

MISSOULA PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, January 18, 2022, 4 - 6 PM

Virtually via ZOOM

**Streaming Online Live and On
through the [City Youtube Channel](#)**

Committee Members Present: Kathi Olson, James Walter, Dennis Lippert, Stoney Samsoe, Debra Parker, Mirtha Becerra, Danielle Vazquez, Tiana Grise

Committee Members Absent: Greg Twigg

1. Call to Order
 - a. 4:04 PM
2. Public Comment
3. Approval of Minutes
 - a. November Minutes
 - i. James motions to approve the minutes. Mirtha seconds. Unanimously approved.
4. Budget: Kathi
 - a. Still waiting for regular updates from the City regarding our current finances
 - i. There is \$4500 in grants monies for signal boxes. and an additional \$7800.
 - ii. We also have maintenance monies that bring the total closer to 20k but we are waiting on the exact number of the latter.
 - b. We learned that donations to the Public Art Committee are tax-deductible but we should still advise people to check with their accountant.
 - c. Ideally, per City Finance, all donations and grant monies should come directly to the City
 - d. Stoney: so, we don't have a budget report to review that includes last year's expenses and revenue? To summarize, we only have \$7800 available? Kathi: that is correct, the most recent budget is what everyone was sent last year that's updated through July 2021
 - i. Stoney: why can't we get financial reports in an easy way? Kathi: Breanne has asked every month. Unfortunately, we have not consistently received the reports.
 - ii. Mirtha: this is Ashley in the finance office? Kathi: yes, we are not putting blame on her because she has other projects but if you're willing then it would be nice to go in and tell them we need regular budget reports. Mirtha: I will ask them because it's important for us to know how much money we're working with.
5. Rebranding
 - a. Kathi asks Stoney if she would be willing to chair the subcommittee in the new year.
 - i. Stoney: I think we need to start with the budget because what we have isn't a lot to work with but I did reach out to a few places including Amy Coseo who did an excellent job with SPARK!'s redesign. A logo and style guide would cost about \$2-3k
 - ii. Stoney: I think we're due for a long term visioning plan to discuss what our plan is with limited revenue, and how can we set up & support public art initiatives, can we do this via a strategic communications plan
 - b. Kathi: Perhaps the Committee should spend additional time to discuss some of these questions. Even though we had a long range planning session, we should discuss everyone's understanding of the Committee's purpose, goals, and objectives and how these relate to our image.
 - c. Kathi: In hiring a consultant, we may need to look at a minimum of three companies. Depending on the dollar amount to be spent, we may need to put out an RFP (request for proposal). It may be that if the cost exceeds \$5,000, an RFP would be necessary. Mirtha: my recollection is that an amount under \$5,000 is an administrative decision

- d. Mirtha: this is an issue of identity figuring out who we are, what we do and what our role is in the community so we need to figure that out before rebranding, I personally think it would be good to have a citywide plan for public art and who is doing it then we can start rebranding but I think right now it looks like we're an arm of Arts Missoula. This committee seems to be lost in the city's structure and in Arts Missoula
 - i. Kathi: Committee members should read the ordinances and understand our charge as part of the City. Where it may be confusing is our association with Arts Missoula through the funding of our public art coordinator. Our mission based on ordinance is very clear, but we do so much outside the city itself (i.e. working with the private sector) and that's where we may need to figure out how to deal with that image.
 - e. Stoney: Amy Coseo did strategic planning before starting the design business so she has experience with helping non-profits with that and that's how she approaches design. We should invite her to a meeting and have her lead us through some of visioning process
 - f. Kathi: Do Committee members want to take a couple hours or dedicate a meeting to meeting with Amy Coseo? Stoney: I'd propose that we dedicate an hour of our next meeting to meet with her
 - g. Stoney: I'm having a difficult time figuring out the way the PAC meetings are organized in Google Drive so if we can be emailed individual links to things
 - h. Stoney will reach out to Amy Coseo. Any decision or approval will have to wait until our next meeting because we need to vote during a meeting about any expenses related to her attending our meeting
6. Street Art Projects: James
- a. James: Ben has identified a couple of grant opportunities, some of them are national grants, and we're doing preliminary work on funding
 - i. Some of the grant focus on infrastructure so whether funding will be allocated for the art and what percentage that would be is hard to determine at this point
 - ii. One of the grants is focused on community traffic safety with the goal of the outcome being zero casualties, so that one is focused on public safety but the application of art is very applicable to these projects
7. PAC Live: Stoney
- a. Stoney: we left off with a discussion about the budget for it and since it's a thing that provides artists with stipends, I don't know how much we'll be able to do with \$7,800, I think we're under resourced
 - i. Kathi: What was your budget proposal? The last time we did it we did three months at \$600 and paid artists \$200 per performance, and I think we could definitely get sponsorships for this.
 - ii. Stoney: I presented an ambitious framing with five months and the total proposed cost including an intern because I'm not available during that time. Perhaps Breanne could dedicate some time and it feels really important to pay any intern we hire as well as provide them with support
 - iii. Stoney: maybe we could pair up with an organization each month and they could help manage their artists with boots on ground
 - iv. Kathi: are we still thinking First Fridays and \$3000 for the artists?, Stoney: what we pay the artists depends on the proposal.
 - v. Stoney: \$1500 budget for intern
 - vi. Stoney: hesitant to put out any call for artists without knowing we have the funding, Kathi: I'll help fundraise
 - b. Kathi: when would we need the money in hand? Stoney: March by the latest
 - c. Kathi: Is the previous art call easily edited for this year? Stoney: I'm happy to look over it and Breanne and I can tag team editing it

