

MOSCOW ARTS COMMISSION



Katherine Clancy
Vice Chair

~Minutes~

Megan Cherry
Staff Liaison

<https://www.ci.moscow.id.us/452/Moscow-Arts-Commission>

Tuesday, January 11, 2022

5:00 PM

**Council Chambers
206 E. 3rd St.**

The meeting was called to order at 5:06 p.m.

WELCOME AND ATTENDANCE

IN ATTENDANCE: Katherine Clancy (Vice Chair), Sue Clark, Aaron Johnson, Sonja Foard, Donna Woolston, Lauren McCleary, Sandra Stoops

ABSENT: David Wilson, Diane Walker, Cindy Barnhart

OTHER: Maureen Laflin (City Council Liaison), Megan Cherry (Arts Program Manager), Amy Petit (Arts Administrative Specialist)

Moscow Arts Commission members introduced themselves and their length of service to new Council Liaison, Maureen Laflin.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Reading of the Mission Statement

The mission of the Moscow Arts Commission is to enrich the community by celebrating and cultivating the expression of all art forms and culture.

Values:

- Recognize and promote artists' value by creating opportunities for work to be experienced.
- Facilitate and promote the social, educational, and economic value of all art forms and culture in the community.
- Provide leadership and act as a resource in the conversation of all art forms and culture with partner agencies, city leaders, and the community.

The Mission Statement was read by McCleary.

2. Approval of Moscow Arts Commission November 9, 2021 Minutes (ACTION ITEM)

PROPOSED ACTION: Approve minutes, amend minutes, or take such other action deemed appropriate.

The November minutes were reviewed by the Commission. McCleary moved, Foard seconded to approve the minutes as presented. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.

3. Public Comment and Response to Previous Comments (limited to 10 minutes)

Members of the public may speak to the Commission regarding matters NOT on the agenda or currently pending before the Commission. Please state your name and address for the record and limit your remarks to three (3) minutes.

No public comment was offered.

4. Election of MAC Chair and Vice Chair (ACTION ITEM)

PROPOSED ACTION: Discuss and elect a Chair and Vice Chair for 2022.

Woolston recommended McCleary to serve as Chair of the Commission and Clancy to continue service as Vice Chair. Woolston moved, McCleary seconded the election of McCleary as Chair and Clancy as Vice Chair. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.

5. Commission for Becker Memorial at ITC Sculpture Garden (ACTION ITEM)

The public art project at the ITC Sculpture Garden, funded by a donation from the family of Andrew Becker, was open for artist submissions from July to September 2021, with an extended submission period open from October – November 2021. No artist submissions were received, and following conversations with local arts professionals, City Administration and Legal staff as well as the donor, Arts staff recommends that the MAC consider recommending the use of the direct artist invitation option stated in the 2021 Public Art Guidelines section III. C. 4.b. 2, which states the following:

4. Public Art Project Development

Once a Public Art location has been identified, the Arts Program Manager shall coordinate the following process:

- a. Develop the project description, site details, and identify suitable art forms and media (considering goals and sites already determined by the participating department and the MAC, when applicable).
- b. Determine a method for selecting an artist, which may include:
 - (1) Open competition (RFP or RFQ) in which artists apply according to the requirements and limitations established by the Selection Panel, MAC, or City;
 - (2) Invitation of one (1) or more artists to submit proposals;
 - (3) Direct purchase of a completed work of art that is selected from submitted applications or other methods deemed appropriate for the project; or
 - (4) Alternate process designed to meet the City's objective for the project.

Further artist input on the project included the concern that the budget would not accommodate the material requirements set forth by the City. These material parameters stipulate the use of materials that are impervious to environmental degradation, and are meant to prolong the life of accessions into the Permanent Public Art Collection. Staff has also identified funds in the FY22 budget to augment the donor-provided funds.

Following a majority vote of MAC members to recommend a direct invitation to an artist, staff will bring the item to City Council for a vote along with an updated donor agreement and an artist contract.

