

# CITY OF ASHLAND

## PUBLIC ART COMMISSION - REGULAR MEETING January 15, 2021 AGENDA

- I. **CALL TO ORDER**  
8:30 a.m. via zoom
- II. **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**
- III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  
Public Arts Commission Study Session of December 16, 2020  
Public Arts Commission regular meeting of December 18, 2020
- IV. **PUBLIC FORUM**
- V. **LIAISON REPORTS**
  - PAC Financials – Adam Hanks
  - Council Liaison – Stephen Jensen
  - Community Development Liaison – Aaron Anderson
  - APRC Liaison – Jim Lewis
- VI. **PAC WORKPLAN**
  - HUB Artwork
  - Selection Panel
- VII. **PROJECT UPDATES**
  - The Power of Art
- VIII. **OTHER BUSINESS**
  - MAP Phase 3 and beyond
  - Strategic Goals
  - Commissioner Recruitment
- IX. **ADJOURNMENT**  
**Next Meeting:** February 19, 2021
- X. **ATTACHMENTS**  
PAC Minutes from 12/16 - Draft  
PAC Minutes from 12/18 - Draft  
Hub Artwork Schedule  
Hub Artwork Criteria  
Reference Checks

**PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION  
STUDY SESSION  
December 16, 2020  
MINUTES - *Draft***

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Andy Stallman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. via Zoom

**Commissioners Present:**

Andy Stallman  
Sandy Friend  
Jennifer Longshore  
Stanley Smith  
Laura Bloom

**Staff Present:**

Aaron Anderson, Associate Planner

**Absent Members:**

Jeff Phillips

**II. DISCUSSION**

Railroad District Hub Artwork Submissions:

Prior to this 12/16 meeting, Commissioners evaluated and scored all submissions received on criteria listed in the published RFQ. Scores were then totaled and averaged.

Commissioner Friend suggested that the median be used as the minimum cut score.

Two submissions fell below that threshold and were not considered in the following discussions.

Commissioners then evaluated the 5 remaining submissions, with the intention to select 3 finalists by vote.

The top two submissions were approved unanimously.

The third highest received a 4:1 approval (with only Stallman casting a “no” vote)

Commissioners Longshore, Smith, and Bloom each volunteered to take one of the 3 finalists and contact 3 of the provided references by phone.

All artists will receive notification of the commission’s decision in mid-January.

**III. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

**ASHLAND PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
December 18, 2020  
MINUTES - *Draft***

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Andy Stallman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. via Zoom.

**Commissioners Present:**

Sandra Friend  
Jennifer Longshore  
Stanley Smith  
Andy Stallman

**Staff Present:**

Aaron Anderson, Assistant Planner

**APRC Liaison:**

Joel Heller (absent)

**Council Liaison:**

Stephen Jensen, absent

**Absent Members:**

Jeff Phillips

**II. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA - None**

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Public Arts Commission regular meeting of November 20, 2020

Chair Stallman made a correction to the minutes on page 2. Under MAP Phase 1: Masterworks – Stallman, the second sentence, “**Commissioner ??? would consider it**”, should read “**Commissioner Smith would consider it**”.

Commissioner Friend made a correction to the minutes on page 2 as well. Under MAP Phase 2: RFQ Release – Friend, the first sentence, “**Commissioner Friend explained they sent RFQs to over contacts using Sendinblue**”, should read “**Commissioner Friend explained they sent RFQs to over 200 contacts using Sendinblue**”.

**Commissioner Friend/Smith m/s to approve the minutes as corrected. Vote by Hand: ALL AYES. Motion passed.**

**IV. PUBLIC FORUM – None**

**V. LIAISON REPORTS**

- Council Liaison – Jensen - None
- Parks & Recreation Liaison – Heller - None
- Community Development Liaison – Anderson - None

**VI. PROJECT UPDATES**

- Power of Art: voiceover – Jensen

Tony Field recorded the voiceover Monday, December 14, 2020. The recording would be edited and inserted into the PowerPoint presentation. Councilor Jensen would meet with the stakeholders regarding next steps.

- MAP Phase 1: Masterworks – Stallman

Chair Stallman contacted Jennifer Andrews regarding the final art for the project. Some illustrations required additional time, but the expectation was the work would be ready to review the first week of

January. Once the artwork was approved, fabrication would begin.

#### **VII. OTHER BUSINESS**

- Commission Vacancies – Andy

The Commission discussed recruiting possibilities for the vacancy. Suggestions included an art student from SOU or someone on the list for the selection committee.

#### **VIII. PAC WORKPLAN**

- Review HUB Artwork Submissions

Chair Stallman commented the Study Session on December 16, 2020 went well. The group discussed having a fourth or 5th place for the art selection in case of the top three references did not check out. The Commission would discuss the matter further during their meeting on January 8, 2021.

Commissioner Friend would draft acceptance and rejection letters.

- Selection Panel

The Commission discussed candidates for the selection panel. They determined seven members would be enough.

