



**Albuquerque Public Art Program
Department of Arts and Culture**

ALBUQUERQUE ARTS BOARD MINUTES
Wednesday, February 15, 2023
Room 7096, 7th Floor, DMD Conference Room
One Civic Plaza, NE Albuquerque, NM 87103
And Via Zoom Video Conference

Members Present:

Bernadine Hernández, Chair, Member-at-Large
Charlotte Schoenmann, Vice Chair, Dist. 8
Cara Gordon Potter, Dist. 2
Emilie De Angelis, Dist. 7
Dorothy Stermer, Dist. 9
LouAnne Byrd, Member-at-Large

Absent:

Woody Duncan, Dist. 4

Vacant:

Vacant, Dist. 1
Vacant, Dist. 3
Vacant, Dist. 5
Vacant, Dist. 6

Staff Present:

Elsa Menendez, Deputy Director, Department of Arts & Culture
Sherri Brueggemann, Division Manager
Matt Carter, Public Art Project Planner and Collection Manager
Robyne Robinson, Public Art Project Planner
Eric Werner, Management Analyst
Augustine Romero, Curator
Mandolen Sanchez, Education & Outreach Coord.

Guests:

Shel Neymark, artist
Mika Maloney, Executive Director, OffCenter
Dionna Arellano, Constituent Services Rep., Mayor's Office

Members of the Public:

Approximately 29 members of the public attended the meeting on Zoom or in-person

Before the meeting was called to order, the Board and Public Art staff introduced themselves.

I. Meeting Called to Order: Following E. De Angelis' reading of the Land Acknowledgement, B. Hernández called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm.

II. Approval of the Agenda: S. Brueggemann asked to defer item VI.A. as there were no unsolicited proposals to review and requested that item VI.B. be moved to the top of the agenda after public comment. E. De Angelis moved to approve the agenda as amended, C. Schoenmann

seconded, and all approve.

III. Approval of the Minutes from January 18th, 2023 Meeting: With no modification to the January 18th, 2023 Meeting Minutes, C. Schoenmann moved to approve, D. Stermer seconded, and all approve.

IV. Public Comment: S. Brueggemann noted that there were multiple guests joining the meeting for the introduction of the Doolittle Fountain Decommission Report and that they could make their public comment now or after the report is introduced. Numerous members of the public expressed support for Shel Neymark's Doolittle Fountain and urged the Arts Board to carefully consider the removal of the fountain. Copies of the Decommission Report were provided to guests who attended in-person. Staff also noted that many of the letters and emails that have been received are included in the report. S. Neymark expressed interest in being involved in the redesign of the area at the Botanic Garden if the fountain had to be removed, and asked if the new design would include his intention of the area which was to foster resolana or communication. Following public comment, the Board moved to item VI.B. to review the introduction of the Doolittle Fountain Decommission Report.

V. Approvals:

A. Sandia Science and Technology Park – Call for Artists: (after introduction and reports) D. Stermer provided some background information on the Sandia Science & Technology Park (SS&TP) project which uses the Public Art process to merge science and art through a collaboration between artists and SS&TP companies. Up to five finalist artists will be matched with participating SS&TP companies to form design teams. Each design team will receive a stipend of \$10,000 (50% for the artist/50% for the company) to develop public art design proposals. The final artwork will be a large-scale, site-specific piece that may include digital components. There was discussion about evaluating the partner companies and having them define their level of commitment to the project. This would be included in the final contract as well. S. Brueggemann explained that SS&TP project discussions began in 2011 when the Arts Board learned from a UNM School of Architecture and Planning team, that the far Southeast Heights area of Albuquerque was lacking in public art. The total project budget is \$350,000 with up to \$50,000 to be used for the design team finalists' design process, and no less than \$300,000 for the public artwork. L. Byrd moved to approve the SS&TP Call for Artists, D. Stermer seconded, and all approve. Following the approval of the SS&TP Call for Artists, the Board moved to item VII. for announcements and project updates.

VI. Introductions and Reports:

A. Unsolicited Proposal Committee: Deferred as there were no proposals to review.

B. Decommission Report – Doolittle Fountain ABQ BioPark: S. Brueggemann explained that the Decommission Report is an executive summary and analysis which follows the standard decommission methodology that the Public Art Program uses and reviewed the report. The report has been sent to the artist, S. Neymark, and will

be made available by a web link to people who have sent emails in support of the fountain as well as anyone else who requests it. Following the requirements of the Visual Artists' Rights Act, S. Brueggemann contacted S. Neymark in August 2022 and he asked to present to the Arts Board, which he did at the regular January 2023 meeting.

Decommissioning is not a process that the Arts Board or Public Art Program take lightly and there are certain criteria that have to be met to pursue decommissioning a public artwork. Over the past 15 years, the Public Art Program has decommissioned between 28-30 works of public art. S. Brueggemann also noted that decommission does not always result in removal or destruction, but can also result in relocation or modification. The Public Art Decommission Policy provides for five options for the disposition of decommissioned works of art. Staff analysis is that the work cannot be relocated because it is a site-specific; the work cannot be removed in whole or in part to be sold or traded; if the work is removed, some tiles may be retained and returned to the artist for free; staff does not recommend a sale or auction of the work; and any portions of the artwork that remains if the work is removed would go back to the artist so that it cannot be used in a way against the artist's original intent.

