

MISSOULA PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE MINUTES

Tuesday, January 15th, 4-6pm

Jack Reidy Conference Room

140 W. Pine, Missoula, MT 59802

Committee Members Present: Taag Peterson, Courtney LeBlanc, Kathi Olson, Patricia Thornton (until 5:30pm), Cathay Smith, Lisa Simon, Peter Lambros, Stoney Sasser (at 5:30pm)

Committee Members Absent: Julie Armstrong

Others Present: Becca MacLean (Staff), Emily Jensen (Neighborhood Council), Ginny Merriam (City of Missoula Communications Director), Spider McKnight (Downtown Master Plan Representative), Amanda Beilby (Guest), Dustin Hirose (HDR Engineering), Geoff Badenoch (UofM Pilot Program), Kathy Witkowsky (Guest)

1. Call to Order 4:04pm

2. Public Comment

- **Spider McKnight:** Joins us from Six Pony Hitch, a company working on the Downtown Master Plan. Spider would like the committee to think about what they find as barriers to the public process, ideas for breaking down those barriers, what is working for Missoula's downtown, what's not working? PAC invites Spider to the PAC yearly goals meeting on Jan 29th to have a discussion about this. Becca will be in touch with Spider.

3. Guest(s)

Ginny Merriam - UofM Pilot Program Censorship

- a. Ginny is here on behalf of the Mayor's office. People are really enjoying the UM Pilot Program and pieces being displayed. Ginny explains that individuals were concerned that pieces were being stolen during this last install because the Mayor's office was not notified of the new install. Becca explains that this was her mistake. The PAC was approved by the City for two semesters of the program. She informed Matt Lawson and Chris West with City facilities and in the hustle of organizing with Kevin & students, forgot to directly contact the Mayor's office. Becca will remember to do this in the future.
- b. Ginny also discusses the concern for appropriate selection of art pieces in City Hall and public buildings. Nude figures and violence are upsetting to people. The idea is not to censor anyone, but just to adhere guidelines since the work is in a public space.
- c. Taag explains that the professor, Kevin Bell and his students were understanding and accepting of certain pieces not being able to go up. The Committee and Ginny do not want any sort of written guidelines. These government buildings are a public forum. Patricia suggests the committee ask someone from City Hall, or Ginny herself, to be a voice when jurying the shows.
- d. Discussion ensues on challenging the audience with art versus being appropriate for the space.
- e. Kathi suggests changing the location of pieces that may be more challenging. We also do not want to be removing art simply because people do not like it.

- f. PAC should determine what their intention is with the art selection. At this point, the intention has been to choose art that is of the highest quality. PAC has been more focused on student learning than perhaps the audience.
- g. Any art piece can be displeasing to anyone.
- h. Patricia suggests a ballot box for people to leave comments or suggestions.
- i. PAC's goal is to beautify. PAC should invite City building stakeholders such as Ginny to attend jury selection in the future.
- j. Becca look into getting in touch with Joanne at the Courthouse about rotating art for the next show.

Geoff Badenoch - Sculpture Park Discussion

- a. Geoff introduces his idea. Currently there is a trail between California Street and Russell that will continue to expand over the years. UofM has an Excellence fund which the UM President decides how to spend. Geoff proposes the University through the Excellence fund, partner with the City of Missoula and PAC to create a sculpture trail along the California and Russell trail.
- b. There could be a competition where each year for 10 years, a UofM art student competes to make a public sculpture to go on this trail. The first one would be placed on the north end of CA street and each passing year, the "latest" sculpture would be placed at that end -- moving each one down the trail respectively.
- c. Each year once a new sculpture is installed, there would be a celebration and "opening reception" where the community can come together to enjoy the new piece of work.
- d. Geoff has been in touch with President Seth Bodnar, Dr. Rafael Chacon, Mayor Engen and Laura Millin with Missoula Art Museum. His next stop is the UofM School of Art faculty. This entire project would be a collaboration between the art faculty, University, PAC, City of Missoula, etc.
- e. Discussion ensues on trail growth and development and how this sculpture garden would benefit the area.
- f. Patricia suggest Geoff speak with Jim Bailey in the UofM Art School.
- g. Stoney suggests an area with more foot traffic. Geoff explains he liked the idea of bring University folks off of campus into the community.
- h. This would likely take a combination of the Excellence Fund, Private funding, etc.
- i. Geoff simply wants the PAC to talk and think about this project idea and determine how they would like to be involved.

