



**City of Spokane Park Board
Joint Arts Committee Meeting
Noon Monday, June 8, 2020
WebEx virtual meeting**

Joint Arts Committee members

- X Garret Daggett, Spokane Arts
- X Ginger Ewing, Spokane Arts
- Jim Kolva, Spokane Arts (alternate)
- X Andrew Whitver, Spokane Arts
- X Jennifer Ogden, Chair/Park Board president
- X Barb Richey, Park Board

Guest

- X Bob Anderson, Park Board

Staff

- X Melissa Huggins, Spokane Arts
- X Mika Maloney, Spokane Arts
- X Garrett Jones, Parks
- X Fianna Dickson, Parks
- X Pamela Clarke, Parks

Minutes

1. **Call to order** – Committee chair Jennifer Ogden called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.
2. **Roll call** – See above.
3. **Public comment**
 - A. None
4. **Action/discussion items**
 - A. [Community court murals donation](#) – *Melissa Huggins* presented the background, selection process and proposed recommendation to accept a donation from Hooptown USA, made possible by a grant from MultiCare, of three court murals at three Spokane neighborhood parks.
 - a) Background – Hooptown USA received a grant from MultiCare to revitalize community basketball courts, and approached Spokane Arts with the idea of installing murals in Spokane. Prior to the art selection process, proposed sites were identified at three city park basketball courts located in neighborhoods designed to benefit as many citizens as possible. These selected neighborhoods include Peaceful Valley, Chief Garry and the Lincoln Heights.

- b) Selection process – During March and April, Spokane Arts hosted an open call for artists to submit qualifications and concept designs. A total of 38 artists submitted applications for the mural projects. A panel of representatives from Hooptown USA, Spokane Parks, MultiCare and Spokane Arts selected eight finalists. Those eight designs were shared in a community survey of the three neighborhoods' residents, as well as from people who use those parks but aren't residents of the neighborhoods. Representatives from each neighborhood were also invited to participate and vote in the jury selection process.
- c) Artists/location – Mural designs by Tiffany Patterson, Joshua Martel and Nick Goettling were selected for the basketball courts at in [Peaceful Valley](#), [Chief Garry Park](#) and [Thornton Murphy Park](#), respectively. Other finalists for the project were Reinaldo Gil Zambrano, Mila Sketch, the DeFelice Family and Paulina Cholewinski.
- d) Installation/timing – The first installation at Peaceful Valley is scheduled to begin the end of June and to be completed in August. The second installation, at Chief Garry Park, is expected to begin mid-July. The mural at Thornton Murphy is set to be installed in 2021. The donation to Parks includes court resurfacing, line painting, artist selection, mural design and installation, project administration, and all costs reasonably associated with the installation of the murals.

4. Recommendation

Motion #1 – Jennifer Ogden moved to approve the community court murals selections, as presented, with thanks for the MultiCare donation, to be brought before the Park Board Finance Committee June 9 for consideration.

Garret Daggett seconded.

The motion passed with unanimous consent (5-0 vote).

5. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 12:29 p.m.

Introduction

Hooptown USA received a grant from MultiCare to revitalize community basketball courts, and approached Spokane Arts with the idea of installing murals on certain courts. Together, we selected three basketball courts located in various neighborhoods across the city, to benefit as many citizens as possible: Peaceful Valley, the Chief Garry neighborhood, and the Lincoln Heights neighborhood. Since all three basketball court locations being discussed are located in Spokane Parks, this coalition of partners—Hooptown USA, MultiCare, and Spokane Arts—respectfully ask the Parks Board to consider accepting the donation of three pieces of art, in the form of murals, each by a different artist. These murals are a celebration of the strength of both our local arts and sports communities. Together the mission is to establish a mosaic of art and basketball throughout the region to inspire and encourage inclusivity, ultimately building healthier communities.

Since 1990, the Spokane Hoopfest Association has built over 30 community outdoor basketball courts in the region and donated over \$1.6 million to local, charitable organizations, including Special Olympics – the primary beneficiary; community centers and various youth sports and learning programs. Hooptown USA is a brand that is designed to acknowledge and celebrate what Spokane has accomplished as a basketball community. As a city, we love and follow the game like no other place – from elite competitors, recreational players, teams, coaches, volunteers, and spectators young and old. We believe that sports connect neighborhoods - street by street - into healthy, thriving communities. Hooptown USA strives to enhance and strengthen those connections while amplifying our collective identity - all rooted in the magic of hoops.