Following the review of the report, discussion ensued regarding the viability of restoring the found, retaining the bench portion of the project, funding for work on the project, the artist's interests in being involved in restoration efforts, and other documentation efforts on behalf of the Public Art Program.

Additional time was given for public comment regarding the Doolittle Fountain. S. Neymark clarified that the fountain would have to be rebuilt and offered to provide the molds for a possible future restoration. B. Hernández thanked everyone for their comments and discussion. The Board will take comments into consideration and will keep the public posted on the decision. At this time, S. Neymark and members of the public left the meeting.

- C. Gateway Center Public Art Projects – Art Selection Committees:** R. Robinson provided a brief overview of the Gateway Center Public Art Projects which includes artwork for inside the Gibson Health Hub/Gateway Center and artwork for the pedestrian overpass. The Gateway Center has been established to help unsheltered and underserved clients as well as those in need of medical services through a network of providers. They are interested in working with nonprofit organizations who serve the community through the arts. The two organizations identified for the project are Albuquerque Healthcare for the Homeless (AHCH) Art Street and Off Center. The project will include two phases: 1) direct purchases of existing artworks from AHCH Art Street to be installed in the Main Corridor and Second Floor between April and September; and 2) develop an artwork commission program with Off Center. Staff explained that artworks that enter the Public Art Collection through this project would first be installed at the Gateway Center and could be moved to other City facilities as the program continues. Two Art Selection Committees are needed, one for the acquisition and commission of artworks for installation inside the

Gateway Center and one for the pedestrian overpass. A committee was formed for artworks to be placed inside to include: C. Schoenmann and C. Gordon Potter.

- 1. Abq Healthcare for the Homeless Art Street – Direct Purchases:** Art street is assessing their current inventory for existing works that can be purchased for installation at the Gateway Center.
- 2. Off Center – Artworks Commission Proposal:** Mika Maloney, Executive Director of Off Center, introduced herself to the Board. Off Center would be part of the second phase of the project where new works would be commissioned for inclusion in the Public Art Collection and installation at the Gateway Center.

The second Art Selection Committee was established for the Pedestrian overpasses design competitions: The pedestrian overpass would be a large-scale public artwork that could be an invitational or direct selection. A committee was formed to include: L. Byrd and D. Stermer.

D. Balloon Museum – October 2023 Annular Eclipse Call for Temporary Public Art: R. Robinson provided background information about the Anderson Abruzzo Albuquerque International Balloon Museum Call for Temporary Art during the 2023 Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta® and Annular Eclipse Event on October 14th. The call would be open nationally for artists to create temporary public artwork proposals around themes of science, flight, exploration, and astronomy. Four primary sites have been identified for temporary installations at the Balloon Museum. The committee will include Arts Board members, members of the Balloon Museum staff, and other astronomy group representatives. Four artists will be selected to receive \$10,000 each to create and install temporary artworks, for a total project budget of \$40,000. Staff are asking for immediate action in order to give artists enough time to develop their proposals, submit their applications, and build their projects. A committee was formed to include D. Stermer and E. De Angelis. D. Stermer moved to approve the Balloon Museum 2023 Annular Eclipse Call for Temporary Public Art, L. Byrd seconded, and all approve.

E. Sunport – Art Selection Committee: The Albuquerque International Sunport is undertaking a massive renovation and have set aside Airport Revenue funds for public artwork. Public Art funds would not be used but they are interested in using the Public Art process. The Art Selection Committee will include Arts Board members, members of the Airport Advisory Committee, staff, and members of the architectural design committee. A committee was formed to include L. Byrd, C. Schoenmann, and C. Gordon Potter. Following the establishment of the Sunport Art Selection Committee, the Board moved to item V.A. for the approval of the Sandia Science and Technology Park Call for Artists.

VII. Announcements/Ongoing Project Updates:

A. Chair’s Announcements: None.

B. Board Announcements: None.

C. Project Updates: Updates were provided on the Vision Zero mural at Expo NM, the 2-D purchases, the second round of the Rio Grande and Candelaria Roundabout, the Alamosa Park Project, the call for artists to participate in a print workshop with Luis Fitch at Tamarind Institute, and the Day in the Life project. Staff also shared that the Rail Trail Temporary artists started the Internet of Things course on Monday and the 2023 Metro Youth Art Show is up February 16th – March 16th.

D. Events/Dedications – Late March Sawmill Project: Staff are looking at installing works at Sawmill on March 27th and 28th with a dedication on March 30th. Staff also announced that Wednesday, October 4th from 5-9pm is scheduled for a ribbon cutting for the grand opening of the City Hall Gallery as well as an open house of the City Hall building and the Convention Center with performers, food trucks, and tours. Dionna Arellano shared that the Mayor’s Office was discussing the event in the scheduling meeting and Mayor Keller should be able to attend. (*This even has since been postponed.*)

VIII. New Business: None.

IX. Next Regular Meeting – March 15th, 2023 4:00 – 6:00 pm

X. Adjourn: B. Hernández moved to adjourn at 6:04 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Sherri Brueggemann, Public Art Urban Enhancement Division Manager

Approved: 
[Bernadine Hernandez \(Mar 20, 2023 11:21 MDT\)](#)

Bernadine Hernández, Chair

Mar 20, 2023

Date