The Commission discussed changing the mailing date for the notice. They agreed to stick with the original plan and mail the notice Wednesday, December 30, 2020. The notice would be published in the newspapers Monday, January 4, 2021. The Commission went on to review the notice and the recipients.

#### **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 9:17 a.m.

**Next Meeting:** January 15, 2021

## HUB Artwork Schedule

- |  |                |        |
|--|----------------|--------|
| ▪ Notify all applicants and<br>Schedule phone call with <i>Finalists</i>     | 1/15           |        |
| ▪ Contract and \$ allocation to <i>Finalists</i>                             | 1/18           | Aaron  |
| ▪ Finalize <i>Selection Panel</i> and meeting date                           | by 2/12        | PAC    |
| ▪ Regular PAC Meeting  | 2/19           |        |
| ▪ Design Submissions from 3 <i>Finalists</i> due<br>Public_art@ashland.or.us | 3/5            | Aaron  |
| ▪ Review Design Submissions/certify for <i>Selection Panel</i>               | 3/8            | PAC    |
|  | Zoom/8:30 a.m. |        |
| ▪ <i>Selection Panel</i> meets to choose <i>Selected Artist</i>              | 3/9-3/12       | SP/PAC |
|  | Zoom/ TBD      |        |
| ▪ City Council approves <i>Selected Artist</i>                               | 3/16           | CC     |
|  | Zoom/6 pm      |        |
| ▪ Notify all <i>Finalists</i>  | 3/18           | PAC    |
| ▪ Schedule conversation with <i>Selected Artist</i>                          | 3/18           | PAC    |
| ▪ Regular PAC Meeting  | 3/19           |        |
| ▪ Contract and \$ allocation plan/deposit to Selected Artist                 |                |        |
| ▪ Regular PAC Meeting  | 4/16           |        |

## **HUB Artwork: Conversations with finalists**

### ***From Original MAP Project presentation:***

This site-specific artwork should be railroad-centric, referencing the former depot location, roundhouse, and the S&P Yards. The small, grassy, bordered area at the bottom of 7<sup>th</sup> St. (see RFQ description) has been suggested as a natural location where the artwork would enhance the visual beauty of Railroad Park, as well as providing the historical connection the MAP project seeks to establish.

### ***Per RFQ:***

This site-specific artwork should be designed to be sited within a flat (or possibly lightly mounded), un-landscaped oval area which is approximately 33' wide x 23' deep, not exceed 23' in width, 13' in depth, and should be between 9'-13' high. Be visually stimulating, perhaps whimsical and colorful, and responsive to the site in terms of scale, material, and form. Reflect the historic significance of the Ashland Railroad District. Be vandal resistant, safely displayed and secured, and require minimal conservation and maintenance.

## **HUB Artwork: Considerations for Selection Panel in evaluating the design concepts**

**Project Intent:** A site-specific, engaging artwork that visually and spatially enhances the experience of RR park, creating a sense of place and pride by establishing a distinctive landmark that reflects the history of the Railroad District.

1. Does the concept design meet the project intent?
2. How well does the concept activate the site in terms of size, form, color, magnitude?
3. Is the piece engaging from differing viewpoints, levels, angles, perspectives?
4. Is the design visually memorable?
5. How does each concept rate in terms of originality, aesthetics and ability to spark a conversation?
6. Is the design resistant to vandalism?

## REFERENCE CHECKS FOR RAILROAD PARK HUB SCULPTURE

### Ken McCall – Calls made by Jennifer Longshore

#### **Karen Rudd (Manager Norfolk Arts)**

- Working successfully within a timeline and contract - yes
- Communicating in a timely, consistent manner – yes through email and phone (both he and his wife would communicate) – good team
- Completing projects on time and within budget – yes – no concerns
- Handling issues and concerns in a professional manner – yes followed contract/ the sculpture is very much a match to the design

#### Other thoughts:

- He sells himself short – says “I am not a good speaker” – but then he is a good speaker
- Humble – worked with community and listened to them (the community was pleased)
- Excellent metal worker and excellent at kinetic work
- Expert in metals and materials and this caller has called Ken for advice on other sculptures and ways to repair them

#### **Mike Barton (Parks Superintendent City of Meridian, ID)**

- Working successfully within a timeline and contract - yes
- Communicating in a timely, consistent manner - yes
- Completing projects on time and within budget - yes
- Handling issues and concerns in a professional manner - yes

#### Other thoughts:

- Unlike other artists who have a creative vision and can't quite make what they envision without doubling their cost... He can have a creative vision and get it done.
- Excellent quality work – One stop shop!
- His fabrication work is excellent – He can build it!
- Ken does work for other artists who win competitions in the region.

