

SAC MINUTES | March 23, 2021

HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM

Meeting Open: 4:30 p.m.

Notes taken by Chris Maccini

Board Members Present: Andrew Whitver, Chris Maccini, Chuck Horgan, Emma Noyes, Katie Patterson Larson, Madison Bush, Eva Silverstone.

Staff Members Present: Melissa Huggins, Mika Maloney

Absent: Daniel Lopez, E.J. Iannelli, Miguel Gonzales, Remelisa Cullitan, Patty Tully

Opening

- Andrew opened the meeting and called to order.
- Reviewed February minutes. Chuck noted one typo, which Melissa fixed. Eva moved to approve. Chuck seconded. No Discussion. February minutes unanimously approved.

Public Comment

- None

Programming (Melissa and Mika)

- Signal Boxes (Mika)
 - Call for student artists is open now. Please spread the word or pass along student info to Mika if you know interested high school student artists.
 - City-wide all-ages call opens next week for another dozen or so boxes. Will be open for about 6 weeks or so
- Library Portable Works (Mika)
 - Call is open now. Closes at midnight 3/24. Please reach out to artists and encourage them to apply. For existing two-dimensional art. Priority to BIPOC artists.
- City Line Bus Transit Station Art (Melissa)
 - STA has identified 4 elements for art at each station. Stations have been grouped by neighborhood. There will be one artist chosen for each neighborhood to design those artistic elements (flag, windscreen, panels, etc.) Call is open now. Artists encouraged to submit their CV/samples/qualifications.
 - Melissa will be looking for jurors too. If you're interested, let Melissa know. Juries will include business reps, neighborhood people, tribal representatives, etc.
- In the Neighborhood (Mika)
 - Initial deadline has passed, but we're just going to keep it open for a few months. Encourage kids, adult poets, etc. to continue to submit poems based on Spokane's neighborhoods.
 - We're also doing a video of some folks reading their poems "on location." Should be fun to share around.

Grantmaking (Melissa)

- SAGA
 - Round 1 grantees will be announced publicly April 1st.
 - Seven grantees for a total of \$45,000. Grantees have been notified. It's a great mix:
 - Spokane Youth Symphony
 - Garfield Art program - murals with kids.
 - Get Lit! Festival
 - Kate Lebo - new book about being hearing impaired

- Mary Carpenter - Children's book project focused on public art in Spokane
 - Spokane Valley Summer Theater
 - Spokane Winterfest
- "Extra" \$30,000 in the grantmaking pool was also awarded. Thank you to Remelisa and Patty for serving on the jury for that pot of grant funding. Those will be announced at the same time as SAGA.

Advocacy (Melissa)

- Inspiration League (Advocacy arm of statewide advocacy coalition) Statewide cultural sector is asking the state to allocate \$25M in cultural relief funding to be distributed by Arts WA.
 - We need lots of people to contact their representatives, especially in Eastern Washington, to ask the state to kick in money for the cultural sector. The city, federal government have allocated relief funds. We need the state to chip in too from the state budget.
 - Also, the state is about to get federal funding. So advocacy coalition is also asking for \$100M of that federal relief money to be allocated to the cultural sector, for economic relief.
- Downtown Plan
 - Melissa sent out info about the ongoing survey. Please fill it out if you have input.
 - Thank you to those commissioners who have helped out with the Downtown Plan. Art priorities in the plan have grown substantially through commissioner involvement/feedback/advocacy.

Committee Updates from Commissioners

- Murals Committee (Mika)
 - The committee met and formed a plan for this year. Two big projects that artists are already selected for are two basketball court murals. Riverfront Park will be installed May/June. Thornton Murphy in Lincoln Heights will be June/July.
 - A couple other smaller mural projects are in the works. Will be good for less experienced artists.
 - Nevada/Lidgerwood COP Shop (neighborhood requested)
 - Bike/Scooter Parking - six mini murals in bike/scooter corrals - Artist selection will open up soon. Will be installed later this spring. Partnership with city.
 - Mural maintenance is still ongoing
 - \$4,000 set aside for emerging artist mentorship. Will give stipends for less experienced artists to work as an assistant to an established artist. Specifically for BIPOC artists.
 - Hoping to do a workshop for professional development on boarded-up windows downtown. Details to come. Thanks to Daniel for advice.
 - Mural Festival - Joshua Martel approached us with the idea of a mural festival. We've decided to hire him on a contract basis to plan and put together that festival for Summer 2022. Hopefully will announce to the public this summer. New murals all going up at once over the course of 10 days or so. Hopefully bring in some national artists as well as give opportunities for local artists.
 - Committee decided to save \$10,000 which was intended for this year to put into 2022 budget.
- Design Review (Chuck) - Nothing new to report. Waiting on two new middle schools to come through review.
- Flag Committee (Andrew) - Vote on flag design finalists in conjunction with libraries should be out in April. Narrowed down options have been presented to City Council.

New business/ Good of the Commission

- Katie - Art Salvage "Creation Stations" have packed 1000 boxes of art supplies and tools for kids and teachers, etc. Kits will be distributed during spring break along with meal distribution. Creativity kits paid for by Spokane Arts (\$5,000 from City of Spokane grant funds) and SPS (\$2500).
- Madison - NWMAC is thrilled to be at 50% capacity. Able to accommodate walk-ups now. Downton Abbey exhibit is a partnership with Civic Theater who did the exhibit design.

- Andrew - ZAAC (ZooTown) cultural arts center in Missoula is amazing. You should go check it out.
- Eva - Library Arts update - Toured Shadle, Liberty Park, Central libraries to make sure spaces were good for rotating art exhibits. There will be three arts programs: portable works, permanent works, rotating exhibits. Been working hard to ensure that all the libraries have space for those rotating exhibits. The Hive should open in August this year - spaces for artists in residence. Application will hopefully go out May 1st.
- Open Commission spots? - (Melissa) Hoping to do interviews in mid-April to keep that process rolling and fill open seats. Melissa or E.J. will reach out to commissioners to conduct those interviews.
- Emma - Some of the artists involved in the BLM mural have formed a semi-formal collective to do more work together (called BLAC). Brainstorming ideas for a space to work/share/exhibit/mentor young artists, etc. Would be good to engage that group for the Mural Festival. (Eva) - Maybe a rotating mural location on the exterior walls of The Hive? Mika will communicate with BLAC collective and see how we can support their work and possibly partner on mural festival.
- Melissa – had more conversations about how to pursue removal of Monaghan statue. Her impression is that DSP does not agree with our position on statue removal. She met with a council member who liked the idea of a stakeholder discussion being facilitated but didn't think it should be facilitated by the city. Unclear who a neutral third-party facilitator would be. However, when Melissa suggested that idea of a facilitated discussion to the members of the Citizens Advisory Council, they were not in favor and felt it would cause more harm and trauma to members of the Pacific Islander community, to be subjected to comments from un-informed people questioning whether the plaque/statue is racist and in doing so, questioning their humanity. Based on that discussion, it was clear the idea of a facilitated discussion among stakeholders should be tabled. Melissa also met with Emma this month to update her on the CAC discussions and ask advice about how to proceed thoughtfully and let the PI community lead without imposing her/our idea of what should happen next to pursue statue removal. MH will continue attending CAC meetings and report back if/when there are actions we can take to support the direction/actions/etc. that group decides to take.

Closing

- Motion to close, 5:18 p.m. Unanimous approval without discussion.
- **Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 27**