

CITY OF MARQUETTE PUBLIC ART COMMISSION MINUTES

City of Marquette Arts and Cultural Center, Marquette, MI

December 11, 2024

- I. **Call to Order:** 6:36 pm

- II. **Roll Call:**
 - A. Present: Tiina Morin, Alison Taras, Amy Stephens, Lauren Tilma, Emily Tabon Lavoy, and Brianna Hobbins
 - B. Guest: Jacon Darner
 - C. Excused: Amy Stephens and Jacqueline Wagner

- III. **Approval of Agenda/Minutes:**
 - A. Motion to approve Jacqueline's and Amy's absences by Lauren, seconded by Emily. Approved by majority.
 - B. Motion to approve December 11th agenda by Lauren, seconded by Emily. Approved by majority.
 - C. Motion to approve November minutes by Lauren; seconded by Emily. Approved by majority.

- IV. **Public Comment** - Jacob Darner, student from NMU's School of Art and Design
 - A. Proposes support from MPAC for 'Free Space' concept for old Delft theatre building; privately owned
 1. support= a seal of approval no financial support or management required (maybe have one of the commissioners on the 'watchdog' panel)
 - B. Main wall faces Jackson's Cut
 - C. Emily is curious about management of artwork overlap
 - D. Brianna asks about vetting and 'watchdog' process
 1. Jacob states the idea is to initially rely on self-regulation and help from local business in Jackson's Cut
 - E. Jacob is unsure about hours of access currently
 - F. Tiina notes that the Ann Arbor example is good support of success; especially given that it is unmanaged and technically illegal
 - G. Alison asked about space needed for creators and if that will infringe upon public alleyway
 - H. Jacob notes that he trusts creators to use common space and they won't spill out into space but needs to talk to DDA about 'right of way'
 - I. Tiina asks about commissioner support; comments include:
 1. access for not just general public (lots of different demographics pass through this area, jacob notes) viewing but 'everyday' artists for creation
 2. valued by youth
 3. a collaborative endeavor; builds community/connection
 4. a recognised art form/movement/style

- J. Lauren motions to give a 'stamp of approval'; Alison adds 'stamp' is contingent upon being consistently updated to project status/changes; seconded by Brianna. Approved by majority.

V. MPAC Chair Report -

- A. Request for Friday, December 13th morning TV6 Oscillation MPAC rep
 - 1. Currently no available commissioners
 - 2. Tiina will be present
- B. General requests/comments for a future process that involves more heads-up, if possible, and time during a meeting/subcommittee meeting to create scripts for public/media prompts
 - 1. Tiina notes that it will be beneficial to have broadcasted commissioner voices if possible
 - 2. Tiina suggests a larger marketing discussion for the next meeting; which will align with our project management/process goals for next year
- C. Updates on future MPAC gmail
 - 1. Brianna notes that a gmail needs to be connected to a 'real person' and this does not jive with commissioner turnover

VI. Manager Report - Tiina Morin

- A. Plug for Peter Wright's *Winter Work* closing reception December 12th 6-8pm
- B. Final cut in progress for Seven Grandfathers video; will be finalized January
- C. Marquette Arts and Culture Office and SmartZone diversity/inclusion discussion
 - 1. Tiina notes it was very impactful and eye opening; including some first hand stories from individuals feeling not welcomed in the City
 - 2. Emily asks about resources to help commissioners with
 - a) Tiina notes Stefanie Vargas (spelling?) (via SmartZone/Innovate) can provide future resources
 - 3. Lauren is glad these discussions are still occurring

VII. Old Business

- A. Brian Wignall is fully paid now
- B. Cultural Center update:
 - 1. Will go out for contracting bids tomorrow (December 12th); waiting on DNR approval
 - 2. Next meeting Tiina will show materials, colors, etc.
 - 3. Locust suggests further research for an exterior mosaic in cold weather
 - a) Brianna suggest a tile-based work; w/ individual parts designed by the general public and the larger work fabricated by a local maker, like Brian Kakas
 - b) Alison suggests mosaic work in future bathroom
 - (1) Interesting bathrooms are impactful
 - (2) A lot of tourists and trail users will use public bathroom
- C. Cultural Trail

1. Final signs will be ready for approval for January meeting
 2. Suggested trail name "The Good Woman," by KBIC individuals, after Seven Grandfathers bus tour
 3. Tiina notes the power of names; and how can we make the name inclusive?
- D. Ishkode (fire sculpture)
1. Tiina and KBIC grant writer/director interviewed by Forecast
 - a) Forecast can provide future feedback about supporting indigenous inclusivity
 - b) KBIC may receive future grant funding from Forecast; towards anti-racism training and future fire sculpture support
- E. Budget Review
1. Tiina notes available \$36,500; after future budget plans- \$3,270
 2. Could increase w/ future grant funding and 'Friends of' fundraising
- F. Oscillation
1. Tiina has been promoting work as a way to light up dark winter months
 2. Has been some public pushback that this was not created by a local; yet another public comment notes that local artist like viewing art, regardless
 3. Tiina and Lauren note that Amelia handles social media comments well
 4. Emily notes that it will be beneficial to note all outside City financial support (like grants) for all projects; more transparency and understanding for public
 5. Tiina requests volunteers for 'bonfire watchers' for December 31st evenings as part of an encore fire performance/closing Oscillation/Winter Light Fest
 6. Needs to be professionally documented
 - a) Photograph a designated mixed group for 1 hour
 - b) Make sure photographer is trained in night time photos w/movement; Alison suggest photographers used for UP200, for example
 - c) Motion to pay maximum \$250 via Public Art Fund by Brianna; seconded by Lauren. Approved by majority.
- G. Technology
1. No more Google; Sharepoint instead

VIII. New Business

- A. Arts and Culture Master Plan Steering Committee - no updates

IX. Committee Reports

- A. Friends of Marquette Public Art Commission
1. Need a more available chair
 - a) Tiina will create a 'call'
 - (1) Alison suggests sending call to NMU professor email list
 2. Emily offers to build/design website
- B. Newsletter

1. Successfully emailed to Marquette County schools and education institutions right before Thanksgiving
2. Lauren notes that last-minute edits were difficult to process and that commissioners need to read suggested newsletter content and provide feedback/edits earlier (content was provided at past two meetings)
 - a) Alison concurs and reminds all commissioners to read the suggested newsletter content fully in advance
 - b) Future newsletter content feedback/edits will need a clear deadline to help prevent this
3. Possible 'special editions' to address important public art between annual late fall newsletter release
4. Lauren suggests printing some newsletters and offering in public spaces for more access
 - a) Clickable links will have to change; Lauren suggest QR codes

X. Good of the Order

- A. Alison notes that last minute feedback shows that everyone cares; which is a good 'problem' to have

XI. Meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm

- A. The next regular meeting will be at 6:30 pm. On January 8th, 2024
- B. Respectfully submitted by Alison Taras

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alison Taras", is written in a cursive style.