#### **Dan Prinzing (Executive Director Wassmuth Center for Human Rights)**

- Working successfully within a timeline and contract - yes
- Communicating in a timely, consistent manner - yes
- Completing projects on time and within budget – yes – no surprises (he gives a budget and it is spot on)
- Handling issues and concerns in a professional manner – yes – very pleasant person

#### Other thoughts:

- He was introduced to us by the Boise City Arts and History – They highly recommended him
- Enjoy his process – he would ask us what we envision and then he would bring a concept. He would welcome suggestions – a good give and take relationship – very collaborative
- He presents his plan and “what you see is what you will get”. He is not temperamental and not one to fight.
- The community likes his work and his current work relates to the “Universal Declaration of Human Rights”

## **Suenn Ho Design – Calls made by Stanley Smith**

### **Melissa Sutkowski (ADA Planning manager for ODOT)**

She supervised the Historic Bascule Bridges Interpretive Installation.

Her review of the performance of Suenn Ho was overwhelmingly positive:

- On time and on budget, no glitches at all
- Coordinated a public school outreach, which solicited content from students (much of which were incorporated into the piece)
- Constant (and often unsolicited) updates on the project,
- Great communication metrics.
- Workmanship was top-notch.
- During final review, Suenn Ho discovered a couple of panels that had not weathered well, or had a visible flaw. They replaced them immediately at their own expense.
- Very evident pride of workmanship.
- Unqualified recommendation.

### **Ms. Raziah Roushan (Executive Director of Tualatin Valley Creates)**

She worked with Suenn on the Tigard Street Heritage Trail Outdoor Museum.

It was a complex project with three other public artists, with a combined budget of about \$300K:

- Completed in Spring of 2020
- Work was of the highest quality-- both materials and workmanship.
- very popular sculpture with the public.
- Great communication skills-- attended every meeting and kept all stakeholders well informed.
- completed on time and on budget, however her part of the project was with the City of Tigard, and not under Ms Roushan's control.
- she worked well with the three other artists, and often took a leadership role..
- "A pleasure to work with"
- Highest recommendation for quality, communication, and thoroughness.

### **Ms. Karen Mellin (former city council member for the City of Astoria)**

Overall a very positive confirmation of this candidate's qualifications.

She was closely involved with the "Garden of Surging Waves" project:

- Karen could not remember the exact budget for the project, but it was fairly large-- 15,000 sq ft garden with 16 small installations along the pathways. No budget overruns
- Since Astoria has a fairly large Chinese community, they wanted a way to acknowledge their contribution in the building of the town, roads, and breakwater.
- Suenn pitched the idea of commemorating the Chinese to the Astoria City Council, and they were unanimously supportive.
- She showed "great creativity and sensitivity" in her ideas for the site and content.
- She clearly "had studied the history of the area" so her pitch was rich in detail and content. One exhibit consists of snippets of letters from the Chinese workers to family back home.
- Suenn's communication skills were the best-- not only to the Council, but to any individuals who had questions or concerns.
- The installation has become "a big draw" for locals and visitors to Astoria.
- Ms Mellin has "absolutely no reservations" in recommending Suenn, and that "we would be lucky to get her!"

## **Jennifer Corio & David Frei – Calls made by Laura Bloom**

### **Chuck Zimmer - Project Manager, Washington State Arts Commission**

- Chuck would welcome the opportunity to collaborate with them again. They were very easy to work with, professional, communicative, and adept at project management. Specifically noted was the fact that the install was to occur a week before the shutdown for Covid was ordered by the Governor. Jennifer and David went above and beyond to adapt and coordinate the install to move from April to July. Their handling of the situation was well thought, they remained in budget, timely, and professional.

### **Megan Cherry - Arts Program Manager, City of Moscow**

- Jennifer's and David's project management skills were solid and they were well-versed how PA projects work. "This is what they do."
- They have excellent communication and will absolutely let you know what may be needed, "they will be in your inbox a lot."
- The budget, being contractual, had no wiggle room and there were no issues.
- To demonstrate their professionalism, the artwork is placed at a busy intersection for which they communicated with the city to control traffic and manage the install to maintain safety, efficiency, and did due diligence.
- The artwork is designed to be taken apart so that when it needs maintenance it can be done efficiently; extraordinarily detailed.

### **Lynn Valenter - Vice Chancellor; Washington State University – Vancouver:**

- All elements of the timeline and financial and other aspects of the contract were met consistently and easily. This contract required a draw at points of completion and visits were conducted timely and were readily accessible to approve. This businesslike behavior has been notably excellent from my association with other artists, including those through the public art process.
- Jennifer is communicative and responsive. She has excellent oral and written communication skills in addition to being responsive.
- All financial matters were conducted as called for in the contract. Completion and installation were on time.
- There was only minor discussion needed, although we did request information on preventive/routine maintenance. All contact was extraordinarily proficient to the extent I commented on the "management" skills evident. Jennifer has a background in high tech, I believe, and that helped me understand the exceptional skill she brought to the management side of the project.
- In this instance, Jennifer was working with a coalition of new artists, which I suspect made the work far more complex than imagined, but there was no sign of that from our work together. You didn't ask, but the artwork was installed probably 20 years ago and has been extremely sturdy and has withstood completely exposed year-round weather marvelously.
- I can give Jennifer an enthusiastic 100% endorsement of the professionalism of her work. Communication, budget, timeline, quality and all aspects of the relationship were highly satisfactory.