

**ARTS COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
July 23, 2024  
City Hall, Conference Room #6**

**Attendees:** Chairman Mary Lee Ryba, Vice-Chair Abby Light, Commissioner John Bruning, Commissioner Alesa Momerak, Commissioner Summer Ward, Commissioner Sally Shortridge, Commissioner Lindsey Sichelstiel, Commissioner Kate Walker, and City Administrator Troy Tymesen.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Ryba called the meeting to order.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION:** Commissioner Ward stated that she will be leaving early.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Sichelstiel, seconded by Commissioner Momerak, to approve the June 25, 2024 minutes. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

**APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT:** Mr. Tymesen stated that the Art funds is currently earning interest. He mentioned that the expenditures include professional services, scholarship program with Emerge, and the first payment for the Wastewater Treatment Facility art project. He added that Commissioner Bruning has committed to completing the plaque to honor Mr. Sid Frederickson. **MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Light, seconded by Commissioner Ward, to approve the June 2024 Financial Reports. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

**COMMISSIONER/ STAFF COMMENTS:** Chair Ryba noted that the term of Commissioners Bruning and Drake expired on July 3. She stated that Commissioner Bruning informed her that he is not going to ask for another term as he is also busy with his work as Vice President of the Board of Directors for St. Vincent de Paul. Commissioner Bruning thanked everyone for the important work that they do for the City of Coeur d'Alene. He said that there are a lot of cities that don't have the art program that the City of Coeur d'Alene has. He shared that he learned so much working with everyone. He committed to continue to work on the plaque in honor of Mr. Frederickson for the Wastewater Treatment Facility public art project. He mentioned that he will also reach out to the School District because Mr. Frederickson was Chair of the District 271 Trustees. Chair Ryba shared that Commissioner Drake is currently out of the country, and she will reach out to her when she gets back. She said that she will also ask Commissioner Doutriaux whose term expires on August 7. She also shared that Commissioner Linder, whose term ends in September, will not renew her appointment and submitted her resignation last July 8 because her business is growing, and she would like to focus on her family. She relayed that Commissioner Linder thanks everyone and will make sure that the stickers for the Otocast project are finished. Chair Ryba said that Commissioner Ethridge's term will also expire in September but relayed that he would like to be re-appointed. Lastly, she shared that the appointment of the student representatives will also expire in September.

On another matter, Chair Ryba mentioned that she had a conversation with Blair Williams, owner of the Art Spirit Gallery and working with a client that is reselling some of George Carlson art works, of which two sculptures are currently on display at the gallery. She explained that George Carlson is recognized as one of America's greatest sculptors and his art has been shown both nationally and internationally, particularly in the National Academy of Design and the Smithsonian. Chair Ryba said that she would like to take up in the next Arts Commission meeting for the City to purchase Carlson's bronze sculpture of native Americans for an amount between \$20,000 - \$25,000. She stated that Ms. Williams will also provide a colored copy of Carlson's book of artworks. She invited the Commissioners to visit the Art Spirit Gallery which is open from Wednesday to Sunday. Commissioner Light inquired on what part of the budget will the purchase come from since it's a private sale with Mr. Tymesen responding that this would be a purchase of original art and it would come from the urban renewal district funds. He pointed out that the Commission should also look into where to place this art piece since the museum has not yet moved to the White House. Chair Ryba said that an option is postponing the call for ArtCurrents for a year and use the funds to purchase this original art. Mr. Tymesen said that there is funding for permanent art for the city.

