

Approved Abbie Powers  
11.7.19

**CITY OF LOVELAND VISUAL ARTS COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2019  
5:00 PM  
Loveland Museum, 503 N. Lincoln Avenue**

The October 3, 2019 VAC was called to order at 5:04pm by Chairwoman Abbie Powers. Commissioners present: Abbie Powers, Angela Brill, Blas Estrada, Bruce Gueswel, Greg Hoff, Maryjo Morgan, Margie Rosborough, Jade Windell and Phyllis Moore (alternate). Absent: Sara Turner. Loveland resident Bruce Croissant, Fawn Floyd-Baltzer (Downtown Development Authority), Councilwoman Kathi Wright, and staff liaisons Susan Ison and Suzanne Janssen were also present.

**Attendance:** Reflected above.

- A. **Additions or Corrections to the October 3, 2019 meeting agenda:** Corrections: VAC Action Item A: AVL Mural Proposal will be tabled until November, and Item E: should read, Pulliam Community Building. Addition: Visual Speed Bumps was added as Item L.
- B. **Additions or Corrections to the September 5, 2019 August 1, 2019 meeting minutes:** Angela moved to accept the minutes as submitted. Margie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- C. **Citizen Comments:** Bruce Croissant provided information about the City Capital Improvement Project ballot initiative. He stated that the original planning committee was been restructured into the *Yes on 2A and 2B Committee*. Additionally, Bruce shared information regarding the newly formed Invest in Loveland committee. This advocacy group will advertise support for initiatives 2A and 2B in the Senior Voice and two other local publications. Financial donations are being accepted to fund this effort. The Invest in Loveland website was expected be "live" within the next few days.
- D. **Budget:** The October 2019 budget was distributed and reviewed. The most significant update was the \$60,000 added to the Pulliam Community Building project (total = \$70,000).

**VAC Business/Action Items**

- A. **Collaborations with Loveland Downtown Partnership:** Abbie provided a review of the committee meeting. A handout of possible downtown mural locations, listed in priority order, was provided. Below are the discussion notes for each potential site:
- Berkhardt Vision, 102 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Railroad Avenue: (First Choice Location) This location is desired for a Mural Festival. The mural committee discussed the possibility of hiring three different artists to interpret the site, or complete the murals in phases over time.
  - Burk's Tavern/Cloz to Home buildings/alleyway: Temporary and/or temporary murals are desired. Cloz to Home wall: This site could support temporary murals mounted onto a structure or direct application--with the mural painted over every year.
  - Backstage Alley (east end of 4<sup>th</sup> Street) behind the Lincoln Hotel: Highly visible location to street and pedestrian traffic. There were strong concerns over the unkempt look of the dumpsters.

- Fourth Street Gallery: The top façade on the building will undergo remediation in early spring. A low-texture stucco finish may be applied to provide a smoother surface for artwork. The building is expected to remain in place for at least the next 4 years.
- Odd Fellows Building: Activating the windows through lighting and art installations is desired for this site. Desire to install this work during the Mural Festival. (The condition of the building interior is unknown and will be researched.)
- Heartland Corner –former Alternatives to Violence building: Possible mural installation on the upper section of the smaller (3<sup>rd</sup>) building east of Lincoln. (The general consensus was to wait to see the long-term plans for this building before committing funds.)
- The Foundry Plaza, north facing wall
- Downtown Sound Building: (Second Choice Location) The large wall is an ideal location for a mural. Desire for this site or other visible building on the east end of Fourth Street (possibly Jefferson & 4<sup>th</sup> Street) to be strongly considered.
- Reporter-Herald Building (east side): Susan recommended that the painting of wings/vignette murals be postponed until after the November election results for Initiatives 2A & 2B are known.

#### Next Steps/Decisions

- 1) The DDA will schedule a meeting with building owners to discuss the Loveland Mural Grant Program.
  - 2) Locations will be measured for total square footage. Building dimensions and dollar figures will be brought to the commission in November.
  - 3) Determine the funding mechanism for desired projects.
- There was discussion that all downtown mural locations will be subject to the 50% of the actual fabrication costs (no wall prep included).
  - There is desire to activate both the west and east sides of Fourth Street.
  - Concerns were expressed about the trash enclosures and general alleyway “clutter” in Painter’s Alley and behind the Lincoln Hotel.
  - One commissioner recommended five mural sites be selected.
  - Tentative timeline is spring 2020.

