



CITY OF OREGON CITY ARTS COMMISSION AGENDA

City Hall Chambers, 625 Center Street, Oregon City
Thursday, June 20, 2024 at 7:00 PM

VIRTUAL MEETING NOTICE

This meeting will be held in-person at the location listed above and virtually via Zoom. Please contact agriffin@orcify.org for the Zoom link if you wish to participate virtually.

CALL TO ORDER

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the Minutes from May 16, 2024

PUBLIC COMMENT

Citizens are allowed up to 3 minutes to present information relevant to the Arts Commission but not listed as an item on the agenda. The Chair has the discretion to waive limitations. Prior to speaking, citizens shall complete a comment form and deliver it to the Staff Member. The Arts Commission does not generally engage in dialog with those making comments but may refer the issue to the City Manager.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Update on Seventh and Center Street Art
2. Raising Awareness About the Arts Commission
3. Update on 24-25 Enhancement Grant Proposal
4. Oregon City Art Center Concept

COMMUNICATIONS

ADJOURNMENT

PUBLIC COMMENT GUIDELINES

Complete a Comment Card prior to the meeting and submit it to the City Recorder. When the Mayor/Chair calls your name, proceed to the speaker table, and state your name and city of residence into the microphone. Each speaker is given three (3) minutes to speak. To assist in tracking your speaking time, refer to the timer on the table.

As a general practice, the City Commission does not engage in discussion with those making comments. Electronic presentations are permitted but shall be delivered to the City Recorder 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

ADA NOTICE

The location is ADA accessible. Hearing devices may be requested from the City Recorder prior to the meeting. Individuals requiring other assistance must make their request known 48 hours preceding the meeting by contacting the City Recorder's Office at 503-657-0891.

Agenda Posted at City Hall, Pioneer Community Center, Library, City Website.

Video Streaming & Broadcasts: The meeting is streamed live on the Oregon City's website at www.orcity.org and available on demand following the meeting. The meeting can be viewed on Willamette Falls Television channel 28 for Oregon City area residents as a rebroadcast. Please contact WFMC at 503-650-0275 for a programming schedule.

**Oregon City Arts Commission
May 16, 2024**

I. Call to Order

Ann Griffin conducted roll call. Present were:

Amanda Alwine
Trieste Andrews
Tima Carlson
Daria Loi
Emma Lugo
Josh Planton
Quire Hugon

Rebecca Sira participated via video call. Karen Buerhig had an excused absence.

II. Approval of the Agenda

Josh Planton (“Josh”) asked to add an update on the enhancement grant proposal.

Quire Hugon (“Quire”) motioned to approve the agenda. Josh seconded. It was approved unanimously.

III. Public Comment

Ann Griffin (“Ann”) asked if people in the audience had comments regarding the sculpture.

Chair Carlson (“Tima”) and Ann came to an agreement that it made the most sense for people to share their comments when the topic was brought up in the discussion items.

IV. Reviewal of Minutes

The Arts Commissioners took a couple of moments to review the meeting minutes of April 18, 2024, and March 21, 2024.

Quire motioned to approve the March and April minutes. They were approved unanimously.

V. Discussion Items

A. Artist Selection – Seventh and Center Street Sculpture

Quire and Daria Loi (“Daria”) visited the studios of both Jenny Ellsworth and David Haslett and took pictures to display each artist’s work to the rest of the commission. Quire and Daria then put together a metric to help determine which artist fit better. The metric included grading on adaptability, artist merit, car safety, collaboration, contextual nature, crash recovery, durability, maintenance, materials, pedestrian safety, timeline.

Adaptability – Jenny is making a piece from scratch to fit the needs of the area while David’s piece would be a premade selection from his collection.

Artistic Merit – Jenny is opening to brainstorming with the Arts Commission and the McLoughlin Neighborhood Association. Quire and Daria felt David's piece was similar to other downtown art features.

Car Safety – Jenny's piece was deemed safe if the piece was not solid. David's was deemed somewhat safe as many pieces were bulky but could be mounted on a high solid base.

Collaboration – Jenny's piece was open to collaboration, David's is premade.

Contextual Nature – Jenny's ideas fit the community and uses Oregon City's resources and features. David's pieces can only be so contextual since they are premade.

Crash Recovery – Jenny's could be fixed by welding. David's would be more difficult because it is stone.

Durability and Maintenance – Both artists have or are creating durable pieces that would have a low need of maintenance.

Materials – Jenny attempts to use reclaimed metal from the mill. David uses Washington Basalt, which Quire deemed still relevant to Oregon City.

Pedestrian Safety – Jenny's piece will depend on how it is made, but Quire is confident that it would be safe since the Art's Commission would have an influence on the final design. David's depends since some pieces were bulky.

Timeline – Both artists were comfortable with the timeline they were presented. Will need to ensure that the collaboration piece with Ellsworth does not drag on too long.

Ann invited members from the McLoughlin Neighborhood Association to share their thoughts.

Members of the Neighborhood Association that spoke were Denyse McGriff ("Denyse") and Amy Wilson ("Amy").

