

ARTS COMMISSION MINUTES
July 27, 2021
City Hall, Conference Room #6

Attendees in Person: Executive Assistant Sherrie Badertscher, Accountant Stephanie Padilla, Commissioner Mary Lee Ryba, Commissioner Teresa Runge, Commissioner Ali Shute, Commissioner Dr. Priscilla Bell, Commissioner Jennifer Drake, Commissioner David Groth, Commissioner Lindsay Sichelstiel, City Administrator Troy Tymesen, Council Liaison Amy Evans.

Commissioner Attendees via ZOOM: Bev Moss.

Guests in Person: Suzanne Knutson, Jessica Mahuron, Cassie Hudson, Jason Sanchez, Sam Koester.

Guest via ZOOM: Dr. Sarah Lynch, Jane Clark.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Jennifer Drake called the meeting to order.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION: There were none.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Board Director Suzanne Knutson, Out of the Shadows Theater, thanked the Commission for their contributions and support of the arts. She stated their theater company helps those affected by disability by providing a resource to participate in their community and be recognized for their talents and abilities rather than their disabilities. The program began in 2016 with 24 actors and they now had 35 actors which ranged in age from 9 to 60 years-old, and each was paired with a coach or shadow. She has been involved with Out of the Shadows Theater since 2019. She started as a shadow and is now a board member. She mentioned they had presented four (4) musicals to date, and their next musical was scheduled at the Kroc Center in October/November. She said their goal was to grow and eventually offer monthly workshops to the actors, and would appreciate the support of the City and Commission by attending a show, sponsoring a volunteer, and helping to spread the word. She mentioned tickets for the upcoming musical were \$14.00 each. Chairman Drake said they had been contacted by the theater group in the past and that their work was incredible and she encouraged everyone to see a show.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Runge, seconded by Commissioner Ryba, to approve the May 25, 2021, minutes. **Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT:

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Shute, seconded by Commissioner Bell, to approve the May and June 2021, Financial Reports. **Motion carried.**

COMMENTS: Commissioner Bell mentioned she loved being on the Commission but she would be spending 4-5 months each year in Spain. She was open to discussion on the future of her appointment to the Commission. Chairman Drake stated she was happy to keep Commissioner Bell on the Commission and there were exceptions in the code for excused absences. City Administrator Tymesen stated to add the discussion to next month's agenda for discussion and action.

City Administrator Tymesen stated the Commission continues to bring in new art to the community and there was a new sculpture in front of the North Idaho Wildlife Museum "The Cowboy". The museum's owner Mr. Pinkerton now has 22 sculptures from the Frederick Remington collection. He also mentioned they slowly been disbursing Performing Arts Grants, and two groups had received disbursements: Chorale \$966, and CdA Symphony Orchestra \$12,165.

UPDATE ON "INSPIRED" PUBLIC ART SCULPTURE: City Administrator Tymesen introduced artist Jason Sanchez. Mr. Sanchez stated the piece was ready and he was coordinating with his contractor to schedule installation which would be the third week of September. He said he's finishing up the powder coating and felt it would be a unique piece, and was excited to get it installed. He would be finalizing installation details and would coordinate with City staff as the installation would take 2-3 days. Mr. Tymesen said he would work to coordinate the installation with Mr. Sanchez. Mr. Sanchez said there were 27 miles of welding on the piece, and 2000 individual steel pieces were welded together, and he felt the art piece was truly one-of-a-kind. The Commission thanked Mr. Sanchez for his commitment and follow through on the project and were excited to see it installed.

THIRD (FOURTH) STREET PARKING GARAGE PUBLIC ART UPDATE: Chairman Drake stated the five (5) finalist's art maquettes were on display at the Library until August 9, 2021. Council Liaison Evans stated she had received input in regards to the maquettes and the Commission may need to revisit the maquette criteria. Chairman Drake stated there was one (1) artist who didn't submit a maquette, but a proposal instead, and she was in agreement they would review the maquette requirements and make revisions as needed.

