



MUNICIPAL ART COMMITTEE
Tuesday, February 18th, 2025, at 6:00 P.M.
Regular Meeting
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

Present: Sara Ivey, Janice Graham, Denise Thiel, Rhonda Bell, Deanna Sapata

Absent: Denise Stanfield

Staff: Stacy Swainston, Brittany Garcia, Dominic DeCono

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. ELECTION OF NEW CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

The Municipal Art Committee will take appropriate action.

Dominic explains the role of the Chair and Vice Chair. The Chair oversees running the meetings, but we will be discussing future expansion on roles. The Chair and Vice Chair will be more involved with city events going forward.

Motion: Denise Thiel nominates Rhonda Bell as Chair

2nd: Sara Ivey

Approved 3-0

Motion: Janice Graham nominates Denise Thiel for Vice Chair.

2nd: Rhonda Bell

Approved: 3-0

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Municipal Art Committee will consider the approval of the minutes for the meeting on Tuesday, December 17th, 2024. The Committee will take appropriate action.

Motion: Janice Graham

2nd: Denise Thiel

Approved 5-0

5. COMPLETED PROJECT UPDATES

Staff will provide an update to the Municipal Art Committee about recent Hometown Hero Banners and the Mountain View Community Center Mural.

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Vice Chair – Janice Graham
Denise Stanfield
Denise Thiel

Rhonda Bell
Deanna Sapata

Staff:

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Assistant Director
Dominic DeCono – Senior Management Analyst
Brittany Garcia – Administrative Assistant

Stacy Swainston begins by showing the Committee two new Hometown Hero Banners that have been placed on Dysart. The two shown are brothers that were surprised by the banners from their family. The banners take about a month to get created and mounted from start to finish. Janice suggests putting a marketing advertisement in the West Valley View. Typically, these banners go up once a year for Veteran's Day, but Stacy suggests that two days a year may be better, perhaps Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Based on the number of applicants, these banners can be rotated sooner or later. Stacy suggests that we take a closer look at making the Banner program more efficient. Janice suggests promoting at the art competition.

Stacy shows the committee the Mountain View Community Center Mural "Inspiring Young Minds" by Maria Madrid Reed. Denise Thiel says that the pictures do not do the mural justice, that it is a beautiful piece. The public has been very receptive of it with only positive comments. Denise says she went to a birthday party at the community center and it just pops.

6. CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES

Staff will provide an update to the Municipal Art Committee on the Utility Box Wraps and Confluence.

Stacy shows the committee the drafts of the utility box wraps. These will be completed in Early March. The Committee is shown the Blank Canvas winners and the Cemetery Mural and Mural inspired wrap drafts. Janice brings up that there were supposed to be plaques on the photos, but Stacy says we decided to wait until we could get physical plaques so that way all the completed ones could have the same style and design on them. Stacy shows a map that shows where the utility boxes will be. The three cemetery arts will be on Dysart leading to the cemetery. The blank canvas wraps will be on Van Buren.

Dominic shows the Committee Confluence. Confluence has had many hiccups due to building permit issues, but the permit has been issued today. The Avondale A will be facing the parking lot compared to the rendering shown to the committee. The artist and installation vendor will be meeting with staff next week. The art piece should be complete late March, early April. The piece will be by the American Sport Complex. Dominic says that the artwork is on site with the city due to the storage site not being able to hold it for the artist any longer. The flame is made out of stainless steel. The City's engineering team was concerned due to the height of the statue, which is what caused the requirement of the building permit.

Stacy shows the committee the Grid sculpture going into the VICC. The original design was meant to be hanging from the ceiling but due to engineering, it is safer to have it be mounted to the ground. The committee asks if the colors are certain for the design, but Stacy says we can always ask for the artist to change the colors if the committee is against it. Dominic brings up that the area of the VICC was not designed with the intention of putting artwork, it used to be a flower bed with cactus. The material of the wall and the specs of the ceiling have added new challenges. The route of going from the ground looks to be the safest and more sound option for a piece of artwork in the VICC. Cement will be poured over the dirt on the ground and Stacy is looking for more ways to make the floor area nicer to look at. Deanna asks if there is a way for the poles on the art piece to be clear. Denise Thiel says that the art piece looks like trees due to the look of the poles, she would like to see the art piece extend to the ground or have color on the poles.

Call to Artists- Stacy shows the committee the current call to artists that will be upcoming. The BLVD Art Pedestals will need sculptures. The pocket park on Dysart was approved as a location for art. The Utility Box Wraps need to be finished on the bottom portion of Dysart and MC85. We may need to go to Call to Artists for a new utility wrap to mesh with the art work there. The Friendship dog park art work will need to be a call to artist. Stacy will be sending out the Call to

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Artists soon. Rhonda asks how the announcement is issued. Stacy answers that we use Social Media, our Website, Paper Print, and will send it to our previous artist list. Deanna asks if there would be a conflict of interest if her daughter shares or submits for the Call to Artists. Dominic states that it would be a conflict of interest, but if there were a vote for the art, she would just need to reclus herself. Deanna asks if there is a specific age range for the Call to Artists and no there is not. Deanna suggests that we reach out to high schools also with the Call to Artists. This would be a good idea especially for the wrap on Dysart and MC85 due to the artwork being in collab with Agua Fria High School. Janice says that we can promote this during the art competition.

The Historical Photos have been put on hold due to Jim Painter leaving the committee and the staff will reach out to him to get descriptions of the photos. Janice suggests that we put a request for more photos from the community perhaps in the West Valley View. This would be a good idea to get the community involved. These don't have to be the same quality as those we would print and hang. Timeline on the website would be nice as well.

