
Public Art Advisory Committee Minutes

July 17, 2019, 5:30-7:00 pm. Cultural Services Conference Room

PRESENT: Debbie Williamson-Smith, Jennifer Knapp, Justin Lamphear, Emily Proudfoot, Courtney Stubbert, Isaac Marquez, Kate Ali, Margaret Merisante

Kate began the meeting and welcomed the PAC members at 5:35 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVAL

Courtney moved, and Debbie seconded that the May 16, 2019 minutes be approved as written. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW PAC MEMBERS AND ONBOARDING

Kate reported that she, Debbie, Robin Selover, and Emily went through the applicants carefully and narrowed the selection first to four individuals and finally to two finalists. She said that the sub-committee is excited to bring the following two people on to the committee.

- Jinxi Caddel, Ph.D. is opening an art gallery downtown on Willamette Street next to the MacDonald Theater on August 3. She has a Ph.D. in clinical psychology and is a writer, editor and publisher of tattoo books. New to the community, Jinxi has already jumped into working with various non-profits.
- Bree Hocking, Ph.D. who received her degree in Irish Studies, with a specific emphasis in global public art practice. Her dissertation looks at ways public art either inflamed or reduced tensions in Northern Ireland. Bree also trained as a dancer and has a strong interest in urban planning.

ONBOARDING

Kate asked what was done or not in the past for new members. The conclusion was that it was very informal. Also, it was noted, that the committee had met every month up until a few years. Meeting that often became counter-productive, not leaving space for sub-committee meetings.

Isaac reminded everyone the Public Art Committee is a department advisory body that was created by the City's executives rather than elected officials. This classification and formation of the PAC was came from the executive leadership's directive that establishing and growing a knowledge base for public art is important to the City. As an advisory board, this means that committee work will flex between some receiving updates on City projects, committee research, or advising on decisions. Isaac is especially proud of this particular PAC membership for crafting and refining the vision and principles for PAC. These principles and vision will set the stage and tone for the onboarding for new members.

Kate asked the committee, "What would you have liked to have known?"

Justin: What art does COE own and have in its collection? As much info "about the thing he has joined" as possible. What it means to engage into the public art plan, what the roles, terms, goals and by-law status are. He'd like a packet of this kind of information to offer to new members. Also at some point, offer an overview of here's what we've been doing and here's where we're at, the goals over the next term, and a general work plan.

Debbie: Knowing our City's art collection gives an appreciation for the public art we currently have and promotes advocacy.

Courtney: A good understanding of 1% for Art and how that works.

Emily: Do tours with new members, such as 5 places to they should know or 5 highlights we'd like our committee members to see and be informed about.

Jennifer- After initial onboarding, perhaps a retreat where sub-committees are established and more in-depth history or information can be offered. A public art map also might be a goal.

Isaac: speaking of the City's public art collection, the database of public art needs to be brought into a workable system and to be vetted. The inventory is everything that the City technically owns and additionally, all the artwork is mapped with a GIS layer attached to each item. The balance for the PAC to keep in mind while working on this project is the navigation of possible politically-charged items along with maintaining the freedom to move forward.

A PAC roles and terms sheet, which Margaret had updated, was briefly discussed.

ACTION ITEM: Kate: She'll put together a packet for new members and will draft a work plan that could generate possible sub-committees. Kate will be meeting with Betsy Tannenbaum about the database.

FAREWELL TO COURTNEY STUBBERT

Isaac led the thanks by noting that Courtney is responsible for everything knows about contemporary art. Isaac paid tribute to Courtney by praising his ambition and knowledge, but, especially, his contribution to crafting the PAC vision and principles. One thing that Courtney wrote on the board—mutually experienced difference. Kate then gave Courtney her original illustration of a gold watch while Isaac presented Courtney with flowers.

Courtney remarked that serving on the PAC was one of the most rewarding, collaborative experiences he's had. He learned a great deal and really appreciates it. Debbie also remarked on how much she has appreciated working with Courtney on the 20x21 artwork. PAC applauded Courtney and wished him well.

UPDATE: Writing Workshops: Courtney reported that art criticism writing workshops are happening now and that the workshops are sold out (25 people). He said that a wide range of people are attending. Vicki Amarose is leading the four session workshop on critical writing about art / art criticism. The workshop assignment is to write a piece in response to the Mayor's Art Show. Those assignments will be published online. Courtney also knotted that his business, Eugene Contemporary Arts, wants to do more art education and has in mind something like a non-academic MFA. The City paying for Vicki and ECA has been working collaboratively with the workshop. Another goal of his is to get artists paid when exhibiting and holding community conversations about that often.

NEW CHAIR

Tonight's meeting is Debbie's last meeting as Chair. Kate nominated Justin for Chair for the next two years, Debbie seconded. The motion passed unanimously. At the Sept meeting, Justin will be the new Chair. Justin spoke of keeping the PAC moving forward. Everyone thanked Debbie for her time and effort as Chair. Isaac paid special tribute to Debbie, remarking that she brought home to him that this committee could be advocates and a public voice for public art. He thanked her for selflessness in sharing her professional skills, that she hit the ground running every time, for her impressive work on 2021, and for her success in getting the mural project into national publications. She got our stories told! Isaac presented flowers and a framed photo of Debbie and Shamsia (Afghanistan's first female muralist) to her to great applause.

UPDATES

Park Blocks—Justin reported that the City’s design renovation project that is studying the downtown is holding a public event—*Town Square*—at the West Park blocks tomorrow night from 5:00 – 8:00 PM. This is a community engagement event that will showcase the design process and concepts of how the Park blocks can transform with a new City Hall. The event has also been designed to be engaging, playful, inviting, and inclusive. The *Town Square* website is www.eugenetownsquare.org. Justin noted that his office, Cameron McCarthy is the in-town center for the project team. Emily remarked that these type of events and collaboration build a lot of credibility for the City as well as moving design and art into our public spaces.

20x21

Debbie gave the committee and informal presentation on the upcoming 20x21 mural artists.

- Fintan Magee—New Zealand—is painting a mural with an environmental theme on the Chamber of Commerce building this weekend.
- Kari Johnson—our local “mother of murals in Eugene”—will be painting a mural at Food for Lane County’s Dining Room starting next week. There is a possible food drive associated with this on the 28th.
- SIT (Sidney Waerts)—Amsterdam—will be doing a black and white mural on Well Balanced. He asked for a bike to get around, so Debbie reached out to Peace Health’s bike program.
- Adele Renault—Los Angeles—will be our 20th muralist. Her specialty is pigeons and always paints a local pigeon. She plans on going to Lane County Fair to see local pigeons and a pigeon coop will be installed on the roof of Well Balanced.
- Martha Cooper—New York—is doing an art installation with Adele that will be displayed inside Coffee Plant Roasters.
- Additional: the VAW week guide is now available and was passed around. Pacific Pub Cycle tours and mural watch parties at night are also arranged. The Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art will be hosting a reception for the artists on July 31. Isaac commented that he sees through this project what art can and does do for a city.

Kate thanked everyone for their input.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.