**SELECTION AND APPROVAL OF 2024-2025 ARTCURRENTS ART PIECES:** Chair Ryba noted that Commissioners Light and Sichelstiel are the co-chairs for this year's selection process. Commissioner Sichelstiel explained that ArtCurrents is the only subcommittee that brings in funds to the Arts Commission as the art pieces are for sale while on public display, and the City gets 25% commission out of the sale. She stated that the art pieces are on display downtown along Sherman Avenue, Atlas Waterfront Park, and Riverstone. Chair Ryba noted that the call for artists specifies that the art piece should center on the theme or interpretations of the Northwest that the public would be more inclined to purchase. She added that the selected artists will receive a stipend per art piece for each year the art is on display for a maximum of two years. She explained that the call to artists is yearly, and the art pieces are switched out every year, which is a lot of work considering the de-installation and installation, hence the subcommittee will discuss if selection of ArtCurrents can be done every other year or extend the display of the art piece like the Gaia by Dale Young at Atlas Waterfront Park. Commissioner Light discussed that this year's selection committee was composed of a good mix of community members that narrowed down the 21 qualified submissions to the top eight, of which she and Commissioner Sichelstiel whittled down to six art pieces for review and approval of the Arts Commission. Chair Ryba added that Councilmember Kiki Miller is one of the members of the selection committee for this year. Commissioner Momerak inquired the scope of the call and how the selected art pieces are promoted with Commissioner Light responding that the artists should be residing in the states of Idaho, Montana, Utah, Wyoming, British Columbia, Washington, and Oregon. Commissioner Sichelstiel explained that the subcommittee has been pondering about promoting the art pieces because only one art piece has been sold recently. Commissioner Light stated that there is a need to raise awareness that those are for sale. Commissioner Sichelstiel added that they have been discussing promotion in the social media subcommittee. Commissioner Momerak suggested making new hotels that comes into town to buy one art piece to be placed in their lobby.

Commissioner Light explained that this year's selected art pieces are a mix of abstract and representation of the Northwest which was voted on by the selection committee by scoring last

July 8. She stated that the top six art pieces composed of “Woodland” by Paul Reimer, “Sentinel Watcher” by Robert Turriff, “Eternal Mudra” by Dale Young, “Coeur d’Maison” by Michael Dunton, “O’Keefe 7” by Patrick Sullivan, and “Sway” by Michael Dunton, are being forwarded for approval of the Commission before it goes to the City Council on August 6. Commissioner Walker shared that she feels that the Sentinel Watcher art piece portrays an odd conflicting message. While she acknowledges the concept about artificial intelligence (AI) as written in the description, she is concerned about how this will be viewed by others. Commissioner Sichelstiel explained that the said art piece is unique compared to the other selections and it is high scale, well done, and would be a good conversation piece. Mr. Tymesen shared that in the past, there was an art piece installed at Riverstone that was taken out after over a year because somebody looked at the markings and thought that it is endorsing Russia, but in fact the artist’s intention was to protest the coal that is harvested in countries, and Russia just happens to be one of those countries. He said that it would be a challenge to the Commission to find out more details about the art piece as well as taking into consideration where it should be placed. He cited Dale Young’s Eternal Mudra which is big and may not make it to Sherman Avenue due to ADA requirements. Chair Ryba thanked Commissioner Walker for sharing her insights about the Sentinel Watcher. Commissioner Momerak stated that the art piece is remarkable and different. Commissioner Ward stated that it would be a good conversation starter about issues like the challenges around AI. Commissioner Light added that being a handmade item about that concept is interesting too. Commissioner Sichelstiel stated that she doesn’t think that this art piece is offensive in any way, and for her, it is a beautiful art and a conversation starter. Chair Ryba shared that the artist, Robert Turriff, doesn’t seem controversial and has done a lot of artworks such as sculpture, metal fabricator, carver, etc. Commissioner Walker said that there is a need to establish the necessary context for the art pieces so that people would have a better understanding. Commissioner Light explained that that ArtCurrents are not on the Otocast app because the display is only temporary, and it would also entail costs. Commissioner Ward suggested using social media to communicate the context or the artist’s intentions.

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Momerak, seconded by Commissioner Shortridge, to approve the six ArtCurrents selections: “Woodland” by Paul Reimer, “Sentinel Watcher” by Robert Turriff, “Eternal Mudra” by Dale Young, “Coeur d’Maison” by Michael Dunton, “O’Keefe 7” by Patrick Sullivan, and “Sway” by Michael Dunton. **Motion carried.**

#### **SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES:**

ArtCurrents: Chair Ryba thanked Commissioners Light, Commissioner Sichelstiel, and Ms. Mateski for getting the selection of the art pieces for this year done.

Mr. Tymesen shared that one of the installed art pieces, O’Keefe 8, was damaged and he would like to negotiate purchase with the artist. Chair Ryba noted that the sculpture was damaged on July 4<sup>th</sup> and the artist is Patrick Sullivan. She added that it would be good to purchase the sculpture and the City is negotiating on a lower price since the contract is expiring in September. Mr. Tymesen stated that the City can repair the sculpture. Chair Ryba stated that since this is not an action item so it will be on the agenda for decision next meeting.