Spokane Arts is an independent non-profit arts organization that partners with public and private entities to promote arts and culture in Spokane. Spokane Arts does so through grantmaking, arts advocacy, professional development opportunities for artists, and through our diverse programming across arts disciplines, which includes management of the public murals collection and other public artwork.

All three pieces of artwork would be donated to the Parks department in order to benefit the neighborhood residents who use these Parks. That means that the court resurfacing, line painting, artist selection, mural design and installation, project administration, and all costs reasonably associated with the installation of these three murals is being donated to Spokane Parks. With regard to the murals, we are asking Spokane Parks to accept the donation, give permission for installation, and help Spokane Arts staff coordinate the timing of installation along with Parks staff.

Selection process:

Spokane Arts hosted an open call for artists to submit their qualifications and a concept design, during March and April of 2020. 38 artists submitted applications for these projects. A panel of representatives from Hooptown USA, Spokane Parks, MultiCare, and city of Spokane Arts Commissioners selected eight top designs as finalists. Those eight finalist designs were shared publicly in a community survey designed to gather input from the three neighborhoods where these courts are located, as well as from those who use those parks but aren't residents of that neighborhood. Input from residents who live in the neighborhood was weighted more heavily. The online survey, which was promoted via Spokane Arts' social media, newsletter, and other digital tools, asked respondents to rank the designs, offer comments, and more. In addition to the online survey to solicit neighborhood input, we invited a representative from each neighborhood to participate in the jurying discussion and vote to determine the selected designs. The selection panel

considered the survey input as one part of their deliberations, along with the finalist artists' full applications, experience and past work, in making their selections.

Tiffany Patterson, Joshua Martel, and Nick Goettling were selected as the three individual artists to install outdoor basketball court murals on Spokane Parks basketball courts in Peaceful Valley, Chief Garry Park, and Thornton Murphy Park, respectively. The other finalists for the project were Reinaldo Gil Zambrano, Mila Sketch, the DeFelice Family, and Paulina Cholewinski.

