
Public Art Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 21, 2020, 5:30-7:00pm via Zoom

PRESENT: Debbie Williamson-Smith, Bree Hocking, Mika Aono, Kate Ali, Justin Lanphear, Jessica Watson, Jinxi Caddel, Jennifer Knapp, Emily Proudfoot, Marina Hajek.

Kate began the meeting at 5:35pm.

1.1. Introductions

- Marina Hajek was welcomed to the committee as the newest joining member.
- Each person introduced themselves and their background in the arts and the community.

1.2. Acceptance of the January 21st meeting minutes

- ***Justin motioned to accept the minutes as written. Debbie seconded. All in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining. Motion passed unanimously.***

1.3. Committee member check in - What is your new normal?

- Kate – The City is like a lot of municipalities right now - we are looking at the budget and trying to determine what is coming. We are reliant in public art on transient room tax and Hult Center revenues, which are much lower than originally expected. There is a lot of uncertainty. We are doing a lot of responsive work to the social needs right now.
- Debbie – Debbie says the shift has caused a lot more work as everything is becoming digital. Every day is a new change in the communications world. Campus is closed until June 15th. All the classes will be taught remotely. The goal is to open in fall – pending evaluation.
- Mika – UO has never taught studio arts classes online, so it is a lot more work. All the tutorial videos have to be prepared in advance. It is good to have the senior show and some live feed lectures coming up.
- Jinxi – The gallery has been closed since March. One tattoo artist works at the shop, by appointment only. There was a show with Faunwood scheduled for May 1st, but that has been cancelled or postponed. They had two books released the week before everything started changing due to COVID. Things were going strong with the book releases at first, but then it decreased some since folks were struggling a little more with finances. They are starting a new artbook and accepting submissions. They also have some challenges for the community on social media.

- Bree – Bree had a research trip planned but had to cancel. Not being able to interact in person is going to affect the work– data and info is lost by not being able to be with others.
- Justin – As a landscape architect with many projects, there is still a lot of construction happening. Some projects have been delayed, and in some cases, there has been a desire to quickly finish projects
- Emily – Emily manages 5 people and she has a supervisor. In the beginning, a bunch of folks on the team got pulled away to the EOC. Also, lots of folks had to learn how to work from home. The City has done a phenomenal job supporting employees and prioritizing their wellness.
- Marina – Marina is a self-employed sole proprietor. She has created a new Facebook page.
- Jen – Jen is in the planning division. Normally they would be ramping up with summer engagement, but now those pieces are moving online and there is a lot of brainstorming on how to do that. It is a good learning opportunity and we will learn things through the process that will help in the future.

1.4. Staff Report

- Urban Canvas Little Pantries Project
 - Urban Canvas has been working with Eugene Burrito Brigade for the Little Food Pantry Project. Chanin and Jessica are leading the project. City of Eugene hired two carpenters to build 5 boxes and will hire 5 artists to paint the 5 pantries. They just hired their first artist today and have another pending. This project helps those that are food insecure, which is especially relevant now.
- Percent for Art update
 - The artists are not under contract yet, so we cannot officially announce the names. The Campbell Center and Echo Hollow Pool will be done by the same artist team. The designs are different enough to not be synonymous.
 - An airport artist was selected as well.
 - City Hall is on hold for right now. Marina will be brought onto the project later on.
- Riverfront Fence Project
 - The fence will be located around 5th and High and along 4th and near the railroad. The budget is \$10,000. They are asking for artists that have experience being the lead artist for projects with budgets of at least \$5000. Artists will be asked to consider community engagement and encouraged to use reusable or recyclable materials.
 - This is unique project because it is temporary and we do not have a ton of temporary art opportunities, especially with such good Downtown visibility. The fence will be up for a long time and has the potential for being a rotating canvas as the entire site will be developing into a new neighborhood over the years.
 - This project is not a Percent for Art project. We will be using Urban Renewal Funds and a selection committee will select the artists.
- Visual Arts Week (VAW) 2020
 - Visual Arts Week is still happening, but a lot of it going digital. This is a partnership with Maude Kerns Art Center and Lane Arts Council

- The Mayor's Art Show will happen, but realistically at other satellite locations. If you know of available storefront windows, let Kate know.
 - We are unsure if the Salon de Refuses at New Zone will happen.
 - The City will contract two artists to do temporary arts installations.
 - Lane Arts Council is highlighting artists, showing their studios virtually.
 - Eugene Contemporary Art will be taking on Critical MAS, in which award winners for the Mayor's Art Show will have their art written about. It may be more of a zoom event as we are determining how to make this interactive.
 - Maude Kerns is in charge of workshops. They are coordinating some of them, and also promoting some that are going on in the community.
- Monroe Park
 - Kate was asked to get bids for the removal of the Walking Man Sculpture to ensure the cost to have it removed would not exceed the cost of having it refurbished and brought back to life. It has been confirmed that decommissioning it is a lot cheaper.
 - Emily made a connection with someone that teaches at Churchill High School, who is connected with someone involved with the Mother Earth Sculpture. This is a 15 foot tall iconic sculpture that is being put in many locations around the world. The sculpture is a human figure, shiny, and somewhat vandal proof. Initially, the group coordinating this sculptural effort wanted it on Eugene's riverfront, but there is already a lot of artwork around there, so the idea of placing it in Monroe Park came up. It is a nice fit because it is a gathering space and a lot of City programming is done there. The piece was originally presented as a donation, but we would need to build a base and pay for shipping, so there is some financial commitment. Emily shared an image of the piece on the hill at Monroe Park.

1.5 Maintenance of Hult Sky Bridge

- The Ed Carpenter glass piece on the Sky Bridge (done in 1982) between the parking structure and the Hult Center is leaking. In order to fix it, they have to remove the glass pieces.
 - Option 1: \$21,840 –take out the glass, add new caulking, put vinyl gaskets around the glass, and install silicone.
 - Option 2: \$22,600 – Remove the glass, fix any leaking issues, install aluminum panels instead of the glass.
- Many of the committee indicated they wanted to keep the glass, especially when it is cheaper and it preserves the work.
- Marina was concerned about the potential for damaging the glass, since the company seemed to include a disclaimer with the estimate.
- Kate will follow up with Ed Carpenter and the project manager.
- One member asked if there were other estimates, which Kate said she would check on, but indicated probably so since it is generally required by the City for larger jobs.

1.6 Other business

- There is not much work to be done by subcommittees at this time.
- Next meeting: Thursday, July 16th, 5:30-7pm
 - Agenda
 - Updates on projects
 - Review proposals for Percent for Art Projects

- Gear up for Visual Arts Week