

## SAC MINUTES | June 28, 2022

HELD HYBRID IN-PERSON AND ZOOM

**Meeting Open:** 4:30 p.m.

Notes taken by Chris Maccini

**Board Members Present:** Chris Maccini, Madison Bush, Eva Silverstone, E.J. Iannelli, Audrey Overstreet, , Chuck Horgan, Dylan Le, Katie Patterson Larson

**Staff Members Present:** Melissa Huggins

**Absent:** Emma Noyes, Miguel Gonzales, Daniel Lopez, Remelisa Cullitan, Kelly Baker, Michael Bethely

### Opening

- E.J. opened the meeting and called to order.
- Did not have a quorum present, so May minutes were not reviewed or approved.
- E.J. Introduced Mallory and Lisa from Emerson Garfield and North Hill neighborhood gateway art projects

### Public Comment

- None

### Special Presentation

- Neighborhood gateway art proposal from Mallory and Lisa from Emerson Garfield and North Hill neighborhoods
  - “Sun Shines Through” project would be a community art project located on North Monroe between the Emerson-Garfield and North Hill neighborhoods.
  - Neighborhood gateway sign project was about 5 years in the making before being cancelled.
  - Concept would be a concrete & mosaic with sunshine and rainbow imagery to represent the Spokane “Children of the Sun” and a message of welcoming and hope for the community.
  - Artists will build the sculpture during a residency at the Hive. Community members will be invited to join in and create a tile to include in the artwork.
  - Timeline: Hive Residency is October – March. Hoping to install in March 2023.
  - Budget for the artwork is about \$10,000 in materials, not including labor, artist fee or installation.
  - Commissioners expressed support for the project. A formal vote to approve was postponed because a quorum was not present.

### Governance

- Arts Commission Chair Nomination
  - E.J. and Melissa have nominated Katie to replace E.J. as Commission Chair and Emma to take the role of Vice Chair.
  - Commission will vote on nominations at July meeting.

### Programming

- Public Art (Melissa)
  - Street Mural program has been approved and funded by Spokane City Council. Two council members voted against the resolution once it was amended to include crosswalk murals (the initial proposal did not include crosswalks)
    - Neighborhood councils will now have the opportunity to select street art as a traffic calming measure, which artist they’d like to work with, which designs, etc. Street art will be an *option* among several traffic calming measures.
    - Melissa will present more information to Community Assembly.
  - STA Station ID Updates

- 9 artists have submitted designs for 32 different stations. Designs have been approved by STA. Additional designs for railing panels will be submitted this week. Shelter construction is scheduled to begin this month and will continue for the next year.
- Poster show in STA plaza to display station designs, tentative date: Tuesday, July 12. More details to TBD.

### **Advocacy**

- Save the dates for these events:
  - “Cultural Futures” hosted by Inspire Washington June 16, 4 p.m. at the MAC
  - Impact Award celebration for Don Hamilton June 23, 5-8 p.m. at Hamilton Studio

### **Updates from Commissioners**

- Shantell will send an email to set up Mural committee meeting.
- Chris - In the Neighborhood Poetry Anthology is still in the works – currently working on adult permission for minor poets

### **New Business / Good of the Commission**

- Eva – Central Library opens July 11. Which will include a group show of all the Hive artists past and present. Will also have a display of dresses from the Spokane 350 zero waste initiative. Lilac City Live is coming back July 28.
- E.J. – Will be succeeding Verne Windham as Art and Music Director at Spokane Public Radio beginning in August.
- Melissa – This is E.J.’s final arts commission meeting! Kudos to him for all his amazing work and advocacy including as Chair and serving on Spokane Arts governing board.

