6. Financial Report Budget Update.

a. Review and possible acceptance of the FY2019/20 Commission Budget Report.

Berner summarizes.

This is the beginning of the fiscal year.

The RACC retreat has been encumbered.

The City Artist has been encumbered. The artist will be going to the City Council tomorrow and speak at Public Comment.

A \$4,000 grant has been received from the Nevada Arts Council, which will have to be matched.

Forecast will be able to come out in February for the public art workshop that the grant will fund.

While most of the funding for the Commission Budget has been spent, there is some money left in the Opportunity Fund.

The Light Fest now reads '\$60,000' as the budget office found another \$20,000.

b. Review and possible acceptance of the FY2019/20 Public Art Budget Report.

The Midtown Public Art funding is the process of being spent.

Bicentennial is in progress and will be discussed further at a later time.

Nettie Oliverio makes a motion to approve both RACC and PAC budgets, seconded by Bryce Chisholm. All in favor, motion passes.

7. Discussion and possible approval of a Reno Arts & Culture Commission Retreat on September 6, 2019 in an amount not to exceed \$2,500 with facilitator Judyth Isaman.

Hill summarizes.

The retreat will be focused on team building as there are vacancies to be filled and some of the members are relatively new.

Judyth Isaman is certified in the Gallup Certified Strengths Test.

Isaman would like to focus on how to run a meeting, how to work together, creating rules of engagement and creating written rules of accountability.

The fee is \$1,500.

The Washoe Public House has no room fee and food will be \$700 for breakfast and lunch for the Commission.

There are other options for a meeting room; this is something that can be looked further into.

Erik Fong makes a motion to approve, not exceeding the \$2,500 while moving forward and exploring less expensive room options, seconded by Shaughn Richardson.

All in favor, motion passes.

8. Discussion and possible approval of the American Sign Language Interpreters program with Arts for All Nevada in an amount not to exceed \$1,000.

Hill summarizes.

The question has been raised what the \$1,000 was being used for, was it being spent, etc.

Berner summarizes the proposal letter from Arts for All Nevada in moving forward with the program for this fiscal year.

Hatjakes states that part of the problem is that no one realizes that there is a sign language interpreter available.

Hill replies they would like to promote this on the website.

They can continue to work with Arts For All to see what the needs are.

Miller states they can identify how strong a need there is for this service.

Nettie Oliverio makes a motion to approve, seconded by Dana Hatjakes. All in favor, motion passes.

9. Discussion and possible recommendation of the Arts & Culture Commission selection of a new Commissioner to fill one vacancy (at-large).

Miller summarizes.

Miller recommends Lisa Genasci; she has a background in grants, is on the Plan 2020 Ad Hoc Committee, served two terms on the Grant Committee, was a former actress and writes reviews for Art Spot Reno.

Dana Hatjakes makes a motion to approve Lisa Genasci, seconded by Shaughn Richardson. All in favor, motion passes.

10. Discussion and possible recommendation of a new Arts & Culture Commissioner to fill Nettie Oliverio's vacancy after September 30, 2019.

Miller summarizes.

Miller states of the candidates she spoke to and did research on, she feels as though they are not right for the position and recommends waiting until a more qualified candidate is found.

Topic is tabled for next meeting.

11. Project/ Special reports Update. **a. Public Art Committee Update**

i. Approval of recommendation of Cynthia Albright and Paul Quade as members to the Public Art Committee.

Nettie Oliverio makes a motion to approve Cynthia Albright and Paul Quade, seconded by Bryce Chisholm. All in favor, motion passes.

ii. Discussion and possible approval of a recommendation for artist Hunter Brown's sculpture "Reciprocity" for the Midtown Public Art Project in an amount not to exceed \$60,000.

Nettie Oliverio makes a motion to approve Hunter Brown's sculpture 'Reciprocity' for the Midtown Public Art Project, seconded by Bryce Chisholm. All in favor, motion passes.

iii. Update and discussion on Space Whale.

Miller summarizes.

The contract ends on August 30th.

Sharon Honig-Bear and Nettie Oliverio have written a letter to the City Council from the RACC and the PAC recommending that they do not keep the Space Whale, stating maintenance as the main issue.

Hatjakes asks if the artist is prepared to take Space Whale down.

Miller replies no.