Otocast Audio Tour Guide: With the non-renewal of the term of Commissioner Bruning and resignation of Commissioner Linder, Chair Ryba asked interested Commissioners to join the Otocast subcommittee. Commissioner Light said that she can help with creating graphics for signs. Chair Ryba mentioned that the title should be reworked into a broader committee like marketing and technology, and under that would be social media and Otocast. Commissioner Light said that Commissioner Doutriaux as a photographer can be a member. Commissioner Sichelstiel shared that the social media subcommittee has already met and started the process. Chair Ryba shared that Commissioner Linder had 20 vinyl stickers of the Otocast app printed which would be installed on the Mudgy and Millie sculptures.

Performing Arts: Chair Ryba shared that she watched the Secret Garden, and it was professionally done. She said she highly recommends for the Commissioners to watch it and take note of the 50% discount code provided by Commissioner Ethridge. Mr. Tymesen noted that a couple of Councilmembers really enjoy performing arts and it has come up during the recent Council meeting to ask the Arts Commission to do more in performing arts. Chair Ryba stated that she will inform Commissioner Ethridge.

Community Arts: Chair Ryba proposed to combine the Performing Arts and Community Arts into one subcommittee as Visual and Performing Arts, and then maintain the same membership.

DTAs Winter Lights Festival: Chair Ryba stated to remove this in the list.

Mural Projects: Chair Ryba mentioned that there was a presentation about the mural at the new Marriott. Commissioner Momerak stated that they had a meeting with them and shared that they suggested for sculptural concrete because it is not eye level. Chair Ryba said to take off the hold on this committee and asked Commissioner Light if she would be interested in being added. She said that it would be good to arrange a committee meeting and give feedback to Mr. Tymesen and the Arts Commission on the next steps.

Wastewater Treatment Facility Art Project: Chair Ryba stated that this is in progress.

Children's Library Entrance Art Project: Chair Ryba mentioned that Mr. Michael Priest provided a picture of the final design for the lower-level library art project with a budget of \$18,000. Mr. Tymesen stated that the City is working with the artist on getting soft LED lighting that is not expensive.

East Sherman Arch: Chair Ryba stated that this is on hold and can be removed from the list of subcommittees.

Poet Laureate: Commissioner Shortridge shared that the Coeur d'Alene Poet Laureate was approved by Council and a press release on the call for applications has been sent out last week. She added that the call is also posted on the website and emails were sent out to the artists database. She mentioned that the selection meeting is scheduled for August 12. Chair Ryba stated that the selection panel would be composed of two Arts Commissioners, one literary community member, one community member, and one youth community member. She asked the Commissioners to help promote the call for applications. She also thanked Commissioner Light for creating a flyer

with QR code. Chair Ryba shared that Blair Williams who is a Board Member of the Idaho Humanities Council, suggested that the Arts Commission apply for a grant to match the stipend. She also mentioned that Councilmember Dan English is also a member of the Idaho Humanities Council so he may be able to help.

Mayor's Awards in the Arts: Chair Ryba asked Mr. Tymesen to ask Councilmember Amy Evans for the event since Mayor Hammond has resigned. She also requested a contact to get more information on the history of the Arts Commission. She added that she would like to promote the City's collection of art and thank ignite for all they have done. Mr. Tymesen mentioned Nancy Sue Wallace who got the City into the art business and then ignite came along in 2000 so the Arts Commission has been in existence prior to the urban renewal. He added that it would be good to have Ms. Wallace at the event and it would be a great honor for her. Chair Ryba asked the Commissioners to submit their nominations for any of the categories. Mr. Tymesen inquired if the Commission would opt for a better title for the event since the Mayor has not attended in the past two years. He mentioned that it would be a good time to change the title of the event as the City transitions to a new Mayor. Chair Ryba shared that last year's Mayor's Awards in the Arts had a huge spread in the CDA Press, but the actual CDA Arts Commission was not mentioned as the organization managing the awards/event. She stated that the committee would meet on this.

**ADJOURNMENT: MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Sichelstiel, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting ended at 5:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

  
Anne Mateski  
Executive Assistant