

**CITY OF LOVELAND VISUAL ARTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, JULY 12, 2012 5:00 p.m.
LOVELAND MUSEUM/GALLERY AUDITORIUM**

The July 12, 2012 Visual Arts Commission meeting was officially called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairperson Sherri Heckel Kuhlmann. VAC Commissioners present: Roger Clark, Josh Emrich, alternate Greg Hoff, Angela Canada Hopkins, Nancy Jakobsson, Lynn Kincanon, Maryjo Morgan, and Margie Rosborough. Councilman Phil Farley and staff liaisons Susan Ison and Suzanne Janssen were also present. Alyson Kinkade was not present.

Regular Agenda Items

Additions or corrections to the July 12th, 2012 agenda: Action Item: Alternate transformer boxes.

Reports: Artsteps program

Additions or corrections to the June 14th, 2012 minutes: Sherri made process changes which she will share with Suzanne. The minutes will be brought back for approval in August.

Additions or corrections to the July 5th, 2012 special meeting minutes: Roger made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Nancy seconded the motion. The motion passed with 7 ayes and 1 abstention.

Citizen Comments: There were no citizens present to address VAC business.

2012 Budget – July Update:

Action Items:

Loveland Museum/Gallery Sculpture Garden

- Review of all new purchases: There were no new purchases to review. The budget update for the LM/G Sculpture Garden was distributed.
- Report out from Subcommittee: Greg Hoff has agreed to serve on the subcommittee. Margie shared Doug Erion's feedback regarding potential issues with the condition of the Ferber and Nakian sculptures, which have pending bids in the July 16th Christie's Auction. The commission was in favor of moving forward with the bid, depending on the subcommittee's decision about whether the pieces are in good condition. After general discussion, Roger recommended that the subcommittee make decisions regarding the condition of the artwork rather than potentially holding up the auction/bid process. Roger then made a formal motion that the commission defer to the subcommittee on condition/maintenance issues unless that information is known prior to the bid approval. Nancy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mission statement review: Sherri distributed a draft of the mission statement based upon past meeting minutes/discussion and conversations with Andrew Svedlow. There was discussion regarding geographic restrictions (whether or not the same sculpture is on display in neighboring cities, Denver, etc.) or preferences. The commission's preference is not to duplicate works located elsewhere in Colorado. There was discussion regarding the mission vs. the methods for achieving the mission. This item will be addressed further in August. It is the commission's desire for people to come to Loveland to see artworks they cannot view elsewhere, in addition, telling the story of American sculpture mid-19th century to present (as the budget permits). How to best communicate those goals within the mission statement will be developed further.

Maureen Corey (Curator of Art) will begin work on developing a draft of the narrative for the sculpture garden-how the story fits into the mission, how the purchases of sculpture enhance the mission, etc.

- **Museum expansion timeline:** Susan shared information regarding the timeline for the Museum/Gallery expansion:
 12/8/2011: Susan conducted a City Council Study Session and received direction to move forward with hiring an Architect to work on conceptual designs and a development officer to begin the fundraising process. Susan stated that discussion of alternative expansion sites arose after that meeting; however, this issue has been resolved.
 September 18, 2012: Susan will go to City Council to request the appropriation of funds to move forward with the project. City Council is currently reviewing the City's capital projects. The design work is slated to begin in 2014; construction to begin in 2015. Fundraising to raise \$10 million is necessary.

Margie recommended photos of each sculpture be taken for reference. (This will be a part of the notebooks prepared for all commissioners.) Susan will continue to report on this timeline so the commission can make decisions about when and how to share the sculpture garden pieces with the public.

Adopt-A-Garden Program: Lynn recommended the VAC develop a citizen program to care for downtown planting beds surrounding the TAAP sculptures. Initial thoughts are to meet with the Loveland High Plains Arts Council and the Park Department to determine best practices. The commission was in favor of proceeding with the research. Maryjo, Lynn and Nancy will meet in August to discuss the next steps. Greg offered to share information about the Adopt-A-Garden operations used by the Loveland High Plains Arts Council. In short, the City provides mulch and trash service but all other plantings are paid for using sculpture show proceeds.

Mural at Rialto Theater: There was discussion in prior meetings about adding a mural to the "hyphen" area of the Rialto Theater. At this time, there is little interest in moving forward with a mural at that site as there is general sense that the space may be too hidden and a mural may interfere with the Rialto Theater sign. Additionally, there are other, more high profile locations downtown that could be addressed.

There was discussion regarding a mural completed last year in Ft. Collins within a parking garage at the Ft. Collins Library. There was community participation, utilizing children and other interested parties to assist with painting the mural.

