



NEWS ADVISORY

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For immediate release

Selection Process Continues for Parking Structure Public Art

The City of Missoula Public Art Committee will issue a new art call next week for a public art piece at the new Park Place parking structure on East Front Street after a first limited invitational competition failed to produce a winning proposal.

"Though we received very excellent proposals, the selection committee felt none of them was precisely right for installation at the Park Place site, and we reluctantly decided to continue the process," said Joan Jonkel, Public Art Committee Chair.

An initial selection committee chose three finalists from seven submissions responding to a limited invitational competition to artists. The finalists were Montana artists Ben Bloch, Cameron; Clarice Dreyer, Bozeman; and Patrick Zentz, Laurel.

The subcommittee for the Park Place Art Project included representatives from the Public Art Committee, the Missoula Redevelopment Agency, the Missoula Parking Commission, the Heart of Missoula Neighborhood Council, neighboring businesses on Front Street and the architectural firm MacArthur, Means & Wells. Its members met last week to discuss other methods provided by the Percent for Art Ordinance for art selection. The committee is in the process of issuing an open regional invitation to all artists in Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Washington and Oregon to submit a proposal for the project. The art call will be issued next week. Artists who previously submitted have been encouraged to reapply, and all artists are encouraged to sign up online on the City of Missoula website to receive notification of the art call, as well as future art calls, by visiting <http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/index.aspx?NID=899>

Funding for the art piece comes from the City of Missoula Percent for Art Ordinance. Park Place, scheduled for completion this fall, features five floors of parking space with commercial retail space at street level. The building is designed to connect aesthetically to the urban and natural landscape of Missoula.

For more information, contact Joan Jonkel, Public Art Committee chair, at 728-0345 or by e-mail at jonkel@bigsky.net.

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