



CITY OF OREGON CITY ARTS COMMISSION AGENDA

City Hall Chambers, 625 Center Street, Oregon City
Thursday, April 18, 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@orcity.org for the Zoom link if you wish to participate virtually.

CALL TO ORDER

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

[Approve](#) Minutes from March 21, 2024

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Four artists will be interviewed - Daniel Borup, Jenny Ellsworth, Dave Haslett and MacRae Wylde

2. Discuss potential proposal ideas

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
March 21, 2024
Meeting Summary

I. Call to Order

Ann Griffin (“Ann”) conducted roll call. Present were:

Amanda Alwine
Trieste Andrews
Karen Buerhig
Tima Carlson
Daria Loi
Emma Lugo
Josh Planton
Quire
Rebecca Sira

Josh Planton participated via video call.

II. Adoption of the Agenda and Approval of Minutes

No public comment was received before the start of the meeting. Tima Carlson (“Tima”) asked for a motion to adopt the agenda.

Quire made a motion to adopt the agenda and Rebecca Sira (“Rebecca”) seconded. The agenda was adopted.

Tima then asked if there were any questions regarding the minutes of the February 15, 2024 meeting. Hearing none, she asked if there could be a motion to approve the minutes.

Quire made a motion to approve the minutes. Daria Loi (“Daria”) seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Discussion Items

A. RFP for Sculpture on Seventh Street: Selection of Artists to Interview

Ann asked the group about their preferences for evaluating the different submission. She reminded the group that there were three qualities that were stated in the RFP as desired for the selected artist: a) that preference be given for an artist that lives in Clackamas County, b) the originality of concept and c) successful experience in creating other public sculptures.

Daria wondered if we should make Clackamas County a preference or not.

Rebecca stated that there should also be a consideration for public safety – something that could injure kids or people in the public is important to consider. Josh Planton (“Josh”) agreed with Trieste Andrews that while public safety is an important consideration, “I don’t think we can try to prevent every accident that could potentially happen.” Emma Lugo (“Emma”) asked if the McLoughlin Neighborhood Association had had the opportunity to review the material. She suggested that the neighborhood association have a special meeting to review the artwork. We

should treat this project specially so that the neighborhood association has a role. The location for the new piece is in the McLoughlin neighborhood.

Josh – we also need to have people from other neighborhoods also get their opinions expressed, get the broadest input.

Ann stated that the final selection would be the decision of the Arts Commission. However, the City does want input from the neighborhood association as well as other public input.

How else do we want to promote the April meeting and get other input?

Daria asked if we had a theme in mind, e.g., something more traditional or contemporary. Quire stated that what she heard from the neighborhood association and the Mayor, who is a McLoughlin resident, that the piece should portray the neighborhood as a welcoming place, and a great place to live.

Quire suggested that as the Commission reviews each proposal, we decide whether or not a piece should move forward or not. Josh Planton (“Josh”) stated that while it’s important to listen to the opinion of the McLoughlin neighborhood, it is a public piece of art for the entire City.

Ann distributed a summary table that listed each artist (attached). She began with the four artists from Oregon City and displayed images from their proposals: Ben Dye, Chris Moon, Jenny Ellsworth and Travis Pond.

The Commission determined that for each proposal, each member of the Commission would give a score between 1 (“low”) and 4 (“high”). While scoring, factors to consider included the artist’s experience, the theme of being welcoming. Daria also suggested that the group consider the longevity of the piece (“Will it need a lot of maintenance?”), and if there were any safety concerns. Also “artistic merit.” Ann mentioned that “the ability to meet deadlines” was also mentioned in the RFP.

Chris Moon’s piece was reviewed. Daria shared some concern that the suggested piece could collect debris. Questions about the dimensions of the piece were answered. Jenny Ellsworth’s concept is a “double spiral of 4 feet to 5 feet,” with the ability for the Arts Commission to collaborate with her in terms of final color selection. Trieste Andrews (“Trieste”) shared that she is familiar with Jenny Ellsworth’s work and that she is an accomplished artist.

Travis Pond is also an Oregon City artist. Quire stated that there are things she likes about the proposal, some aspects not. While there are many cranes in the area, she doesn’t feel that this proposed piece speaks to theme of community. Daria seconded this. Trieste wondered if we could ask him to add something to this to make it more of a community theme. Daria stated that all artists should be given the same opportunity.