### **Closing**

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

# “Sun Shine Through”

## Concrete and Mosaic Community Public Sculpture for Emerson-Garfield and North Hill Gateway

By Mallory Battista and Lisa Soranaka

We are seeking the approval of the Arts Commission to install a community public sculpture at the border of the Emerson-Garfield and North Hill neighborhoods, on North Monroe. The Emerson-Garfield (E.G.) and North Hill neighborhoods have been working on this gateway project for the last five years, but it was recently canceled by the city and the remaining CDBG funds returned. We are reimagining the gateway landmark as a community public sculpture, and we have been awarded a studio residency at The Hive for October through March in order to create the sculpture, which will be mosaic on concrete and will incorporate handmade tiles made with the community at free workshops through the Spokane Public Library in October, November, and February. We have applied for SAGA funding for the materials needed for the sculpture, and we have the support of several community members in the E.G. Neighborhood Council and North Monroe Business District, as well as City Councilperson Karen Stratton. With Karen's help, we have received positive feedback on our design from Carly Cortright as well as her confidence that we will be able to procure the necessary permits and permissions without issue. We have applied for ARPA funding for the installation and are pursuing other sources of funding as well, and we are seeking the approval of the Arts Commission so that we can continue with planning for installation at this site.

The sculpture, which we are calling "Sun Shine Through," is a large cloud-shaped sculpture with a bright mosaic sun shining on one side and a colorful rainbow and raindrops on the other. It is a play off of the meaning of Spokane — “sun people” or “children of the sun” — with the sun representing our community and not only shining through dark times, but becoming something beautiful through the process. When installed at the base of the Monroe hill, the sunshine side would be appropriately facing south-bound drivers entering Emerson-Garfield, and the rainbow would greet those heading north up the hill, which for locals will have the subtext of the Garland District being “somewhere over the rainbow.” The sculpture exemplifies universal images of positivity and hope, and it will be striking once installed outdoors with all of the stained glass glittering in the light between custom glazed ceramic tiles. It will be joyful.

Mallory has been a resident of the E.G. Neighborhood for the last thirteen years, and she and Lisa have both worked in the arts along North Monroe and Garland Avenue. We are dedicated to facilitating community involvement in this sculpture through our free tile workshops, and will be promoting it to the E.G. and North Hill neighborhoods with the help of the neighborhood councils, business districts, and fliers and posters provided by our print sponsor, as well as making it accessible to the women in transitional housing through Transitions. We hope that you will see fit to approve our project, and we are happy to provide any additional information you might need.



“Sun Shine Through” concept sketch  
6 x 4’, approximately 12” thick  
concrete with glass and tile mosaic



