



**Reno Arts & Culture Commission  
& Public Art Commission  
Joint Meeting**

**Draft Meeting Minutes**

**Date: August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

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

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

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**AGENDA**

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

Meeting called to order by Nettie Oliverio at 11:03 am.

**Reno Arts & Culture Commission Members**

Present: Sharon Honig-Bear, Chair; Geralda Miller, Vice Chair' Dave Aiazzi, Bryce Chisholm, Mario DelaRosa, Erik Fong, Nettie Oliverio.

Absent: Doug Erwin, Dana Hatjakes, Shaughn Richardson.

**Public Art Committee**

Present: Nettie Oliverio, Chair; Dave Aiazzi, Eric Brooks, Bryce Chisholm, Geralda Miller, Tamara Scronce.

Absent: Mahsan Ghazianzad, Ahren Hertel, Matthew McIver.

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

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

None.

### **3. Approval of the Minutes – July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019.**

Eric Brooks makes a motion to approve, seconded by Bryce Chisholm. All in favor, motion passes.

### **4. Approval of the Agenda – August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

Dave Aiazzi makes a motion to approve, seconded by Geralda Miller. All in favor, motion passes.

### **5. Discussion and recommendation of artistic benches and bike racks for the Midtown District in an amount not to exceed \$120,000.**

Berner summarizes.

The top scoring includes three combination bench and bike racks. The bike community was not in favor of these designs because they do not allow for the secure locking of bikes.

Size is another issue, as some of those pieces will take up a great deal of space on the sidewalk.

The preference was for the pod-like benches; they are stylish, unique and each set is the cost of one bench of the allocated funds.

Each pod bench can fit about three people.

The base is proposed to be steel, while the back/decorative part will be colored powder coated steel.

Scronce states the issue with using steel is that it will heat up to the point of burning whoever sits on it.

Quade states another issue is the skateboarders who will damage the benches.

Berner states another artist for consideration is Colin Selig. The proposed benches will go onto the Plaza, while the smaller, circular benches will be scattered throughout the streetscape.

Cohesiveness of design and color is also a consideration.

Hill states 30 pods were budgeted (ten of the metal circular benches) and six of Colin Selig's benches for the Plaza for a total of \$88,000. The rest of the budget will go towards the bike racks.

Scronce states another consideration is when the inevitable spill happens (food, soda) there is the possibility of that substance changing the color of the material used on the benches.

Graffiti is another concern.

Honig-Bear states that keeping the benches clean will be difficult; they can ask business owners to adopt a bench and maintain them, but it is asking a lot.

Hill states they can table the discussion of the benches until they can speak to the artists about the materials.

Bike Racks.

Berner summarizes. Some of the bike racks will fit into smaller spaces, but most will not. There was interest in basic bike racks with a Midtown logo and a few artistic ones around the Plaza.

Hill states they estimated about 56 generic bike racks and the rest of funding could be put towards more artistic ones.

Miller states they should think about how these would work with Hunter's art piece.

Aiazzi states that these are parking spaces; the bike racks should go where people need them.

Hill states Paul Reimer's bike rack sculpture is a possibility, but will have to be scaled down due to costs.

Eileen Gay comments the cost may be due to the hardware attaching it to the ground; there is the possibility of modifying it to save cost.

Hill adds color choices, along with scaling and pricing as a subject to bring up to the artists.

There is the possibility of business sponsorship, which may lead to more bike racks.

Aiazzi states they should keep open the possibility of adding more bike racks and do not purchase them with the intent that there would never be any more.

Tabled for next meeting pending further research.

**6. Discussion and recommendation on an artist for the National Bowling Stadium public art piece in an amount not to exceed \$55,000.**

Berner summarizes.

The top two artists are Megan Geckler and Paul Vexler.

The location inside the National Bowling Stadium will be either side of the escalators.

There is an existing piece; Eileen Gay's 'Pin Setting'.

Vexler's pieces are made from wood, while Geckler's are flagging tape.

Scronce states they may have to request an additional lighting budget because of the unusual location inside the stadium.

Hill states there are concerns with the use of flagging tape; will it fade, get dirty, etc.

Considering the budget, if they were to choose Vexler, likely two individual ribbons or pieces could be purchased. This would work with the space; one on each side.

Aiazzi states they should ask the artists about the anticipated weight.

Berner replies that looking at some of Vexler's other pieces they are lightweight – the example given weighs 400 pounds.

Hill states they have been put in a difficult position; the piece is anticipated to be installed in January 2020.

