

## MISSOULA PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 9, 2018 – 4:00 PM

Jack Reidy Conference Room

140 W. Pine, Missoula, MT 59802

**Committee Members Present:** Doug Olson, Courtney LeBlanc, Kia Lyszak, Taag Peterson, Julie Armstrong, Peter Lambros, Kathi Olson

**Committee Members Absent:** Cathay Smith, Helen Hallenbeck

**Others Present:** Becca McCarron (ARTS Missoula)

### 1. Call to Order 4:17pm

### 2. Public Comment

- a. Doug explains that he is abstaining from any conversation to do with the metal relics in Silver Park. As a private citizen he has had conversations with Ellen Buchanan of MRA about the pieces being stored in the Cemetery. These pieces are not property of the City. Doug has heard that it might need to be run by the City Attorney as to how to dispose of them. Also, there is not enough good steel to necessarily salvage them; they may need to just be recycled.
- b. The metal pieces are still currently in the cemetery. Doug is interested in them as a private citizen and artist. Ellen explained to Doug that the PAC should “release” them, as this situation was created by the Committee and there is no official ownership at this point.
- c. Peter asks what Doug’s intention is for bring this up? Doug would like to know how the PAC is planning to move forward. Peter explains that writing a letter to Jim, the City Attorney and asking what can be disposed of may be the best option. Julie asks if there is inventory of these pieces of metal?
- d. Doug is interested in making a sculpture of them privately, and that the rest could probably be recycled. Julie questions if some of them could be worth selling? Doug explains that it would be very challenging and costly to move them.
- e. \*Committee discusses how the art call went with Silver Park and submissions they received\*.
- f. Julie explains the process of disposing of material through City Council. She suggests that PAC could come to Council and express that the PAC has no interest in these and the City can dispose of the metal pieces as they see fit. Julie says there may just be a concern about accidentally getting rid of something that has historical value.
- g. Committee discusses that referring to specific relics might be beneficial when deciding which will be recycled, or used, etc.

### 3. No Guest(s)

### 4. Approval of Minutes

- a. October 17th, 2017 - *Kia makes a motion to approve October 17th Minutes. Taag seconds this motion. Doug abstains from vote as he was not present during a portion of the meeting. All are in favor of approving Minutes. October 17th, 2017 Minutes are approved.*

- b. November 21st & December 19th - No Quorum at either meeting, No Vote.

#### **5. UM School of Art Relationship, Pilot Program - Peter**

- a. Peter explains that the purpose of the PAC meeting being rescheduled for this week is attending to the UofM Pilot Program Paperwork. Peter has been in communication with the Mayor. \*Peter reads email from Mayor that expresses the Mayor's approval, but that he and his team are still reviewing. The Mayor has requested that Matt Lawson reviews. The Mayor explained to Peter that the Committee should move forward on our end, and the City will make changes as necessary based on the conversation.
- b. \*Public Art Committee takes a moment to review the packet/contract for this project\*.
- c. Kathi suggests adding an official statement with the language that expresses that the City has the right to make changes, the non-discriminatory information, etc. Kathi says for Becca to look over past art calls for this information.
- d. Note: If the City or the PAC have substantive revisions, the other party as well as the University would need to re-approve this packet.
- e. Kathi suggests that the first line of the contract, on the back page, should include the name, address & phone number of applicants instead of just "artist contact information". Taag suggests the last point of the contract says "potential" loss of opportunity for art exhibiting.
- f. Peter reminds Committee of past discussion regarding censorship. The Committee will be accepting pieces that are in accordance with the PAC & City's mission.
- g. Becca explains that she has reached out to Kevin Bell, our UofM School of Art contact for the Spring. With this contract in place, the Committee should be receiving pieces to be reviewed at February's meeting.
- h. Committee suggests Becca put the entire last page/contract on Submittable so it is easier to organize submission information as opposed to images being emailed to her.
- i. *Courtney makes a motion to approve this UofM Pilot Program Paperwork with the modification for the City Rights/Non-discrimination change, more detailed contact info on the contract, and adding the contract to Submittable. Doug seconds this motion. All are in favor. UofM Pilot Program Paperwork is approved.*

#### **6. Election for Chair in New Fiscal Year - Peter**

- a. Peter asks Courtney if she is still interested in chairmanship. Courtney says yes she is. Doug expresses that he is mildly interested as well.
- b. Peter will officially step down from Chair at the end of the Fiscal Year, July 2018. A new chair will be potentially elected today and will shadow under Peter until that time.
- c. Doug asks if Vice Chair is also up for new elect? Are they done in the same cycle? Kathi is currently Vice Chair until the end of the Fiscal Year and has not expressed interest in stepping down. Peter feels that there is not a need necessarily to change Vice Chair and Chair at the same time unless the Committee feels otherwise.
- d. Peter asks Doug & Courtney to each take the floor and explain to the Committee why they are fit/interested in the Chair position.