David Haslett – Quire observed that there is something very important about salmon to this community. Some observed that this particular piece seemed very “singular.” Basalt is a great material, there would be longevity.

Next artist reviewed was Anton Yakushev. Quire really liked this one, she felt that circles represent openness, she liked the Oregon Grape. People liked the fact that he had constructed a model piece to represent his overall proposal. Other positive comments were shared. 9 to 10 feet tall.

Next proposal reviewed was from an artist team from Portland, Jennifer Kapnek and Mike Suri. The piece was called “Last Dance.” Dari stated that a hand painted piece gave her some concerns for longevity. The piece is currently on display in Lake Oswego. The artist team would build a second sculpture if the City of Lake Oswego decided to purchase the piece.

The next piece was from a California artist named Jose Trejo Maya. Daria liked the concept of bringing Mesoamerican poetry, although did not know if there is much Latin American representation in Oregon City. Someone stated that they like the text, that lends itself to being an interactive piece.

Lee Harris – “Life’s a Merry Go Round.” The Commission reviewed the video submitted by the artist, showing the work in progress. This piece is a revolving sculpture. Different animals – eagles on top, other figures to be determined.

MacRae Wylde - Daria liked the theme of “Intersections,” she liked the concept of the design, moving toward the future. A contemporary design. She wasn’t sure that the design “fits” with this community. About 7 feet tall and 4 feet wide. Quire stated that it is so simplistic; she thought that some people in the community wouldn’t like the more abstract design.

Daria stated that as an Arts Commission, the group has a certain responsibility to show what art is and can be, without necessarily limiting it, or trying to understand what the broader public would like. This is the most contemporary proposal; this could be a very interactive piece.

Mari Amman – The group reviewed the many photos she shared. Her proposal was a little confusing, this is a kind of a conceptual piece, with some limited longevity. Quire stated that this is not a full proposal. She’d like to see something more than just the drawings. It did not seem from her proposal that she had had many public installations.

Matt Cartwright – A Portland artist. His model was shown – “Heron Gesture.” Seven feet tall and four feet wide. Some concerns were expressed for safety, given the sharpness of the wings.

The group discussed that three of the proposals came in after 5 pm on the day of the deadline (March 4, 2024). Emma Lugo (“Emma”) stated that she felt they should all be allowed. She stated that adherence to a strict deadline can negate the experiences of and challenges faced by disadvantaged groups.

Tima asked the group to make a determination about the three late submittals. Quire asked if the RFP stated that “late submissions” would NOT be considered. No, it did not. Rebecca stated that as an artist who works to meet deadlines, she thought that other artists could be upset about selecting a proposal submitted after the deadline. After more discussion, the group decided to permit the two that came in on the day of the deadline but after 5 pm. But the proposal that came in two days after the deadline would not be included. It was noted that many Calls for Artists have a midnight deadline, rather than 5 pm.

Benjamin Mefford – He lives in West Linn, studio in Oregon City. Some stated that there is a bit of a disconnect from the Oregon City community, the notion of making everyday objects larger (as occurs in some of Mefford’s other pieces, examples shown).

Mitzy Kugler – A West Linn artist. She proposed a piece that was a combination of glass and steel. The longevity of glass was a concern.

Daniel Borup – This artist lives in Shelly, Idaho. He proposed a work of two dancing figures, approximately 6 feet tall, made of steel.

The Arts Commission took a brief recess so that the votes could be tallied.

The result of the vote was:

Jenny Ellsworth (31 points), Daniel Borup (31 points), MacRae Wylde (28 points), and Dave Haslett (26 points).

Ann will contact the four artists and invite them to come to an online interview during the April Arts Commission meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:02.

