

Public Art Advisory Committee Meeting

Oct. 13, 2020

12:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting



MINUTES

Attendance

Voting Members		Ex Officio	Staff
P Aaron Kohn	P Johnetta Dexter	P Tim Robinson (city council)	P Shelli Kerr
Dylan Turk	P Lauren Haynes	P Kalene Griffith (VB)	P David Wright
P Jerris Palmer	P Steven Baker		P Danielle Semsrott
P Tom Hoehn			P Josh Stacey

Guests: Jesse Elliott and Allyson Esposito with CACHE.

- 1. Call Meeting to Order.** Chairperson Tom Hoehn called the meeting to order at 12:02.
- 2. Introductions.**
- 3. Minutes from September 8 meeting.** Tom asked for approval of the minutes.

Aaron made a motion to approve the September 8, 2020 minutes. Steven seconded the motion. All in favor; motion passed 6-0.

- 4. Meet CACHE.** Allyson Esposito and Jesse Elliott with CACHE explained their role and purpose. Generally, they are a third party intermediary arts council to serve at the intersection of funders and municipalities. Constituents include artists, nonprofit arts organizations, and for-profit creative industries. Right now they have 13 funded projects that have had to be responsive to Covid-19. They are looking to lead a regional cultural planning process and help each municipality develop a ten year strategic plan. They envision being a regional support for public art in general. There is a need and want for more public art. Kicking off in Rogers, now.

Tom asked what does regional support mean? Funding, sharing of information and resources. Serving as the glue between all the municipalities, creating connection. They will want to know our needs to see how they can help. They are building lists of artists in the region, their specialty and creating a survey for discovery of whose here.

Committee members shared a little about the history of the committee, how they started, who they've worked with – schools, local artists, promoting our cultural diversity, equity and inclusion. There's a need to clarify what is public vs private in the public realm.

Tim asked about the regional study with Forecast. That created a foundation for conversations about space activation but there was still a gap in the implementation. Allyson pointed out that this committee is further along than other communities in the region. Many artists want to work in the public realm, but there is a skill set specific to public art. They have a team of mostly local artists that have been helpful in getting deep into community and different types of working artist groups. CACHE also has consultants – subject matter experts – that have experience with other public art programs, policies, costs, etc. They are planning more Zoom workshops to help plant some seeds and see where people are at, likely in November. One may be for cities and municipalities as well as real estate and development market. In the middle of setting up an arts

resource desk – platform for everyone –calls for artists, craigslist for artists, how-to information, a variety of content of at varying levels.

Hoping this is the beginning of a larger conversation with the committee. Focused on Springdale and Rogers initially. They need to know how they can best help. They are currently under the NWA Council and have a page on their website; expecting a CACHE website early next year.

PROPOSALS

- 5. BPL Public Engagement Art Project.** Library is conducting a study and is including a public engagement art project. Participants will be given kits to illustrate ideas about the future of the library on small canvas. Artist Ziba Rajabi will combine these with solid pieces to weave together and create an outline of the Bentonville city limits. They anticipate the project being complete in early 2021 and installed above the fireplace at the library. Aaron asked about what resources they have to get the public involved. Tom suggested the think through the criteria for submission.

OLD BUSINESS

- 6. No old business.**

NEW BUSINESS

- 7. No new business.**

PROJECT UPDATES

- 8. Almost Forgotten Osage Prairie.** Still anticipating late 2020 install. Getting signatures on the agreement now. Some plants may not be able to be planted until next year.
- 9. Open Heart Landscaping.** Not much of an update. Trouble securing 2021 volunteer maintenance. Looking for a group to commit to maintaining the landscaping next year.
- 10. Guide, These, My Hands.** The item was not placed on the City Council agenda because of renovations to the building and other development in the area. Tom talked to the artist about some options, suggesting it might be easier to get through the approval process if it's a freestanding structure, without compromising the integrity of the artwork. Tim said along a trail there are so many bicyclists and they may not be encouraged to stop. Steven noted that the committee originally like it because of the different approach of attaching to a building and installing along a trail like much of our other work. He suggested a park may be better. David suggested Train Station Park – it is on a trail, but it is a visible downtown space, across from the library. Jerris suggested Austin Baggett, across from Momentary. Dave Peel will be renovated, but could be a year or two out from construction on that. Steven suggested we may not want it near the Momentary in case it gets confused with The Momentary's installations. Out of courtesy to them, it should be placed a little further away. Lauren wanted to make sure we are letting the artists know the approval processes and be respectful to the artwork. Tom summarized that we will suggest Train Station or Dave Peel Parks, the city needs to confirm on setbacks and structural requirements, gauge support from the parks and Recreation Advisory Board and get a revised costs estimate. Tom wanted to note that we appreciate their time and effort to make these changes.
- 11. Flight.** Has not been installed
- 12. Art Feeds.** Josh reported there is an Art Feeds meeting with Sunshine School tomorrow about the plan for the unveiling at Citizens Park, tentatively planned for November 14.

13. Colorfull. Since there are no field trips due to COVID, the students are unable to participate at this time. Mr. Snider has suggested painting the mural himself and waiting on the bubbles, letting the students finish that when they can participate again.

OTHER

14. Public Art Map. Kalene reported that the public art map will include 120 pieces of public art, including the city's artwork and a Crystal Bridges map on the back. Going live in next day or so, google map for artwork on Visit Bentonville website and printing the map Friday. Tim suggests a scavenger hunt with the art map with a prize for completing. Could include routes for walking, bikes, and cars. Kalene reported they launched this last week through Goosechase and has 8 pieces to find each week. Kalene will provide the link and encourages everyone to share.

15. Recognize Johnetta for service. Shelli reported that Johnetta's term ends at the end of this month and although she could request reappointment for another term, she has decided to focus on her work. She's been on the board for three years, serving since November of 2017. In that time, she was part of approving five major projects: Sassy – original and new location; Rainbow Springs at Lawrence Plaza; Basketball Courts at Memorial Park; Universal Inseparability at the Corner at Park Springs; Open Heart in the roundabout at Bright Rd. In recognition, Shelli presented a frame with photos of artwork Johnetta helped to install.

16. Adjournment.

Tom made a motion to adjourn, Lauren seconded. Motion approved, 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 1:04 p.m.