

MINUTES

Public Art Committee Meeting
January 24, 2017

Present: Debbie Williamson-Smith; Joe Moore, Betsy Wolfston, Courtney Stubbert, Justin Lanphear, Robin Selover, Emily Proudfoot, Jennifer Knapp, Committee Members; Tomi Douglas, Cultural Services Director; Isaac Marquez, Colette Ramirez, Sarah-Kate Sharkey, Cultural Services staff.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from July 21, 2016; September 15, 2016 and December 13, 2016 were approved.

Public Art Committee Meeting Model & Chair Rotation

Isaac thanked Joe for his role as committee chair; the committee chairmanship was officially passed to Debbie.

Isaac is proposing a new meeting model in order to keep the committee on track, facilitate quorums at regular meetings and improve the opportunity for working artists to stay engaged. The new model would be a quarterly meeting schedule, held in the evenings (after 5 p.m.); each committee member is encouraged to serve on a sub-committee or public art project and report on their work during regular meetings. Special meetings could be called if an urgent issue/opportunity comes up or a timely vote is needed. The committee was supportive of this new model with meetings taking place in January, March, May, and September.

Eugene Airport Public Art Plan

Isaac asked for thoughts about developing a request for proposals (RFP) for the Airport's Public Art Plan. He asked for feedback from the committee on the scope of work and an appropriate budget to hire a consultant to work on the plan. Isaac assured committee members that the plan would address all of the artwork at the airport, including the iconic flying people, "Flight Patterns" exhibit created by the late David Joyce.

The committee discussed and debated what would be considered a reasonable amount to pay a consultant. After much discussion the committee agreed that \$20K was an appropriate amount to pay a consultant. Joe suggested we be very specific in the scope of work for a consultant and to also maintain a maximum budget for art that is significant. Isaac suggested a \$20-25K budget for the consultant with a final decision being made after the scope of work is developed. The committee agreed with this approach. Isaac asked for volunteers to participate in creating the scope of work; Justin and Betsy volunteered. Emily suggested including a public information or engagement piece in the RFP since the flying people have received attention in the newspaper recently.

Committee members discussed the dynamic of the Airport being part of the City organization yet operating like a separate entity/business. Everyone agreed it would be important to include this information in the RFP so a consultant can be prepared for it. Justin spoke about encouraging the Airport to consider art as an experience instead of something that just fills empty space.

Joe asked why the airport needed its own art plan that is separate from the city-wide art plan. Isaac responded it's because the Airport operates almost separate from the City and has many other funding sources. Joe questioned supporting the duality of the two systems. Tomi said it's important to get a platform established in order for the Airport to get up to speed. She suggested it could be possible to incorporate the Airport into the larger city-wide plan in the future.

Isaac explained that the Airport did not fully understand the one percent for art ordinance so just getting them up to speed on that item has been a bit of an undertaking. Robin commented that Eugene seems to be having growing pains and it's difficult for groups to talk to one another. She believes much of the community wants everything to stay the same. Robin suggested creating a RFP broken down into smaller pieces in order to maintain history and nostalgia; she felt this might help to ease everyone into the new plan.

Monroe Park Sculpture

Isaac gave a high level overview of the deaccessioning discussions that have taken place so far – in accordance with our policy. Isaac said the one thing that has never been able to be established is the value of the piece. Since the deaccessioning policy has not been tested before we have not had to put a value on a piece being considered for deaccessioning before. Isaac has discovered that it's impossible to place a value on this particular piece. Additionally we cannot find the artist to either return the sculpture or have them help value it. A member of the neighborhood informed Isaac that this was purposeful – the artist did not want to be found. Isaac stated that the City would respect that.

Isaac shared information from the neighborhood association as well as the public comments he has received about the sculpture. Back in September he presented the facts about the sculpture to the Jefferson/Westside neighbors and they have since formed a group that is focused on Monroe Park. Isaac explained the three possibilities for a course of action are: (1) deaccessioning the sculpture and replace it with new art, (2) restore the sculpture, (3) remove the sculpture entirely.

Isaac created a survey for the neighborhood with the goal of finding out what value was placed on it – not necessarily monetary but sentimental. The survey results were split nearly even with a slight majority wishing to remove the art entirely. He also shared an estimate from Cascadia Art Conservations Center to restore the sculpture for \$14K

Courtney asked about the possibility of recycling the structure and recreating something safer but specified that he would not want to take funds from other projects in order to save this one. Committee members discussed the various possibilities for repurposing or recycling the materials from the piece and the numerous possibilities. They also discussed replacing the art with something else at the location or placing something at another location in the park and freeing up the space on the knoll for other park activities such as picnicking and sledding. Isaac reminded members that the committee voted to deaccession the sculpture some time ago.

Joe made a motion to deaccession the sculpture and explore options for replacement. Justin seconded the motion. After discussion the committee decided to separate the motion into two parts.

Debbie made a motion to deaccession and remove the sculpture from the park entirely. Justin said he did not believe it would send a good message to the neighborhood to just deaccession the piece. Robin added that she felt it was important to have a more specific plan for replacement.

Justin moved to deaccession the sculpture and explore options to replace the sculpture with art of some form within the park. Robin seconded the motion; the committee voted unanimously in favor.

Atrium Lobby Remodel 1% for Art

Joe recused himself from the discussion. Isaac shared that a remodel is scheduled to take place in the Atrium lobby that will generate about \$5K for the public art fund. Isaac asked the committee if they thought the funds should be used for some kind of art in the Atrium or if it should be added to the public art fund for use in the future. Betsy asked if it would be used elsewhere (at another location); Isaac responded yes. Justin stated that \$5K was not enough money to create anything significant. The Committee discussed options for locating art in the Atrium building and differed types of art installations that would be a good fit for the building. The committee agreed that the building was suitable for some kind of public art installation.

A subcommittee was formed (Robin and Courtney) to explore the possibility of using the \$5K elsewhere, saving it for a future project, or using it at the Atrium building. They will return to the committee at a future meeting with their recommendation.