The artist will have to come to the site and work from there.

Eric Brooks makes a motion to move forward with Paul Vexler and ask for a proposal, seconded by Geralda Miller. All in favor, motion passes.

**7. Discussion and approval of Community Engagement Consultant for the NEA Our Town Lincoln Highway Project.**

Hill summarizes.

There were six proposals, however the strongest applicant was Forecast as they have direct experience with public art, they have professionals who work in public art in coordination with transportation and they have community planning/development.

The proposal was a commitment for two years.

Through the partnership with Nevada Humanities, there is the idea of expanding the Fourth Street project website. A historian will be consulted as part of the project.

There could be funds for historical markers.

This will go to City Council on September 11<sup>th</sup>.

Sharon Honig-Bear makes a motion to go forward with Forecast, seconded by Dave Aiazzi. All in favor, motion passes.

**8. Discussion and possible approval of a call for artists for the inaugural Winter Lights Festival (Creation Award) for a temporary display of light art December 7 – 14.**

Berner summarizes

There is a tight deadline.

There is the idea to supplement the larger art piece with additional work while supporting artists.

Chisholm asks if they will be keeping the piece.

Hill replies it is a temporary installation.

Aiazzi states in the fifth paragraph they should add 'deinstallation'.

Honig-Bear brings up the issues surrounding owning versus renting.

Scronce asks how many works will be involved in the festival.

Berner answers there will be the larger piece from Architects of Air, the potential for a few things at City Plaza, the possibility for light chimes, and the possibility of including Jacobs Entertainment pieces.

Hill adds there is also the skate rink at Harrah's, winter wonderland at Greater Nevada Fields, the Riverwalk Merchants is doing a decoration contest, the City is investing in pole enhancers and more.

Changes to the call include:

- Taking out 'Codaworx'
- Add 'temporary installation'
- Add 'light' in front of 'art work'

Eric Brooks makes a motion to approve with the recommended changes, seconded by Bryce Chisholm. All in favor, motion passes.

## **9. Discussion and possible recommendation to the Reno Arts & Culture Commission on a plan for City Plaza art.**

Fong summarizes the previous RACC meeting concerning the Space Whale.

Summary includes:

- Changes to the language in the letter to Council
- Should the Space Whale stay, modifications would be required including long term maintenance.
- Maintenance, safety and integrity were the top three concerns
- Lexan is recommended as a more durable replacement for glass.

- Costs include about 80 hours for fabrication, 40 hours of additional time for deinstall/install for the small whale alone.
- The total comes to about \$15,000.

Scronce states in addition to what Fong summarized they need to include how much money has already been spent on Space Whale in the letter.

Honig-Bear adds they still have not spoken to the artist about Space Whale and the proposed maintenance outline. She will be meeting with the Mayor and will hopefully confirm whether or not the Mayor absolutely wants Space Whale to stay.

Hill states that according to Title 22, if the City does buy Space Whale, technically the Parks Department would be in charge of maintenance.

Aiazzi states that means they should have a say in it as well.

Miller states that this should be in the letter.

Brooks states that he was recently in contact with the artist and he stated he would like to replace the material with something more durable.

Quade asks what the Commission is prioritizing concerning the Space Whale.

Chisholm replies the recommendation was that they did not want the Space Whale, however the Mayor is stating she wants to keep it so now the third option is that it will have to be repaired and maybe they will keep it, however having it donated is the better option.

Quade states he feels as though the piece should be temporary and they should be promoting other artists in the community.

Honig-Bear states that if this is not going before the Council for the September agenda she and Nettie Oliverio will rework the letter.

(Tamara Scronce leaves at 1:05 pm)

Miller summarizes potential replacement pieces.

**10. Discussion and possible recommendation on repair, maintenance, or deaccession of mosaic public art piece “Ravens & Rabbits Continuous” by Ali Sullivan at Pat Baker Park in an amount not to exceed \$5,000 .**

Tabled for future discussion.

**11. Update on ongoing projects:**

- a. **Bicentennial** – In progress, foundations are complete, hopefully within the next few weeks everything will be completed.
- b. **Art Belongs Here**- Several projects are now in progress; the benches have been placed along Fourth Street, the Wedekind mural has started.
- c. **Signal Boxes**- The Face Book page/Instagram has photos of the completed signal boxes. This can be brought back for the next meeting.

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

None.

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

September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 11:00 am.

**14. General Public Comment.**

None.

**15. Adjournment.**

Meeting adjourned at 1: 17 pm.