Oregon City Arts Commission Spring 2024
7th Street Sculpture - Summary of Proposals Received

	Artist	Concept Summary	Clackamas County	Existing Piece	Materials
1	Ben Dye	"Clara Futurum (Bright Future)" - 10' to 12' tall two intersecting abstract shapes with circle near bottom	Yes - Oregon City	No and Yes. Proposes a new piece/others available.	Steel (stainless steel and mild steel)
2	Jenny Ellsworth	Double spiral - 4' to 5' sphere	Yes - Oregon City	No	Steel (galvanized, powder coated)
3	Chris Moon	"To tower or decay." Twisting helix made of rods.	Yes - Oregon City	No	Concrete and steel
4	Travis Pond	"Auspicious Crane" 8' Great Blue Heron made of re-purposed steel	Yes - Oregon City	No	Steel
5	Dave Haslett	9 ft tall black basalt representation of a salmon	Yes - Lake Oswego	Yes - others available	Stone - basalt
6	Anton Yakushev	9-10' tall; oregon grape on a circle, on two rods	No - Bend	No - constructed a model	Steel
7	Jennifer Kapnek and Mike Suri	"Land Dance" - metallic base holding up a circular colorful painting of reeds/grasses	No - Portland	Proposed piece exists, or could make same piece again for OC	Aluminum, acrylic and steel
8	Jose Trejo Maya	"Transparencies in Time" Two clear cylinders, on 7' tall, one 8.5' tall	No - Baldwin Park, CA	No	Acrylic/plexiglass with transparency films inside
9	Lee Harris	"Life's a Merry Go Round"	No - Bonners Ferry, ID	in construction	Aluminum, steel and stone
10	MacRae Wylde	"Intersection." 7' tall, min. width of 4' Two circles - like a cone, interior and exterior.	No - Hood River	No - constructed a model	Aluminum
11	Mari Amman	Two concepts - an arch portal or a mobile	No - ?	No	earth?
12	Matt Cartwright	"Heron Gesture Sculpture"	No - Portland	No	Aluminum
13	Benjamin Mefford - rec'd on 3/5	Musical instrument (TBD)	Yes - Oregon City	No	Granite with bronze or stainless steel elements
14	Daniel Borup - rec'd on 3/4	Two dancing 6 foot figures	No - Shelley, ID	No	Steel
15	Mitzy Kugler - rec'd on 3/4	Water lillies on pond	Yes - West Linn	No	Glass and metal



CITY OF OREGON CITY

Staff Report

625 Center Street
Oregon City, OR 97045
503-657-0891

Item 1.

To: Arts Commission **Agenda Date:** April 18, 2024
From: Ann Griffin, Economic Development Coordinator

SUBJECT: Artist Interviews – Replacement Sculpture for Seventh and Center Streets

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Select the artist to produce the new sculpture at Seventh and Center Streets based on artist interviews and their proposals.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Oregon City Arts Commission has a special opportunity to establish a new landmark in our community, at the southeast corner of Seventh and Center Streets in the McLoughlin neighborhood. Following the Arts Commission's decision, the City of Oregon City will enter into a contract with the selected artist. As stated in the Request for Proposals, the Arts Commission has a goal for the installation of the new artwork in September (or October) of 2024, pending the necessary permitting process.

BACKGROUND:

At their March 21, 2024 meeting, the Arts Commission selected four artists to interview as part of the selection process for the creator of the proposed new sculpture. The four artists are Jenny Ellsworth, Dave Haslett, MacRae Wylde and Daniel Borup. These four were selected from a pool of 14 artists who submitted proposals before the published deadline.

The artists will be interviewed over Zoom. We will have up to ten minutes to speak with each artist. The approximate schedule for the interviews is as follows (alphabetical by last name):

- A. Daniel Borup – 7:20 to 7:30 p.m.
- B. Jenny Ellsworth. – 7:35 to 7:45 p.m.
- C. Dave Haslett – 7:45 to 7:55 p.m.
- D. MacRae Wylde – 8:00 to 8:10 p.m.

Artist Name	Concept Summary	Materials	Artist Location
Daniel Borup	Two dancing figures - approx. 6' tall	Steel	Shelley, ID

Jenny Ellsworth	Double spiral - 4' to 5' sphere	Steel	Oregon City, OR
Dave Haslett	9' tall black basalt representation of a salmon	Stone - basalt	Lake Oswego, OR
Rae MacWylde	"Intersection." 7' tall, 4' wide. Two circles - like a cone, interior and exterior.	Aluminum	Hood River, OR

OPTIONS:

1. Select one artist to create and install the new sculpture
2. Determine another suitable course of action

BUDGET IMPACT:

Amount	\$ 20,000
FY	FY 23-24
Funding Sources	Arts Commission 23-24 Community Enhancement Grant and City Insurance Payment