

**City of Missoula Public Art Committee Minutes**

**September 13, 2022, 4:00 pm**

**Jack Reidy Conference Room (in person) or TEAMS (virtually)**

**Attend in person: Jack Reidy Conference Room, 140 W. Pine, Missoula, MT**

Members Present: Mirtha Becerra, Kathi Olson, Chair, James Walter, Vice Chair, Dennis Lippert, Debra Parker, Danielle Vazquez, Mia Hanak

Members Absent: Tiana Grise, Erika Hickey

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 4:26 p.m.

**1.1 Roll Call**

Kelly Elam from Missoula Neighborhoods and Katherine Auge from Missoula in Motion are present to participate in our selection process.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**2.1 08.16.22 Minutes**

Kathi submits instead of Missoula City Council, it should be Missoula City Council Meeting. Kathi also submits for correction that the last point says she adjourned the meeting, not Erika. James motions to approve minutes as corrected. Dennis seconds. Debra says that we should edit John Engen's signature if he had already passed on. James accepts Debra's friendly amendment. The motion carries.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA**

No public comment.

**4. BUDGET UPDATE**

We've received \$1800 in donations for PAC Live.

Mirtha shares that finance has the reconciliation of funds on their to-do list. Kathi shares that there was a misunderstanding, and we receive a percent and a half for remodels as well.

**5. ACTION ITEMS**

**5.1 Traffic Circle Mural Selection**

James is the sub-committee chair, and shares that this is a joint project with Missoula in Motion and Sunday Streets. James wants to make the selection more democratic with more community engagement at Sunday Streets. Kathi asks if we'll be selecting the top finalists then letting the neighborhoods vote then we'll come back together, or what are James' ideas? Mia suggests that we narrow it to the top three submissions. James advocates for two options for a simpler process. Katherine explains that there will be displays during Sunday Streets with the finalists' design, and community members will be able to vote. Katherine also mentions that Sunday Streets is worried about the air quality, and if it is in the red then they'll cancel the event.

**5.1.1 Rachel Calderon-Navarro**

Rachel's application is reviewed. Discussion ensues. No: 6, Maybe: 2, Yes: 0.

**5.1.2 Emma Covill**

Emma's application is reviewed. Discussion ensues. Yes: 5, No: 1, Maybe: 2.  
Discussion of asking Emma to take medicine wheel out of designs if it's not culturally relevant for her.

**5.1.3 Lindsey Davenport**

Lindsey's application is reviewed. Discussion ensues. Yes: 0, No: 7, Maybe: 1.

**5.1.4 Meaghan Gateley**

Meaghan's application is reviewed. Discussion ensues. James shares that most of the projected costs in these applications are way below the City's estimates for cost. Yes: 3, No: 1, Maybe: 4

**5.1.5 Mickey Haldi**

Mickey's application is reviewed. Discussion ensues. Yes: 0, No: 5, Maybe: 3.

**5.1.6 Morgan Hodge**

Morgan's application is reviewed. Discussion ensues. Yes: 1, No: 6, Maybe: 1.

**5.1.7 Craig Menteer**

Craig's design included lettering, but Katherine mentions that it is not allowed. Kathi says that if we didn't put it in the art call, we can't change the rules now. Craig's application is reviewed. Discussion ensues. Yes: 0, No: 3, Maybe: 5

**5.1.8 Rae O'Myer**

Rae's application is reviewed. Discussion ensues.

Birds: Yes: 5, No: 0, Maybe: 3

Fish: Yes: 3, No: 0, Maybe: 5

**5.1.9 Christina Rice**

Christina application is reviewed. Discussion ensues.

Tree with water: Yes: 0, No: 2, Maybe: 6

Trees: Yes: 1, No: 5, Maybe: 2

**5.1.10 Paige Robinson**

Paige's application is reviewed. Discussion ensues. Yes: 1, No: 5, Maybe: 2.

**5.1.11 Karen Slobod**

Karen's application is reviewed. Discussion ensues.

Rivers Bring Life: Yes: 2, No: 2, Maybe: 4

Paper Lanterns Celebration: Yes: 2, No: 5, Maybe: 1

Wild Rivers and Fish: Yes: 0, No: 5, Maybe: 3

Planted Option: Yes: 0, No: 8, Maybe: 0

#### **5.1.12 Post-Review Discussion**

Emma Covill Design 1: Yes: 4, No: 0, Maybe: 4

Emma Design 2: Yes: 2, No: 2, Maybe: 4

Emma Design 3: Yes: 8, No: 0, Maybe: 0. Committee is interested in design without the medicine wheel.

