

Approval: Abbie Powers
10.3.19

CITY OF LOVELAND VISUAL ARTS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2019
5:00 PM
Loveland Museum, 503 N. Lincoln Avenue

The September 5, 2019 VAC was called to order at 5:02pm by Chairwoman Abbie Powers. Commissioners present: Abbie Powers, Angela Brill, Bruce Gueswel, Greg Hoff, Maryjo Morgan, Margie Rosborough, Sarah Turner (call-in) and Jade Windell. Blas Estrada and Phyllis Moore and Councilwoman Wright were absent. Katie Guthrie (Principal City Planner, Public Works) and Shannon Tyler (Youth Advisory Commission), staff liaisons Susan Ison and Suzanne Janssen were also present.

- A. **Attendance:** Reflected above.
- B. **Additions or Corrections to the September 5, 2019 meeting agenda:** Staff Updates: Recreation Center paintings and City drone.
- C. **Additions or Corrections to the August 1, 2019 meeting minutes:** Corrections: 1) Councilwoman Wright was not present at the meeting, 2) Page 3; Item E. paragraph 2, should read "Angela recommended paying an artist(s) \$15-\$25/sq. ft." not per hour. Maryjo moved to accept the minutes as amended. Greg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- D. **Citizen Comments:** No residents were present to speak on VAC business.
- E. **Budget:** The September 2019 budget was distributed and reviewed. The largest expenses in August were the Transformations Project payments and the scaffolding/barricades expenses for The Foundry project.

VAC Business/Action Items

Public Works, Bus Shelters: Katie Guthrie introduced herself and Shannon Tyler to the commission. Katie explained that the Youth Advisory Commission (YAC) has been involved with Public Works for the past 3 years on projects related to increasing youth use of public transportation. Katie indicated that the County has expressed interest in developing a program similar to that of the City of Denver. This program offers peer-to-peer training to advocate youth usage of transit, information on how to use transit, and shares ideas on how to make transit more inviting to potential riders. (It was noted that, as of July 1, 2019, all Loveland youth ride COLT for free.)

One area of interest is adding art to transit stops, thus adding visual appeal, safety and fun (!) to the user experience. The three shelters at the high schools were identified as possible art opportunities. The painting of bus shelter concrete pads and creating artful posters for the shelters are of particular interest. In addition to the three shelters, there are nine single benches (with concrete pads) that could be included in this effort.

Abbie recommended focusing on the bus shelters at the three high schools so students will benefit directly. Katie added that the powder coated bus structures are not conducive to painting; however, the

concrete pad could be painted. Greg expressed concern over the ongoing maintenance of the concrete pad (particularly with power cleaning of the pads).

Katie recommended the formation of a committee comprised of staff and members of the YAC, VAC, the Public Works Department, City of Loveland Transportation (COLT) division and the Larimer County Health and Environment Department, to develop concepts and make recommendations for moving the project forward. Margie, Bruce, Blas and Suzanne will serve as representatives on the committee. The hope is for this committee to meet before the year's end and have the project executed prior to May 2020.

Responses to VAC questions:

- Katie will research the size for promotional posters and shared that the amenities are owned and managed by a contracted company.
- Ten percent of the overall ad space for shelters can be used for promoting City efforts.
- It is believed that Larimer County can support facilitation and funding for the project.
- Katie will schedule and facilitate the committee meetings with the County.

37th Avenue Roundabout and Bridge: Suzanne reported that the 37th Avenue roundabout is currently under construction and is expected to be completed by mid-October. Shawn Franklin indicated there is electrical conduit in the middle of the roundabout and irrigation may be added. Placement of a sculpture is desired in spring 2020.

The 37th Avenue Bridge project will be bid soon, with construction to be completed in late summer. Art recesses, railing, concrete columns are bridge design elements available for public art installations.

The entire project will generate approximately \$52,000 in AIPP funds: \$35,000 (roundabout) and \$17,000 (bridge). An RFP/RFQ will be developed and reviewed by the commission at the November meeting. Artists may apply for one or both projects.

There was additional discussion about artwork for the First Street and the Railroad Avenue bridges. Staff will provide an update on the status of the First Street Bridge (and placement of the *Nebula* mosaics onto that bridge) at the October meeting.

Loveland Creative District: Suzanne reported that much work has been completed on the creation of the downtown Loveland Creative District. The Working Group has determined the vision, goals and action items, boundaries and governance structure for the proposed district. At the September 3rd City Council meeting, Council approved the collaboration between the City's Cultural Services Department and the Loveland Downtown Partnership to create the creative district and its recommended boundaries.

Staff asked the Visual Arts Commission for a letter of support to accompany the Colorado Creative District certification application, which will be submitted by October 1. Abbie and Angela will draft that letter. Commissioners with business contacts within the district boundaries were encouraged to provide letters of support.

AIPP Appreciation Event: The VAC reviewed new dates for the AIPP Art Appreciation Event. The first choice was February 26, 2020, with January 23 as a backup date. Staff will confirm the final date once confirmed by Facilities staff.

Special Treatments: *The Mouth of Truth* by Mario Echevarria: The KL & A engineering report identified several failed bolts and recommended additional brackets be attached to the artwork. Repairs

will be contracted with an artist/metal worker recommended by the artist. (Greg recommended KL & A review the repairs to ensure the new brackets can handle the wind load.) The original patina on this artwork has faded significantly. Staff will talk with the artist about possible solutions in an effort to recapture the color and original intent of the artwork.

OzMill by Tim Upham: The KL & A engineering report revealed that several welds need to be repaired and the small colorful “flags” could be repainted. Staff will contact the artist to see if he can perform the repairs. It is likely this maintenance will occur after summer programming.