- e. Doug says he is mildly interested. He has quite a few obligations in the summer. He would like to take some of the agenda items that were discussed at last years planning meeting and work to prioritize these. He would try to knock a few of these off. He also feels that art calls need to be taken a look at - how the Committee goes about art calls? He feels the group could use more process as far as picking agenda items and sticking to them.
- f. Courtney explains that she would like to see more community outreach. She likes what the PAC is currently doing with the University and other entities and would like to continue to push this and other relationships. She thinks we are starting to get our name out there. Courtney feels she has time to give and is very available.
- g. Kia asks Courtney and Doug about their time commitments and if they each have the ability to be Chair.
- h. Doug asks how many hours it typically takes a Chair to complete business? Peter explains he feels he would want to spend more time as Chair. He says it truly depends what is happening. Often if there is something to react to, there is more of a time commitment. He feels the Chair should have the physical and mental space for the job and the ability to be present.
- i. The Committee expresses that one of Peter's strengths is getting things done without ruffling feathers. Kathi feels it is important a chair is available for Becca when she has questions or needs something. Peter feels this is important: the ability to bring people together and to navigate relationships, when there are opinions/needs/interests all over the map. How do you end a meeting where people feel it went well and people are seeing the best of each other? Also, the ability to make judgement calls and react to things as they come appropriately.
- j. Taag feels the agenda of the Committee can move forward without a super strong chair. He doesn't feel it defeats one person's ability to get something done. Kathi explains we have had great financial allocations in the past from the City, but we still have fiscal challenges ahead and it would be great to have the leadership to handle that. Kia feels that the Chair should have the passion and time to devote to the job.
- k. \*Committee brings decision to a vote.\* Discussion ensues.
- l. *Peter formalizes decision. Peter motions for vote on Courtney as Chair. All in favor of Courtney to become official chair at the end of the Fiscal Year and meanwhile train under Peter. All are in favor. Courtney is approved as Chair of the City of Missoula Public Art Committee come July 2018.*
- m. Peter explains that he wants this to Committee to be a place where all participants can give their best. Thank you to Doug and Courtney for their interest! Peter says that one of the reasons for this 6 month transition period is for Peter to finish up some of his tasks before Courtney officially takes over.

## **7. Past Art Calls/Doug's Discussion - Doug**

- a. Peter opens the floor up to Doug regarding the message he would like to convey. Peter invites Doug to begin his discussion now with the understanding that it can be continued at the next meeting if need be.
- b. Doug discusses themed art calls. Doug explains to Committee some history regarding PAC art calls and how he ended up being on this Committee. During a past art call, Doug participated in,

he felt confused about how some of the selections were chosen based on theme. Therefore, Doug wanted to figure out this process and joined the Committee.

- c. Doug explains that being an artist there is a risk you take when submitting work. Your art may be picked apart and perhaps it is not being done in the correct way [taking into account an artists freedom]. Doug feels other artists have this same concern.
- d. Doug explains that the PAC should try to do an art call without a theme. Often when there is a theme, there is another stakeholder financing the piece. Therefore, the decision regarding the piece sway towards that group. You could still have dimensional requirements, but no theme.
- e. \*Committee discusses past projects with no theme as well as projects with a theme.\*
- f. Julie discusses the Silver Park Art Call theme. Kathi feels it is rare that we don't have a very broad parameter for our art calls. Kia is very much in support of artists freedom.
- g. Kia asks when another 1.5% art project is coming up?
- h. Julie suggests PAC create one project a year that is themeless. The PAC would have to find a site and get financial arrangements figured out, of course.
- i. Taag brings up that everything is usually site specific whether it is thematic or not. Kia feels often theme just happens to be a part of the Committee process. Art viewers often want to find order and reason within pieces so there is a natural inclination to want to theme art.
- j. Peter talks about having a funded piece of art. The PAC doesn't always have final say in what piece is officially chosen. We often have to take into account other stakeholders due to financial or site specific reasons. Usually there is a conversation about what is important to the stakeholders? But, there may be opportunities to work within different constraints.
- k. Peter says the PAC can take Doug's message to broaden our choices and thought processes in the future.
- l. The Committee agrees that there of course needs to be integrity and fairness in the process. The PAC appreciates Doug's ability to defend the artist's process.
- m. \*More discussion about stakeholders versus PAC choosing pieces.\*
- n. Julie suggests adding a section to future art calls that explains to artists if there is a stakeholder, that they may be asked to change portions of their work they submit. She thinks making expectations more explicit may fix this issue of unfairness.
- o. Peter says regarding calls themselves, its important to access our values as a Committee when making decisions. \*Peter reviews past art call processes\*. Due to the nature of the art call and stakeholder process, the Committee is sometimes limited by a theme - but we should take the initiative to open the door on that.
- p. Kia asks Doug about a scenario: in an art call if we like one piece but it doesn't fit the theme, and all the others did, should we pick none of the pieces? Kathi says it is partially the opinion of the people on the selection committee who sway decisions. Perhaps there are times when we can make it more open.
- q. Peter sums that ideally the PAC would like to create a call with no commission just for artists to make their art. But of course, along side that comes the question of funding. Our funding is going through a process (adding staff, getting ahead of our administration, etc.). We are not at a point where we are able to just give artists money to make something, as much as we would like to be.

