

**ARTS COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
August 27, 2024  
City Hall, Conference Room #6**

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

**Guests:** Jacob Garringer, Terry Lee, Paul Fleshner, and Holly Stetson.

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

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION:** None.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Chair Ryba introduced well-known artist Terry Lee who has made several sculptures in the city's History Walk. Mr. Lee noted that he completed the life size sculpture of World War II US Navy Nurse made of clay. He mentioned that it stands on a real bed frame with a real stethoscope around her neck and holding a real clipboard. He stated that he had been trying to find an individual patron for this statue for months and that he has exhausted his contacts. He mentioned that the total cost is \$65,000 and with one donor of \$5,000, he is seeking the Arts Commission's assistance to finalize this project or recommendations for possible donors. Commissioner Shortridge said she wanted to help. Chair Ryba also said she would be help and asked Mr. Lee to send her some history or information about the nurse statue. Chair Ryba mentioned the need for a plaque at the History Walk with a QR Code to inform the public on each statue's history. Mr. Lee stated that his favorite is the Lumberjack statue because there were five working sawmills in the city limits of Coeur d'Alene and people does not know that history. Mr. Tymesen asked Mr. Lee where he envisions the nurse statue to be placed with Mr. Lee stating that it will be placed next to the Army soldier by the Veterans Memorial. He invited the Commissioners to see the nurse statue.

Mr. Lee mentioned that the city has the molds for the Mudgy sculpture except for the mouse, and he is concerned about the conditions where the molds are stored because the rubber deteriorates. He asked about the status of the Miner's ore cart with Mr. Tymesen relaying that it would be welded back after the summer season.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Light, seconded by Commissioner Walker, to approve the July 23, 2024 minutes. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

**APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT:** Mr. Tymesen noted the following updates in the report: no expenditures under the urban renewal fund for the month of July 2024; \$44.04 was spend for Art-Maintenance; the \$330.00 for the community arts is the partnership with Emerge for the scholarships. He mentioned that he just signed invoices worth \$4,245.00 out of the \$25,000 fund allotted for Emerge scholarships. Chair Ryba inquired about the payments made to Green

Energy Dragon artist Melissa Cole with Mr. Tymesen responding that it is reflected in the Public Art Fund and staff is working on the scanned code referencing Sid. The draft on what it says will be shared with the Commissioners. Chair Ryba added that she can ask Melissa to do a narrative for the Otocast app.

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Momerak, seconded by Commissioner Ward, to approve the July 2024 Financial Reports. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

**COMMISSIONER/ STAFF COMMENTS:** Chair Ryba shared that she was approached by someone wanting to do a mural at the underpass of East Sherman Avenue to improve its look. Mr. Tymesen explained that from the city's experience of current murals, the paint will break down due to the excess water flow from the above freeway caused by weather conditions like rain and snowstorms.

Chair Ryba mentioned that Coeur d'Alene has received an Economic Recovery Corp. Fellow, Darya Pilram, who is part of an initiative that aims to establish a Creative District of Coeur d'Alene harnessing and promoting the region's abundant creative talent and cultural vibrancy. This district will be crucial for fortifying the area's long-term economic well-being by serving as hubs of innovation, culture, and entrepreneurship. It will generate jobs, attract tourists, and nurture a diverse cultural scene, advancing regional economic development strategies. The outcome will be the establishment of a vibrant creative district that boosts economic growth and cultural tourism.

**UPDATE ON THE CHILDREN'S LIBRARY ENTRANCE ART PROJECT:** Holly Stetson, Coeur d'Alene Public Library Foundation Manager, introduced Paul Fleshner, donor for the Children's Library Entrance Art Project. Mr. Fleshner shared that his family has been coming to Coeur d'Alene since he was in college visiting with his uncle who owned a condo here. His uncle, who is no longer living, left a family foundation, the Fleshner Foundation. They moved here during the pandemic, and he and his wife, Alison, were impressed with the program at the library; it was Alison's idea and wish to do something to inspire more children to go to the library. He mentioned that the foundation application process went great, and the whimsical design will hopefully appeal and catch the eyes of children and parents. The addition of the Children's Library signage will hopefully attract children. Mr. Tymesen thanked Mr. Fleschner and inquired about the lighting of the art project. Mr. Fleschner stated that they also want the lighting, and they received the proposal yesterday, however, he would have to go back to the Foundation for the additional funding for the installation of the lighting next year. Mr. Tymesen stated that the City has to also look into the lighting design. Ms. Stetson stated that Building Maintenance Supervisor Adam Korytko is in coordination with them. Mr. Tymesen mentioned that this item will also go through the Library Board for official approval.

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Momerak, seconded by Commissioner Lindsey, to Recommend that Council approve the design of the Children's Library Entrance Art Project. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

**PURCHASE OF GEORGE CARLSON SCULPTURE:** Chair Ryba discussed the proposal of Blair Williams to sell George Carlson's sculpture entitled "Dancers of Norogachic" valued at \$65,000 for the discounted amount of \$25,000 to the City. Chair Ryba said that it can be displayed