

**ARTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
October 22, 2024
City Hall, Conference Room #6**

Attendees: Chairman Mary Lee Ryba, Vice-Chair Abby Light, Commissioner Summer Ward, Commissioner Sally Shortridge, Commissioner Lindsey Sichelstiel, Commissioner Kate Walker, Commissioner Alesa Momerak, Commissioner Adeline Smith, Commissioner Chuck Ethridge, Commissioner Charlotte Doutriaux, Commissioner Nora Crabtree, and Councilmember Amy Evans.

Guests: Adam Graves, Emily Boyd, Chloe Linton, and Steve McCrea.

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

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION: None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Ethridge, seconded by Commissioner Momerak, to approve the September 10, 2024 minutes. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT: MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Shortridge, to approve the September 2024 Financial Reports. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

COMMISSIONER/ STAFF COMMENTS: Commissioner Ward expressed that she observed that the Commission meetings in the past months lasted beyond 5:00pm and asked the Commissioners to collectively keep the meeting within the timeframe. Chair Ryba stated that she normally keeps the meeting to be one hour, however, the last meeting went longer because of the discussion and selection of the Mayor's Awards in the Arts recipients. She added that the Commissioners will be informed if the meeting is anticipated to be longer than usual.

Chair Ryba welcomed and introduced Nora Crabtree as the recently appointed Alternate Student Representative for the Arts Commission. She mentioned that Commissioner Crabtree was one of the Selection Panel for the Poet Laureate and a wonderful addition to the Arts Commission. She also recognized Adeline Smith for being reappointed for another term as Student Representative.

Chair Ryba explained that there are three items on the agenda that are requesting sponsorship for the purchase of artwork or partnership with the Arts Commission. She mentioned that the Commission has been receiving a lot of requests like this and she was also approached by former Mayor Steve Widmyer to request for funding for a historical clock for the museum. Chair Ryba stated that in the previous meeting, when the purchase of the artwork by George Carlson was brought up, Councilmember Evans pointed out that the process should be a fair opportunity,

justified, and would need Council approval. The Public Art Program policy per Resolution No. 08-017 states that one of the oversight responsibilities of the Arts Commission include “developing guidelines and purchasing artworks for the Visual Chronicle of Coeur d’Alene Collection.” Chair Ryba stated that the Commission has not developed any guidelines, hence, the Commission cannot decide on the requests for sponsorship or funding. She requested the creation of a Subcommittee to develop the guidelines and asked the Commissioners who want to be a member. Commissioners Ethridge, Light, Momerak, Sichelstiel, Shortridge, and Ward stated that they would like to be a member of the said Subcommittee. Commissioner Ward inquired if this will also cover performing arts. Chair Ryba stated that the Commission has been funding Emerge art classes. Councilmember Evans said that the Public Art Policy was amended, and it includes support of performing arts. She added that the Commission has the ability to do so, and the guidelines should be broad and flexible so there is an opportunity to evaluate different requests and not to recreate or rewrite the policy. Commissioner Ethridge mentioned that Councilmember Miller asked him during the Mayor’s Awards in the Arts event about what activities would initiate funding for performing arts. Chair Ryba stated that she was also approached by a Councilmember who requested the same. She enumerated pending requests for art sponsorship received by the Commission: Red Hot Mommas, Terry Lee US Navy Nurse sculpture for \$65,000, George Carlson sculpture “Dancers of Norogachic” for \$25,000, Dale Young’s “Gaia” for \$25,000, former Mayor Steve Widmyer requested for funding for a historical clock for the museum, funding for performing arts, Winter Lights festival, and purchase of the “Love Letter to Lake Coeur d’Alene” art piece requested by the Public Library and Heritage Health. She added that Emerge may come back next year to request for art scholarships for the youth, and the Music Conservatory is also looking for scholarships. Chair Ryba requested the city Finance Department to present the Public Art Fund in the next meeting.

WINTER LIGHTS 2026 ARTWORK SPONSORSHIP REQUEST FROM DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION: Adam Graves, President of the Coeur d’Alene Downtown Association Board noted that the 2024 event drew thousands of people downtown. The Winter Lights festival 2026 is slated from January 30 to February 8, 2026. The event would be a display of large-scale light-based installations, interactive displays, and vibrant sculptures in the downtown area. Mr. Graves stated that the Association hopes to expand Winter Lights through partnerships with all art organizations in Coeur d’Alene by collaborating with the Arts Commission and other local partners. As such, they are requesting a \$20,000 sponsorship from the Commission to own one or more of the light-based art installations to be featured in the festival. Mr. Graves explained that the funding would be to produce an actual artwork that can be stored away and displayed again in succeeding events. To rent an artwork for this event would cost about \$30,000. The long-term plan is to be able to have art pieces that can be archived away and a multi-year commitment for acquisition, and then later become a vendor-renter that the artworks can be circulated to other communities and get rental income. The deadline for reporting back to the Downtown Association Board is December and the deadline to decide if they can get enough sponsors to come up with the \$150,000 needed commitments for this project is on March 1, 2025.