- i. Kathi: Can you get the art call ready so that we can approve it for next month
 - d. Stoney: I'm interested in hearing the committee's thoughts on how we can support the artists
 - i. Kathi: maybe a committee member could volunteer to help the artists
 - ii. James: I have a pick up truck and could volunteer
 - iii. Stoney: we need help with paperwork, logistic and location finding, and then there's the element of being present there and posting on social media as well as any last minute concerns
 - iv. Kathi, Dani, Tiana and James volunteer to help with the First Friday events
- 8. Traffic Signal Boxes: Kathi
 - a. Kathi: Again, we have \$4500 for replacement of "Now That's a Cowboy" and two new boxes. Lillian Nelson will be repainting "Now That's a Cowboy". There will be two new boxes near I-90. Kathi is working on funding for the TSB at Russell and 3rd.
 - b. Kathi: We need to review the Art Call for possible changes – so would like to gather the subcommittee. Last year Dennis was on it, maybe Debra or Tiana can join this year
 - c. Kathi: One area to review is to determine if we want to see the art proposal as a flat form or as a box model. We did have a couple of artists who did not like making a 3-D model.
 - d. Kathi: As an aside, people in Florence and Lolo have asked for guidance and help with traffic signal box art calls
 - e. Kathi: In an effort to raise monies and more awareness of the Project, it would be interesting to make t-shirts or postcards related to the traffic signal boxes.
 - i. Stoney: who owns the rights to the artwork? Kathi: the artists have retained their rights to the artwork, but in our contracts we have the right to use the TSB artwork for promotional materials.
- 9. Staffing: Kathi
 - a. There are still discussion related to the public art director position. Kathi is exploring options through various funding sources.
 - b. Committee agrees this is still a priority. There is still support from Arts Missoula.
 - c. Stoney suggested working with Marcy Allen of the Missoula Community Foundation – she would be a good resource.
- 10. Indigenous Mural Project: Danielle
 - a. No update but Dani will check in with Lisa about it
 - b. Kathi: am I remembering correctly that the Downtown Partnership is taking on a role in this? If so, Linda McCarthy might be a good person to speak to
- 11. Dash Sculpture: Kathi/Dennis
 - a. Dennis: Mike Lustig received an extension on project completion. He is continuing to work on the project for the Library.
- 12. PAC History: Joan Jonkel
 - a. Kathi: There are five (5) or six (6) boxes of PAC history. Once we receive those from the Jonkel family, Breanne and I will go through them then scan the information into our Google Drive
 - b. Debra: does the family want this stuff returned? Kathi: No.
- 13. Rattlesnake Neighborhood Sound Wall: Kathi
 - a. No updates
- 14. Process / Procedures: Kathi / Committee Chairs
 - a. Working on creating a form for next month
- 15. Idea Generation
 - a. Kathi: are there any updates on the Currents Community Center, Mirtha? Mirtha: it's moving forward but nothing concrete has happened and there will be an intensive public process

- b. Mirtha: Another project to think about is the Caras Park Corridor Project, and if those improvements (such as the ice skating ribbon or a light structure, etc) could be forms of arts. This is an opportunity. For example, there is opportunity for bike racks to become art.
 - i. Kathi: Technically, if those improvements are city funded then there should be 1.5% for public art per the Ordinance.
- c. James: the city is looking to acquire the right of way underneath Beartracks Bridge, and it was proposed in past long range planning that there be art there that's representative of indigenous art
- d. Mirtha: what about all the infrastructure owned by city water? Like, similar to the traffic boxes? Also, we'll need to replace the canopy for Caras Park soon so we should think of art options for that.

16. Announcements, News, or Upcoming Events

- a. Kathi: Committee members should familiarize themselves with the ordinances before our next meeting.
- b. Stoney: Open Air MT has their art call open for residencies, it closes on March 6th.
- c. Kathi: The downtown Berkshire Hathaway office has a wonderful show by Keziah Efta on display through February.

17. Adjourned at 5:39 PM

18. Next Meeting is February 15, 2022 at 4 PM