

**CITY OF LOVELAND VISUAL ARTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES, MAY 13, 2010, 5:00 P.M.**

The May 13th Visual Arts Commission meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Councilwoman Susan White. Commissioners present: Roger Clark, Lynn Kincanon, Susan White, Nancy Jakobsson, Carol Sarchet, Josh Emrich, Randy Amys, and Sherri Heckel Kuhlmann. Also present were: Staff liaisons Susan Ison and Suzanne Janssen, Councilwoman Joan Shaffer. Andrew Svedlow reported his absence in advance. Citizens present (that were identified): Dan Ostermiller, Ina White, Kent Ullberg, George Lundeen, Herb Mignery, Troy Dalabella, Rosetta and Mel Schockner, Mel Georgokopolous, Fran Judd, Roseanne Wheeler, Jane DeDecker, Dot Cada, Alyson Kinkade, and Ren Burke.

Additions or corrections to the May 13, 2010 agenda: Addition: Donation Policy

Additions or corrections to the April 8, 2010 minutes: None noted

Approval of the minutes of the April 8, 2010 minutes: Sherri Heckel Kuhlmann motioned to accept the minutes as written. Lynn Kincanon seconded the motion. the motion passed unanimously.

Action Items

Library Design Concepts - ONSITE Artists: Suzanne Janssen began by reviewing ONSITE Artists' final design concepts that were recommended for approval by the VAC subcommittee that met on April 29th. At that meeting, all designs were recommended for approval as discussed in the months preceding. Following the review, Chairwoman Susan White asked for citizen comments. Fred Anderson began by reviewing his commitment to the arts in Colorado and stated that he felt the selection of ONSITE Artists for the Library expansion project "felt like local artists have been slapped in the face" by the commission. Commissioner Roger Clark addressed Mr. Anderson's comments by stating that an RFP would have been open to all artists, had there been sufficient time to do so. When the project came to the VAC in November, the commission was presented with completed architectural drawings and it was imperative that an artist(s) be hired ASAP in order to allow for integrated artwork on that site. Library and Facilities staff were aware of this time constant and the commission sought to make an informed and quick decision. Given the experience and depth of ONSITE Artists' experience with integrated public art projects, this artist group was hired for the project (and later the Chilson Center expansion project). Without moving quickly, the opportunities for integrated art would be negligible. By making this decision, the Visual Arts Commission was in no way making a negative statement against Loveland artists and that the VAC is comprised of volunteers who are deeply committed to the art and artists in Loveland.. Roger stated that if the representatives of the Library do not agree with the choice of art recommended by the VAC, he was not inclined to approve the purchase.

George Lundeen asked who was responsible for the choice of the ONSITE Artists and who (within the City staff) is responsible for hiring artists for City projects. It was explained that historically department directors approach the VAC when they would like the VAC to become involved in the process. Both the Library and Chilson Center staff were aware of the desire by the VAC to hire artists early on during the construction process, but did not notify the

commission earlier in the design phase. Ren Burke (of the National Sculptors' Guild) felt that the commission "was sold a bill of goods" in that the artwork presented was not truly integrated and that artwork could be added to the site after construction was underway. Herb Mignery, Dan Ostermiller, Troy Dalabetta, Ina White, Roseanne Wheeler, and Kent Ullberg expressed similar complaint, feeling that Loveland artists should be given the opportunity to apply for Loveland capital building project(s).

Councilwoman Joan Shaffer reiterated the early history of both projects, stating that the VAC has tried to get artists hired early on during the planning stages of City capital projects, and that she had addressed this specific issue at the December 8th City Council Study Session. Efforts would be made to formalize the City process as to when an artist (or artists) are hired during the construction process in order to avoid similar situations in the future. All artists in attendance were encouraged to participate in future meetings regarding this new policy. Susan Ison and Suzanne Janssen answered questions regarding the timing of City staff asking to address the VAC for both Civic Center projects. Sherri Heckel Kuhlmann and Roger Clark answered repeated questions about the selection of ONSITE Artists and discussed the timeline of when the projects came to the commission for action. When asked for feedback from the Library staff, Marcia Lewis (Assistant Library Director) expressed that she had been happy with the concepts presented by ONSITE Artists and that the artists were responsive to feedback from the Library staff and Board. After over one hour of discussion, it appeared as if there were two overriding concerns expressed: 1) those who felt that the projects should only be awarded to Loveland artists, and 2) those who felt that Loveland artists should have had the opportunity to compete for the projects.

Susan Ison asked the artists in attendance that, if a new RFP was opened, how would their presentations be affected by what they've already seen, should they choose to apply. Kent Ullberg inquired as to whether or not parts of the ONSITE Artists designs could be accepted. It was explained that the work is intended as a whole as each design concept leads to the next; however, the commission could choose to purchase only specific elements of the design presentation.

Roger Clark motioned to defer the acceptance of the design concepts presented by ONSITE Artists until consideration of a new Request for Proposals could be opened, if acceptable to the Library staff, with a standard timeframe (if possible). There was caution expressed that such an action would probably eliminate the inclusion of integrated artwork. Sherri amended the motion to state that the Library staff should work in conjunction with the VAC to determine the timeline. Nancy Jakobsson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chilson Center Design Concepts Update: Suzanne provided the Chilson Center design concepts which were initially presented on April 29th. She explained that there was a need to meet ASAP as there was an illuminated design element that would have to be applied to the exterior of the natatorium. It was determined that the design concept would negatively affect the construction schedule and therefore, the idea was rejected. It is anticipated that the ONSITE Artists would come back at the June 10th meeting to present additional concepts involving a bubble motif to symbolize arcs of movement, balls and motion. In light of the decision made

regarding the Library expansion project, it was suggested ONSITE Artist be informed of the local artists' desire to apply for these local projects.