Deanna asks if staff will need support for the project – Stacy says the staff has discussed wanting to get more involvement from the Committee. Staff will work to get an availability schedule from the committee and perhaps a volunteer sign up list.

7. PUBLIC ART PROPOSAL – LANDSCAPING FOR CRANE SCULPTURE

The Municipal Art Committee will consider a proposal for landscaping surrounding the Crane Sculpture. The committee will take appropriate action.

Dominic DeCono explains to the committee that the area around the Harmony of Rivers Sculpture is very blank. The Parks team met with a contractor to get rip rap, desert landscape plant life, and rocks around the area and the team wants to install irrigation. Irrigation line would have to be installed and it would cost \$40,000 to complete this project. Permission to use 40,000 of the public art fund to finish the area – end of May would be the completion date.

Rhonda asks if there would be any renderings, Dominic says that this is specifically for the approval of funding. The committee will get renderings and updates on the intent. The Parks department does landscape at all of our parks, so there is an amount of trust that they will take into account the area and aesthetics of the landscaping. The maintenance work would come out of the Parks budget in the future. Cost breakdown will come to the committee later. Denise says that the intersection is very busy and would have a lot of residents seeing it. Staff will need to work with engineering and development to make sure that nothing blocks traffic or views.

Motion: Sara Ivey motions to approve the proposal to have landscaping put around the crane

2nd: Denise Thiel

5-0 Approved

8. PUBLIC ART PROPOSAL – PHOTOTAXIS

The Municipal Art Committee will consider a proposal to remove or purchase the Phototaxis art piece from the artist. The committee will take appropriate action.

The Phototaxis Art piece is located at the parking garage of the American Sports Center. The grant allowed for this art to be installed. Staff is coming to the committee to vote on if they would like the art piece to be purchased or removed. The price of purchase is \$38,286 and the price of removal is \$2,800.

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Janice Graham asks how the reaction of the piece is from the public and how it is maintained. Dominic answers the the piece is well kept and has only needed to be updated once for lighting. The public sees this artwork anytime they park at the ASC. It has been hard to get reactions about the art piece, but there has not been many negative reactions due to it.

Rhonda asks if we remove it, would we replace it or put anything else in that space. Janice says we have had it for two years and if there is room for negotiations on the pricing to keep it.

Deanna Sapata asks if there is a museum or a spot that art will go to. The artist will take the art if it is removed and most likely be displayed wherever she is.

Janice asks if staff can do research to see if there are different pricing we can give it. Suggests finding out how much the grant was for. Janice asks if we can lease it out for longer. The contract states we either remove it or purchase. Janice suggests this so that way we have time to figure out what else to put in that spot.

Deanna asks if it can be relocated, but the committee says it will add onto the cost.

The committee likes the idea of putting something new in the area due to the area changing.

The contract is expired, so there is no way to amend it.

Motion: Denise Thiel motions to remove the art piece
2nd: Rhonda Bell
5-0 Approved to remove the art piece

9. HIGH SCHOOL ART COMPETITION

Staff will provide the Municipal Art Committee with information of the program and duties required for the art competition. The committee will take appropriate action.

Dominic DeCono explains the High School Art Competition to the Committee. The 2024 competition had 13 entries from five high schools. Three scholarships were awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. The ceremony was hosted at Civic Center Library.

Rhonda asks if there was a theme, and Dominic answers that there was no theme and it could be many different mediums.

The program is only for graduating high school seniors.

We are asking the committee for assistance in pulling off this event. The committee needs to be able to commit to providing their expertise in art and the getting information.

The committee will need to recruit a panel of judges, made up of a member of the committee, staff, and a city council member. The committee will also need to be able to reach out to art programs and the five high schools.

Staff will create the flyers and materials needed for the committee to send to the programs.

Janice Graham says she would be interested in the judging once again.

Avondale residents that are high school seniors can submit even if they do not go to an Avondale high school.

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Timeline: Competition/Ceremony is in April. Submission portal open for three weeks, early March for announcements, submissions received by end of March.

Collect art pieces and coordinate with EMCC for the gallery and award ceremony.

One to coordinate for the EMCC –

Coordinate with Mayor and Council for participation and if they like to be a panel judge or be there for remarks and cohost – staff duty.

The planning process needs to be heavier on the committee.

Deanna has worked in publishing and would like to help with printing or creating flyers.

Refreshments have been done by the culinary program at EMCC.

We need to reach out quickly to get the space reserved,

- Reach out to art programs – Sara Ivey
- Panel – Janice Graham will be on the panel, Ron Corbin & Council will be asked by Stacy
- Collect Art Entries and bring to City Hall first – Rhonda Bell
- EMCC coordinate dates, Last week in April or first week in May – Dominic DeCono
- Communicate with the Culinary Program for catering – Dominic DeCono
- Send Flyer to Committee - Brittany
- Set Up Day Of –
 - MC Role – Mike Pineda perhaps

Staff will host a Teams meeting in the future to discuss the action plans – late evening teams meeting.

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.

Janice Graham says that the heart sculpture's lights are dimmed, and staff says that they will put in a request with Public Works to check on the lighting.

Deanna suggests that we get another smaller heart sculpture to be placed somewhere so that way people can get down and be able to take a photo with. She suggests that we do a painted mural version of it to gain public views and selfie zone.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be in person on Tuesday, May 20th, 2025 for discussion and action.

Motion: Janice Graham motions to adjourn

2nd: Sara Ivey

5-0 Approved

Meeting adjourned at 7:37pm

Brittany Garcia

Brittany Garcia

05/21/2025

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