Sidewalk treatments were not discussed at this meeting due the status of the City’s HIP Street Plan. It was noted that sidewalk adhesives could be an alternative to painting the concrete.

Due to timing issues, Item G was moved up on the agenda for discussion.

- G. ***She Bends, Contemporary Neon Art Public Art Commission*** - Conference call with Meryl Pataky (*She Bends*) to address VAC concerns over commissioning a neon artwork for the City’s collection that were expressed at the September 5 VAC meeting

*What is the fragility and durability of the medium (neon)?*: There are reason for concerns as neon is glass and it is fragile. As designers and consultants, Meryl could not speak to the long-term maintenance costs. *She Bends* would look for a local resource to do the fabrication and ongoing maintenance for the sign. Without knowing who would be doing the fabrication or the maintenance, they could not speak to any warranties.

It was stated that the ideal situation for *She Bends* is to come to the table with a design and consulting and facilitation services, with the fabrication being done by someone local. A Plexiglas cover could be added to the work to protect it from hailstorms; however, doing so would eat into the project budget. The best option was seen as making the pieces as flexible as possible, meaning that the

infrastructure could be designed to be easily bolted and unbolted for easy removal from the roof when a storm is expected.

Susan shared that the VAC was under the impression that *She Bends* artists would be fabricating the artwork. Additionally, she indicated that a local sign company stated that most outdoor signs are no longer constructed from neon. Instead, the signs are LED lights in plastic tubing (which mimics neon). The sign shop did not recommend using neon. Susan also asked if *She Bends* has had issues with other city's not accepting the neon artwork as it is often regarded as signage. Meryl indicated that educating the public on the artistic use of neon is one of their group's missions. Sign codes have not yet prevented installation of their work in other cities. The VAC could review all of the artist designs to ensure the proposed artwork was not signage.

Meryl indicated that two weeks of travel/lodging per diem expenses are needed for the artist selected; however, it is unknown if an artist could fabricate the work within that timeframe. Final costs cannot be determined as they have not had a chance to speak with local neon fabricators, and they are not sure of the infrastructure needed to protect the artwork. Additionally, it is unknown if a local sign shop would allow an artist to come in and work in their shop for two weeks to fabricate the work. It was noted that most of the fabrication of the artwork would be done by a local fabricator; however, the artist could always come to oversee and help with the fabrication. This project would rely very heavily upon local shops.

*Will the artwork be created on-site for public viewing?:* A workshop space may be provided for a demo during the exhibit; however, fabricating artwork within that space generally provides a general sense of how the glass is bent and would not include the actual lighting process. Additionally, the gallery demo space would not be large enough to create an artwork of the scale intended. A local resource is desired and is most practical for this commission.

*Who is actually bending of the art piece?:* (Chelsea, *She Bends*) It is common with neon fabrication to be done by someone other than the artist as this method reduces the cost and saves on transport. Having an artist work in another fabricator's space is the most unlikely and least common method of fabricating the work. The design and conceptualizing of the artwork would be done by the artist. The fabrication of the neon and the fabrication of the support for the neon would be done by a local neon shop in Loveland or Denver.

*What is the scale of a \$21,000 project budget?* There is not a standard size based on the budget. The VAC could specify a budget or a size and the artists responding to the call would submit proposals based on the number of (glass) bends and complexity of their design. Maureen specified 120'' x 124'' for the intended Museum roof top piece.

*If the artwork was damaged or destroyed, what is an estimate for repair?* It is hard to predict the cost of repair as it would depend upon the warranty of the fabricator. It was recommended that the VAC work out the parameters of the warranty with a local sign shop to determine replacement costs in advance of fabrication. This cost would not be covered by the *She Bends* artist. The recommendation to look for a neon bender, based on *She Bends* consulting service.

