

CULTURAL SERVICES BOARD MINUTES

Tuesday, October 26, 2010

4:30 P.M.

LOVELAND MUSEUM/GALLERY

503 N. Lincoln Ave.

Loveland, CO 80537

The October 26, 2010 meeting of the Cultural Services Board was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Juanita Cisneros in the Upstairs Conference Room of the Loveland Museum/Gallery.

Board members present: Rose Watson, Jan DesJardin, Dena Kirk, Kris Ortmann, Juanita Cisneros, Leslie Snow and Peggy Schwarz. Also present were City Councilors Kent Solt and Joan Shaffer. Staff present included Susan Ison, Jan Sawyer, Maureen Corey, Jennifer Cousino and Michelle Standiford. Also in attendance were Sarah Bultema (Reporter Herald) and Kelly King (Loveland Connection).

Additions/Changes to the Agenda

There were no changes or additions to the agenda.

Additions or Corrections/Changes to the September 28, 2010 Minutes

Kris Ortmann requested a correction to her statement from page one, last paragraph with the sentence starting "Kris Ortmann went to a training..." to be replaced with the following sentence: *"A speaker at the training addressed national trends among museum visitors. Two clear trends indicate the need to encourage children and more ethnically diverse groups in order to sustain and grow museum visits in the future."*

Jan DesJardin moved to accept the October 26th minutes as amended, Rose Watson seconded. All approved.

Board Reports

Kris Ortmann expressed her appreciation for the volunteer party held for the Museum volunteers. In addition, she wanted to go on record stating how much she has admired staff and how they have handled things during these past couple of weeks. She felt staff demonstrated grace under pressure.

Juanita Cisneros also attended the volunteer appreciation party and had a wonderful time. She also commended staff on the great food provided.

Museum Reports

Farm Equipment at Lone Tree School

Jennifer Cousino reported that the Parks and Recreation department requested the removal of the farm equipment from the Lone Tree School area at North Lake Park. These items include two large wagons and a plow. They are deteriorating rapidly and have long rusty nails sticking out of them. They are not safe for children to be allowed near or on them. Parks and Recreation staff removed them to the Park's Shop and will hold them till April 1st. Jennifer is now researching places for possible permanent donation for these items or would like to consider deaccessioning them from the collection. They would require a lot of expense to restore them to make them safe. Juanita Cisneros suggested contacting

various farms that offer Halloween mazes and see if they express interest in receiving them. Jennifer will call various farms and as well as the Timberlane Farm Museum. She may also mention these to the Loveland Historical Society and see if they have other ideas as well.

Deaccessioning Chair from Collections

Jennifer Cousino also has a brown upholstered rocking chair in the collection that has no information on record for it. She would like to deaccession it from the collection as well. This item would then be donated to Arc or Goodwill.

A motion was made for Jennifer to contact several entities in the community to see if there is interest in receiving the two wagons and plow as well as the deaccession of the brown upholstered chair from the collection. Motion made by Kris Ortmann. Leslie Snow seconded and all approved.

The Legend of Bud Shark & His Indelible Ink Exhibit

Susan Ison reported that staff has discussed the events that have transpired over the past few weeks in regard to the Bud Shark exhibit and have looked at things that could have been done or handled differently. Board members shared their experiences helping at the Museum during the past weeks and offered their insights into how things were handled. The Board was in general agreement that the process of dealing with the complaint was handled well. When the initial complaint came in from the citizen, Susan spoke to him and responded that she would bring up his concerns at the Cultural Services Board meeting that was scheduled within the next two days. The Board met and heard the complaint along with Councilman Klassen's request that the particular art piece be removed immediately from the Museum. The Cultural Services Board viewed the piece and after discussion, voted to keep the art on display. They directed staff to install a sign with the following verbiage:

“Loveland Museum/Gallery is a forum for a broad range of ideas, perspectives and images. These galleries contain art that may evoke strong reactions.”

They also prepared a statement for City Council to be presented later that evening at the Council's study session.

The Board was in agreement that given the information they had, the process was handled correctly. However, they were in general dismayed that one Councilor chose to pursue his personal agenda with the local and national community in an attempt to stir up emotions against the Museum and the Board. These actions lead to staff receiving hundreds of angry phone calls, thousands of nasty and threatening e-mails and picketers outside the Museum that eventually culminated in the violent destruction of the piece of art by Enrique Chagoya. Peggy Schwarz felt that there was no intent to be rational or intent to deal with the process. Juanita Cisneros wrote an e-mail to Councilor Klassen. She requested that her e-mail and Councilor Klassen's response be added to the minutes.

From: Ward I - Daryle Klassen <Daryle.Klassen@ci.loveland.co.us>
Subject: **RE: Next council meeting**
Date: October 2, 2010 11:26:37 AM MDT
To: Juanita Cisneros <juanita@lpbroadband.net>
Cc: Temp CCMail <TEMPCC@ci.loveland.co.us>

Hello Juanita Cisneros !

