

WEST DES MOINES PUBLIC ARTS ADVISORY COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS
Thursday, August 24, 2023

The regular meeting of the West Des Moines Public Arts Advisory Commission was called to order on Thursday, August 24, 2023, at 5:32 p.m. by Chair Mathrubutham.

Commission	Mahesh Mathrubutham <i>Chair</i>	Jeff Phillips <i>Secretary</i>	Amenda Tate <i>Vice Chair</i>	Ryan Crane	Virginia Barrette
Present	X			X	X
Commission	Tami Kitner	Courtney Moller			
Present	X- arrived 5:33 pm	X			

Staff	Ryan Penning <i>Director of Parks & Recreation</i>	Laura Murphy <i>Superintendent of Recreation</i>	Allison Ullestad <i>Arts, Culture, and Enrichment Supervisor</i>	Tina Tate <i>Administrative Assistant Parks & Recreation</i>	Marnie Strate <i>Arts, Culture, and Enrichment Coord.</i>	Kevin Trevillyan <i>Council Liaison</i>
Present	X		X	X		

On Item 1. Approval of Agenda

Crane moved to approve the agenda as presented. Barrette seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

On Item 2. Citizen Forum

American colorist, Kelly Boon, 721 41st St, Des Moines, presented a proposal for permanent garden art called *A Cry for a Dream*. This display consists of vibrant paintings that are printed on stone in a medicine wheel design placed in shallow water. This piece would be created to inspire hope and healing. Boon proposed that the Commission consider a location in West Des Moines to install this collection. Ullestad stated that the process for proposing a project is currently being formalized. The Exhibition Committee will review this proposal at their next meeting.

On Item 3. Approval of Minutes of June 22, 2023 Meeting

Crane moved to approve the minutes as presented. Kitner seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

On Item 4. Old Business

Rachel Buse, 1441 43rd St., Des Moines, Ramona Muse Lambert, 729 38th St., Des Moines, and Susan Watts, 3020 Thornton Ave., Des Moines provided feedback on Des Moines Art Week that took place during the Valley Junction Farmers Market on June 22, 2023. As the selected artist for this fellowship, Ramona Muse Lambert expressed her appreciation for allowing her to create a public engagement experience of her choice. With the funding provided by the Commission, Muse Lambert designed a 200 sq. ft. drawing disco. Visitors were encouraged to color the illustrated tiles that they would dance on later that evening. The fellowship also included an emerging artist pop-up that provided an opportunity for young artists to sell their art. Buse stated that the main goal is to make art accessible to everyone. Group Creative will approach the Commission when they begin planning Art Week 2024.

New Business

On Item 5A. Motion – Approval of Call for Artists – 2024 Art on the Campus Exhibit

Ullestad stated that there were no substantial changes to the 2024 Art on the Campus Call for Artists. Penning informed the Commission that the budget for 2024 Art on the Campus is \$24,500 which includes the \$2,000 stipend for 12 artists as well as the \$500 People’s Choice Award.

Kitner moved to approve the Call for Artists for the 2024 Art on the Campus Exhibit as presented. Moller seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

On Item 5B. Motion – Approval of 2023 Art on the Campus People’s Choice Award Selection Panel

Ullestad described how the selection process now implements a panel of jurors instead of just using a public vote. The panel includes a local arts professional, a college or high school student, and the City Council Liaison for the Public Arts Advisory Commission. The public will also provide their vote in an online survey. The People’s Choice Award winner will be featured in WDM magazine.

Moller moved to approve the 2023 Art on the Campus People’s Choice Award Selection Panel as presented. Crane seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

On Item 5C. Motion – Approval of 2023 WDMurals Best in Show Award Selection Panel

Ullestad provided an overview of the four voting members that includes the online survey completed by the public, a local arts professional, a high school or college art student, and a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board member. Ullestad recommended that the Commission consider increasing the award in future years to \$500 instead of the \$300 that is currently given for Best in Show.

Crane moved to approve the 2023 WDMurals Best in Show Award Selection Panel as presented. Kitner seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

On Item 5D. Motion – Approval of Final Proposal – Railroad Park Public Art Project

Ullestad stated that the contract with Daniel Perry was approved in June. The Work Group met with the artist on-site and determined that the only recommended change was adding more color to the piece. The budget as well as specific materials, textures, and colors were included in the final proposal. Steve Frevert, Historic Valley Junction Foundation Director, has requested that the unveiling event coincide with the Valley Junction Gallery Night held on October 13th. Ullestad stated that this would be set as a goal but may not fit within the project timeline. If more time is needed, the unveiling could occur during another event such as Jingle in the Junction.

Moller moved to approve the final proposal of the Railroad Park Public Art Project as presented. Kitner seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

On Item 6A. Events Committee

The Events Committee will meet to discuss the unveiling event for the Raccoon River Park Sensory Wall. Penning stated that the playground will be completed around the end of September. The deadline for the artwork is set for the middle of October.

On Item 6B. Communications Committee

No Report.

On Item 6C. Exhibition Committee

Ullestad stated that the purchase of an Art on the Campus piece was discussed during the last meeting. Penning informed the Commission that the Executive Committee reviewed the Proposal for

a Project form. This will formalize the process of selecting projects that are brought to the Commission. Project ideas will be stored and reviewed when funding is available. Ullestad stated that the Proposal for a Project form is set up through Survey Monkey form. Staff would follow up on any proposals received.

Project Work Group Reports

On Item 7A. Raccoon River Park Playground Public Art

No Report.

On Item 7B. Railroad Park Restrooms Public Art

No Report.

On Item 7C. DART Bus Shelter Public Art

No Report.

Staff Reports

On Item 8A. Arts, Culture & Enrichment Supervisor

No Report.

On Item 8B. Superintendent of Recreation

No Report.

On Item 8C. Director of Parks and Recreation

Penning stated that Laura Murphy, Superintendent of Recreation, will return to the office on August 31st. Illumifest, fall festival of light, is scheduled for Saturday, September 23, at the West Des Moines City Campus. Friends of the Parks and Recreation will be hosting the Inaugural Pickleball Tournament on Sunday, October 1st. The Raccoon River Park Playground Ribbon Cutting is tentatively scheduled for the middle of October.

On Item 9. Other Matters

Barrette discussed the need for an art festival in West Des Moines. This would create an opportunity for emerging artists to learn the fiscal responsibility of selling art. Any revenue generated from the event could be put towards scholarships for artists. Councilmember McKinney, who sits on the Board of Directors for the Des Moines Art Festival, suggested meeting with the Commission to discuss potential partnerships. Ullestad stated that location, dates, and budget will need to be addressed in future meetings if the Commission agrees to pursue this type of event.

Receive, File and/or Refer

On Item 10A. City Council Communications

Kitner moved to adjourn the meeting. Crane seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

 10/24/23

Christina Tate
Administrative Assistant

ATTEST:

 10/26/23

Mahesh Mathrubutham
Public Arts Advisory Commission Chair