

**ART IN PUBLIC PLACES COMMISSION**

**Annual Retreat Minutes  
Video Conference Meeting  
Sunday, January 8, 2023**

- I. **Call to order**  
9:08am  
Present –Brittany Pirtle (Chair), Vanessa Frazier, Ana Valles, Nick Engen, Shana Thompson, and Mary Mollicone  
Absent - Amy Cheslin, Margaret Norwood  
Guests – Kendall Peterson, Jill Stilwell, and Amber Pixley
- II. **Assign notetaker for monthly Council memo**  
Mary volunteered
- III. **Adopt meeting agenda**  
Mary motioned
- IV. **Public comments**  
None
- V. **Ice Breaker**  
The commission talked about a memorable museum or public art experience.
- VI. **ThereSquared – Master Planning**  
Questions posed to the commission: What are the past successes your most proud of, what are some of the challenges you would like to address, and where would you like to see the program go in the future?  
Successes:
  - **Mary:** Dawn fountain and its recent transformation into Light of Dawn and the celebration ceremony turnout. The project involved AIPP, the original artist Rafe Ropek, Parks and Rec, Facilities and Water.
  - **Ana:** The successes are constant and gaining momentum. Another success is when council members share stuff on social media
  - **Brittany:** Seeing more and more council members attending our events and advocating art. Public Art Assistant part time position elevated to a Full-time position, Public Art Administrative Specialist.
  - **Roberta:** 7/20 Memorial process and commemoration, the city had made clear decisions how they wanted the memorial to happen and turned everything over to the memorial board. The city provided land and legal support, administrative support, food for meetings and technical support and AIPP managed the process. The 7/20 memorial board raised all the money themselves, \$200,000.
  - **Nick:** All aspects of the 7/20 memorial event pieces and seeing people come together to make it happen.
  - **Vanessa:** Credited Amy for community engagement. Program’s effort toward meeting with the city’s EDI mission and representing community and cataloguing where artists are from.
  - **Shana:** Art selection process and Art2C.

- **Tony:** Private development, Parkside @ City Center a great example of collaboration and Roberta connecting developers with resources that inspired them to do more than their minimum requirements.

Challenges:

- **Brittany:** Commissioner turnover and volunteering commitments (life mentioned as one of many contributing factors) Since Covid we've been strictly doing virtual meetings. Begin thinking about in-person or hybrid. Staff limitations can only handle so many projects at a given time
- **Vanessa:** Work as a team to pick up unexpected commitments and or schedule changes.
- **Tony:** 1% is limiting and would be a substantially different program if we had 2%. Out of the 1%, 0.25 is allocated to maintenance and administration and the 0.75 is reserved for accessioning artwork.
- **Roberta:** Special opportunities arise suddenly, and priorities are adjusted to make the projects come to fruition. The tour for Charles Burrell School of Visual and Performing arts and working with the Aurora Housing Authority on the Liberty View Veteran Apartments are two examples of such projects. Staff turnover not only in the program but also in the City. Effective relationships and norms are lost with these transitions, rebuilding those partnerships is time consuming.
- **Mary:** Keeping a full and active board
- **Ana:** Program visibility beyond the same people, same community, more community support is needed.

Future aspirations:

- **Brittany:** When talking with people they already know what AIPP is what the program is actively doing. Want people fighting to get on the commission with stacks of applications. More staff. People taking pictures with the artworks and posting more on social media.
- **Ana:** Adding a wow factor, a piece that would be referred to as their best experience. No one mentioned anything in Aurora during the icebreaker.
- **Mary:** Similar exhibits like Art2C across the entire city.
- **Vanessa:** AIPP is its own department and fully staffed. Dedicated staff for social media, marketing, and behind the scenes public engagement. AIPP as a catalyst in communities with low representation. Educating the public and inspiring new artists.
- **Nick:** Publicity and public outreach. A measure of success when people are calling in complaining that the art needs maintenance.
- **Shana:** People understand where the art comes from and the process. Education and community involvement especially with youth is important. People don't even know how to talk about art, we can change that.
- **Roberta:** Build on the relationship started with the Charles Burrell School. Public art integrated and taught in K-12. Commissioner led public art tours that can help create a

wow factor and educate about the process. Dedicated project managers or staff specializing on certain projects.