Post-call Discussion: There was considerable discussion that the manner in which the public art concept was originally presented varied greatly from the responses received during the conference call. The specific concerns cited were:

- The use of a local fabrication shop vs. the artwork being fabricated by a *She Bends* artist
- No reasonable means for protection against harsh winter climate

- Lack of demos of the actual commissioned artwork
- Unknown timeline for fabrication timeline (and associated lodging/per diem costs)
- Lack of research on neon vendor artists in Loveland/Denver

There may be interest in pursuing this concept (with LED lighting) after the Museum Expansion. There was general conversation about using lighted works to activate downtown businesses.

- B. Northern Colorado Police Regional Training Center:** Suzanne reported that a conference call between artist Mark Aeling, City of Loveland and Fort Collins staff and the project architects had recently taken place. Mark expects to receive the final architectural drawings by October 8. His initial design concept will use the theme of “training” (in its many interpretations) as inspiration. The commission chose two dates (January 28 or January 29, 2020) for the Fort Collins Public Art Board to consider for the Artist Design Presentation. Installation of the artwork is still anticipated by late fall 2020.
- C. Pulliam Community Building:** The entire construction budget for the rehabilitation project is \$70,000. The new plaza entryway is seen as an ideal location for public artwork. The design plan is not complete; however, the preliminary design will be brought to a future meeting. Private fundraising has been successful; however, the effort is ongoing. The building is expected to be completed in 2025. Councilwoman Wright hopes to honor Norm Rehme’s steadfast commitment to the Pulliam Community Building project. A public art RFP could be released in late winter/spring 2020.
- D. VAC Elections and Expiring Terms:** The three commissioners with expiring terms were encouraged to reapply before the November 1 deadline. Election of officers will be held at the January meeting. Abbie reiterated that she would not serve a fourth term as Chairwoman and asked commissioners to consider serving as an officer.
- E. Art Bike Racks at Library and The Foundry:** Facilities’ staff inquired about commissioning artistic bike racks for The Foundry parking garage. At that time, Suzanne offered that current inventory that could be considered to fill that need. Suzanne asked the commission to consider relocating the art bike racks at the Library to The Foundry parking garage, as those racks do not meet the Library’s needs. She added that there is also an additional art bike rack in storage that could be installed at The Foundry. The commission agreed with this suggestion.
- One additional large rack is needed for The Foundry parking garage. Facilities has initially approved \$1500 to commission an artistic bike rack. Greg moved for staff to reach out to Joe Norman to create a large bike rack (that holds up to six bikes) for \$1500. Jade seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- F. Memoria by DeWitt Godfrey:** DeWitt Godfrey had begun the installation process for *Memoria* and was expected to finish by October 8. Staff shared that a video of the installation will be produced by the City’s Public Information Office. It was noted that DeWitt would install another sculpture in Longmont beginning on October 9. A dedication will be scheduled for *Memoria* in November when DeWitt returns to Colorado to install a new sculpture in Denver.
- G. First Street Bridge – Nebula Mosaics:** The First Street Bridge will be completed in April 2020. Sandi Nelson, who has been under contract for two years to reinstall the *Nebula* mosaics, will begin her work shortly thereafter.

- H. Youth Sculpture Competition:** There is no update on this item.
- I. Boards and Commissions Appreciation Event Recap:** The event was nice. The AIPP centerpiece did not win any awards.
- J. Visual Speed Bumps:** It is unclear if visual speed bumps will be permitted in Loveland. Suzanne reported that there have been several requests for a well-marked intersection at Cleveland and Third Street; however, it is unknown if CDOT will approve a crosswalk. The thought is that the current traffic calming measures will soon begin to have an effect on traffic speed.

