

SAC MINUTES | November 24, 2020

HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM

Meeting Open: 4:30 p.m.

Notes taken by Chris Maccini

Board Members Present:

Andrew Whitver, Chris Maccini, E.J. Iannelli, Eva Silverstone, Ginger Ewing, Madison Bush, Remelisa Cullitan, Chase Ogden, Katie Patterson Larson, Patty Tully,

Staff Members Present: Melissa Huggins, Mika Maloney

Absent:, Daniel Lopez, Chuck Horgan, Derrick Oliver, Miguel Gonzales, Garret Daggett, Emma Noyes

Opening

- E.J. opened the meeting and called to order.
- Reviewed September minutes one date correction made. Andrew moved to approve. Katie seconded. No Discussion. September minutes unanimously approved.

Public Comment

- None

Programming:

- Cultural Trail
 - Melissa Introduced Erin Quick and gave an overview of the current state of the cultural trail project: A network of “interventions” including signage, interactive storytelling, amenities, etc.
 - Erin Quick presented six potential options for names for the cultural trail
 - Category 1: Connection/Unifying
 - “Linx”
 - “Weldway”
 - Category 2: Connecting to stories of the past
 - “Storyline”
 - “Stemma”
 - Category 3: Emphasizing culture
 - “Culture Course”
 - “The Opal”
 - Initial thoughts/feedback from the commissioners:
 - Remelisa: Weldway reminds me of the 1920s for some reason. Has an older feeling to it
 - Chris - Linx reminds me of the animal - could use pawprints or cartoon lynx as elements?
 - Chase - is it walking only? Storyline reminds me of public transit
 - Ginger - Is there a reason it can't be called the Spokane Cultural Trail? Erin: Mainly to avoid confusion with the Centennial Trail.
 - Ginger - whose stories are going to be told? The name should reflect the groups and types of stories. Erin: Already in initial conversation/communication with various stakeholders including Spokane Tribe, Spokane Chinese Association, Latino Hope Foundation, and a dozen other organizations/groups to invite them to share what kinds of people/stories/etc. they'd like to see along the trail. Naming challenge is to find a name that will be very inclusive, to encompass all the varied stories that will be told along the trail. Melissa also points out that we're in the first phase of inviting stories; there will also be an open public call to solicit ideas for what should be featured along

the trail: unsung heroes/heroines, people or events largely forgotten by the history books, etc. No one is deciding what will be on the trail right now, but we'd like to have concrete examples of people/stories that should be featured, as we work to gain wider support of the cultural trail concept & keep moving it forward.

- Melissa will send out the slides. Commissioners, please sit with these names and send thoughts/comments/feedback to Melissa by next week. It would be helpful to narrow this list down before sending it on to other stakeholders for additional feedback.
- Murals (Mika)
 - Discussion of the decommission of two murals under the railroad bridge on 3rd and 4th near Browne's Addition. Recommendation to decommission brought to full arts commission by the murals committee. The two murals are heavily graffitied and dirty to the point that they are not repairable, and they fit multiple criteria for decommissioning. There is not enough pedestrian traffic in that area to deter vandals, and the sites are outside the BID so the DSP Ambassadors don't walk around that far outside of downtown core nor does the Clean Team venture that far. If the commission voted to decommission, the city would paint over the existing murals and resume control over the site (so they'd be responsible for graffiti mitigation moving forward.) Arts commission could still consider those sites in the future for new murals if conditions changed, such as if we found a better anti-graffiti product than those we've tested so far/had enough budget to apply the anti-graffiti coatings (which are expensive). But right now, our mitigation efforts haven't been successful and the graffiti is only getting worse and worse on those particular sites.
 - ***Chris motioned to approve decommissioning these two murals. Andrew seconded. No further discussion. Unanimously approved by voice vote.***

Grantmaking (Melissa)

- CARES Act grantmaking process is complete. A total of \$440,000 in CARES Act funding was granted to Spokane organizations and individuals.
- Third round of SAGA grants have been awarded, nine grantees for a total of \$40,000+. Nine grantees will be announced December 1.
- Application is still open for a final, \$30,000 round of granting to cultural organizations. Contact Shelly if you have questions about that.
- By the end of this year, Spokane Arts will have granted out over \$600,000 to Spokane's artistic community. That's in direct grants to artists, organizations, collectives, and creative businesses.

Governance

- Waiting for the final handful of commissioner applications from the city. Melissa will be in touch with commissioners who may be willing to help with reviewing applications.
- This is our last official meeting of the year. Thank you so much to members who are rotating off the board. Staff are planning how to celebrate them despite all our meetings being virtual. The members rotating off at the end of this year are: Garret Daggett, Derrick Oliver, Chase Ogden, and Ginger Ewing. Feel free to drop them a note, thanking them for their six years of service on the arts commission!
- Holiday Party To-Go: Dec. 3rd, 5 - 6:30, Pick up your celebratory gifts from Melissa and Mika, plus treats prepared by chef Tony Brown, at Red Band Room – 225 W Riverside Ave. This will be a covid safe curbside pickup, basically, so make sure you stop by to pick up your delicious treats & gift!

Updates from Commissioners

- Arts WA (Ginger)

- It looks like Gov. Inslee is getting ready to announce covid relief money earmarked for cultural organizations and workers, per Ginger.
- Joint Arts Committee (Andrew)
 - Sarah Thompson Moore piece will likely be located near the Pavilion. Has not been officially voted on by Park Board yet.
- Flag Committee (Andrew)
 - 450 Submissions were received. Supposed to review by next Monday. There are some really promising designs. Will be narrowed down in the future and Andrew will report back.
- Library Art (Eva)
 - Reviewed art proposals for Liberty, Shadle and Central Library 89 submissions received. Narrowed down to 4 finalists for each location.

New business/ Good of the Commission

- Andrew - Still operating the Wonder Market until Dec. 18th. Crafts, candles, food, etc. 10 - 2 on Saturdays.
- Melissa - Forgot to note that Madison served as the arts commission rep this whole year on the SAGA review board, which we can announce now that regular SAGA granting has concluded. Thank you for all your hard work in that role! Especially significant workload this year with rolling applications in R2.
- Ginger - Terrain has received \$100,000 to give microgrants with a focus on BIPOC and queer artists. Details TBD
- Chase - Just signed a distribution deal for his documentary feature film, *Super Frenchie*. Will include a minor theatrical release, streaming, etc.
- Eva - The Hive space on Sprague. The library will be hosting artists in residence at that new studio space. Eva will work with Melissa to figure out how this can tie in with SAGA, and other details. More to come.
- Remelisa has painted a holiday lantern tree, currently installed at the Mirabeau Park Hotel as part of Northwest WinterFest. Final location may be TBD. Details at <https://northwestwinterfest.com/>

Closing

- Motion to close, 5:43 p.m. Unanimous approval without discussion.
- **Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 26, 2021**