Commissioner Ethridge asked about the process if there will be an open call for artists with Mr. Graves explaining that there are artworks that are already available that can be bought outright by sponsors but another option is dependent on the sponsor’s preference either they select or help select the artwork because their name will be attached to it. The long-term plan is to put it out to

bid and get concepts from different artists if there is funding available. Mr. Graves mentioned that they are incorporating and putting out an open bid for local artists to design lit-art store front inside their windows. Commissioner Light stated that the winter lights event added so much value to downtown and the entire community loves it. She asked about bringing in a new art piece every year with Mr. Graves responding that the long-term goal is to buy and own two art pieces every year, however the challenge is to present it differently every year or at a different location, and the need to acquire new art pieces. Commissioner Ward inquired if a light specific artwork can be incorporated into the ArtCurrents program with Mr. Graves responding that it will be a good idea to choose art pieces that can lit-up yearlong around downtown. Commissioner Doutriaux asked if there is a specific theme for the art piece and Mr. Graves stated that they are trying to stay away from Christmas theme and focus more on the winter theme and also considering safety because of the lighting requirement. Ms. Boyd shared that the light-based artwork is expensive and so in order to encourage more engagement from local artists, they decided to make the theme broader. Commissioner Sichelstiel asked if there is a plan for storage of the artworks with Mr. Graves responding that they will make sure that they will have adequate storage. Chair Ryba thanked Mr. Graves and stated that the Commission will need to study how this project will fit in the Public Art program.

REQUEST OF CDA LIBRARY FOR THE ACQUISITION OF THE ART PIECE TITLED “LOVE LETTER TO LAKE COEUR D’ALENE BY ARTIST MARY FRANCES DONDELINGER:

Chair Ryba introduced Mr. McCrea and shared that he was the Councilmember who seconded the motion to establish the Arts Commission in 1982. Mr. McCrea stated that he agrees to have a process in place for evaluating requests for purchase of artworks. He explained that the 16-foot-tall art piece that they are requesting will be a great addition to the city public art collection. He stated that the library will be a good place because of the number of people who can see it. For FY 2023, there are about 212,000 and for FY 2024, there are about 175,000 visits. Adult in-person attendance in 2024 is 8,000 and there are about 20,000 children who attend the programs over the years. Chair Ryba mentioned that the Commission is working with the Library Director and the Foundation for the Children’s Library Entrance Art Project with funding from the Fleshner Foundation. She suggested looking into the possibility of splitting the cost with the Fleshner Foundation or finding a sponsorship match.

REQUEST OF HERITAGE HEALTH FOR THE ACQUISITION OF THE ART PIECE TITLED “LOVE LETTER TO LAKE COEUR D’ALENE BY ARTIST MARY FRANCES DONDELINGER:

Chair Ryba stated that this item will be tabled based on earlier discussions on coming up with guidelines.

RECOMMENDATION FOR THE REAPPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONERS CHUCK ETHRIDGE AND CHARLOTTE DOUTRIAUX: MOTION:

Motion by Commissioner Light, seconded by Commissioner Sichelstiel, to recommend to Council the reappointment of Commissioners Chuck Ethridge and Charlotte Doutriaux. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

CANCELLATION OF THE DECEMBER 24, 2024 ARTS COMMISSION MEETING:

Chair Ryba stated that the scheduled meeting on December 24 falls on a holiday, hence the last meeting for the year will be on November 26, 2024.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Mayor's Awards in the Arts: Chair Ryba thanked the Commissioners and all those who participated in the Mayor's Awards in the Arts event last October 9. She sent out thank you cards to Stephen Shortridge as the emcee as well as the performers including Jojo Dodge, Aspire Theatre, Jim Phillips, brass quintet of the CDA Symphony, CDA Summer Theater, CDA Shakespeare, and Northern Dance Academy. Artist Cheryl Metcalf created art on-site, Emerge art students displayed their art, and Commissioner Ward sang the National Anthem. She thanked Councilmember Kiki Miller for presenting the awards; Boe Miller, the Poet Laureate for the City of Moscow; CDA Poet Laureate Jennifer Passaro, and all the award recipients. She also thanked the Subcommittee members for doing a wonderful job and city staff for providing assistance throughout the process. Ms. Mateski mentioned that the Press Release renaming the Mayor's Awards in the Arts to Coeur d'Alene Arts Awards was published on October 10, 2024 and is also posted to the city website and Arts Commission page.