#### Staff Updates

- A. The Foundry Elevator Door Wraps:** All wraps have been installed and look great.
- B. Maintenance Endowment:** A meeting will be held on October 6 to discuss the fund's investment strategy. Roger Clark has confirmed his desire to serve on this committee.
- C. Loveland Creative District:** The Loveland Creative District application has been submitted to the State of Colorado for consideration. A site visit will take place sometime in November 2019. A promotional one-sheet on Creative District activities was distributed to the commission.
- D. AIPP Appreciation Event – February 26, 2020:** Suzanne asked commissioners to mark their calendars with this event. This committee will meet before the November 7 VAC meeting to discuss details.
- E. *The Screaming Dreams of Flowers* by Jan R Carson:** Installation of this work is expected to take place mid-October. An electrical outlet has been installed to accommodate this artwork.
- F. Maintenance: Special Treatments: *The Mouth of Truth* by Mario Echevarria and *Oz Mill* by Tim Upham:** Contractors will be hired to complete the special treatments needed for these works. Hueber Industries is currently considering the project.
- G. 29<sup>th</sup> Street Pipe and Benson Sculpture Garden Pond Dredging:** Suzanne indicated that the removal of several Benson Park sculptures prior to dredging the pond this fall is not necessary.

Susan mentioned that a new water tank would be installed in Loveland and could be considered for a public art project. She will seek additional information to share at a future meeting.

#### City Council Update

**2020 Census:** Discussions with City Council about the 2020 Census have begun.

**Winter Holiday Council RFP:** Three submissions were received for the "Light the Lagoon" Winter Holiday Council display at the Civic Center. An on-site meeting will be held with all artists soon.

The Winter Holiday Council currently seeks sponsorships for decorating the lampposts surrounding the Foote Lagoon. It is anticipated that the tree trunks at the Lagoon will also be lit. Additional public participation in the Winter Holiday Council is needed to ensuring the future success of the committee's efforts.

**Library Programming:** Community Conversations, which provide a forum for discussing tough social issues without anger, have begun at the Library.

**Renaming of Chivington Street:** Residents appealed to City Council to allow Chivington Street to be renamed as Black Kettle Street, as a means of honoring native tribes and condemning the atrocities committed by troops under General Chivington leadership (Sand Creek Massacre).

**Homeless Strategic Plan:** There are multiple efforts within Northern Colorado to address the needs of homeless people. City leaders wish to streamline efforts in addressing this complex issue.

**Highway 402 Corridor:** There is discussion about the future build out of Highway 402, particularly as that area was recently designated as a flood plain. Development at the Interstate is desired; however, the direction is not clear. Joint meetings with the town of Johnstown have taken place regarding the development of both sides of Interstate 25 and Highway 402. Susan added that staff is currently attending City meetings regarding the Highway 402 corridor. Public art opportunities are likely.

**Golf Fees:** Protesters regarding the proposed increase in golf fees recently filled City Council Chambers for public comment.

**Rialto Theater Liquor License:** The liquor license for the Rialto Theater was recently approved by City Council. Susan indicated that liquor sales have begun.

**City Budget 2020:** The first reading of the 2020 budget will take place in October. Five percent cuts were made by most departments. Revenue increases were also offered by many departments to mitigate the budget cuts.

**Colorado Passenger Rail:** Governor Polis has provided funds to hire a staff person to oversee efforts to add light rail from Northern CO to Colorado Springs. At 10am on Friday, October 13, a meeting will be held at the Loveland Public Works Building to discuss this project.

### **Information Sharing**

Abbie thanked Greg (and Miriam) for hosting a dinner at their home for commissioners. A good time was had by all.

Suzanne circulated a thank you letter to the Loveland High Plains Arts Council for commissioners' signatures.

Suzanne shared a sample of Greeley Public Art's "coloring" drawings for the commission's review. A similar concept could be done for Loveland sculptures. A photograph of an artistically painted gas meter in downtown Fort Collins was also shared.

Susan circulated the commemorative coin that was distributed during the Grand Opening of The Foundry. On the back of the coin is a photo of the mural, *My Favorite Things* by Daas. Susan also shared information on Kara Walker's work on display at the Tate Modern.

Maryjo shared information regarding a benefit house concert titled, *Beatle's Abbey Road*, to be held October 6 from 2-6pm. See Maryjo's Facebook page for more information.

Councilwoman Wright noted that during a recent visit to Estes Park, the xylophone sculpture was extremely popular with families and was played by every passing child.

### **Agenda Items for November 7, 2019 VAC Meeting** 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue Roundabout and Bridge RFQ

**Adjournment:** At 7pm, Greg moved to adjourn the meeting. Maryjo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Length: 1:56