PROPOSED ACTION: Recommend inviting an artist to create a memorial sculpture in the ITC Sculpture Garden, or take such other action deemed appropriate.

Commission asked Cherry for background information on this matter and Cherry explained that the submission period was opened and artists were not attracted to the opportunity. It was speculated that given the materials required (weathering steel, aluminum, or a material that would hold up in the elements) the budget would not cover the cost of fabrication. Cherry added that the structure of call might have been too much work to attract interest. The staff recommendation is to extend an invitation directly to an artist.

McCleary asked if the Commission were to contract with an artist, how would the budget be addressed. Cherry said that a cost savings in the Public Art Vinyl Wrap project, would add the needed funds. Cherry asked the Commission to discuss and recommend an artist to City Council. The question was raised about how much Becker family donated and Cherry it was \$5000. The materials parameters were chosen because there was a concern is that mild steel would rust over time, but these requirements were noted as having an impact on the project budget. Feedback was to propose a \$3000 project budget increase, for a total of \$8000. Clark wondered if re-releasing the call with higher budget amount would be considered and the Commission discussed that because it's been out twice, and involves a donor, to re-release the call seems a little cumbersome. The Commission discussed how a direct invitation to an artist seemed appropriate in this instance. Cherry mentioned meeting with the donor, who was supportive of the idea of a direct hire in terms of both process and timing for installation of the artwork. The Commission discussed artist options, and mentioned that J Casey Doyle has long been an essential part of the ITC Sculpture Garden and is one of few local artists who actively work in the public art field.

Sandra Stoops entered the meeting at 5:24.

Foard moved to recommend to extend direct invitation to Doyle to create a sculpture for the Becker Memorial at ITC Sculpture Garden. Johnson seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.

6. FY23 MACtivities Toolbox Program (DISCUSSION)

The MACtivities Toolbox program began in 2020 as a way for the MAC to provide arts education opportunities to the public during the pandemic. The 4th edition of the Toolbox is now in development, funded in part by a grant from the Idaho Commission on the Arts. Funding exists to create one more edition of the Toolbox in FY22, and Arts staff will conduct a search for an arts educator in the coming months. Arts staff is now looking ahead to FY23 operations and grant opportunities. Continuing with the MACtivities Toolbox program is dependent on grant funding, and grant applications as well as program implementation represent an investment of staff capacity. The MAC is asked to discuss the effectiveness of this program's service to the community and to gauge the level of interest in continuing this program in FY23.

The Commission discussed how they felt MACtivities Toolbox is still a valid, well-crafted, and excellent resource and mentioned it was also a great way to engage artists. Commission and staff mentioned that the MACtivities Toolboxes were still in demand. McCleary indicated a desire to leave room to build in in-person activities and suggested to scale back to two MACtivities Toolbox editions per year instead of four. Clark suggested increasing the number of Toolboxes in each edition to 100, which would maximize audience access while being mindful of staff capacity. The Commission discussed building a system for direct invitation to teaching artists and a desire expand outreach for identifying new arts educators in the area. Cherry verified the idea to move forward with a grant for two editions of the MACtivities toolbox instead of four and would go to the City Council with a request to apply for grants.

REPORTS

1. Volunteer Hour Tally (Petit)

Commission members provided their volunteer hours for November and December.

2. Staff Report (Cherry)

Cherry announced the opening of the annual Vinyl Wrap opportunity and reported that there would be art at three new locations (Mountainview & Hwy 8, Styner & Hwy 95, Jackson & A) for a total of 21 vinyl wraps throughout the City. Cherry discussed submission requirements and mentioned that the honorarium increased to \$600.

Cherry discussed how Artwalk outreach was an opportunity for Commission members to engage the community, whether on social media or in person. Clancy, Woolston, Stoops, and Johnson volunteered in a direct ask to attend the January Artwalk.

Cherry reported that the deaccession of Frank Werner's wooden duck decoy for retiring City Supervisor Gary Riedner was complete and appreciated by City staff and Council.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