Currently, there is no direction given on whether the Space Whale will be purchased or taken down.

Miller states there are other pieces of art that they can choose, that will be less expensive, after Burning Man.

Hill states that considering the legal issues it is better to buy a piece than lease.

Miller adds that Jacobs Entertainment have now installed Burning Man pieces along with other temporary pieces along Fourth Street. The question now is how important is it to have an iconic Burning Man piece

at City Plaza when there is the possibility to finding other artists and sculptures elsewhere in the City?

Erwin states that he has spoken with the Mayor and she stated that she does want the Space Whale to stay. The recommendation letter is sending too strong a message; it is a good piece of art and it is iconic to Reno.

Hill states that they will have to give the Mayor some options concerning maintenance.

Oliverio states it will be up to the Public Art Committee if they want to make another recommendation. If the PAC is in favor of changing the language, then she will be willing to rewrite the letter.

Miller states that she feels as though there should be just one letter, from the RACC.

Fong states it isn't that they disagree with the entire letter; just the part that feels combative, in addition to outlining some conditions for the piece to stay.

Chisholm asks why not have the Space Whale in addition to another piece, on the other pad?

Hill states that the Mayor is interested in contracting out preventative maintenance with someone other than the artist.

Fong states he is willing to discuss options with the artist and find a solution for attainable maintenance.

Erwin states they should stress that it is an expensive piece and given the limited budget they don't really recommend moving forward with it, but if the City wants to move forward with keeping Space Whale they should take into account the raised concerns.

Fong states he can look into the cost of different materials (Lexan) and the labor costs.

Miller states the discussion will be tabled until the September meeting.

b. Community Engagement Committee Update

i. Discussion and possible approval of recommended collateral piece for RACC.

Berner summarizes.

There have been budget changes; therefore the collateral item is not ready.

\$2,000 has been allocated towards the collateral piece, which has the goal of being ready by the EDawn Arts & Business Luncheon.

There is a small public art map included with some of the downtown collection, and the website.

\$7,000 is funded towards Light Fest marketing.

\$800 is funded towards a call for art for a Light Fest logo.

\$1,200 is funded for a Light Fest video for promotional purposes.

c. Plan 2020 Ad Hoc Committee Update

i. Approval of recommended changes to Fiscal Year 20/21 Grants Cycle.

Tabled for a future meeting.

12. Update and discussion on Light Festival 2019.

Hill summarizes.

(Erik Fong leaves at 6:27 pm)

A volunteer list has been started on what is needed.

In conjunction with the Light Festival there will be the tree lighting, the Santa Crawl, activities from the Riverwalk, support from Greater Nevada Field and the BID.

At the upcoming special meeting there will be the need to approve a call for art for an original piece for the Light Fest.

They are looking into sponsorship for the Light Fest.

13. Updates on ongoing projects.

a. Bicentennial Park

Berner summarizes.

The concrete is poured, and the foundations are in. The install date is pending.

b. Art Belongs Here

The benches on Fourth Street have been installed.

The Be The Change mural is in progress.

The Custom Ink mural on the Keystone overpass will begin August 24th.

The Washoe County parking garage mural will begin September 1st.

The bike racks in the downtown dog park will be in by September.

Fire Station 9 is in progress with the hopes that it will be done before the Air Races.

Hill adds they will have the intern film the murals for b-roll.

c. Lincoln Highway NEA Our Town Grant

There are six applicants that will be discussed at the August joint PAC meeting.

d. Signal Boxes

The signal box that was approved in Damonte Ranch was vandalized and painted over. The artist has been given a new location on Plumb and Kietzke.

Miller asks who is paying for the new signal box.

Hill replies the Neighborhood Services Department who manages the blight funds are giving funds for her to paint the box. It is not coming out of the PAC's budget.

14. Announcements not anticipated at notice date.

Pritchett states he will bring up the Space Whale subject at the next Parks Commission meeting.

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

a. Joint PAC/RACC meeting on August 19th, 11:00 am

Regular meeting will be September 10th.

16. General Public Comment

Eileen Gay comments. She is impressed with all the hard work the RACC does.

17. Adjournment.

Nettie Oliverio makes a motion to approve, seconded by Shaughn Richardson. All in favor, motion passes.

Meeting ends at 6:47 pm.