ARTCURRENTS: Commissioner Runge stated when the ArtCurrents program was established, the Commission offered the artist a \$1000 stipend for the first year, and if the agreement was extended a second year, they receive \$600. She stated she would like to increase the second year stipend to \$1000.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Shute, seconded by Commissioner Ryba, to increase the ArtCurrents agreement stipend to \$1000.00 per year. **Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDED ARTCURRENTS PIECES: Commissioner Runge said the selection committee met and voted on 14 new art pieces for the ArtCurrents program, and selected nine (9). She said here were three (3) art pieces the selection committee were unable to make a final decision on and had asked for the Commission to be the tie breaker. She displayed a PowerPoint presentation which contained each art piece. She asked for the Commission's input on three (3) pieces; Unrestrained Force, Its Always a Full Moon, and Enervate. Commissioner Bell asked what the program's budget was, with Commissioner Runge stating they are funded for \$12,000 for the current year, and would consider keeping three (3) of the current pieces for another year. The piece "It's Always a Full Moon" could be placed on a wall, possibly at City Hall or the Library. It was a 2D piece and there were not any requirements in the call that required 3D art. The piece "Enervate" did not meet the height requirement and therefore should be disqualified. Chairman Drake stated she felt "It's Always a Full Moon" and "Enervate" didn't fit the locations for ArtCurrents, and would recommend "Unrestrained Force" be included with the nine (9) chosen by the selection committee which made a total of ten (10) new pieces for the collection.

MOTION: by Commissioner Bell, seconded by Commissioner Sichelstiel, to include "Unrestrained Force" in the ArtCurrents selection. **Motion carried.**

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Runge, seconded by Commissioner Bell, to approve the selection committee's recommended ten (10) ArtCurrents pieces. **Motion carried.**

APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENTS OF JENNIFER DRAKE, JOHN BRUNING, AND DAVID GROTH:

MOTION: by Commissioner Shute, seconded by Commissioner Runge, to approve the reappointments of Jennifer Drake, John Bruning, and David Groth to the Arts Commission. **Motion carried.**

DISCUSSION ON AUDIOCAST PROPOSAL: Chairman Drake explained she spent some time researching the proposal and felt it was a great item to consider. She said it was thoughtful and an easy-to-use app. She stated it would be used as a self-guided tour of all the art around the community. The Commissioners agreed they would like to invite the developer to make a presentation at a future meeting.

PROPOSAL FROM NORTH IDAHO PRIDE ALLIANCE: Commissioner Shute said the North Idaho Pride Alliance (NIPA) had provided a thorough proposal for a pride crosswalk or stairs. Outreach Coordinator Jessica Mahuron said they looked at potential sites, and the area outside the HREI building, or by the Library would best fit the project. She said she researched products that would be long lasting and provide outside durability, and went over the different products she found. She mentioned they had received donations of \$3,500 so far, and an anonymous donor was offering a match of donations received. She stated the project would cost approximately \$5,000 to complete and she felt confident they could meet the project cost and continue to fund maintenance needs.

Chairman Drake stated she liked the stairs idea but didn't feel it would be a good fit by the Library, and felt the crosswalk by HREI would be a more appropriate place. The Commissioners were in agreement.

MOTION: by Commissioner Shute, seconded by Commissioner Bell, to allow NIPA to paint the two (2) crosswalks by the HREI building using one of the renditions provided by the artist.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Bell asked about roadway safety and if cars would be distracted by the artwork on the crosswalk, with Ms. Mahuron explaining studies have shown the crossing are made more visible, and therefore safer for pedestrians. Commissioner Bell asked the project would require a maintenance agreement with NIPA, with Mr. Tymesen stating it would most likely require a contract.

DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE PURCHASE OF "ENGAGE": Chairman Drake stated the artist had approached the Arts Commission to inquire about the possible purchase of his ArtCurrents piece "Engage" which was on display in Riverstone. The piece was listed for \$25,000, and after a brief discussion, the Commissioners decided they would not purchase the art piece.

PLACEMENT OF DONATED PIECE "COR LEONIS": Chairman Drake explained that the art donor didn't approve of any of the proposed locations the city had provided. City Accountant Padilla stated she walked the area with the donor, looked at possible locations for the art piece, and explained to the donor the art piece would belong to the city after the donation and may require moving from any selected location at any time. The donor reiterated they were not in agreement with placing the art piece in the locations presented by the city. The Commissioners were in agreement that the location on Government Way would be a wonderful location for the art piece and were in agreement if the donor did not accept any of the offered locations, they would rescind the offer of the donation.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES:

Utility Box Beautification Project: Executive Assistant Badertscher stated TDS were still working on installing the six (6) remaining boxes. The art has been selected and is ready when the boxes are installed. She said they were currently working on the rewraps for the Sherman Avenue traffic signal upgrades, Sherman Avenue from 1st to 5th Streets, and were collaborating with the Downtown Association to add a QR code which would give the public information to nearby businesses and attractions.

Performing Arts Grants: Mr. Tymesen mentioned staff were working on the disbursements. Chorale and CdA Symphony Orchestra have received funds from their grant awards.

Storm Drain Art: Commissioner Groth stated the drains were complete and would be providing an invoice for payment to the schools for completion of their projects.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Bell, seconded by Commissioner Ryba, to adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 5:56p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Sherrie L. Badertscher
Executive Assistant