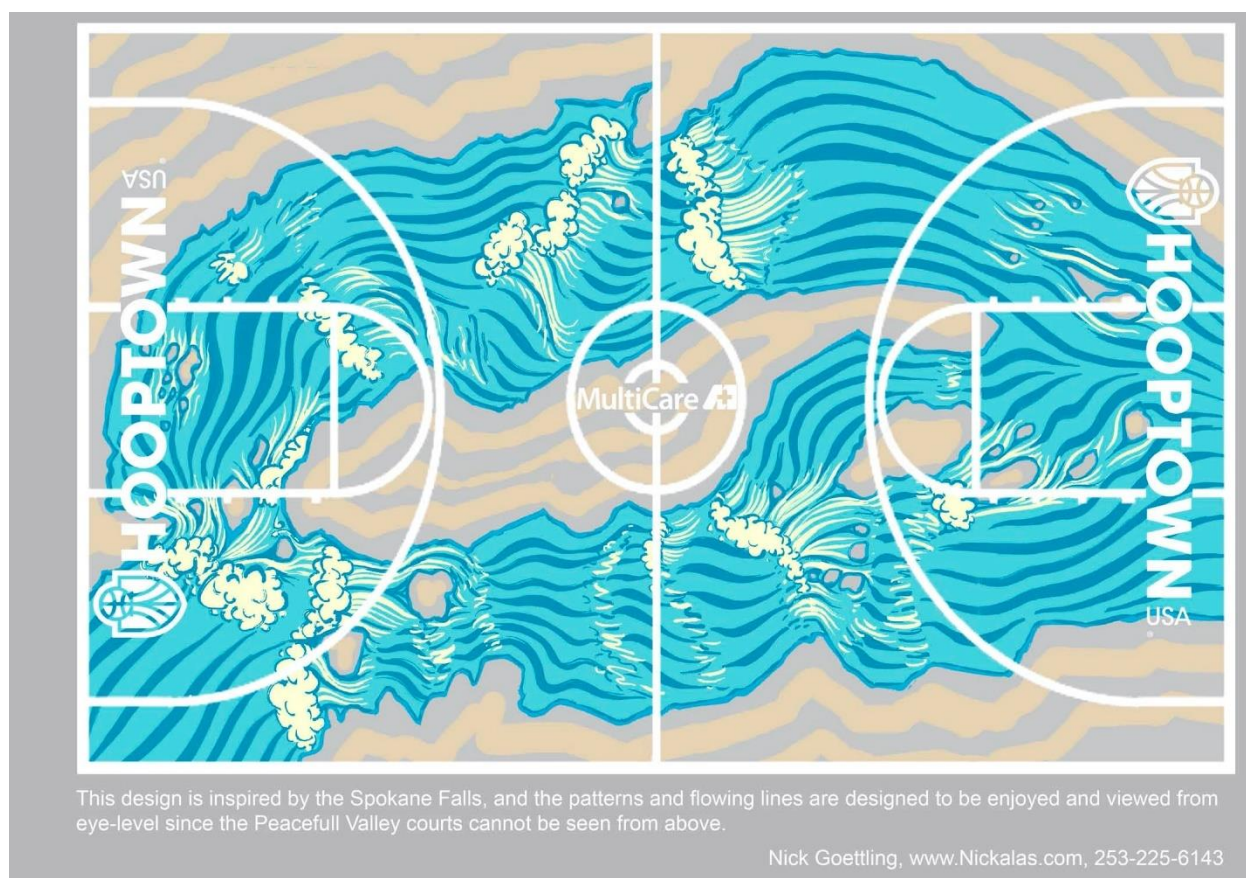
Peaceful Valley's basketball court will be the first outdoor court mural site for the project, and we hope to begin installation at the end of this month, if possible. Tiffany Patterson, a local artist and illustrator who has become well known locally for her recognizable playful and layered style, was selected for the Peaceful Valley site. Patterson was thrilled to be selected for that location, as it is in the same area of the very first mural project she was a part of over a decade ago: a City School project that partnered students and local artists. She's been part of a dozen mural projects since that first one. In her application for this project, Patterson noted she wanted to "use color and repeated shapes to mirror the energy of the game." For neighborhood representative Carol Bryan, the mostly blue and green design reflects the not-so-peaceful section of the river that flows by the neighborhood. "The River down here is very active. I love how her design captures that movement in a playful way." Punctuated by bright orange flaming basketballs, Patterson hopes her design is a fun and inclusive mural that helps to make the court even more inviting to anyone that might want to play, and as a space for imagining new games. "I have fond memories of running down basketball court lines as a child and making up games. I tried to include possibilities for hopping from shapes, and safe zones, perfect for play," shared Patterson in her application.



Chief Garry Park will be the site of the second mural to be installed for the project, with artist Joshua Martel scheduled to begin installation in mid-July this year. After growing up in Coeur d'Alene, Martel spent time in California and travelled the country, gaining experience as a muralist painting over 50 murals in the past seven years. Having recently returned to the area, Martel is excited to be installing his first large-scale mural in Spokane and **looking forward to working with the neighborhood on a community engagement project** that will accompany the mural. Our hope is that if public health rules allow, neighborhood residents in Chief Garry will be invited to participate in painting sections of the mural, led by the artist. This would be a free community event on a date to be announced. Martel had two designs in the top eight, one featuring two basketball players and the other (the selected design for this project) focused on a pair of classic basketball sneakers. Several artists' designs featuring shoes were among the top candidates; Martel's design was the most simplistic, relying on a muted but vibrant color palette and subtle gradients. As Martel noted in his application, "Simplicity when done right is strong."



The mural on the court at Thornton Murphy Park, in the Lincoln Heights neighborhood, will be installed in 2021. Gig Harbor-based artist Nick Goettling, who has installed murals in many places including Seattle, Portland, and Chicago, created a design inspired by the Spokane River falls for this project. As Goettling shared in his application, “This mural is meant to be seen and enjoyed at ground level, where the flowing lines, dynamic movement, and bold colors will reflect the energy and dynamism of the basketball games it frames.” Goettling is also currently working on a sculpture to be installed in the new Franklin Elementary school in Spokane; a project he was selected for by the Washington State Arts Commission. Arts Commission member Derrick Oliver was enthusiastic about the opportunity to include a piece from Goettling in Spokane’s public mural collection, saying “His work is phenomenal.”



