

## **MINUTES**

Public Art Committee Meeting  
April 16, 2015

Present: Courtney Stubbert, Joe Moore, Jennifer Knapp, Justin Lamphear, Betsy Wolfston, Committee Members; Isaac Marquez, Cultural Services staff; Pat Skipper and Liora Sponko, Lane Arts Council Members.

Absent: Mike Penwell, Debbie Williamson-Smith

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from March 19, 2015 were approved with an amendment proposed by Justin.

### **Lane Arts Council Strategic Planning**

Pat Skipper, president of the Lane Arts Council (LAC) Board, and Liora Sponko, Executive Director of LAC, joined the meeting to discuss LAC's current strategic planning. They are interested in engaging with various stake holder groups, like PAC and LCC, in order to gain feedback and to explore possible synergies. They expressed a great deal of interest in public art, particularly in the Downtown area.

Liora addressed PAC members, asking whether they see potential in exploring a working relationship with the LAC, and if so, what that relationship might look like. The committee agreed that there is potential for a relationship, and discussed what that may entail. Courtney voiced the potential for LAC to be a liaison for information and education – keeping the public in “the know.” Isaac added that the LAC could serve as a mouthpiece for the PAC in the community, as well as with the artists. Courtney added that LAC could serve as a body that actively facilitates the creation of art among artists by connecting artists with grant funding. Isaac then suggested that the Community Arts Grants application process be evaluated, and considerations be made to accept applications more than once a year. Committee members also discussed LAC as a “champion and advocate of public art.”

Pat and Liora ended the conversation stating that ultimately they hope to aid in creating a dynamic accessible Downtown, with a strong presence of public art, expanding beyond simply curating and coordination - in sum, taking a more proactive approach to art in the community. They have more meetings with other stake holding groups, and will keep the PAC updated throughout the process. Pat expects to have the strategic plan finalized sometime this summer, and the PAC will keep their wheels turning!

### **City Hall Update**

Per Isaac, changes have been made to the Percent for Art process based on PAC feedback. These changes include a lowered initial percent for art from \$190,000 to \$152,000, a seat for a current PAC member on the committee to serve as a “representative of the resident department,” and the use of the Percent for Art Committee as a search committee for artists who can provide compelling work within a limited budget.

Joe moved to nominate Courtney to serve as the representative of the resident department. Betsy seconded this motion. The committee voted 4-0 in favor of Courtney's instatement. Isaac wanted to make it clear that this did not mean that there would be any changes made to the percent for art ordinance at this time. Justin suggested that the PAC look to schedule a time in the future to discuss making official changes to the ordinance. The committee agreed, but decided it would be best to aim for a date after current projects have settled down. Isaac said he will talk to Renee about timing. Joe asked the rest of the committee what they believe the City Council's role should be in changing the ordinance, to which Isaac stated that the Cultural Services Department will be giving a presentation to City Council, and that perhaps an "issue summary" on behalf of the PAC should be included.

Isaac explained that design alterations have been made to improve the landscape layout for the City Hall building. These changes will include the incorporation of large deciduous trees to establish sight lines to the glass entrance of the building, and the use of decomposed granite to create a space for food trucks, stages, and temporary sculpture pieces. He explained that because of the sight lines created by the trees, a suspended (perhaps kinetic) art piece in the lobby of the building could be seen from the street. Courtney stated that it would be beneficial if the suspended piece were somehow interactive. Justin mentioned seeing a fiber optic piece that allowed patrons to alter the colors with their phones.

Betsy mentioned the public's interest in a water feature, providing the option of a plaza with holes in the ground that could be activated and deactivated, or an area to be flooded into a reflecting pool. Isaac expressed budget concerns with implementing a water feature.

Jessica suggested that the committee begin thinking of ways to create cohesive connections between the exterior and interior of the building, adding that a water feature may be able to do that. Justin expressed concern that exterior sight lighting could distract from any projection art going on inside of the building. He then suggested that the PAC begin thinking about the building as the "gem inside the city," treating the building itself as a piece of art through the use of lighting and landscape. It was agreed among the committee that a lighting plan or model would be very helpful, and Isaac said that he will discuss this with the design team.

### **Public Art Committee Visioning**

Justin asked Isaac to distribute all previous vision work. Isaac said that he will gather and distribute this information prior to the next meeting, in which they can discuss the next steps in earnest. Members are asked to have their own ideas and suggestions based on this information for the next meeting.

### **Updates**

Hyland Mather and Amanda Marie: Per Isaac, Hyland Mather (artist) was awarded the side of the River House near North Adams St. and the river bike path. Amanda Marie (artist) is close to getting the watershed wall.

Eugene Storefront Art Project (ESAP): Per Joe and Courtney, who attended the last ESAP meeting, the ESAP is the new version of the Springfield Storefront Art Project. ESAP plans to keep the PAC engaged and will likely attend a later PAC meeting. The ultimate goals are to utilize spaces that already exist, and to incorporate some more established artists. Once ESAP has created their proposal, they will present to the PAC. In closing, Courtney, Justin, and Betsy encouraged the notion of engaging private businesses to host art on/in their interior spaces, as existing exterior spaces are hard to come by.

(sub)Urban Projections: Isaac shared a brief video compilation of the event, as well as a brief history. He is currently speaking with other art organizations to collaborate next year. He is also interested in incorporating more visual art installations, and asked that the PAC help with commissioning this.