

**DRAFT
MINUTES**

Public Art Committee Meeting
October 15, 2015

Present: Debbie Williamson-Smith, Joe Moore, Mike Penwell, Courtney Stubbert, Committee Members; Isaac Marquez, Sarah-Kate Sharkey, Cultural Services staff.

Absent: Betsy Wolfston, Robin Seloover, Jennifer Knapp, Committee Members; Tomi Douglas-Anderson, Cultural Services Director

Introduction

Isaac introduced Sarah-Kate Sharkey, the new Resource Development Communications Manager for Recreation and Cultural Services divisions, to the members of the committee. Sarah-Kate shared that she has a background in fundraising in the social services area. She is new to the world of arts fundraising but is a longtime arts appreciator, excited to be here, is learning a lot and figuring out how to help grow all the awesome things that are happening.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the September meeting were approved.

Public Art Update

Isaac reported that Betsy Wolfston has completed the repairs and maintenance on the sculptures at Kesey Square and has now moved on to repairing the Marker of Origin sculpture at the train station.

Isaac stated that his tour with the Huckleberry Patrol (EPD graffiti abatement team) has been postponed.

City Hall Update

Isaac shared handouts with committee members, showing an overview of the City Hall project. He reported that a discussion about the art recently took place, noting that both Mike Penwell and Courtney Stubbert were in attendance. Mike shared that there was discussion about more of the art being temporary and digital, noting that we are trying to figure out how that fits into City Hall as a 100 year building. The question is how we carry it forward with the building into the future. Additionally the 1960's era art is being relocated to the new building so there is a need to make it all work together.

Isaac said he felt the discussion was good because it helped him see the tension points between various opportunities. He stated that the existing mural is 50 feet long and would be a major visual presence on the site. Isaac also noted that the City has to figure out if we can really fund the reinstallation of the mural and when and where we should install it. Isaac and Mike have a meeting scheduled with their respective executive managers to talk about it further.

Mike described the plan for the block that City Hall is being constructed upon. He shared that parking is being considered as an interim use for most of the east half block of the site with a "staging area" where art or events could take place envisioned along the south edge of the half block adjacent to the 8th

Avenue sidewalk. Mike said this plan would create a buffer between the parking area and the 8th Avenue right-of-way.

As for the percent for art commission for City Hall, Isaac said the final selection of art will take place in the March/April 2016 time period. The goal is to give artists a little more than a year to produce their work. Isaac noted that he is striving for transparency around the process.

Public Artist in Residency Update

Isaac distributed the draft for the public artist in residence process. The objective is to commission three artists instead of one. Isaac reported the Cultural Services Division has committed an additional \$5K to the project but some fundraising will still need to be done. The Parking Services Manager has agreed to waive the rent as long as we pay for the utilities. Isaac said there is a potential development being considered in the space; Isaac met with them and negotiated an agreement to share the space. Isaac clarified that a deal has not yet been finalized but it looks quite feasible. Isaac cannot share details about the potential tenant at this time but did say that it was an innovative industry so would be a good fit for a partnership. Isaac will keep the committee in the loop.

Joe asked if the commitment of the space is limited to this timeframe or if it could be moved out further. Isaac said winter/dark months are a good time to be creating the art with installation happening in drier weather. Joe suggested asking potential artists what they thought was a reasonable turnaround time. Courtney agreed with Joe, thinking that the timeline is rather tight. Isaac said he based the timeline on the budget, clarifying that he didn't want to be paying artists too little or be taking up too much of their time.

Mike stated that the City Hall project will likely have a late spring/early summer groundbreaking, noting that construction activity will limit the availability of the site for periods of time. Joe asked that we keep in mind his point because we could issue a call to artists and receive no responses. He wants us to be prepared to shift gears if something goes wrong. Joe said it's a good idea to keep it open in case the tenant needs the space (all of it).

Debbie suggested putting a call to artists out and letting the artists solve it because she believes they will. Isaac said he had the exact conversation with folks, and feels that context will help to shape what artists can and cannot do. Courtney said the variables are hypothetical. Isaac said he would like to hold out for the space and keep the partnership in mind because it could be a good thing in the long run. Isaac volunteered to create a framework of a call to artists and give it to committee members to finish. Committee members agreed that would work. Debbie thinks artists will see it as an opportunity.

Eugene Airport and Flying People

Isaac reported that the Flying People are being moved to LCC during construction at the Airport. The initial bid to move the pieces to LCC came in at \$8,000. Isaac explored other options and the new bid is at \$2,000. Casey Joyce was invited to attend today's meeting but couldn't make it.

Miscellaneous Discussion

Debbie shared that she had talked to Jill Hartz about the possibility of the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art (JSMA) asking artists to bring a piece of public art – proposing murals – in order to have ten in place by the time of the Olympic Trials. Debbie suggested looking at the 2017 artists and asking them if they are willing to contribute to Eugene's public art scene. Debbie said JSMA could propose locations to the artists. Isaac said it's an exciting idea and could even work with sculpture. Debbie stated that she has

Jill's buy in but she is not sure how to move it forward. She feels it could be a good opportunity to connect the UO and City. Debbie said she will bring list of artist and some samples to the next meeting.

Isaac said there are fewer insurance requirements with private businesses rather than public. He mentioned that Wells Fargo at Broadway and Oak has a perfect pallet. Joe asked if Sarah-Kate Sharkey could work on this to solicit financial support; Isaac said yes if we supplied her the building, she could find owners and ask for support.

Isaac suggested committee members develop a list of sites, with parameters for a particular area, he asked if the committee would like to work on it at the next meeting. Joe replied yes, or before. Debbie asked if the committee was talking about the downtown area specifically. Isaac said he likes the idea of Willamette Street because it extends beyond 11th/downtown.

Debbie suggested a "T" of public art. Joe suggested a concentration downtown but also consider further out. Courtney recommended letting artists choose what they are feeling. Isaac proposed using the same model as the temporary art project – have a sub-committee brainstorm ideas and bring it back for consideration and discussion to the full committee. Isaac could then ask Sarah-Kate to track down the property owners.