



Bernalillo County Arts Board

Meeting Minutes

**Wednesday, May 14, 2014 2 pm
City/County Government Center
1 Civic Plaza NW, ABQ NM 87102
10th Floor Conference Room B**

Members Present:

Sarah Hartford, Chairperson, Dist. 3
Shawn Turung, Vice Chairperson Dist. 1
Leo Korte, Dist. 2
Ron Romero, Dist. 2
Paul Waters, Dist. 4

Sondra Diepen, Dist. 4
Myrna Smyer, Dist. 5
William Burk III, Dist. 5

Members Excused:

Louis Schalk, Dist.1
Margie Weinstein, Dist. 3

Guests:

Myers Godwin, National Dance Institute -NM

Staff Present:

Nan Masland, Public Art Manager

I. Call to order

Chairperson Hartford calls the meeting to order.

II. Approval of the agenda:

Chairperson Hartford entertained a motion to approve the agenda.

RESULT: Motion Carried [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: B. Burk

SECONDER: S. Turung

III. Approval of the minutes:

B. Burk entertained a motion to minutes from April 2014.

RESULT: Motion Carried [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: S. Diepen

SECONDER: L. Korte

IV. Action Items and New Business:

1. Hiland Theater NDI Public Art ABQ Ride

On Saturday, May 10 the Arts Board hosted presentations by the three finalists chosen for the Hiland Theater Sculpture and Bus Shelter Project. Norman Lee, Howard Meehan and Eric Garcia presented their final designs with a scaled model and presentation boards.

Chairperson Hartford invites Myers Godwin to introduce himself. He works with National Dance Institute of New Mexico (NDI-NM) which leases the Hiland Theater. He is here on behalf of Russell Baker, executive director of the NDI-NM to represent the organization. Maria Wolfe of NDI-NM attended the presentations on Saturday and shared photos with her colleagues. Myers Godwin states that NDI-NM has a 60 lease with the Hiland Theater and they will be impacted by the project. He is in favor of “Adagio” by Norman Lee. The Theater was originally a movie theater, then a live theater and now it is a performing art theater with afterschool programs. He feels that “Adagio” addresses the current use of the building. Chairperson Hartford states that the Arts Board spent four hours reviewing presentations by the finalists and discussed each proposal in depth by the six members of the board who were in attendance. The attending Arts Board members unanimously recommended Howard Meehan as the winning finalist for selection. The board then discusses their impressions of each of the designs and presentations by the finalists.

S. Turung expresses her concerns with safety of “Adagio” by Norman Lee. There is an area of the sculpture with low clearance – 4’ 6” which would be an issue for people bumping their heads. When Norman Lee responded to the concern he stated that he could raise the entire sculpture up 2’-3’ but S. Turung says that would take it out of human scale. She was also concerned that the bus shelter doesn’t provide much of any protection from the elements. S. Hartford is concerned with children climbing on the sculpture and could potentially injure themselves. She states that Norman Lee was notified when he was initially selected that the board has concerns about safety and he did not address them in his final design. She states that she appreciates the design as a work of art but does not think it is appropriate for the site. L. Korte expresses that he was concerned with safety of “Adagio” during the first round of the selection process. The board is in favor of Howard Meehan’s design; he presented an iconic photo-op sculpture that represents Route 66 and the Hiland Theater. The bus shelter is designed to look like a film reel and offers shelter from the elements. A separate sculpture of the number 66 appears to be coming out of the ground. Flames radiate from the top of the sixes and are illuminated by LED lighting at night. The sculpture and shelter will be made of perforated steel which is the same material used in typical ABQ bus shelters. Both the shelter and sculpture will have colored LED lighting. This iconic piece reflects the spirit of Route 66 and will become a landmark for Central Avenue.

Myers Godwin states that he wants to maintain the historic landmark of the Hiland Theater and not obstruct it from public view. He is also concerned that the selected artwork does not reflect the current use of the building but instead references the past – the era of the 1950’s and 60’s. He would like to see something that looks towards the future instead. S. Turung states that although the piece references the past, it is also an attention getter. The artist referenced the piece as a meeting place and point of discussion. She likes that he refers to it as a “Photo-Op.” B. Burk states that the LED lighting makes it a modern piece. Myers Godwin requests that the piece be moved to the East corner of the block as to not obstruct the

marquis and lobby. S. Turung explains that ABQ ride will be responsible for the siting of the bus shelter on site as there are certain site visibility requirements for bus shelters. Myers Godwin is concerned that the back of the bus shelter is not transparent enough for staff to check-in on children waiting for the bus. S. Turung mentions that the artist was willing to change the back of the bus shelter to make it more transparent. Myers Godwin states that if the Arts Board feels this is the best piece for the site then he understands. He wants to express the concerns from NDI-NM and is also enthusiastic about the project. S. Hartford says that although she preferred the artistic design of “Adagio” she feels that having children of her own, children would enjoy the design by Mr. Meehan more than either of the other pieces. S. Turung says that his piece would reach a broader audience.

L. Korte makes a motion to accept the recommendation of the Arts Board selection of Howard Meehan as the winning artist for the Hiland Theater Sculpture and Bus Shelter Project.

MOTION Approve the recommendation of the Arts Board selection of Howard Meehan as the winning artist for the Hiland Theater Sculpture and Bus Shelter Project.

