
Public Art Advisory Committee Minutes

Cultural Services Conference Room

May 16, 2019, 5:30-7:00 pm

PRESENT: Debbie Williamson-Smith, Robin Selover, Jennifer Knapp, Justin Lamphear, Emily Proudfoot, Courtney Stubbert, Isaac Marquez, Colette Ramirez, Margaret Merisante, Kate Ali
Public guests : Dylan Harmon, Sydney Mathews, Nicole Lyon, Lindsey Oswald, John Rose

NEW PUBLIC ART MANAGER

Colette Ramirez welcomed and introduced the new Cultural Services Public Art Manager, Kate Ali. Colette shared some of Kate's family upbringing her in Eugene, her public art experience, and her background as a visual artist. The Public Arts committee members briefly introduced themselves to Kate.

MINUTES APPROVAL

Courtney moved to approve as written, Debbie seconded. The January 17, 2019 minutes were approved as written.

MONROE PARK SCULPTURE DEACCESSION

Isaac Marquez opened the discussion noting that he appreciated the thought and care that the PAC demonstrated in the addendum they submitted for the deaccession form. Jennifer Knapp has offered to give some general ideas on how to revamp the deaccession policy in the future. Justin Lamphear remarked that the current process seems static rather than flexible on a case by case basis. Isaac and Kate also suggested that, in the future, a deaccession process be included in any public art contract so that the artist is part of that conversation from the start.

Isaac then responded to the questions written within the committee's January 22, 2019 addendum. *See attached addendum [need]*. The questions were:

- Should we give preference to those in the Jefferson Westside neighborhood through a sealed bid process? OR should it be a Lane County offer through the sealed bid process? The committee preferred the Lane County offer.
- Does the committee have the chance to review bid language before it's released? Yes, this is possible. Isaac will work with Purchasing to draft the bid process and language. He will email the committee with the bid process and language for review. Plan B, if the artwork does not sell: the PAC will review the next viable options per the deaccession process.
- Will need Parks and Open Space help to make this process happen? Emily Proudfoot assured the committee that Parks and Open Space definitely will do so due to safety issues.
- Would Parks and Open Space support another art project at the site? Emily asserted that it would.
 - Commentary: After the Walking Man sculpture is removed, Debbie would like to have the neighborhood surveyed about art placement in the park. Her feeling is that the current sculpture has been an impediment to using the landscape of the park. Justin suggested proposing a park area "envelope" to be considered for the survey. Isaac read the addendum which states that siting the artwork on the knoll is key. He asked for clarity from the committee. He also stated that trying to site the artwork is out of the purview of

the PAC. Instead, it will fall under Park and Open Space's expertise. Robin suggested that the addendum be edited to make the siting less specific. Isaac also doesn't want to promise items to the public that end up being untenable.

- Edited result: Commit to removing the piece and commit to re-establishing a piece of public art within in the park. Emily remarked that Parks and Open Space would have the public art piece be part of Monroe Park renovation design work.

- Will the deaccession of the piece lead to new process of acquiring new public art? Isaac suggested that the PAC not deal with the second item in the addendum due to POS's commitment to replacing the sculpture with new artwork. The percent for public art fund might be potential funding, but Cultural Services would need guidance from Finance. Emily commented that in the recent Parks bond funding was not ear-marked for Monroe Park. Emily said there is a possibility that bond funding could serve as seed funding especially considering 2021 projects are imminent, but that would have to be determined later.
- Is there any monies that can be used to document the Monroe sculpture? Isaac can offer \$1200.00 to document t. Can the PAC provide guidance and approach on documentation? A small celebration of the sculpture facilitated by the neighborhood, video documentation that includes history that can live on the CS website, initial ideas for how to use the park going forward (POS). The hope is to time this to coincide with sales process, so that the timeline of when the sculpture will be removed is known.

Guest John Rose wanted to speak to the PAC about a conversation he had with Oregon Art Association. He asked several questions: what can we do for art, what can we do for the artist? (We would fix it if we could.) Who's advocating for the art? Why wasn't that part of the design process for this artwork? He feels that the cultural legacy of Eugene is slowly going away. He's hoping for more. His initial questions are the ones he wants to see as always part of the consideration.

Justin responded that the PAC did look at trying to get the artwork fixed, but the amount was not affordable for the City. Justin feels that the PAC has worked to make sure this process was not streamline, or rushed, but thoughtful. Isaac responded that one of the issues is that the art needs to be fixed by arts conservators. This is one piece out of 206 that the City owns. Additionally, this piece is lacking any artist involvement (Pappas) in trying to preserve that legacy. Isaac also gave examples of other art pieces that are currently being stewarded.

Debbie thanked John for his passionate advocacy, but also stated that the entire time she has been chair, the PAC has been dealing with this sculpture. She lives in the neighborhood, the committee has done due diligence. Robin also thanked John for his dedication, and assured him that the committee has taken his comments past and present to heart. Kate commented that she also has childhood and adult memories of sculpture, but also knows that this piece has deteriorated substantially with no artist available to be part of a conservatory conversation.

PAC MEMBER SELECTION PROCESS

Kate – 11 applications came and all of the applicants' experience is very strong . Kate, Debbie, Robin and Emily will get together to review the applications. Fresh leadership and fresh start—Isaac has directed Kate to interview each committee member to offer honest perspectives on what worked, what didn't, what they'd like to see in the future. Isaac said that the chair position could be extended for the short term.

PERCENT FOR ART INFORMATION/ UPDATE

Isaac reported that the POS bond and levies have suddenly created great opportunities for Percent for Art – approx. 500,000.00 staggered over 7 years. Referred members to there is a place for a PAC member to be part of the core group for the overarching public art portfolio over the next seven years. The criteria that he's drafted is equity and distribution of public art in Eugene. Good time to move into north Eugene. Impact of the art to the community and the project – commission work in areas that get a lot of use, and areas where public art will be very well-suited. #3 innovation and opportunities –outside the funding mechanisms, such as collaborating with other on-going efforts, ephemeral art, etc.

Current projects are Campbell, Echo Hollow, and Sheldon. Sheldon doesn't know budget yet, but we may grab a mural artist to do an existing wall. 404 artist 5 year plan to projects in that area – could fund that. Also could be opportunities through POS budgets additional.

Applicants for Percent for Art candidates: Justin and Robin want to be considered. Resource: Emily Proudfoot. Isaac will be thinking about how the terms of the PAC members can converge with this year-long commitment.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.