

**ARTS COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
July 23, 2024  
City Hall, Conference Room #6**

**Attendees:** Chairman Mary Lee Ryba, Vice-Chair Abby Light, Commissioner John Bruning, Commissioner Alesa Momerak, Commissioner Summer Ward, Commissioner Sally Shortridge, Commissioner Lindsey Sichelstiel, Commissioner Kate Walker, and City Administrator Troy Tymesen.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Ryba called the meeting to order.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION:** Commissioner Ward stated that she will be leaving early.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Sichelstiel, seconded by Commissioner Momerak, to approve the June 25, 2024 minutes. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

**APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT:** Mr. Tymesen stated that the Art funds is currently earning interest. He mentioned that the expenditures include professional services, scholarship program with Emerge, and the first payment for the Wastewater Treatment Facility art project. He added that Commissioner Bruning has committed to completing the plaque to honor Mr. Sid Frederickson. **MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Light, seconded by Commissioner Ward, to approve the June 2024 Financial Reports. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

**COMMISSIONER/ STAFF COMMENTS:** Chair Ryba noted that the term of Commissioners Bruning and Drake expired on July 3. She stated that Commissioner Bruning informed her that he is not going to ask for another term as he is also busy with his work as Vice President of the Board of Directors for St. Vincent de Paul. Commissioner Bruning thanked everyone for the important work that they do for the City of Coeur d'Alene. He said that there are a lot of cities that don't have the art program that the City of Coeur d'Alene has. He shared that he learned so much working with everyone. He committed to continue to work on the plaque in honor of Mr. Frederickson for the Wastewater Treatment Facility public art project. He mentioned that he will also reach out to the School District because Mr. Frederickson was Chair of the District 271 Trustees. Chair Ryba shared that Commissioner Drake is currently out of the country, and she will reach out to her when she gets back. She said that she will also ask Commissioner Doutriaux whose term expires on August 7. She also shared that Commissioner Linder, whose term ends in September, will not renew her appointment and submitted her resignation last July 8 because her business is growing, and she would like to focus on her family. She relayed that Commissioner Linder thanks everyone and will make sure that the stickers for the Otocast project are finished. Chair Ryba said that Commissioner Ethridge's term will also expire in September but relayed that he would like to be re-appointed. Lastly, she shared that the appointment of the student representatives will also expire in September.

On another matter, Chair Ryba mentioned that she had a conversation with Blair Williams, owner of the Art Spirit Gallery and working with a client that is reselling some of George Carlson art works, of which two sculptures are currently on display at the gallery. She explained that George Carlson is recognized as one of America's greatest sculptors and his art has been shown both nationally and internationally, particularly in the National Academy of Design and the Smithsonian. Chair Ryba said that she would like to take up in the next Arts Commission meeting for the City to purchase Carlson's bronze sculpture of native Americans for an amount between \$20,000 - \$25,000. She stated that Ms. Williams will also provide a colored copy of Carlson's book of artworks. She invited the Commissioners to visit the Art Spirit Gallery which is open from Wednesday to Sunday. Commissioner Light inquired on what part of the budget will the purchase come from since it's a private sale with Mr. Tymesen responding that this would be a purchase of original art and it would come from the urban renewal district funds. He pointed out that the Commission should also look into where to place this art piece since the museum has not yet moved to the White House. Chair Ryba said that an option is postponing the call for ArtCurrents for a year and use the funds to purchase this original art. Mr. Tymesen said that there is funding for permanent art for the city.

**SELECTION AND APPROVAL OF 2024-2025 ARTCURRENTS ART PIECES:** Chair Ryba noted that Commissioners Light and Sichelstiel are the co-chairs for this year's selection process. Commissioner Sichelstiel explained that ArtCurrents is the only subcommittee that brings in funds to the Arts Commission as the art pieces are for sale while on public display, and the City gets 25% commission out of the sale. She stated that the art pieces are on display downtown along Sherman Avenue, Atlas Waterfront Park, and Riverstone. Chair Ryba noted that the call for artists specifies that the art piece should center on the theme or interpretations of the Northwest that the public would be more inclined to purchase. She added that the selected artists will receive a stipend per art piece for each year the art is on display for a maximum of two years. She explained that the call to artists is yearly, and the art pieces are switched out every year, which is a lot of work considering the de-installation and installation, hence the subcommittee will discuss if selection of ArtCurrents can be done every other year or extend the display of the art piece like the Gaia by Dale Young at Atlas Waterfront Park. Commissioner Light discussed that this year's selection committee was composed of a good mix of community members that narrowed down the 21 qualified submissions to the top eight, of which she and Commissioner Sichelstiel whittled down to six art pieces for review and approval of the Arts Commission. Chair Ryba added that Councilmember Kiki Miller is one of the members of the selection committee for this year. Commissioner Momerak inquired the scope of the call and how the selected art pieces are promoted with Commissioner Light responding that the artists should be residing in the states of Idaho, Montana, Utah, Wyoming, British Columbia, Washington, and Oregon. Commissioner Sichelstiel explained that the subcommittee has been pondering about promoting the art pieces because only one art piece has been sold recently. Commissioner Light stated that there is a need to raise awareness that those are for sale. Commissioner Sichelstiel added that they have been discussing promotion in the social media subcommittee. Commissioner Momerak suggested making new hotels that comes into town to buy one art piece to be placed in their lobby.

Commissioner Light explained that this year's selected art pieces are a mix of abstract and representation of the Northwest which was voted on by the selection committee by scoring last