EMERSON-GARFIELD  
NEIGHBORHOOD

Sunshine facing north,  
entry of Emerson-Garfield



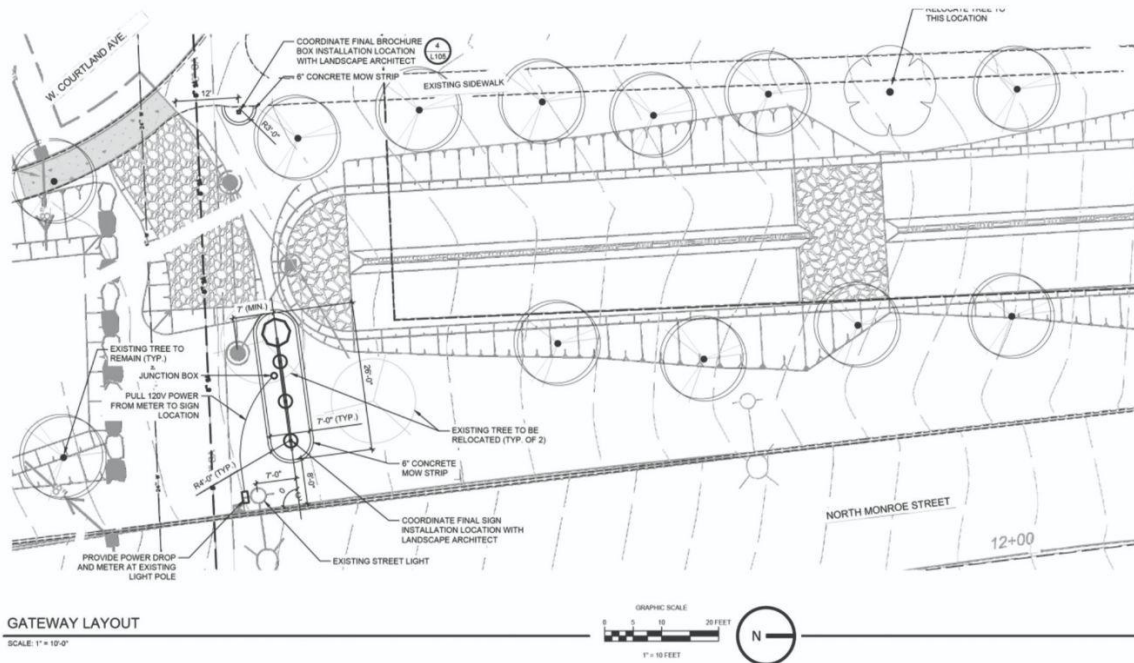
NORTH HILL  
NEIGHBORHOOD

Rainbow facing south,  
entry of North Hill



We would like to install the sculpture on a concrete platform at least 3 ft tall to raise the cloud off the ground, and as an option the neighborhood names could be stamped in the concrete on each side. Ideally, cloud-like candytuft (an evergreen and drought tolerant perennial that blooms in spring through mid summer) would be planted around the base, such as at this Spokane home above, photo taken in mid May.

If we can get it approved by engineering, we would also like to have the bottom of the cloud have rounded tufts, instead of being flat like the sketch.



The install location on North Monroe, based on the gateway sign project that fell through.

GATEWAY LOCATION

SCALE: NTS



Rainbow facing south, entry of  
North Hill Neighborhood.

While our design is 6' wide by 4' tall, with additional  
funding we could make it bigger.



Rainbow facing south, entry of  
North Hill Neighborhood.

With additional funding, we could make the cloud  
sculpture a bit larger and flank it with two smaller  
clouds for a wider display.





Sunshine facing north, entry of  
Emerson-Garfield Neighborhood.

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“Sun Shine Through” will be a powerful landmark for the colorful neighborhoods bordering it, and it will greet thousands of commuters on Monroe everyday — between 17,000 and 18,000 vehicles daily in 2016, probably more now. For pedestrians, the sculpture offers a photo opportunity and a glittery backdrop between two vibrant business districts. It will also bring to fruition several years of hard work by both neighborhoods to create a placemaking landmark at their gateway.

But a huge part of the impact of this project is the community involvement. Khira Passmore, program manager for Miryam's House of Transitions, says, “this is a great opportunity for our women. The creative process means people get choices, agency, and are seen. For people to be seen and heard in their community has a healing impact.” We are happy to facilitate the involvement of Transitions’ clients in our workshops, who likely haven’t had the opportunity to be involved in the creation of public art before. In 2021, Mallory donated an interior mural of a lily pond to Miryam’s House and saw firsthand how impactful art was to the residents there, especially when she added a frog after a few requests. That creative contribution, which the residents would later name Sherman, fostered a sense of ownership and involvement that vastly increased their enjoyment of the mural. We believe the same will be true here, that the opportunity to make tiles for the mosaic will grant the community a sense of pride at being involved in such a big, beautiful public sculpture and that it being in such a visible location may, by extension, make them feel seen.

## **Available Upon Request**

### **Letters of Support:**

**Karen Mobley**, artist, writer, art consultant

**Eva Silverstone**, arts education specialist, Spokane Public Library's The Hive

**Heather Beebe-Stevens**, executive director CCS Foundation

### **Artists' CVs**

### **Examples of Past Work**

**26-page SAGA Application detailing the project**

# **Thank You!**

**We appreciate your consideration.**

**Mallory Battista & Lisa Soranaka**