

MINUTES

Public Art Committee Meeting
May 17, 2017

Present: Debbie Williamson-Smith, Courtney Stubbert, Justin Lamphear, Emily Proudfoot, Robin Selover, Committee Members; Isaac Marquez, Sarah-Kate Sharkey, Cultural Services staff; Betsy Tanenbaum (title); Dustin Loch, guest.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the March 15th meeting were approved.

Cultural Services Director Update

Isaac has been appointed to serve as the acting in capacity (AIC) Cultural Services Director for three to six months. A national recruitment will begin in the next few weeks.

Public Art Database

Over the last several months, Betsy Tanenbaum has been researching databases for our public art collection in the interest of migrating the database off Microsoft Access and into a system which is easier to manage, share, and update. We have finally landed on a system – filePro and a contractor – Regional Arts and Culture Council which fits our needs. Betsy showed a presentation highlighting the history and process.

Betsy was formerly an intern for the Public Art Committee and started a conversation about this project back in 2007. Priorities shifted to the Public Art Master Plan so this project was put aside for several years.

Betsy explained how she researched public art database software and specifically sought information from other organizations about their level of satisfaction with their systems. She also looked for model programs that had good search functions. After contacting several organizations and service providers she found that a public art specific database does not exist. Many programs had not updated their systems, and it was common for them to have been put on the back burner or just be limping along. A perfect system is difficult to find and some offer more flexibility than others to build upon but they are also expensive. After researching various options, the best and most cost efficient option was determined to be in filePro. The contractor is building the data base now. Betsy gave a visual demonstration of the proposed database.

Robin asked if the database would be accessible to the public. Betsy said the goal is for it to eventually be accessible to the public – it has the capability to be connected to the public art website.

Debbie asked about the numbering system. Betsy responded that she is still working on that.

Courtney asked about the kind of data that will be included, thinking in terms of how a person would search for something and tailoring the database in those terms. Betsy said discussion still needs to take place to plan and address the search functions.

Airport RFQ Update

Isaac shared that he met with Airport staff today and they have drafted an RFQ (request for qualifications) for a consultant on their public art program. There are three areas in which they are asking for advice: the existing collection, reinstallation of the gallery, funding recommendations to make the Airport more of a gateway. A selection committee is being formed and will include Justin and Robin from the Public Art Committee. A steering committee will be formed later to guide the actual work.

Downtown/Placemaking Update

Isaac gave a visual presentation highlighting the progress being made around improving and bringing more positive activity downtown. It can be viewed at www.vibranteugene.org

Justin asked about the wayfinding project and what's happening with it. Isaac said it's moved into a more specific planning phase; consultants visited Eugene and did some preliminary work. The next step is to find funding for the project.

Isaac clarified that placemaking is more about activating spaces. Sarah-Kate expressed that staff is always looking for new ideas to activate spaces and are open to suggestions from committee members.

20x21 Mural Festival

Debbie said the committee of five volunteers has been doing amazing work but the project has grown so much that an administrative support person has been added to help with the logistical work. Debbie has stepped down from the 20x21 Committee and is working directly with Isaac now. A volunteer coordinator is going to be hired and will also provide admin support for communications and marketing efforts. Turell Group is donating services to develop a website for the project, and City of Eugene staff have also been helping with media relations and photography. There is currently a group working to connect walls and artists and a second group is working on sponsorships, community engagement and marketing. A couple of local artists are going to be hired to support guest artists and walls. Debbie gave an overview of the artists scheduled to participate in the festival; the plan is to have seven artists create seven mural in seven days, beginning on July 30. Debbie highlighted some of the events surrounding the 20x21 Mural Festival including Sunday Streets, First Friday Artwalk, and a EUGfun after party.

Debbie also mentioned that an artist exchange program is being considered in order to highlight and lift up our local artists.

Justin asked about the steering committee being split into two sections. Isaac explained it was to focus on the work more strategically instead of lumping it into one because it was getting in the way of getting the work done. Justin asked if they were still looking for walls, Isaac and Debbie responded yes. Justin asked if there were standard provisions for all building owners; Isaac said it depends/differs from one owner to another. Some building owners are providing financial support in addition to just the location. Justin suggested the steam plant at EWEB as a potential site for a mural. Isaac said it would depend upon the development agreement with the developer and the City has not closed on the property yet.

Committee Membership

Isaac shared that Betsy Wolfston is resigning from the committee. She recommended Dustin Loch as her replacement so he is visiting today to see what the committee is about. If he is interested he will apply for the vacancy through the City's formal process.

Hult Curtain

Isaac talked about the recent ceremony for the taking down of the Silva curtain. The two artists who created the curtain were brought into town for the event. They have both had successful careers in their arts since creating the curtain and were appreciative and honored to be invited to the event. The curtain had become a liability and safety issue. Staff is looking into the possibility of placing the curtain in the Smithsonian's collection. A proposal is currently being written by a Hult Center staff person.

Debbie thanked staff for the closure, expressing appreciation for the team that executed the events.

Emily shared that her parents had a connection to the artists and also really appreciated the closure and connection.