Boards & Commissions Dinner: Commissioners were reminded of the Boards and Commissions Dinner to be held on September 9 at 5:30pm in Fairgrounds Park. It was decided that everyone would bring a personal piece of art to create a “White Elephant” centerpiece.

Maintenance Endowment: The Endowment Committee met to address the City Attorney’s questions regarding the proposed maintenance endowment policies and procedures. It is anticipated that \$2.2 million is required to get the fund to a point where it can fund annual maintenance needs. After the initial \$500,000 funding, the fund would require a commitment of \$100,000 annually to build that principal. More information on the investment strategy is expected in October. It was noted that the City Council would need to approve any changes in the City’s investment policy for this fund. Provisions for accepting monetary donations from organizations and the general public will also be included in the policies.

***She Bends* (contemporary neon exhibit), Maureen Corey:** Art Curator Maureen Corey reported that, in January – April 2020, the artwork of *She Bends*, an all-female/female identifying neon artist collective, will be on display in the Museum’s Main Gallery. Handouts of *She Bends* artists’ work were distributed for the commission’s review. Maureen stated that these neon artists conceptualize and create their own work, which is an important distinction within this medium. She noted that most *She Bends* members live along the West Coast (California and Oregon). Among commissioners, there was enthusiasm in highlighting female artists.

Maureen expressed the desire to create a freestanding public art piece for the Museum’s roof. The hope was to commission a work to be fabricated and installed during the exhibition. This public artwork would remain on the Museum’s roof indefinitely. The intention for the public art pieces is to:

- demonstrate neon as an art form
- define the Museum and beautify the corner of Fifth & Lincoln
- educate the public on neon as a legitimate art form beyond traditional signage

The cost for this public art project is approximately \$21,000. It was mentioned that the Museum Expansion site, newly dubbed The Beet (or The Beat), would likely be used for the fabrication of the neon artwork.

VAC Concerns:

- The structural design and durability of the neon sign:
 - Type of stable structure to protect the artwork
 - Concern over the fragile nature of neon and its ongoing maintenance
 - Need for more information regarding the fragility of neon tubes (particularly in hailstorms)

- The actual scale of the finished work (as the original budget of \$30,000 was reduced to \$18,000)
- Additional time was needed to review the *She Bends* artist list

Commissioners were encouraged to provide staff with additional questions so answers could be provided at the October meeting. It was recommended that details on the design over-structure be requested in the RFP.

VAC/LDP Collaborative Beautification Projects: It was reported that LDP staff members Sean Hawkins and Korey Streich have spoken with multiple building owners regarding downtown mural projects and activating empty storefronts. Several owners are very interested in participating in this effort and have requested a meeting to discuss in further detail. Staff will send a Doodle poll to determine a committee meeting date.

Hot and Cold Wax Treatments: The 2019 hot and cold wax treatments have been completed. Sculpture Services of Colorado has offered to maintain 2D artwork as part of their services in the future. Staff will open the bid for the 2020-2025 hot and cold wax treatments in late fall 2019.

Memoria by DeWitt Godfrey: Greg reported that the foundation for *Memoria* has been poured. DeWitt plans to install the artwork in early October; however, the exact installation date is not yet confirmed.

LHPAC Donation Letter: A thank you letter to the LHPAC for the 2019 sculpture donations will be brought to the October meeting for commissioners' signatures.

The Screaming Dreams of Flowers by Jan R. Carson: Museum Preparator Eric Franklin plans to install the framing structure for *The Screaming Dreams of Flowers* during the second week in September. Shortly thereafter, the electricians will install an electrical outlet to light the artwork. Eric will place the five art panels once the electricians have completed their work. It was noted that the artwork would be placed on a timer to preserve the longevity of the silk panels.

Dredging of the Benson Sculpture Garden Pond: The City has bid the dredging of the Benson Sculpture Garden pond; however, the results of that bid process were unknown. Within the scope of project, new pipe will also be laid under 29th Street. Depending upon the contractor it is possible that three sculptures may need to be removed to complete these tasks. More information will be provided once received from the Parks Department.

The Foundry Elevator Door Wraps: Susan shared the images selected for The Foundry parking garage elevator doors. The wraps are expected to be printed and installed within the following two weeks.

Chilson Recreation Center: Recreation Center staff has inquired whether several paintings within the facility (placed in the 1980s and 90s) can be rotated with other paintings within the public art collection. Maryjo, Angela and Suzanne will tour City facilities to determine new placements.

City Drone: The commission was excited to hear that the City owns a drone, which can be used for AIPP purposes. The City's Public Information Officer offered to record a 360-degree view of each sculpture within Benson Sculpture Garden, if desired. The VAC was very open to the idea and asked if the Civic Center and McWhinney-Hahn Sculpture Garden also be recorded.

City Council Update

There was no update in this item.

Information Sharing

- Greg and Miriam Hoff will host a VAC gathering at their home on Sunday, September 15 at 5pm.
- Abbie will have an Open House for her studio space on Saturday, September 14, from 3-8pm.
- Susan shared a Parade magazine article on Denver's mural event, *Crush*.
- Pastels on Fifth will be held on Friday, September 13 – Saturday, September 14.
- Angela Brill is the new Public Art Manager in the City of Longmont. Consequently, Artworks Loveland will be hiring an Executive Director in the coming weeks.
- The *Rosie the Riveter* mural by Werner Schreiber, located on the Associated Veterans of Loveland building, is complete.

Adjournment: Maryjo moved to adjourn at 6:53pm. Margie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting length: 1:49

October Items

She Bends: Maintenance and Protection of Neon Art; Dredging of Benson Sculpture Garden Pond; Date for AIPP Art Appreciation Event meeting; Associated Veterans of Loveland mural proposal – Phase 2; *Sextafeira;* Youth Sculpture Competition