Our disagreement, emphatically trumpeted by a huge segment of the community and region, can be focused very exactly on your final sentence. Quoting....."We should never , and can never, decide on what should be presented based on whether or not any group or individual may find it offensive."

Comes forth now certain elements of the Art community which claim Artistic exemption from any oversight of the public. "You are blocking my first amendment rights ! You are blocking freedom of expression !" I am ART, and I claim total excuse from any form of survey, evaluation, or regulation to my art. I do not, nor does Society accept this claim. I am able to name thousands of freedom of expression being governed, suppressed, negated, added to, subtracted from and then enforced.

But the small segment of the art community claim exemption. This suppression centers around one key fact. When public taxpayer dollars are involved, along comes regulation. I stand solidly behind the Art Community in their ability to freely create, express, promote, free wheel in thought, in any form, media or other outlet in which they choose. However, when it comes to promulgating their product in public facilities, created by taxpayer dollars, certain guidelines (call it regulation if you please) now come into effect.

How many examples would you like? Thousands are readily available. A couple of quickies. Go to the nearest theatre and in a packed house.....yell FIRE and run for the nearest exit. Come to a city council meeting and with your freedom of expression hold up a string of animal penises and proclaim your "art" while running around the room. Incidentally, that string of animal parts did happen in Boulder and was "hung" in the library. But with the freedom of expression that exists in Boulder, it was allowed to stay. Are you in favor in bringing that sort of "freedom of expression and thought" to Loveland? You personally may be in favor of total freedom of Art to display in PUBLICLY funded arenas without oversight, nor paying any attention to how many thousands it may offend. Please do not call this censorship. It's called governance, and it exists, to varying degrees, in hundreds of thousands of locales.

Thanks for your thoughts and your dedicated service to Loveland. Reasonable people can disagree. And I disagree dramatically with your position. As do thousands of other highly respectable Loveland citizens, who you appear somewhat indifferent as to their feelings.

Sincerely, Daryle Klassen, Ward One

From: Juanita Cisneros [juanita@lpbroadband.net]
Sent: Friday, October 01, 2010 10:11 PM
To: Ward III - Kent Solt
Cc: Mayor - Cecil Gutierrez; Ward IV - Larry Heckel; Ward I - Daryle Klassen; Ward I - Donna Rice; Ward II - Carol Johnson; Ward II - Joan Shaffer; Ward III - Hugh McKean; Ward IV - Cathleen McEwen
Subject: Next council meeting

Councilor, I deeply regret that I cannot attend the next council meeting as I would like very much to express my position and opinions concerning the controversy over the Museum/Gallery exhibit. I received a very gracious phone call from the artist, which I will share with you, and some thoughts he expressed in a later phone conversation.

I hope to be very careful in stating my position as I do not wish to undermine anyone's heartfelt and sincere convictions concerning their religious beliefs. This exhibit presents a style and printing process that has been shown in galleries around the country. The entries are colorful, sometimes multi-dimensional, and do not share a common theme or message. This exhibit, in my opinion, is about style and representation. Many

of Enrique Chagoya's pieces fit this category. I stated in our last meeting while discussing this exhibit that Mr. Chagoya is an "equal opportunity satirist", as many political, religious and historical figures are placed in settings that Mr. Chagoya calls "reverse anthropology". His juxtaposition of time, history and cultural awareness is, I think, meant to make the viewer examine our thoughts on what he have been taught and accepted as historical fact.

Sadly, as I do not believe there can be any reconciliation or even compromise on this subject, I offer two statements:

There has been criticism that the image of Mohammed would not dare be shown in such an exhibit because of fear of retribution. Actually, the image of Mohammed is represented in some of these drawings. As the artist told me, there is no clear image of what Mohammed looked like, so his representation is not as immediately recognized as the iconic image we have of Christ.

Mr. Chagoya shared with me that many of his pieces reflect his personal anxieties. His belief is that religion has been corrupted by institutions. Mr. Chagoya grew up in Mexico and was raised as a Catholic. He doesn't specifically speak of the influence that experience has on his art. He did say that he has his own concepts about the corruption of religion brought about by organized institutions, and used as an example the years of abuse of young children at the hands of priests that was covered up and ignored by the Catholic church.

An artist speaks and shares his feelings and beliefs through his work. If this work is shocking or even offensive to some, it does not mean that voice should be silenced.

Without emotion, I ask you to consider the fact that the image in question does not show any nudity or genitalia. If the image of oral sex was to be presented, it seems it would have been much more graphically represented.

We should never - and can never - decide on what should be presented based on whether or not any group or individual may find it offensive.

