



MUNICIPAL ART COMMITTEE
Tuesday, September 19th, 2023, at 6:00 P.M.

Avondale Visitor & Conference Center – Monument Hill Conference Room
11490 Civic Center Dr, Avondale, AZ 85323

Physical Access to the Conference Room will be available 30 minutes prior to the meeting.

1. ROLL CALL AND STATEMENT OF PARTICIPATION BY THE STAFF LIAISON

Meeting called to order at 6:12pm.

Present: Chair Ivey, Vice Chair Kaur, Boardmember Martinez de Aragon, Boardmember Graham, Boardmember Painter, Boardmember Fregozo

Staff: Dominic DeCono, Corey Larriva, Mark Foote, Deann Franklin, James Milanese, Loretta Browning

Absent: Boardmember Stanfield, Boardmember Dima, Boardmember Nagammala

2. UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCE

The Committee does not comment on items raised during Unscheduled Public Appearances; however, staff maybe directed to report back to the Committee at a future date or to schedule items raised for a future agenda.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Municipal Art Committee will consider the approval of the minutes for the meeting on Tuesday, June 20th, 2023. The Committee will take appropriate action.

Motion: Boardmember Graham

2nd: Vice Chair Kaur

Approved 6-0

4. ANNUAL ACTION PLAN PROJECT UPDATE

Staff will provide an update on ongoing public art projects.

- a. Annual Action Plan Update FY 2023
- b. Annual Action Plan Update FY 2024

Dominic provided an update to the board regarding an update on the installation of the Historic Cashion sign at Donnie Hale Park, stating that it will be installed sometime in October. Staff will follow up with community stakeholders to let them know when installation will take place.

Dominic followed up with another presentation regarding the artistic wraps going in on the utility boxes along McDowell Road, stating that there was a bit of delay getting the files needed from the artists but that the plan was to have the wraps installed sometime in October. Staff confirmed that the wraps would go on 6 different boxes extending from Friendship Park down near Costco on McDowell Road. Staff will provide renderings to the board once installation has been completed.

Staff then moved forward with stating that public art was planned for Fire Station 171 which included murals along panels on both sides of the building that would incorporate the natural desert landscape. The art would not be installed until the late stages of construction, which is not



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expected to take place until 2025. Board member Painter asked if the art located at the detention center could be relocated without being destroyed, which staff confirmed is the plan.

5. PUBLIC ART AT FIRE STATION 172

The Municipal Art Committee will consider for approval public art at Fire Station 172. The Committee will take appropriate action.

Dominic gave a presentation regarding a proposal to put public art on the property of Fire Station 172. The art piece would tie into the Crystal Gardens neighborhood and staff would ask the committee to provide input regarding a theme they believe would work for that area.

Boardmember Fregozo asked if it is the intention of having public art at the location for members of the public to park nearby to take pictures, to which James replied it is not. Corey did mention there is some limited parking nearby that can access the site safely to take pictures, but only if it does not impact public safety operations.

Board member Martinez de Aragon expressed concern that putting any public art in the place would be effective because of safety concerns related to traffic passing nearby. Board member Painter agreed and stated that the art piece would have to be large to have a meaningful impact.

Staff agreed that any concept that is proposed should consider landscape improvements to synergize with the art to make it stand out and be more appealing.

The committee then took a vote to have public art at Fire Station 172

Motion: Chair Ivey

2nd: Boardmember Painter

Approved 6-0

6. AQUATIC CENTER PUBLIC ART

The Municipal Art Committee will consider public art concepts for the Aquatic Center. The Committee will take appropriate action.

Dominic provided a presentation to the committee regarding the three proposals that were submitted for the Aquatic Center public art concept. Upon completion of the presentation, staff reminded staff they had the option to vote to move forward with a concept or not to move forward if none of the concepts resonated with the group.

Boardmember Graham stated that she was not a fan of the two bronze, geometric proposals proposed but did not necessarily dislike the tiered art concept with hibiscus flowers and sun. Boardmember Fregozo and Boardmember Painter both expressed concerns that the concepts, while they had specific themes to Arizona, did not have specific ties to Avondale. Boardmember Graham asked if there were any safety concerns with any of the concepts, to which James stated that there is no public access to the islands, so safety is not a big concern regarding the art concepts submitted. General consensus was reached with the committee to go back to the artists to propose new concepts that have more of an Avondale theme. The item was ultimately not voted on and no action was taken.

7. VETERAN'S MURAL AT THE GOODYEAR FARMS CEMETERY

The Municipal Art Committee will consider for approval a veteran's mural concept at the



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Goodyear Farms Cemetery. The Committee will take appropriate action.