Suzanne reported that the Chilson expansion project was 35% completed and any design concepts that required structural changes to the building would need to be presented ASAP. The opportunity for integrated art in much of the building has already passed and, if the commission chose to conduct an RFP, truly integrated artwork would be nearly impossible. George Lundeen asked for clarity on what defines integrated art. Susan Ison explained that integrating the artwork within the building, which used the construction materials in an artistic manner and was part of the "bricks and mortar" processes, was the goal for both the Library and Chilson Center expansions. It was desired that these buildings reflect Loveland as an arts town--to create very special destinations in town. There was much discussion regarding examples of integrated artwork in Loveland city buildings (First Street Bridge, Police & Courts Building). The ability to maximize AIPP dollars by capitalizing upon the construction budget was highly desired.

Roger asked about the work being done by ONSITE Artists and if they should be asked to hold off on their work. Suzanne indicated that ONSITE Artists is under contract with the city and the \$5,000 fees was paid. Roger Clark motioned for ONSITE Artists to stop work on this project and they will be informed if an RFP is done for the Chilson Center expansion project. Nancy Jakobsson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Highway 287 Underpass Artwork Approval: Final engineered drawings had not yet been received by the artists. Therefore, this item would be tabled until June.

Susan Ison asked to address the remaining artists in the conference room prior to proceeding to the next item. She informed the artists that initial conversations have begun with the Public Works Department and CDOT about an RFP for artwork to be installed at the I-25/Highway 34 Interchange. The anticipated budget is approximately \$204,000. Dan Ostermiller stated that he felt the VAC could do a better job in getting the word out about RFPs. He was unaware of the national online call for entry service, CAFÉ, used by the Visual Arts Commission, until that evening. Suzanne indicated that the VAC does send out postcards regarding all Calls for Entry, (and specifically addressed all postcards to Loveland artists) as the VAC would have loved their submissions to TAAP and the Transformations Project. Roger indicated that, following his meeting with Dan Ostermiller and George Lundeen, he did verify that local artists are included within the Museum's databases. Suzanne added that press releases (to all Colorado media) are sent out, Calls for Entry are listed on the City's website and invited artists to contact her directly. Susan added that artists that feel they are not getting AIPP information can be added to our database by leaving their contact information.

Councilwoman Shaffer reiterated her interest in working with local artists to create a policy for future capital projects. She indicated her email is available through the City website and she distributed her business card. She'd like to move quickly on this matter while artists are enthusiastic. Alyson Kinkade (National Sculptors' Guild) specifically expressed an interest in assisting with that process.

Transformations Project: Location and number of cabinets: Suzanne indicated that several churches and businesses have contacted her regarding being added to the Transformations Project. It is suggested to determine the location of boxes early in the year, therefore, artists can apply for specific boxes if desired. Suzanne shared images of several boxes that could be added if the 2010 project was extended. **Art Approval:** The commission enthusiastically reviewed the proposed finalists' application materials. Fifteen final artists, along with five alternates, were recommended for approval. Nancy Jakobsson moved to accept the subcommittee's recommendations for the artwork finalists, along with the five alternates, provided it remained within the proposed budget. Roger Clark seconded the motion.

Highway 34/I-25 Interchange: More information will be forthcoming. Public Works staff will work with CDOT to clarify specifications. Ina Zissman (CDOT) has indicated that she is to be the determining party for artwork. Councilwoman Shaffer offered to have lunch with CDOT representatives if needed.

Review of Window Art for Mr. Neat's Building: The artwork submissions were reviewed. Roger Clark motioned to hire Robin Dodge to create the sunflower design, *Let the Sun Shine*, for the project. Lynn Kincanon seconded the motion. The motion passed with 7 ayes and one abstaining vote. The budget for this project is \$500.

Red Rocks Divide by Joshua Been: The painting was purchased for installation at the Marianna Butte Clubhouse for \$1,950 (retail \$3,200). *Frosty Morning* by Clyde Aspevig will be removed and relocated.

OzMill by Tim Upham Refabrication: Suzanne reported that the paddle wheel section of *OzMill* was not included in the original bid. (The artist had scrapped the paddle wheel section in fall 2009.) The paddle wheel section can be reconstructed by CorTek, Inc. The gear section will be re-engineered by KL & A. Inc. An additional \$9,000 is required for this repair.

Staff/Commissioner Reports

The Art Advocacy Project (TAAP): Four of the 5 sculptures were to be installed by Northwest Colorado Construction Over the next week. The final sculpture (*Ayse* by Belgin Yucelen) will be installed on May 24th.

Persistence of Vision by Pat Kennedy Dedication: Suzanne asked for the commissioner's assistance with this event as she will be out of town. Kim Akeley-Charron will oversee this event. Nancy, Lynn, Sherri, Susan, Randy and Roger offered to assist. The dedication schedule was reviewed.

LAEDC Update: No update at this time.

Information Sharing: Roger and BJ Clark were featured in April's issue of Style Magazine. Susan Ison reported that the initial night for Art Lab will be on Friday, May 14th. Susan distributed the ad created for Loveland Art Source Magazine. A new flier illustrating Mary Bates Neubauer artwork was distributed. May is currently working with light and sound in much of her work.

Councilwoman Shaffer asked that a City Council Report be added to the future agendas.

Adjournment: Lynn Kincanon motioned to adjourn. Randy Amys seconded the motion, The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting length: App. 2:50