

## MINUTES

Public Art Committee Meeting  
March 15, 2017

Present: Debbie Williamson-Smith, Betsy Wolfston, Courtney Stubbert, Justin Lamphear, Emily Proudfoot, Jennifer Knapp, Committee Members; Isaac Marquez, Sarah-Kate Sharkey, Cultural Services staff.

Absent: Robin Selover, Joe Moore, Committee Members; Tomi Douglas, Cultural Services Director.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from January 24 were approved with corrections.

### **20x21 Mural Project**

Debbie shared a presentation on the mural project that she recently presented to Imagination International. She showed the three that have been completed. In June a Chinese artist will be coming to paint a mural at a location that is yet to be determined. The plan is to do seven murals on seven walls in seven days, beginning on the day of Eugene Sunday Streets. Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art (JSMA) will be hosting a reception for the artists that week and on Friday (First Friday Artwalk) will have an after-party to celebrate the murals. Other artists expected will be from London, the Netherlands, Spain, Argentina and France, and there will also be one local artist. Organizers are still in the process of matching artists with mural locations. Isaac clarified that funds are not coming from the Public Art Fund but instead from the public art program fund, much of which originates from the Parking Fund.

Isaac shared that a mural matching grant program is being explored. This would be an opportunity for businesses and artists to come together, with the City supporting/funding half of the cost. Committee members discussed the possibility of using local artists and providing opportunities for private businesses to choose specific artists to create a mural on their buildings.

### **Monroe Park Sculpture Update**

Isaac and Emily have been doing some work on the Monroe park sculpture. The neighborhood group is willing to help by posting a notice on their website, and engaging the neighbors. Emily and Isaac have been looking at developing a budget.

A siting art for parks criteria from 2009 has recently been discovered and Emily and Isaac are evaluating whether or not the sculpture in Monroe Park meets the criteria. Emily explained that a new system is in place for prioritizing projects in parks, and talked about the criteria for scoring/prioritizing projects. Isaac added that it's been a long term dilemma to maintain the amount of park area the City currently owns. Emily said the amount of space has doubled in the last several years but the budget has remained the same. Isaac believes the art siting criteria comes from the era of having too much to maintain and operating in a scarcity environment; we are trying to be more open and responsive now. Emily said the concerns noted in the policy still apply but there is some flexibility because it's written from a protective standpoint.

Isaac pointed out that, currently, we are much more thoughtful about how art is placed. Since this policy was known of during the conversation about this sculpture back in January Isaac asked the committee members for their thoughts about how to move forward in the context of the policy. He reminded committee members to keep in mind the policy could be changed.

Justin proposed that the committee review the policy and then revisit the subject at the May meeting. Debbie said it doesn't really apply because it's related to non-existent art, not existing art.

Emily stated that we are not entirely out of line with the 2009 policy, and said it may not be relevant but she wanted the committee to be informed about it. Justin thought it was worth looking at as it relates to the portion of the motion (made at the January meeting) that suggested placing something else in place of the sculpture. He noted that it does not apply to deaccessioning the piece. Emily agreed the 2009 policy does not affect the deaccessioning of the sculpture but stated it could apply to what is included in the call to artists. Justin asked if it was City policy; Emily responded that it is a Parks & Open Space (POS) policy. Emily stated the policy had not really been used/tested before, and from a policy standpoint it doesn't need to be followed to the tee but said the committee should keep it in mind.

Justin suggested the committee review the policy and update it if needed. Emily doesn't feel it's the right tool for how we do things now so updates are not essential.

Isaac said he would like to maintain momentum with Monroe Park group by acting on the motion passed at the January meeting and possibly review the policy in the future. Justin reiterated that he didn't think the 2009 policy was relevant to the motion from the January meeting. He believes it is valid information for placing art in the parks but not for deaccessioning it. Justin felt the committee should suggest recommendations for revisions to the policy but not let it slow the current motion for the Monroe Park sculpture.

Emily said there is a need to determine who is responsible for public art once it's placed in a park. Committee members asked how art in parks is maintained now; Emily responded that POS maintains it. Emily said safety is critical and any policy needs to address if and when we put art in parks, how to care for it, and who is responsible for it.

Isaac suggested continuing on with deaccessioning the piece in Monroe Park and on a parallel track, create version 2.0 of the policy and bring it back for the committee's review at a future meeting. Justin said he felt having a definite criteria, point and scoring system for projects would be helpful.

### **Hult Center Curtain**

Isaac announced the blackberry curtain in the Silva Hall is coming down. The curtain is becoming tattered and has become a safety and fire issue. The Eugene Ballet is the last resident company using the curtain; their last ballet of the season is April 8. The artists who designed the curtain are coming to town for the final curtain. There will be a narrative story about the making of the curtain, an artists talk the weekend of the final ballet. Isaac will be having discussions with the artists to ask their opinions about what to do with the curtain in its afterlife. A photographer has been hired to do a photo shoot of high resolution photos documenting the events leading up to the removal of the curtain, as well as a time lapse video of the actual removal.

Committee members discussed the possible reaction from the community and asked about replacement of the curtain. Isaac stated the cost to replicate the curtain in modern materials is approx. \$160K. The

next steps are to talk to the artists about decommissioning it and their sentiment around it and what to do if there is concern from the public.

### **Airport Master Plan**

Cultural Services staff met with Airport staff to begin work drafting an RFP for the Airport Public Art Master Plan. More work needs to be done but only this one meeting has taken place. Isaac will reach out to committee members after Airport staff are up to speed on the process.

### **Public Art & Downtown**

Isaac shared that a team of city staff are working to improve the activity downtown. One strategy has been programming events that will bring more people/positive activity downtown. A Downtown Operations team has been created to address a variety of issues. Some highlights are programming art in dark spaces, developing more partnerships through community organizations through matching funds, temporary art exhibits, mural matching grant program, and possible community arts grants. Isaac invited committee members to make suggestions to him at any time.

Jennifer gave a presentation on a project for pop up retail installations using shipping containers. She reported that staff has been in discussions with RAIN and UO product design to fill spaces with curated art space, in order to showcase the best of Eugene when the world comes in 2021.

Jennifer said Portland has had success with pop up retail and that from an urban design point of view it's a great way to activate space, noting that when space is not activated it becomes problematic. The idea is to rent the containers/pods and lease them to artists. There are still a lot of details that need to be figured out but staff is looking for a way to pilot the program. Committee members were supportive of the idea and offered to help.