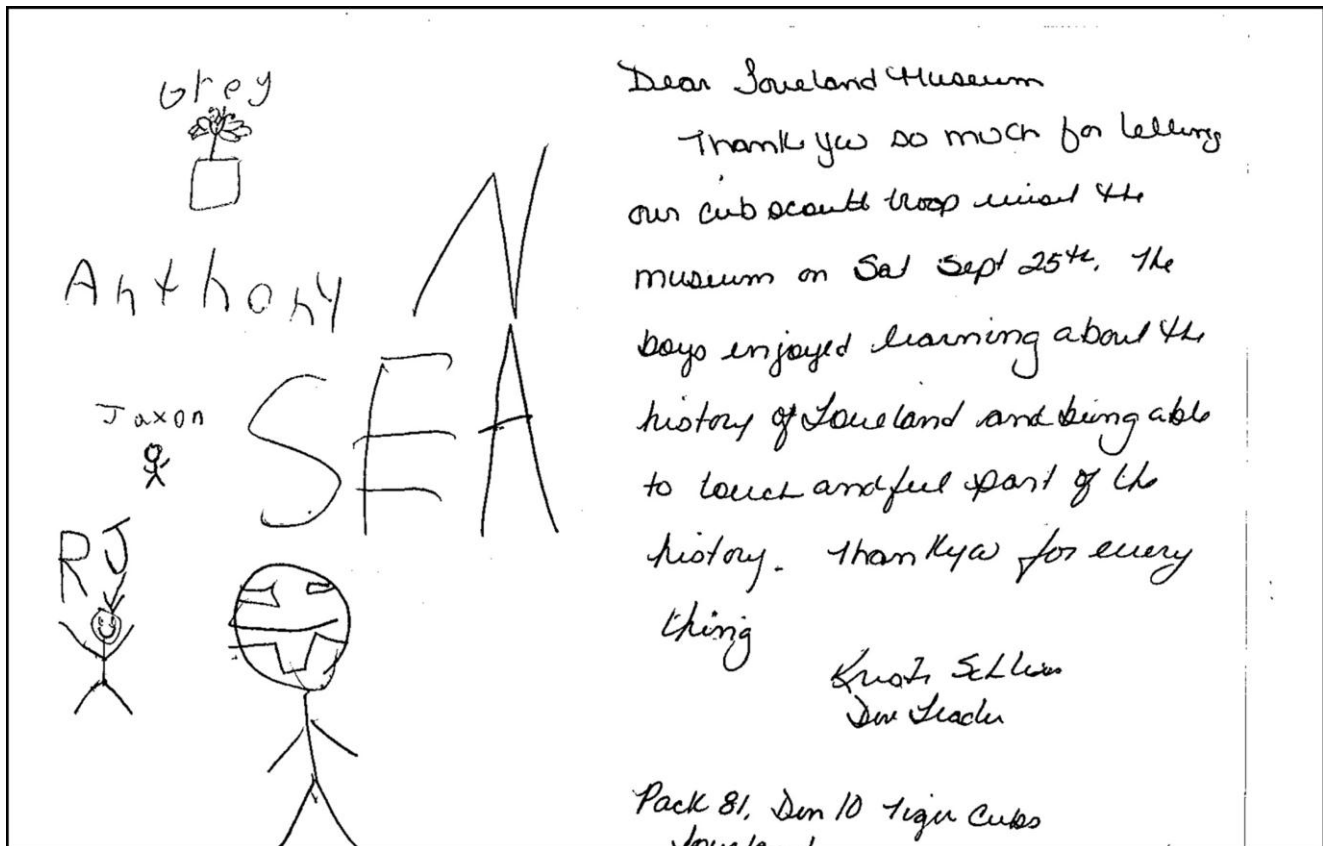
Sincerely, Juanita Cisneros, Chairwoman, Cultural Services Board

Attached is the phone message left by Mr. Chagoya

In reviewing possible changes to the complaint process, Councilor Kent Solt recommends that staff and the Board consider a more formal complaint process whether it be a procedure that staff follows or simply adding a line to the comment form where the guest can request a follow-up phone call with the appropriate staff person. Staff will prepare some options to present at the Board at a future meeting.

Councilor Joan Shaffer also recommended that staff and the Board revisit the Museum's mission statement and how it addresses art and programming for children. Options discussed by the Board included articulating and promoting what the Museum is and is not. They felt that the Museum is not solely a "children's museum". While there are educational opportunities for families and children, there should be no assumption that everything within the Museum is for children. Susan inquired if adding some of the verbiage from the sign installed in the gallery to the mission statement would be beneficial. Kent Solt suggested the possibility of breaking up the mission statement in the part where it says for "all ages" to maybe include something to the nature of "valuable for adult viewers with many opportunities for children". The Board will consider the mission statement further at an upcoming meeting.

