

MINUTES

Public Art Committee Meeting
March 19, 2015

Present: Mike Penwell, Joe Moore, Justin Lamphear, Debbie Williamson-Smith, Committee Members; Isaac Marquez, Cultural Services staff.

Absent: Courtney Stubbert, Nan Laurence, Betsy Wolfston.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from October 2, 2014; November 20, 2014; January 15, 2015 were approved.

City Hall Update and Discussion

Isaac distributed handouts providing an overview of the current/existing art, the integrated art, and new art subject to the percent for art ordinance. Isaac explained that an advisory committee was previously formed to evaluate the existing art and decide which pieces were worth keeping and to advise the design team about options for reuse of the art in the new building and site. A decision has already been made to keep the Jan Zach pieces and the mural by Andrew Vincent. The mural had traces of asbestos which had to be removed; it was then moved to a warehouse in Portland for storage. The City Hall advisory committee will meet two more times to assist the design team in making final decisions about what art should be included.

Debbie asked if the intention was to reinstall the pieces at the new City Hall; Isaac answered yes. She asked about the log specifically and Isaac said he was unsure about that piece. Isaac said the Jan Zach pieces would be restored prior to re-installation but the log has been deaccessioned. The current plan is to return it to the landscape for decomposition. The assumption was that it was intended to decompose but we later learned that Jan did expect it to last and his intent was not for it to decompose.

The committee reviewed the percent for art policy and Isaac explained the roles of the percent for art selection committee members. Isaac is still looking for a professional artist to fill a vacancy on the selection committee for percent for art. He is particularly looking for someone to represent a diverse background as the designated community member. He asked for suggestions from Public Art Committee members.

Committee members discussed the criteria for selection committee members, noting that the criteria may limit the potential candidates; Isaac agreed but reiterated that it's written into the ordinance so we do not have a lot of flexibility to waiver from it. Mike noted that the ordinance is old and may need updating. Joe asked if it was possible and Isaac said yes, it would need to be brought before the City Council but he believes they would be open to updating the ordinance. Isaac pointed out that the selection committee does not include a member of the Public Art Committee because the ordinance was created prior to the formation of the Public Art Committee.

Committee members discussed the absence of a member on the selection committee and Debbie expressed disappointment that the Public Art Committee would not have an opinion about the selection of the art at City Hall. Committee members have a desire to participate in the selection as part of the

advisory body. Isaac said he would discuss the possibilities with the LRCS Executive Director to see if there's any flexibility. Mike mentioned that the policy may define the minimum number of selection committee members and we may be able to add additional members as long as we meet the minimum requirements.

Isaac explained the current proposal is to take the current \$65K balance from the public art fund and add it to the 1% estimate of \$125K from the project in order to make something momentous for this project. Joe expressed that going "all in" seemed a little hasty to him, asking how much more do you really get for \$25K? Justin agreed with Joe's perspective.

Debbie asked for clarification about the fund and if it was an annual allocation; Isaac responded that it is project based, not an annual allotment. Isaac explained that maintenance expenses are not paid out of the public art fund; it is a separate fund. Debbie asked if we went all in and another project comes up, such as the various temporary art projects, if there would be money available. Isaac said all temporary art has been funded from his operating budget, not the percent for art budget.

Isaac explained the role of the Public Art Committee and the various funds available for public art acquisition. Joe, using the police building as an example, suggested we wait to see what we are getting before committing the money. Justin proposed keeping the \$65 as a "slush fund" to add additional art if there's something more that looks appealing after the initial art fund is spent. Justin also suggested holding some money back as a match in case we find partners to add funding to the project. The committee suggested allotting \$150K initially.

Isaac will email the percent for art ordinance to committee members, and look into the possibility of adding additional members to the City Hall selection committee beyond the minimum criteria.

Collaboration with Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art & Upcoming Temporary Public Art Opportunity

Isaac reported that JSMA is bringing two artists to Eugene. They are working on a project for the museum at the museum. Debbie provided some information about the types of art the two artists typically create. They have been given a studio space at LCC and will be working with local high school students for about three weeks. Their work will be shown at the JSMA May through August. Isaac has been looking for spaces for them to place temporary art. He has criteria for the temporary art they will be creating; expense to the public art program is minimal, primarily just a small amount of staff time.

Visioning Discussion

Committee members reviewed the vision documentation from the meeting on March 5. Isaac provided vision statements from other public art programs. Based on the committee's discussion he drafted a statement that addressed all of the things that have come up from the committee as a whole.

Justin asked how the principals would fold into the Work Plan. Isaac said these would guide the work going forward and be used to vet the Work Plan. Isaac asked committee members to give feedback. Committee members expressed their opinions about the draft and made suggestions but generally agreed that it was a good start.

Isaac will bring the various versions of the visions to the next meeting so committee members can make a selection at the next meeting, after which time the principles can be refined.