

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES COMMISSION

Minutes for December

Video Conference Meeting

Wednesday, December 6, 2023, 6:00 pm | 2 hours | (UTC-06:00) Mountain Time (US & Canada)

I. Call to order.

- a. 6:02pm
- b. Present: Karen Jorgensen, Mary Mollicone, Margaret Norwood, Elaine Lee, Chelsea Minter-Brindley, Laura Perry (guest), Amy Cheslin, Vanessa Frazier (Vice-Chair)
- c. Not Present: Ana Valles (Chair)

II. Assign notetaker for monthly Council memo

- a. Mary volunteers.

III. Approval of minutes

- a. Elaine has a suggestion on updating November minutes.
- b. Margaret makes motion to approve November minutes as amended, Karen seconds, unanimous.

IV. Adopt meeting agenda

- a. No changes – adopted as is.

V. Guest Speaker Deputy City Manager Laura Perry

- a. LCS Director Recruitment
 - i. The city has started recruiting for the LCS Director position. There is a survey that Library and Cultural Services staff as well as advisory boards are asked to take. This will help with identifying the skills and qualities that staff and boards would like to see in a new Director. The commission gave comments on what they would like to see in a new Director. Laura encouraged everyone to complete the survey or email her if they thought of other things that they would like to see in a new Director.
- b. Cultural Arts Plan Presentation
 - i. Laura presents the Aurora Arts Ahead which will be from 2023-2026. Aurora's Cultural Services Division consists of Art in Public Places, Cultural Arts Education, Aurora Fox Arts Center and Aurora History Museum and Historic Sites. The plan consists of 5 priorities.
 - 1. Programming and Space: Enhance and expand access to arts, culture, and history through diverse programming and improved facilities.
 - a. Above all, the community expressed a strong desire for the city to enhance and expand its offerings and improve its facilities. These goals and strategies will help the city to offer more opportunities for people to participate in and benefit from the arts.
 - 2. Visibility: Elevate the profile of Aurora's arts, culture and history.

- a. There is a gap in the public’s knowledge of available arts and culture activities and events in Aurora. By enhancing outreach, communications, and marketing, Aurora can showcase its vibrant arts and cultural scene. Investing in multilingual marketing efforts and engaging with diverse communities will help ensure that all residents feel represented and included.
3. Connection: Strengthen connection in Aurora’s creative community.
 - a. Community input highlighted the importance of bringing together the creative community and showcasing Aurora’s diverse and talented artists and creators. As a convener, the city can foster collaboration, encourage innovation, and create a supportive network for local artists and creatives.
4. Economic Impact: Quantify economic impact and generate revenue.
 - a. The arts have a strong impact on Aurora’s economy, yet the business case and ROI are not always evident. Qualifying this impact, and educating the public and key stakeholders on it will help both the city and the creative community. Additionally, by generating new revenue for the arts, culture, and history, Aurora can continue to enhance its programming and spaces while ensuring access for all.
5. Internal Infrastructure: Increase internal effectiveness.
 - a. The information-gathering process highlighted the importance of increasing the effectiveness of the Cultural Services Division, including leveraging volunteers, boards, and commissions, and creating a unified vision for the division. This will lead to better coordination, streamlined planning, and improved customer service.
- ii. Mary asks if the Cultural Affairs Commission worked on putting this together. Laura says yes. The implementation process will begin when a new LCS Director has been hired. Mary asks if there’s any interest in bringing the boards and commissions together. Roberta thinks that with the approval and publication of this plan, would offer the opportunity to reconvene the boards and commissions together to look at the plan together and be part of the implementation conversation. Mary thinks that publications by different parts of Cultural Services should be shared with all boards and commissions to inform on what each commission is doing. Vanessa asks if quarterly meetings would be too much for boards and commissions to meet. Mary thinks that would be great to keep the momentum moving forward. Margaret suggests that we don’t add an extra meeting but allow others to attend and speak during regularly scheduled quarterly meetings.

VI. Public comments

VII. Action item

- a. Intersection of Art + Function
 - i. Amy suggests that some should be removed, and some should be moved to different locations. Mary asks if these should be voted individually or as a group, since they are all part of the same collection. Roberta suggests pulling them all out and storing them at a facility. That way we could have them all in one place, look at them up closely and decide what to keep. Possibly find different environments for them.
 - ii. Ask Andy to remove and assess the purple, lounge, yellow and western benches/chairs.
 - iii. Mary makes motion to be assessed, Amy seconds.
- b. Loaned Art
 - i. Jan-Mar: Zachary Davidson and Emma King (prints)
 - ii. Apr-Jun: Paulina Fortuna (photography)
 - iii. Jul-Sep: Malika Farmonbekova (dresses made from paper)
 - iv. Oct-Dec: Aurora Public Schools Traveling Art Show
 - v. Mary moves to go forward, Margaret seconds, unanimous.

VIII. Staff report

- a. 5-Year Plan Presentation Updates
 - i. The 5 Year Plan was presented to the PR+ Policy committee on November 29th and received a lot of support from staff and city council members. Ana gave a brief intro and Jill and Kendall, the consultants, presented.
 - ii. This could be something that could be shared with the other boards and commissions if they get together.
 - iii. At the retreat, we will be making some decisions about some of the sites and prioritizing the work that we will be doing.
- b. "Ticker Tape" Dedication and Images
 - i. Amber shares images of "Ticker Tape."
 - ii. The dedication of "Ticker Tape" will be Thursday, December 14th, from 1pm-2pm at the Liberty View at Fitzsimons Apartments.
- c. Confirmation of 2024 meeting dates
 - i. The commission confirms meeting dates of January 3rd, January 6th, February 7th, March 6th, April 3rd, May 1st, June 5th, July 3rd, August 7th, September 4th, October 2nd, November 6th, December 4th.
- d. January regular meeting guest, Jo McNeal
 - i. Jo McNeal is the Acting LCS Director, and she will come and introduce herself and learn a little more about the Art in Public Places commission during the January 3rd meeting.
- e. Other

IX. Items from Chair

- a. Confirm Retreat 1/6 Times and Agenda
 - i. The meeting will be 10am-2pm, lunch included. We will go over the 5-Year Plan implementation and prioritization of projects. Location will be the 2nd Floor Board Room of the Central Library.

- b. Chair/Vice-Chair
 - i. Ana will stay as Chair and Vanessa will stay as Vice-Chair.
- c. Other

X. Items from Commission

- a. Report from Liaisons
 - i. Cultural Affairs Commission
 - 1. Vanessa – presentations from grant recipients, the Aurora Symphony and Daryl Gott. Then they talked about the grant application which was posted on the 8th of November.
 - ii. Havana BID
 - 1. Karen – no update.
 - iii. ACAD
 - 1. Margaret – no meeting but they had a Holiday Party.
 - iv. Art + Business Connection
 - 1. Ana – not present.
 - v. BACA
 - 1. Amy – haven't been meeting.

XI. Next Meeting and agenda items

- a. Date: January 3
- b. Retreat: January 6

XII. Good news

- a. Amber
 - i. Bought a house in Aurora.
- b. Chelsea
 - i. Shared the recipients of the Meow Wolf foundation 2023-2024 community grants.
- c. Vanessa
 - i. Volunteered for Denver Fashion Week and she got to go to Magnolia Market in Dallas Fort Worth and see the public art they have out there.

XIII. Collect volunteer hours and contacts

XIV. Adjournment

- a. 8:05pm

X *Ana Valles*

Ana Valles
Chair

X *Roberta Bloom*

Roberta Bloom
Cultural Services Manager and Public Art Su...

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.