Dominic provided a presentation proposing a new concept for a veteran's memorial at the Goodyear Farms Cemetery. Staff did not recommend moving forward with the proposal because the symbols within the concept would create an oversaturation of military emblems on the wall and not have a tasteful look.

Boardmember Martinez de Aragon stated she agreed that the concept should not move forward and Boardmember Fregozo asked if staff knew how many members of the military were buried at the cemetery, to which Dominic stated there were approximately 15 members. Boardmember Graham also agreed that the concept did not match the site and did not have a military theme with the concept.

Vice Chair Kaur expressed support for the concept but agreed with the rest of the committee that the colors and symbols were not in line with the site. Boardmember Fregozo asked whether or not the City should continue supporting a public art concept at the Goodyear Farms Cemetery moving forward, to which staff said they could table a concept if that was the direction of the committee. The committee ultimately agreed that the concept presented was not a fit for the site.

Motion: Boardmember Painter

2nd: Boardmember Fregozo

The concept does not pass 6-0

8. 2024 ART CALENDAR

The Municipal Art Committee will consider a public art calendar for 2024. The Committee will take appropriate action.

Staff had mentioned that it was proposed in the June meeting that the committee was interested in the city creating another art calendar. Boardmember Painter was in support of an art calendar, although there was concern regarding whether or not there were too many calendars being created by the city, specifically mentioning one created by Public Waters regarding the water schedule. Boardmember Graham mentioned that the calendar previously created was a smaller calendar that was pocket-sized and raised awareness of public art more than anything.

Boardmember Painter proposed a map showing where public art was at with pictures of the artwork on the outer edges, which had agreement from the committee. Direction from the committee seemed to indicate that staff should bring proposals to the committee to vote on, based on a map showing public art concepts.

9. ART SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM DISCUSSION

Staff will provide a presentation regarding a proposed increase of awarded funds to recipients of the Art Sponsorship Program.

Staff provided a presentation to the committee about amending the art sponsorship program to increase the total dollar amount of sponsorship dollars awarded per application. Boardmember Fregozo raised concerns that the current amounts offered were sufficient and dollar amounts above that would not target the correct audience. Chair Ivey mentioned that she felt the amount currently offered was not enough to sufficiently meet the needs of art projects that could be proposed.

Boardmember Painter asked if the program was exclusively for schools, which Chair Ivey stated it is for any non-profit within the community. Corey provided feedback stating that as someone who has applied for grants in the past, the question needs to be asked is the juice worth the squeeze



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based on the amount of money offered by the program. Boardmember Graham gave feedback that if the amount of the grant were to be increased, the requirements would need to be tightened up and more critically evaluated because of the amount of money being offered.

Deann mentioned that the program was started back in 2013 to help fund programs for non-profit or educational entities that provide art services. The submissions must provide reports of success to show the money was spent as intended. Deann also mentioned that since the COVID-19 pandemic, interest in the program has slowed down to only 2-10 applications per year for the program.

The committee provided direction to staff that the committee is open to changes to the art sponsorship program, but asks staff to bring specific proposals in the next meeting to vote on, specifically on dollar amounts and new requirements for those who write submissions for grants.

10. COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMENTS

The Municipal Art Committee and Staff may provide brief comments on current events and issues. This item is for information only. Items requiring discussion, deliberation, or legal action must be placed on a future Committee meeting agenda.

Staff gave the committee an opportunity to ask questions about any topics of interest and specifically mentioned that the Parks and Recreation moving forward will be running the Municipal Art Committee. Boardmember Fregozo asked why a change was made and Corey mentioned it was a realignment of city resources by management. Corey did mention that he was excited for the change and that staff was looking to be more engaged with the committee as well as present new projects and concepts moving forward.

Dominic made specific mention that Deann has assisted with the transition of public art to Parks and Recreation and that her impact on the program over the years has been incredibly valuable to the city and community. Corey also mentioned that a new position, the Arts, Culture, and Library manager position had been filled and that position would assist with art in the city, both public art and performance art starting in October.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be in person on Tuesday, December 19, 2023, for discussion and action.

Motion: Boardmember Painter

Approved: Chair Ivey

Approved 6-0

Adjourned at 8:17pm

Handwritten signature of Dominic DeCono in blue ink.

Dominic DeCono (Nov 9, 2023 11:34 MST)

Handwritten signature of Sara Ivey in blue ink.

SARA IVEY (Nov 9, 2023 11:27 MST)

Nov 9, 2023

Nov 9, 2023