As a side note, Susan shared that there was an initial rumor floating around that a Boy Scout troop visiting the exhibit may have been offended by the art as well. However, she wanted to share with the Board that that wasn't the case and that she received the following thank-you card from the troop.



Selection Process for Exhibits

Maureen Corey presented two different ways that Museum exhibits are selected for the gallery. Exhibits may come in the way of a proposal from an individual artist or from a travelling exhibition service. Staff may also have a particular artist or theme they want to pursue and then go out and find artwork based on that theme. The goals are to offer a wide range of artistic forms from a variety of artists who are local, national and international and that will expose the community to a variety of different types of art. Staff then looks at the art to determine quality of the art, does it fit into the schedule and does it fit into the budget.

Susan Ison also shared that sometimes art exhibits just come about by sheer happenstance as was the case with the Wayne Thiebaud exhibit and the current Bud Shark exhibit. Susan and Doug Erion were researching print shops when they visited Bud Shark's workshop. They found this exhibit had just returned from a successful exhibition at Denver's Museum of Contemporary Art and was available and ready to go. Bud Shark generously offered the exhibit at no cost. Susan appreciates when these opportunities happen and the ability to be able to seize the unexpected opportunities to provide this art to the community where they may not have had the chance to experience it otherwise. She stressed that quality always remains the number one priority regardless of the cost associated to bring the exhibit to the Museum.

The Board felt it would be helpful to articulate why exhibits were chosen over the past few years and how they encompassed these goals. Also, the Board felt it should be included as to how the exhibit content is reviewed and what standards we utilize to judge the art.

To alleviate potential concerns about art that may be deemed controversial, Kent Solt advised that Museum staff offer a variety of interpretive material with the piece. Joan Shaffer agreed that with a piece that may have a level of controversy around it, the Museum should have more activities in place that would allow the community to engage with the work more. Currently, staff does provide programming for each exhibit and have instituted the new cell phone tour for guests to learn more about the artists and several pieces from each exhibit. However, a concern was raised that it is difficult to always predict which pieces may be "controversial". Staff will work on articulating and formalizing the exhibit selection process and present it to the Board at the next meeting.

Rialto Report

Rialto Bridge Update

The committee continues to meet with the design team to discuss operating and maintenance costs. Tonight, the Rialto Bridge construction budget will be presented to the City Council study session.

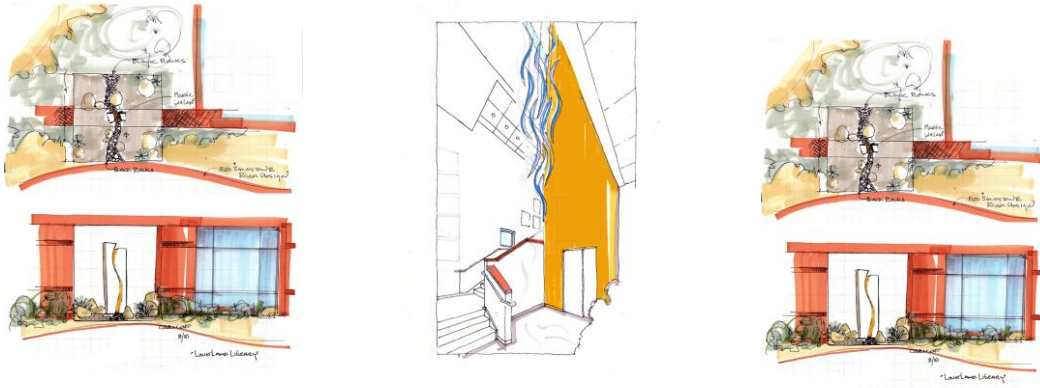
Rialto White Paper

Jan Sawyer is currently writing a "White Paper" for the Rialto Theater. This white paper about the theater will highlight and feature the various programs that the Rialto provides and the current operating model explaining why they do what they do and how the decisions are made. The target audience is primarily the City Council and will address issues of cost recovery and sustainability. This is beneficial to keep City Councilors updated as they change throughout the years. Once completed, she will present this to the Board for their comments as well as thoughts and suggestions. She hopes to have this presented at an upcoming meeting and will possibly email this to members ahead of time.

Art in Public Places Update

Loveland Library Public Art

Susan distributed some preliminary pictures of the proposed public art pieces that will be placed in the Library expansion by Allison Kinkade and Kathleen Caricoff. The theme throughout the building will be a river theme with a falling water mobile in the stairwell.



Preliminary sketches

Miscellaneous

The Cultural Services Board will have three openings. Juanita, Jan and Leslie's terms are up and they are encouraged to reapply.

Closing

Next meeting will be a combined meeting for November/December and will include a holiday potluck. The Board chose to meet Tuesday, December 7th at 4:30 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm with a motion from Peggy Schwarz and a second from Dena Kirk.

Submitted by Michelle Standiford