PROCESS:

Prior to the mural installations, each court will be resurfaced, and after mural installation, the court lines repainted. The specifications for painting court murals include a special grit added to the paint, to ensure the court is safe for the primary purpose of playing basketball. All of the resurfacing work, painting, supplies and labor are being donated by Hooptown USA and MultiCare, with additional support from Spokane Arts, to benefit the neighborhoods and residents who frequent these Spokane parks. As indicated in the renderings, the logos for Hooptown USA and MultiCare will appear on the court as sponsors. The placement of the logos may be adjusted slightly, but per direction from Spokane Parks, a maximum of 15% of total court surface will include logos.

Outdoor Basketball court process & material recommendations

In researching best practices for these projects, Spokane Arts had multiple conversations with Project Backboard, NYC Parks department, and various mural artists who have installed outdoor court mural projects in other areas, including a consultation with experienced court-muralist Maria Molteni who has installed over half a dozen outdoor court murals over the past six years in Boston and the great New England area, and who has also consulted with Project Backboard.

Basic installation process:

1. Contractor accesses existing court and resurfaces or repairs as necessary
 - Repair cracks and patch fill uneven/sunken areas.
 - Apply acrylic court resurfacer. (If not resurfacing court, primer may be necessary before mural installation.)
2. Artist/artist team install mural
 - Artist outlines design (might use chalk to sketch in, create a grid, or use large stencils)
 - Paint mural using either:
 - Sports-specific color coating (recommend using same brand as acrylic court resurface installed by contractor, such as PlexiPave or similar)
 - Water-based acrylic floor coating with added anti-skid grit (such as Sherman Williams TreadPlex or equivalent, with added Rustoleum anti-skid additive, 1/2#/gallon)
3. Contractor applies court game lines and any other logos or text using line paint and stencils as needed.

Notes:

Project Backboard primarily recommends sports court color coatings, which have a limited color palette and are to be installed using squeegees, roofing brushes or rollers. Consulting muralists recommend acrylic floor coating with added grit, which allows for greater color palette, more detailed handling, and can be installed using brushes or rollers. NYC Parks uses both options. ***We recommend having both options available for future projects, but using acrylic floor coating for this first round of projects. Murals should be expected to wear most quickly (meaning in the first 2-3 years) in areas of heaviest play. Other outdoor courts in areas have held up well with some wear, for 4+ years.***

Additional notes we asked artists to consider when creating designs (adapted from Project Backboard recommendations):

1. Due to perspective and scale one should not need to be able to view the entire work to experience its energy (recommended to avoid detailed figurative works or overly detailed designs).
2. Try to avoid lines that will have the same width as game lines (2")
3. Due to expected accumulation of dirt and debris (bike tire tracks, soda spills etc.) and wear, delicate shading will become obscured.
4. The areas around the hoop and inside the three point line will experience fading first when heavily used and the areas of design near center and sidelines will last longest.
5. Light colors accumulate dirt fast; white can reflect sunlight and accumulate dirt quickly.
6. Large black areas absorb heat and can get hot.

Reference links:

Project Backboard: <https://projectbackboard.org/>

Court muralist Maria Molteni: <http://maria-molteni.squarespace.com/courts-1>

NYC Parks: <https://www.artisticfuel.com/visual-arts/artists-turn-nyc-basketball-courts-into-galleries-for-public-art/>

Selection panel:

Carol Bryan, Peaceful Valley neighborhood

Garret Daggett, Joint Art Committee member & basketball referee/player

Cathy Gunderson, Chief Garry neighborhood

George Hampton, MultiCare

Jennifer Ogden, Park Board

Derrick Oliver, Spokane Arts Commission (murals committee chair)

Matt Santangelo & Kristi Atkinson, Hooptown USA

Carol Tomsic, Lincoln Heights neighborhood

Andrew Whitver, Joint Art Committee

Administrative support provided by Spokane Arts staff Mika Maloney and Melissa Huggins, who facilitated meetings/provided materials/etc. but were not voting members of the jury.