

SAC APRIL MINUTES | April 28, 2020

HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM

Meeting Open: 4:30 PM

Notes taken by Chris Maccini

Board Members Present:

Chris Maccini, Miguel Gonzales, Andrew Whitver, Chuck Horgan, E.J. Iannelli, Eva Silverstone, Garret Daggett, Emma Noyes, Ginger Ewing, Derrick Oliver

Staff Members Present: Melissa Huggins, Mika Maloney

Absent: Madison Bush, Katie Patterson Larson, Patty Tully, Daniel Lopez, Remelisa Cullitan

Opening

- E.J. virtually welcomed the group.
- No minutes distributed prior to vote on; we will vote on minutes in May.

Governance:

- Public Meetings Training - Hard Deadline to complete by May 1st! Please send certificates to Melissa.

General Updates:

- None

Programming:

- Murals - Alleyways call closed. Had 16 applicants. Artist selected (Jeimei Lin). Installing Mid May - Early June
 - Hooptown Mural closed. 38 applicants. Jury evaluating this week.
 - Three artists to be selected by Mid May. Peaceful Valley & Chief Garry installed this summer.
 - Another mural call going out this week for “center court” mural in Riverfront Park.
 - Artist to be selected by this fall
 - Mural will be installed following court installation in spring/summer 2021
- Virtual First Friday - Friday May 1st.
 - Lots of stuff up on Facebook. Will be on website by Thursday.
 - Artist Talk “Creative Urgencies” 5-6 p.m. on Zoom
 - Online Gallery all day on Friday - month of May. New work.
 - Laboratory, Terrain, RAC all doing artist talks or receptions online. Details and links going out in newsletter tomorrow (4/29).
- Updated Save the Date for Arts Awards - forthcoming via email.
- Second piece of art for Riverfront Park - Saya Moriyasu - Artwork proposal viewed by commissioners via Zoom screen share.
 - Sculpture inspired by beavers. Installed along the river. Potentially on the north side near the children’s play area. Final site TBD.
 - Ginger highlights that the piece is folk-art inspired, interactive, female artist, artist of color, all big pluses of her application. Definitely different from anything else in the park. Pleasantly surprised that the panel chose it.
 - Andrew adds - This is colorful, vibrant. This piece is unique and will definitely stand out.
- Daniel Lopez will be auctioning off a painting of the pixelated Jesus Mural live on Facebook tomorrow (April 4/29). Proceeds will benefit the Artist Relief Fund.

Advocacy:

- Artist Relief Fund
 - 75 artists have been funded so far. Top 3 disciplines are Musicians, Photographers, and Visual artists.
 - 18-20ish applications are still waiting on paperwork to be funded.
 - A couple of weeks ago, put a disclaimer that we were getting close to running out of money.
 - A few small donations are still trickling in.
 - If more money comes in, we will publicize the fund again.
 - Nearly everyone who met the basic qualifications has been funded.
- Public Art Projects are still ongoing. But the majority of Melissa's time lately has been spent on advocacy. Here are a few things she's been working on:
 - Presented report/status update to City Council.
 - Pitched story to Spokesman-Review highlighting how hard creative sector has been hit
 - Wrote letters of support for Arts WA funding requests to the governor, Paul Allen Foundation, etc.
 - WA Filmworks - Department of Commerce want to host a Spokane focus group re: economic impacts of covid-19; more info TK.
 - Serving on panel of state-wide arts funders (state agencies. + private foundations and grantmakers) Advocating for the needs of Eastern WA since much of the group is very west-side focused.
 - Had meetings with aides of Senator Murray, Senator Cantwell, Rep. McMorris Rogers,
 - Virtual town hall in Spokane? - All expressed interest in that idea
 - Preparing for special session of state legislature
 - Not hopeful for a TON of funding due to state budget shortfalls, but arts sector needs to communicate the value of the creative industry and tell the story of how much it's been affected.
 - Will be setting up meetings in May/June with state reps.
- *Action Items:*
 - Sign the letter from Arts WA to Governor Inslee: <https://inspirationleague.org/letter-to-governor>
 - Arts WA survey of statewide organizations: <https://www.arts.wa.gov/2020/04/15/statewide-survey-on-covid-19-economic-impact/>
 - Stay tuned for copy from Melissa for writing to state and national representatives.

Updates from Commissioners

- Design Review Board (Chuck)
 - 3 private projects - Joya Building, RiverBend, Radio Park
 - Centennial Trail Expansion - May have some opportunities for art.
 - DRB will meet every week, with one project per meeting.
- Arts WA (Ginger)
 - Arts WA has a fund up now for cultural orgs & non-profits up to \$5000. Very simple application.
 - Humanities Washington also has a relief fund for organizations.
 - WESTAF is doing a survey as well. Given \$900,000 from NEA for arts org relief; they will be announcing a grant program for WA arts orgs soon. Spokane Arts will share out details as soon as they are available. Link to survey: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScAEEzprQqKfhohEgPaugPQETxMXhS7CC7Ycs2m5R15IHnG2Q/viewform>
- Flag Committee (Andrew & Miguel)

- Not much progress. They've set up some committees. Probably 18 months out from decisions/action.
- Murals (D.O.)
 - See Mika's updates above
- Meet the Makers (Melissa)
 - Has mostly been on hold due to COVID-19
 - Melissa is working on getting information to the jury to evaluate submitted proposals & select 3 films to be produced as our next round of films
- Melissa - Are there general thoughts / impressions on how things are going in terms of funding, relief, etc.? What are you hearing, what should the group know about/be aware of?
 - Eva - Library is hoping to re-open when the Governor says it's OK.
 - Teams are working on protective measures for staff. Have not laid anyone off, but are probably looking at budget cuts for next year.
 - Library has a team of about 20 staff members answering a financial help hotline. Available 9-5 Mon-Fri. Financial Helpline at (509) 625-6650. Anyone can call, and they will connect them to a professional on all the funds, applications, unemployment, etc.
 - Library also has virtual book clubs and online story times, etc.
 - Andrew - AS2 is closed. No first Friday events. Queer Art Walk is waiting to see what happens; may get pushed to October.
 - Miguel - Has built a website for individual artists to post images and sell artwork.
 - Ginger - It's likely that large gatherings are not going to be happening soon. What does that mean for the health of arts organizations? For example, Terrain's revenue is highly dependent on large gatherings. They're trying to make contingency plans, but not sure what the future will look like.
 - Spokane Public Radio would love help gathering more announcements for the arts calendar; has been hard to fill due to shutdowns.
 - 50 Hour Slam is doing a special quarantine video contest; find more details on their FB page

New business/ Good of the Commission

- None

Closing

- Motion to close, 5:40 Unanimous approval without discussion.
- **Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 26th, 4:30pm**