Denyse explained that the previous statue had been executed with very little collaboration and wanted this new piece to represent the entire City, though the McLoughlin area would have the most contact with it so should have more of a direct say. She stated that she would like the piece to evoke feelings of openness and welcoming. She felt that Jenny had a heart-shaped piece at her studio where many of those feelings were met, and that David also had a stone piece that had the feelings of openness and welcoming.

Quire noted that by choosing Jenny, they were choosing an artist with more adaptability to design a piece, but if choosing David, the commission would have to select an existing piece from his collection.

Denyse felt that Jenny had more flexibility.

Emma Lugo ("Emma") asked if there was any way we could get access to the statue that Jenny is currently making for Lake Oswego.

Triste Andrews ("Trieste") commented that a creation specific to Oregon City could potentially become even better than the statue made for Lake Oswego. Triste also added that the possibility of looking at the budget and adding two art pieces in two different places in Oregon City could be possible.

Denyse wanted to note that moving the piece closer to the ADA ramp could lead to sight issues for drivers.

Josh asked how moving the pedestal would impact the budget.

Denyse noted that David had an idea to add a second feature where the pedestal currently is but that his idea would not have met the safety requests of the Neighborhood or Arts Commission.

Tima referenced an accident that happened a short time ago and agrees that the new piece should be set back about 5 feet from the current pedestal location.

Josh asked how long of an extension they would potentially be receiving from the Enhancement Grant Committee. Ann answered that they were requesting a 6-month extension.

Quire asked if the Neighborhood Association felt ready to go forward with a collaboration with Jenny. Denyse stated that the Association currently would prefer to go forward with Jenny. It was noted that David's pieces would be more expensive, especially if he was to custom make a piece through collaboration in the future. Jenny would also like to include students to help with the welding.

Quire made a motion to approve Jenny Ellsworth as the artist to produce the new public art piece. Daria seconds. It was unanimously approved.

Tima suggested that the Arts Commission create a subcommittee to move forward – Daria and Quire volunteered to form a subcommittee and invite one or two members from the McLoughlin NA also.

Trieste suggested to not make it a subcommittee. It was decided that two Daria and Quire would meet with 2 members of the McLoughlin Neighborhood and with Jenny to get together an initial draft to be reviewed at the next meeting. A final proposal would be requested for the meeting after that (July 2024) and once approved, Jenny could start building to piece.

Trieste asked how long Jenny had said she would need to build the sculpture. Daria responded with 6-8 weeks of building after acquiring materials.

Josh felt that Public Works needs to be in the loop to determine what to do with the current pedestal.

Daria requested that they have all the information from Public Works before meeting with Jenny. Quire asked that they attempt to get in contact so that they could have a Public Works staff member attend their meeting with Jenny and the 2 members of the McLoughlin Neighborhood Association. These two members were not confirmed but appeared likely to be Amy Wilson and Denyse McGriff, who attended and spoke at the meeting.

B. Proposal for 2024-2025 Enhancement Grant

Josh and Trieste are drafting a proposal for the 2024-25 Enhancement Grant. The grant would be used to repair as many public art pieces around the city as possible. Josh reported that the Salmon Bench is one of the priority pieces to be repaired. They will be meeting with the original artist to determine if the repair is possible.

Another priority piece is the John Meek mural off of 99 and 6th Street that needs repair. The proposal would also fund an extension to the mural to add more Oregon City historical figures. The proposal requests \$28,000 in grant support with a total budget of \$39,999.

Trieste wanted to figure out how to go about asking for public input so that the project keeps the past and is positive about the future.

Emma brought up the point that this is primarily a drive-by art piece and questions the value of a mural that people aren't walking to or nearby.

Josh suggested that adding something new could make people more interested as the current mural has been there so long that people don't think about it.

Requesting \$28,000. Putting up \$11,999 in kind. Total: \$39,999. \$8,000 to repair mosaic, \$20,000 for mural.

C. Tag Line and Arts Commission Marketing

Daria and Rebecca Sira ("Rebecca") are working on a full marketing plan for the Arts Commission that would include more ways of engaging the community and promoting the Arts Commission – Why is there an arts commission? What do we do? What can the community ask us?

Rebecca has been doing a lot of work, protocols, timeline, how we can make decisions at our meeting and how to discuss; potential of creating a new logo for the Arts Commission.

They would like to have more time at the next Arts Commission meeting to discuss protocols and best practices.

VI. Communications

Ann stated that the Economic Development Dept. will begin distributing a quarterly e-newsletter which will feature an "Artist Spotlight." She is interested in ideas for how to select an artist. The first newsletter will be in July. It will also feature a Business Spotlight.

Daria mentioned that the Imperfecta gallery currently has a show relating to Oregon City.

Amanda Alwine ("Amanda") provided a Porch Fest update. The event is looking for residences and businesses to host; also, in search of performing artists, could be other kinds of artists in addition to musicians (dance, stand-up comedy, etc.)

Trieste commented that OC Pride is looking for ideas for the Sept. Pride event; 6:30 to 8:30 at OC Children's Theater

Emma mentioned that KBOO will be interviewing Mickey Gillette at 6:00 p.m. next Tuesday.

Tima announced that Soulflags just celebrated their final cultural event.