ArtCurrents: Ms. Mateski shared that the selected 2024 ArtCurrents are already installed. Dale Young's "Eternal Mudra" is installed at Atlas Waterfront Park near the Gaia sculpture, Robert Turriff's "Sentinel Watcher" is installed at Riverstone replacing the Mi Paloma artwork, and installed around downtown are Michael Dunton's "Sway," Paul Remier's "Woodland," and Patrick Sullivan's "O'Keefe 7" sculpture. Chair Ryba mentioned that Commissioner Shortridge and Commissioner Light suggested that the Commissioner should do a tour to see all the art pieces.

Arts Commission Applicant Review: Chair Ryba shared that there have been three applications received so far and the Subcommittee will hold an interview of applicants, however the deadline for applications will be extended until all three vacancies are filled. She asked the Commissioners if they knew someone interested and encourage them to apply to have a diverse pool of candidates.

Visual & Performing Arts: Commissioner Ward stated that a lot of local musicians are performing indoors now, and holiday concerts will be coming up. Chair Ryba shared that Handel's Messiah presented by the Music Conservatory of Coeur d'Alene is scheduled for November 23 and 24. Commissioner Ethridge shared that Shakespeare Coeur d'Alene's Macbeth is on its last week at the Kroc Center, the Lake City Playhouse still has The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged until October 27, and Cinderella will be presented by CDA Act from November 7-10 at the Kroc Center. Chair Ryba mentioned that The Sound of Christmas starring Jenny Shotwell and family and produced by Ellen Travolta is from November 29 to December 22. Commissioner Light asked the Commissioners to check the Arts and Culture Alliance for the schedule of community events. Chair Ryba encouraged the Commissioners to sign-up for the Arts and Culture Alliance newsletter.

Ms. Mateski shared a copy of Emerge youth art scholarship 90-day Report (July-September 2024), for information of the Commissioners.

Marketing & Technology: Commissioner Sichelstiel stated that they will be holding a meeting. Chair Ryba thanked Commissioner Doutriaux for the great photos during the Mayor's Awards in the Arts and asked her to share the photos with Commissioner Sichelstiel and Light. She asked

Ms. Mateski to upload the photos of the honorees to the Arts Commission website page.

Arts Commission History: Chair Ryba will send Ms. Mateski the shorter version of the Arts Commission history write-up for posting to the website. Commissioner Light will send pictures from the PowerPoint presentation during the Mayor's Awards in the Arts event to be incorporated in the website write-up.

Mural Projects: Chair Ryba mentioned that Trader Joe's has a beautiful mural. Commissioner Light shared that while it is not an official Arts Commission involvement, former City Accountant Stephanie Padilla asked the Commission before to provide a list of local artists, of which one was chosen to do the mural project. Commissioner Doutriaux stated that the Harvest Foods located at East Sherman would like to have a mural at the back of their warehouse which is facing the neighborhood. She inquired about the process of requesting a mural project. Chair Ryba reviewed the membership of the Subcommittee. Councilmember Evans will be replaced by Commissioner Shortridge. Commissioner Momerak will be the Chair and will discuss with Commissioner Doutriaux the process and decide on how to proceed.

Budget: City Finance Department will present on the Public Art Fund in the next meeting.

Wastewater Treatment Facility Art Project: Chair Ryba noted that the Streets Department will be pouring concrete this week, installation is scheduled for November 14 or 15, and then ribbon cutting ceremony is tentatively scheduled for December 20. Councilmember Evans stated that December 20 is the Friday before Christmas, and many would be travelling to visit family. She suggested checking if the event could be scheduled before or after the holidays when people are in town, and it would be good to have many kids to attend. Chair Ryba said that she would let them know and check if mid-January would be possible.

Children's Library Entrance Art Project: Chair Ryba stated that the installation is scheduled for November 8 and then a ribbon cutting ceremony will be scheduled after.

Poet Laureate: Commissioner Shortridge shared that they will meet with Jennifer Passaro next week to discuss the next steps and plan for possible projects such as the poetry festival and poetry walk.

ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Light, seconded by Commissioner Walker, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting ended at 5:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Jo Anne Mateski
Executive Assistant