The Art Advocacy Project – 2D Artwork: (Handout regarding the proposed 2-D art on loan program at the Loveland Public Library was distributed.) Angela discussed the proposed on-loan program which was presented to the Library Board in late June. It was stated that art should be valued at more than \$250 due to the honorarium paid, and that plaque identification will be provided. The Library Board's discussion was in favor of the project but the Board needed to consider further. Representation from the Library Board and the Friends of the Library was also requested. There was a recommendation that the expenses of the program be split between the Friends of the Library and the Art in Public Places Program.

Alternate Transformer Boxes: (Angela removed herself from the meeting for this discussion.) There was discussion about adding the two alternate artists to the 2012 project due to the high quality of artwork and availability of cabinets. Initially, it was suggested to use two small boxes at the xeriscape garden; however, it was discussed that the designs may be more conducive to larger switch gear cabinets.

Lynn moved to accept the alternate artists, *Plant Cells* by Angela Canada Hopkins and *Evolution the Art Science Connection* by Michael Ryan, to the 2012 Transformations Project, with large cabinets, due to the high quality of the artwork. Roger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Artsteps: Susan explained that on September 22, 2012, from 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., the next Artsteps cooperative project between the Loveland Museum/Gallery and the Thompson R2J School District will be held. The topic for the 2012 Artsteps project will be utilizing recycled/repurposed items to create wearable art: costumes/clothing. The project will culminate in a fashion show for the public, family and friends. Volunteers are desired and several names were shared for possible assistance.

2013 Budget Review: Suzanne shared the proposed 2013 budget/budgeting process. Assumptions: 1) The VAC will spend 100% of the allocated funds. 2) The projections for the 2013 capital projects will all be executed as planned. Based upon those assumptions, staff allocates 85% of the total anticipated pool of money during the budgeting process. Personnel costs are determined by City Council during the budgeting process; operating costs are allocated based upon prior years' expenses and all remaining monies are allocated to the art purchases line items.

As part of the City's sustainability plans and cost recovery efforts, the City Manager has asked that all services are charged to the appropriate line items. Therefore, City directors' salaries are now allocated accordingly. A sizeable increase in the commission's annual personnel costs was noted. There was discussion whether or not all boards and commissions are treated the same regarding the cost recovery measures. Councilman Farley offered to inquire regarding this concern.

There is a desire for a VAC Retreat. Lynn volunteered her house. Dates will be discussed at the August meeting.

Staff/Commissioner Reports/Updates

Leslie Cleaners'/FIND Thrift Store Site: Staff was informed that the Colorado Preservation Office is now involved with this project and demolition has been postponed for a few months. The construction bids for this project have also come back higher than originally thought. Consequently, there may not be money available for a public art project at this site. The site may still be available for additional sculpture placements, as appropriate.

Rolling Dancing Moon by Reven Swanson Installation: Installation is pending based upon an opening in contractor Ken Williams' schedule. It is expected to occur in late July.

I-25/Highway 34 Interchange IGA: The intergovernmental agreement from CDOT was received and reviewed by City Legal staff, Susan and Suzanne. Changes (artwork reproduction rights, the Visual Artists Rights Act, and insurance requirements) will be made to the document and forwarded to CDOT for acceptance.

Mehaffey Park Design Concepts: It is expected that Robert will present final design concepts in August.

City Council Report

Councilman Farley discussed:

- The need for a general election to replace Kathleen McEwen's vacated seat.
- Artspace and the Brinkman project are likely to be addressed by City Council in early 2013.
- In June, Ralph Trenary presented the City of Loveland budget process at the Colorado Municipal League conference in Breckenridge. Councilman Farley also attended as Art in Public Places presentation and inquired about other city's restrictions on using only local artists for projects. The response was that other cities do not have restrictions to use only local artists as the best possible art should always be pursued. Additionally, once cities exclude artists based on locale, work for artists within that region may be excluded from neighboring cities.

- Launching of the City of Loveland's new branding will take place the following week.
- Artspace is optimistic that affordable housing tax credits will be approved for their location. The Loveland Housing Authority will manage that facility once developed.

Information Sharing

- Wi-Fi: Boards & Commissions access Foote Gallery, Washington School and Annex in the Municipal Building – log in: COLGuest – current password: accesswifi
- Commissioners were encouraged to attend the dedication of the 4 new sculptures installed in Benson Sculpture Garden on Saturday, July 14th at 10:00 a.m.
- Roger shared that the *Hobos to Homelessness* exhibition is wonderful and rare for towns the size of Loveland. He expressed his appreciation for the Museum/Gallery.
- A poetry event in conjunction with Robin Dodge's new exhibit, *Inspired*, will be held on Friday, July 13th in the Main Gallery of the Museum/Gallery.
- The Assemblage event, organized by Megan Tracy, will be held at the Loveland Feed & Grain on Saturday, July 14th and July 15th.

Commissioners viewed the two recent sculptures purchased through auction for the Loveland Museum/Gallery Sculpture Garden (by artists Alexander Proctor and George Segal) that were delivered earlier in the week.

Adjournment: Lynn motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Josh. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting length: 1:44