- r. Tagg asks Peter to explain 1.5% allocation. Originally, within the 1%, we could use up to 20% of the 1% and accumulate money for repair. As the City's art collection grew, we were getting behind the curb to ever do repairs. This is where the .5% came from. Eventually, there could be enough money where we could also use the ½ a percent. Currently, that is not an option. Peter says this why we move forward via grants, private dollars, etc. Eventually we would want to be able to demonstrate to Council in a calculated way that we have our administration together, a staff member, etc and we would like a certain amount of money for a project. This said - we have to do one thing at a time.
- s. PAC's goal would be to create an amazing art piece(s) for Missoula. For example: sculptures along the river trail. \*Julie explains City budgeting possibilities. It would be ideal to have money slowly accumulating/institutionalized funding for a project like this over time, instead of asking for a lump sum. This could be a community effort that could be worked through with other entities. Julie suggests Becca ask Scott Paasch if he has any thoughts on how something like this might come to fruition.
- t. Peter wants Doug to feel heard during this meeting. Peter explains what we can come out of this meeting with... Funded sources of art create constraints for us. As a Committee, we can fight those battles along the way. There is an awareness that Doug brings to the committee. We should maintain a level of intention and integrity - and we can now view things through the lense that Doug have given us. We have the power to make choices such as: someone is bringing us a funding source, are we giving them veto power on the piece that is chosen or not? The Committee should make this explicit right away. We have the benefit of our history of art calls and this perspective Doug has given us. Also, the PAC wants to do some sort of art project. We can make this an item on the agenda that gathers steam and details (Sculptures on River) and work towards creating a call that we can eventually get funded.

#### **8. MCAT Documentary Update - Courtney**

- a. Topic Tabled.

#### **9. Lighting for Perseverance & Passage Update - Taag**

- a. Topic Tabled.

#### **10. Traffic Signal Box Update – Kathi**

- a. Topic Tabled.

#### **11. New Park, Parking Space Annual Art Project - Julie**

- a. Topic Tabled.

#### **12. Kickstarter Fundraising Effort [December Letters] - Kathi**

- a. Topic Tabled.

**13. Yearly Goals Discussion [Catalog & Condition Reporting] - Peter**

- a. Topic Tabled.

**14. Becca Updates [Parking Meter Project]**

- a. Becca updates committee on Dan Tabish/Bitterroot Mural and asks questions regarding if a PAC member is interested in seeing the mural per request of Scott Paasch. Committee is confused as to the entire process of the City acquiring the mural and the PAC’s involvement. Becca will check in with Scott.

**15. No Announcements, News, or Upcoming Events**

**16. No Comments**

**17. Adjournment 5:59pm**

**The City makes reasonable accommodations for any known disability that may interfere with a person’s ability to participate in this meeting. People needing assistance should provide advanced notice to allow adequate time to make needed arrangements. Please call Heidi Bakula at (406) 552-6003 or write her at Mayor’s office, 435 Ryman, Missoula, MT 59802 to make the request known.**

**STRATEGIC PLANNING GOALS 2017-2019**

**Mission: The Public Art Committee affirms the city’s role as an advocate to public art, fosters and enriches the aesthetic of the City of Missoula, values and promotes the contributions of artists to the community and furthers the objectives of Missoula City Ordinance 3221.**

**Vision: The Public Art Committee envisions a community where art and artists are valued, and where public art is integrated into the fabric of our place, and enhances the quality of life of its citizens.**

**YEAR 1-2017**

**Outreach and Awareness**

- A. Create monthly marketing PSAs
- B. Improve website
- C. Begin public art education for artists
- D. Make quarterly reports to council
- E. Establish a more formal connection to U of M art department
- F. Engage in community feedback

**Governance**

- A. Actively invite native representation onto committee

- B. Bring accounting and professional reporting to council
- C. Create annual planning and follow plan
- D. Create a catalogue and condition report
- E. Intentional use of staff and chair time

**Quality**

- A. Increase art call submissions

**Fundraising and Project Development**

- A. Pursue the idea of joining county
- B. Increase staff time

- C. Deepen our relationships to other Public Art Committees for inspiration and funding ideas
- D. Actively seek out grant funding
- E. Enrich private/public partnerships

### **Projects**

- A. One big project per year- form committee
- B. Public Art Guide
- C. Parking meters
- D. Lighting for Crossings
- E. Lighting for Perseverance and Passage
- F. Traffic Signal Boxes

### **YEAR 2- 2018**

#### **Outreach and Awareness**

- A. Create a public art scavenger hunt
- B. Continued public art education for artists
- C. Create a friends of public art volunteer group
- D. Enrich relationships with local artists by holding artists events

#### **Quality**

- A. Hit maintenance harder

#### **Fundraising and Project Development**

- A. Continue to increase staff time
- B. Enrich private and public partnerships

### **Projects**

- A. One big project per year
- B. Sculpture Park
- C. Live art/painting and music
- D. Community interactive art

### **YEAR 3- 2019**

#### **Fundraising and Project Development**

- A. Continue to increase staff time
- B. Ask city for project specific money

### **Projects**

- A. One big project per year
- B. Bench project