- **Tony:** Connected with the very foundation of the community, making are accessible and tangible. QR codes are used in conjunction with education programming.

Places to visit:

- 7/20 memorial, SERC, Stanley Marketplace, Colfax (ACAD to I-225), DAVA, Parkside @ City Center, Southlands, Art2C On Havana, Mango House on Colfax, Delmar park, AMC, Gaylord, Aurora reservoir
- Potential sites: From DIA to Aurora on Pena Blvd., Southshore neighborhood

Stakeholders, could be focus groups:

Visit Aurora, Aurora Sister Cities, Aurora Chamber, Leadership aurora, Havana BID, City Council, All Council Members, City Manager, Deputy City Managers, Director of Library and Cultural Services, Planning and Urban Renewal, Andrea Amonik, and 7/20 Memorial CEO Heather Dearman

**VII. Items from chair**

- a. Review absences policy and other requirements

Reviewed

- b. Discuss commissioner recruitment

Shana will now communicate with Ward VI

Brittany will cover Ward V (temporarily)

- c. Strategic Plan Review

Moved to February Agenda, no objections.

- d. Other

Vanessa – Margaret brought this up before, Ward III meetings are the same time and as our meetings. Is it okay to attend at least once a quarter? Everyone said that it would be okay for Vanessa or Margaret to attend Ward III meeting with notice.

Mary - Loss of another commissioner, Ward V will need to be accounted for. Brittany assumed the responsibility until position is filled.

**VIII. Election of Officers and Organization Assignments**

- a. Elect Chair and Vice-Chair

Brittany reelected for Chair and Ana Valles elected as Vice-Chair

- b. Assign liaison to CAC

Brittany

- c. Assign liaison to Arts + Business (Aurora Chamber of Commerce)

Ana

- d. Assign liaison to Havana BID

Margaret. Nick expressed interest depending on time/date. Margaret was not present to comment.

- e. Assign liaison to ACAD Shareholders

Amy and Margaret. Nick showed interest depending on schedule, would still prefer Havana BID. Amy and Margaret were not present to comment.

**IX. Next meeting and agenda items**

Date: February 1<sup>st</sup> 2023

Note taker volunteers

Discuss Future Projects

ASP Liberty View Apartments public art recommendation

**X. Good news**

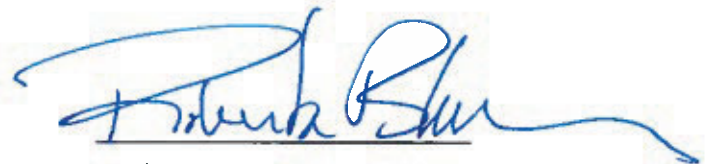
Shana just got her first board member for her nonprofit, Project Photo Op. She also just joined the board for a Denver based nonprofit Digerati.

**XI. Adjournment**

8:06pm



Chair, Brittany Pirtle



Public Art Supervisor, Roberta Bloom

*The mission of the Art in Public Places Program is to capture the pulse of the community by contributing to neighborhood development and economic vitality, and by engaging the many voices of Aurora through art and culture.*

**ART IN PUBLIC PLACES COMMISSION**

**Minutes for January**

**Video Conference Meeting**

**Tuesday, January 3, 2023 6:00 pm | 2 Hours | (UTC-06:00) Mountain Time (US & Canada)**

**I. Call to order**

6:02 pm

Present –Brittany Pirtle (Chair) Amy Cheslin, Vanessa Frazier, Margaret Norwood, Ana Valles, Nick Engen, Shana Thompson and Mary Mollicone

Guests – Kendall Peterson, Jill Stilwell, and Amber Pixley

**II. Assign notetaker for monthly Council memo**

Mary Mollicone volunteered.

**III. Approval of minutes**

Amy approved with amendments.

**IV. Adopt meeting agenda**

Add Chalk Lines & Vines.

Mary moved and Amy seconded.

**V. Public comments**

Roberta gave a short introduction of Amber Pixley, AIPP’s new Administrative Specialist.

**VI. Ice Breaker**

Everyone shared a recent book or a favorite book they have read. The discussions and summaries were brief and enlightening, capturing a wide variety of interests and in some cases fortitude.