RESULT: Motion Carried

MOVER: L. Korte

SECONDER: B. Burke

AYES: B. Burk, M. Smyer, R. Romero, S. Turung, P. Waters, L. Korte

NAYS: S. Diepen

2. Discuss whether to proceed with project subcommittees and vote

N. Masland states that there needs to be a formal vote on whether to use subcommittees for project development. Subcommittees have been established with the Arts Board for individual projects, but she wants to make sure that everyone approves of their function. Before she came on as Project Coordinator, the subcommittees were directed at specific topics such as economic development and public spaces. Upon N. Masland’s arrival, she suggested they be reorganized to be project based so that committees could determine the scope of a project. Individual subcommittees were established to work through details about a specific call for art or direct selection process, determine scope of project and make recommendations to the Arts Board. There has been some questions about use of subcommittees by a commissioner and N. Masland is requesting a formal vote on whether to keep them as they stand now. M. Smyer states that she sees the subcommittees as a useful for making progress on projects and she has never felt that she was limited to participating in any of the subcommittees. S. Hartford explains that she spoke with her Commissioner, Maggie Hart Stebbins about concerns that the McGrane subcommittee was making decisions about the project without the participation of the full arts board and that Commissioner Johnson was using the subcommittee to steer the project. P. Waters asks the members of the McGrane subcommittee M. Smyer and B. Burk if they felt pressured to against their will to make decisions about the McGrane project. M. Smyer and B. Burk both reply “no”. P. Waters states that the Arts Board broke into subcommittees to tackle project and be more effective with time. They help the Arts Board be more efficient and effective. There has been nothing behind the scenes with the subcommittees. When the McGrane project was being planned and there were concerns about the decision making process he as chair, stopped the process for a check in with the Arts Board to make sure that everyone was on board with the project. S. Diepen says that she was confused by the process for the McGrane project. N. Masland explains that she introduced the concept of using direct selection of the Harwood and Lead Artists Cassandra Reid for the mosaic in September 2013 and the board was not required to vote on moving forward at that time, but they chose to vote to move forward anyway and the board unanimously voted yes. Upon N. Masland’s return in December 2013, she learned that

the Harwood was no longer participating in the project and asked if they wanted to proceed with Cassandra Reid as lead artist without the Harwood and the board unanimously voted yes.

M. Smyer makes a motion to keep subcommittees as they currently operate.

MOTION: Keep subcommittees as they currently operate.

RESULT: Motion Carried [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: M. Smyer

SECONDER: P. Waters

Discussion: P. Waters commends subcommittees for their good work. The subcommittees work hard to work through details of projects and they should be commended for their hard work. Without subcommittees there wouldn't be nearly as much progress. S. Diepen requests that the Arts Board be notified whenever a subcommittee meets. N. Masland is happy to send out notice and will make a notice of public meeting if more than 5 people are planning to come so that it becomes a public meeting when there is a quorum.

3. Vista Grande – How to approach project

Last month the Arts Board had their monthly meeting at the Vista Grande community center to view to facility and consider scope and location for a public art project. B. Burk suggests that there should be two pieces that are connected in theme. One would be placed on the side of the highway and the other outside of the facility. M. Smyer agrees with B. Burk that it would be beneficial to have a piece on the road for higher visibility. S. Diepen inquires about choosing between posting a for artists or doing a direct selection. M. Smyer suggests that a call for artists would be better. P. Waters makes a motion to proceed with a call for artists for the Vista Grande Community Center.

MOTION: to proceed with a call for artists for the Vista Grande Community Center.

RESULT: Motion Carried [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: M. Smyer

SECONDER: P. Waters

Discussion: B. Burk, M. Smyer and R. Romero are on the subcommittee for the Vista Grande Community Center and they will meet before next meeting to plan for the call for artists. B. Burk feels that the artwork should be site specific.

V. Project Updates

1. **East Mountains Public Safety Memorial** – BCC voted to defer approval of artwork until memorial policy is established.
2. **Fallen Sheriff's Deputies Memorial** – On hold until memorial policy is established.
3. **On the Map Prospectus** – Drafted, posting next week.

Focus on Youth Selection 2014 – Dedication Ceremony May 4th, date changed for "A is for Art" Auction October 3rd, same day as 2D Opening at African American Performing Arts Center – S.

Diepen is concerned with not being able to preview artwork before auction. S. Turung asks if the date of the 2D Opening at African American Performing Arts Center can be changed to October 2nd. N. Masland says it can be changed but we would miss out on the traffic from "first Friday" gallery openings. Gallery

director at the African American Performing Arts Center said that the get more visitors when openings coincide with other events. S. Diepen makes a motion to not participate in A is for Art this year.

MOTION: To not participate in A is for Art this year.

RESULT: Motion Carried

MOVER: S. Diepen

SECONDER: S. Turung

AYES: B. Burk, M. Smyer, R. Romero, P. Waters, B. Burk

NAYS: L. Korte

4. **Shidoni Field Trip** – M. Smyer says it was a lovely field trip.
5. **Outposts Update – Outposts Subcommittee** – N. Masland went out with Maintenance Director Mark Chaves to visit county owned medians along Alameda. Mark Chavez is happy to get a passenger van to take any board members who are interested to see county owned medians.
6. **Isleta Blvd Mural** – Moving forward this summer.
7. **NM Expo Mural Project** – MOU with CABQ was not signed. Commissioner Stebbins has been notified.
8. **Public Art Booklet** – going to press next month
9. **Sandia Project** – Posting call this summer

VI. Discussion

1. **Arts Board Retreat** – N. Masland asks if the June 14th still works for the Arts Board. The board replies, M. Weinstein and S. Turung will be excused, but all other members plan to attend. The board will create a policy on unsolicited proposals and create a visioning statement. P. Waters asks that the minutes from last retreat are shared before the upcoming retreat and that the unsolicited proposals policy be drafted before the visioning process.

VII. Announcement and Events

Announcement of Next Meeting: Wednesday June 11, 2 pm, City/County Government Center, One Civic Plaza 10th Floor, Conference Room B

Adjournment: Chairperson Hartford entertained a motion to adjourn the Arts Board meeting.