Justin from HDR - Higgins Bridge and "Returning"

- a. Dustin Hirose, is here from HDR engineering (not Justin). He is working on the design for the new Higgins Avenue Bridge. They will be widening the bridge to the west. There will be

improved lanes for bikes and pedestrians. The Staircase on the east side is being removed. They are reconstructing 3rd street. Construction will start early 2020.

- b. There will be an initial public meeting on January 29th about this project.
- c. They are working with the City to utilize an area in Caras park to store equipment and materials during construction.
- d. PAC is involved because Jeffrey Funk's "Returning" is located very close to the bridge and the staircase and this may be used as an area to store equipment, machinery, etc. Dustin does not think they have plans to remove the art piece, but will protect it during construction.
- e. By contract, if PAC pieces are removed, the PAC needs to work with the artist and art piece to determine best course of action. We are responsible for making sure that piece is protected. PAC needs to be sure we are informed during construction and on the piece.
- f. Dustin says PAC will be invited to the meeting with Parks to discuss the Returning piece area. Meeting will be in Wilma Theater.
- g. If the piece was removed, the intention would be to move the piece back.
- h. PAC needs to outline conditions of how it were to be removed if that becomes the case. For example: the artist involved, who is paying for this, where the piece will be stored, how the piece will be reinstalled, etc.
- i. Dustin will be in touch with Becca about the public meeting PAC should attend.
- j. The final design is currently almost complete. They expect a full year of construction. They are hoping to start January 2020.
- k. Becca find Jeffery Funk's 'Returning' contract.

4. Approval of Minutes

- a. **December 4th, 2018 - Tabled to Next February.**
- b. **December 6th, 2018 MRL Meeting- Tabled to February.**

5. Van Buren Soil Wall Mural, [Approval of Art Call] - Becca

- PAC suggests writing about the texture of the wall in the art call. The art call will be sent out after it is approved. PAC reviews call. *Patricia motions to approve the Van Buren Soil Wall Art Call with amendments. Kathi seconds this motion. All are in Favor. Van Buren Soil Wall Art Call is approved.*

6. Montana Rail Link Percent for Art Project [Approval of Art Piece & Artist Contract] - Taag

- a. Artist, Matt Babcock's drawings are passed out. MRL committee approved this piece. They had suggested that the artist upsize the sculpture by .25%. He came back with a budget that exceeded out capacity. We decided to get rid of large boulders causing this expense and Matt came up with this mound and sitting stones drawing. This is a combination of efforts between Matt, PAC, MRA and Parks & Rec. MRL committee voted to approve the piece as the drawings shown indicate.
- b. Contract is in progress. Committee will come together to approve once this is completed.

- c. Cathay asks what the mound is made out of. The mound is bark so that it does not have to be maintained or mowed. The mound is about 16in tall.
- d. *Taag motions to approve the 1/7/19 renderings for Matt Babcock's "Scratch" piece based on images provided, pending final contract approval. Lisa seconds this motion. All are in favor. Montana Rail Link piece concept is approved.*

7. UofM Pilot Program [Opening Reception, Plan Moving Forward & Accepting Payment] - Becca

- Tabled to February

8. Kickstarter Fundraising Effort [Social Media Campaign] - Courtney

- Tabled to February

9. Traffic Signal Box Update - Kathi

- Tabled to February

10. New Parks/Parking Spot Project [align with ZACC opening?] - Julie

- Tabled to February

11. Lighting for Perseverance & Passage Update- Taag

- Tabled to February

12. New Parks, Percent for Art Projects - Courtney

- Tabled to February

13. Becca Updates [Yearly Goals Meeting Reminder/Agenda/Items to Bring]

- Tabled to February

14. No Announcements, News, or Upcoming Events

15. No Comments

16. Adjournment 6:00pm

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.

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