Emma Covill's 3rd design and Rae O'Myer's Birds received the most 'Yes' votes. The committee proceeds to vote between the two. Emma receives 5 votes, Rae receives 2. Dennis abstained because he is a maybe on both.

Emma Covill's third design is the committee's choice if there is no community input. If there is community input at Sunday Streets, then the community will decide between Emma's third design or Rae O'Myer's bird design.

## **6. NON-ACTION ITEMS**

### **6.1 History**

Kathi printed out the frequently asked questions on the back of the Public Art Guide, and wants committee members to review them because it is imperative for them to know the answers to all the questions.

Kathi explains how vacancies are filled on the committee, and the make-up of the committee. She also shares some of the Public Art Committee history including its inception, the first public art pieces we helped with, and how selection processes happened in the past.

She goes through the Public Art Guide, and explains the history of each piece.

### **6.2 Dreams and Goals**

Karen Snow introduces herself as Berkshire Hathaway's Marketing Coordinator and tonight's moderator.

Karen starts by listing the current projects the committee is working on: traffic signal boxes, DASH sculpture, traffic circle, sculpture garden, Northwestern substation mural, helping Planning with determining art, community collaboration, PAC Live and Hudson Therriault's Describing Missoula project to help vision impaired individuals experience Public Art.

Mia will send Kathi a [link](#) to information for funding federal building projects.

Potential revenue sources include the federal building, park renovations, the riverfront triangle and buildings along West Broadway. They could also be project opportunities.

Mia asks about any opportunities to bridge City and county funding. Kathi says they're working towards that and are forming the connection through the library project, and judging the fair.

Karen suggests the committee focus on dreams for tonight without worrying about logistics, budget, etc. She asks each committee member to come up with one "pie in the sky" dream. She suggests it be on a 3-5 year timeline.

Kathi's is a Public Art Director.

Mia wants to bring in an internationally renowned artist to increase the profile of the program.

Mirtha wants more Missoulians to have access to experiential art rather than just murals or static pieces.

Debra suggests a labyrinth.

Kathi would like to see the continuation of long range, smaller projects (like traffic circles and traffic signal boxes) that serve as a learning opportunity for artists.

Kathi wants to do some fundraising specific to the Public Art Committee, like t-shirts or an event.

Mia wants to create a communications plan, and the committee will discuss refreshing our brand.

Mirtha wants us to be actively looking for opportunities for collaborations, she uses the Roots Fest t-shirts as an example of something we could be involved in.

Dennis wants to establish a relationship with the DASH organization after the sculpture is complete so Missoula artists can be seen on the national scene.

Mia wants to add a section to the website for local artists.

James talks about how there is no public place for performance art pieces, so that could be something to work on - a sheltered place downtown for ephemeral art to take place.

Kathi mentions developing a Friends of the Public Art Committee as a fundraising dream.

Mia wants an updated inventory for possible locations for public art.

One of Kathi's dreams is to have a virtual reality art exhibition from Stevensville to Missoula.

Another of Kathi's dreams is to receive money from the City's general fund for public art projects.

Structure: Mia wants to clarify the percent for art ordinance. Kathi adds that she thinks it's not just clarification, the committee needs to educate new people about the ordinance. Mia wants to create a strategic fundraising plan.

Mia asks if the committee thinks Missoula would be open to a burning man.

Mirtha thinks it would be good to have a Maori person from our sister city Palmerston North do a mural here.

The committee wants to do more public-private partnerships.

Mia wants to do conceptual environmental art in Missoula that talks about climate change.

Karen thinks the committee needs to start prioritizing. Kathi suggests the committee take a piece of paper at each meeting and discuss their priorities. Mia thinks a spreadsheet would be good.

Kathi wants a specific social media plan. Mia suggests we change all of our social media to match our website to "Public Art Missoula."

Karen will scribe the pages she's been writing on and send them to Kathi.

**7. ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS OR UPCOMING EVENTS**

No announcements, news or upcoming events.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

Kathi adjourned the meeting at 7:57 p.m.