**VII. Guest Speaker**

ThereSquared – Kendall Peterson & Jill Stilwell

Kendall and Jill are a team of consultants who both have their own consultancies but love to work together when combining strategic and master planning with policy.

Throughout the next several months ThereSquared will be actively attending meetings, shadowing the program, and engaging members of the commission to develop a thorough and comprehensive Master plan for the AIPP program. Commissioners need to consider ways they would like to participate in different aspects of the project and stay as engaged as possible to help guide TheirSquared through the development process.

Kendall added that when the group works remotely it would be preferred if all cameras are turned on, at the very least when you are speaking, this helps gauge the group and engagement. Add Jill and Kendall to the commissioner email list to receive documents and communications.

**TheirSquared homework for commission:**

- **Phase 1** Research, discovery, and immersion tour. What are some places you want them to look at, overlooked, place makers, the best of what Aurora has to offer and where Aurora may need help.

- Phase 2 Funding and stake holders. Who are the people they must have interviews with? (Stakeholders, artists, political, etc.)
- Phase 3 Focus groups. How can we connect with different communities, that may not be connected with city processes? How to engage with under participating groups in ways that feel authentic?

Brittany reminded the commission the importance of this process and that there is need for an all-hands-on deck approach to commit a bit more time than before which includes volunteering at events.

**VIII. Action items**

None

**IX. Staff report**

a. Staff report 1:24:30

- SERC grand opening will be held Tuesday afternoon January 24<sup>th</sup>, invitation only from 2-3:30pm, from 3:30 – 5 is the public grand opening. SERC has a major integrated art installation by ProjectOne Studio.
  - Finalists for Liberty View Veterans Housing Project will be presenting their final proposals on January 20<sup>th</sup>. The artists are David Farquharson, Annette Coleman, and William Mueller. Vanessa will not be able to attend the panel meeting.
- b. Administrative Specialist – Update  
Amber was invited to speak and introduce herself and give a little more background. We were extremely happy she was able to attend the meeting in such short notice and look forward to her start.
- c. Other  
AIPP 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary later this year with an intended celebration at the AMC on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor mezzanine. We need to start using that space again. Due to staff turnover, we haven't been able to begin planning the event, the publications and swag associated with it.

**X. Items from Chair**

a. Annual report

Brittany shared her annual report presentation to the group. It was a remarkable recap of the 2022 year and the breadth of work the program and commission have achieved. Concluded with thanks to Midori Clark, Laura Perri for their commitment to achieving the full time Public Art Administrative Specialist position. Thanks were also given to Council members Juan Marcano, Allison Coombs and Ruben Medina for their involvement and engagement.

b. Annual retreat

Next icebreaker: What is the best museum or public art experience you've had?  
Documents have already been sent out in preparation for Sunday's meeting.

c. Chalk Lines and Vines

Mary made the motion Vanessa seconded and the commission voted to support the event. Sponsorships usually require a buy in but with Amy's time commitment since

the beginning of Chalk Lines and Vines in 2021 with continued support in social media promotion, finding volunteers and connecting the event with chalk artists, we get our name on the sponsors list and a booth during the event.

**XI. Items from Commission**

**a. Report from liaisons**

**1. Cultural Affairs Commission**

Brittany mentioned NAG North American Artist Grants has 18 interviews to be conducted. Interviews will be on January 14<sup>th</sup>. Cultural Affairs Commission has begun their master planning process which has been delayed about two years. Their survey is on EngageAurora until 2/2 and the two community engagement meetings this month; one is at Tallyn's Reach Library, Thursday 1/19 5:30-7:30pm and the other is at the FOX Theatre, Tuesday 1/24 5:30-7:30pm.

**2. Havana BID**

None

**3. ACAD**

They will be opening a gallery space as ACAD as an entity itself

**4. Art + Business Connection**

Meeting next week will be online and presented by NINEdotARTS, topic of discussion is how arts benefit businesses.

**5. BACA**

None

**XII. Next meeting and agenda items**

Date: January 8<sup>th</sup> – Annual Retreat

**XIII. Good news**

**XIV. Collect volunteer hours and contacts**

**XV. Adjournment**

8:03pm



Chair, Brittany Pirtle



Public Art Supervisor, Roberta Bloom

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