

PORTLAND PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE MINUTES

June 20, 2012

Attendance: Dave Marshall, Tony Muench, Pandora LaCasse, Peggy Golden, Terry DeWan, Jere DeWaters, Alison Hildreth, Jessica Lipton, Lin Lisberger, Pat Murtagh, Alice Spencer (staff: Alex Jaegerman, Jennifer Hutchins)

Welcome and Minutes Review

May minutes unavailable. Need to pass in July.

CONGRESS SQUARE

Mr. Jaegerman updated the Committee on the meetings with new owners of the Eastland Hotel on Congress Square (Rockbridge) attended by representatives of a few community organizations and city councilors. There will be another meeting with them to see if they can get to some of the actual dimensions for public space that the Portland community would like to see. He said that they have tried to enlarge the open space from the street, and that we're getting close with them. The group did a lot of thinking around responses to what they are proposing, and believe Rockbridge is taking these into consideration. He is planning to get a communication from the original city workgroup on the area in front of the July meeting of the City's Housing and Community Development committee.

Ms. Lisberger said that the site committee has been focused on that square and putting a sculpture there that maybe we should consider commissioning a Ned Kahn-like piece now with their support. The advantage would be to work with the architects as they are designing the space.

Mr. Jaegerman: If we can envision a piece that could live up to the expectation of a grand piece, then it should be on the table. But, it's a big expectation/challenge to "dress up" a building and he's not sure that the Committee would want to take that on.

Ms. Spencer said that the City has a one-percent program boilerplate that could be used to negotiate with the developer. Mr. Marshall reminded the Committee that the original one percent program policy was replaced by the percent from the CIP program so that the Committee would have a consistent stream.

BAYSIDE SEATING

Mr. DeWan said that the Council unanimously approved the recommendation to work with Skye Design. Mr. Jaegerman said that the contract is underway and that he's talking with Mr. Taggart, the city's, about how it should be built and wants to see specs on materials, etc.

Ms. Golden asked if the contract has dates. Mr. Jaegerman said yes, and it looks like it would be fabricated in September and installed in October. He hopes to install in the fall, but would be concerned about going too late and wants to leave the possibility open to install in the spring.

Ms. Lisberger acknowledged the Committee's work connecting with the councilors ahead of time. Ms. Hildreth thanked Mr. DeWan for his representation of the Committee and presentation to the Council.

Mr. Marshall thanked the Committee for all of their work getting the proposal passed.

Next steps are getting the contract done and Mr. Jaegerman will supply a timeline to the Committee later this summer.

COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Lisberger acknowledged involvement of Nicole Clegg, the City's Director of Communications, for her help conceiving of the "Art in Our Front Yard" series. She reminded the Committee that Ms. Spencer offered the first talk at the public library and she gave the second presentation at the Jewel Box bus station during the June Art Walk. Ed Murphy from the Portland Press Herald attended the lecture and did a follow up story.

Ms. Lisberger reminded the Committee that Ms. LaCasse is doing the next talk in July for the sculpture, Michael, and Mr. DeWan will give the talk in August at Longfellow Square. She asked the presenters to save their text and send them to Mr. Jaegerman, so that he can get them in the books and on the website. Presenters need to get information to Ms. Clegg and Ms. Hutchins two weeks in advance for promotional purposes.

Ms. Spencer reminded the Committee to refer to the sources that she provided to the Committee, and encouraged the presenters to keep all of the information that is gathered. Ms. Spencer has custody of the historical information and documentation that's been done in the past. She offered to get it to Mr. Jaegerman and distribute to the Committee.

Ms. Murtagh recommended that the Committee use an online location like Dropbox and offered to set it up so that documents can be more easily shared. Committee agreed.

ART COLLECTION MAP

Ms. Hildreth said that the map is done and is available for the Committee to use with existing and possible sites. It's designed to be a working map for the Committee and should be shared with the entire Committee.

Ms. Spencer would like to have a map to share with people who attend the Art in Our Front Yard series. Mr. Jaegerman suggested that we start with Ms. Hildreth's map and see if that's sufficient. Ms. Hildreth will email her map to Mr. Jaegerman.

Mr. Jaegerman said that at a later date, the web site will have a map that a viewer can download and print out.

GOVERNANCE

Mr. Jaegerman presented binders to the Committee with governance documents and historical information on the collection and the public art program.

Ms. Murtagh invited Ms. Spencer to offer a few parting words to the Committee. Ms. Spencer said that she's written down her thoughts and passed them out to the Committee. She said she's happy to be leaving when the Committee is in such good shape and full of enthusiasm and functionality.

Ms. Murtagh thanked Ms. Spencer for her many years of leadership and service and said she hoped that Ms. Spencer would stay involved.

Ms. Spencer nominated Ms. Lisberger to replace her as co-chair. Motion was seconded by Mr. DeWan and was unanimously approved.

Ms. Lisberger invited the entire Committee to offer their visionary skills to help her. She would like to reassess the Committee's vision and identify highest priorities. Ms. Lisberger asked whether or not any new members can join since more people are needed to get the work done.

Ms. Murtagh suggested that the Committee talk about a retreat date before the meeting ends.

New Member Orientation: Mr. Jaegerman said that he needs someone to join him and sit down with new members. Ms. Spencer suggested that a Governance Subcommittee be appointed, meet and take on this responsibility.

Ms. Murtagh said that either she or Ms. Lisberger should meet with new members and Mr. Jaegerman until a subcommittee can be appointed.

Ms. Murtagh said that the Committee should recruit community members to volunteer to help by joining subcommittee work. She asked that Committee members share information about who the people are with full Committee as they begin working with subcommittees, so everyone is aware and they can be acknowledged for their contributions.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Hildreth said that she has invited artist Kate Cox to join her and Ms. Lacasse on the subcommittee.

Ms. Hildreth told the Committee about MECA's MFA speakers series, encouraged them to attend and asked that the details be included in the minutes as follows (from the MECA website:

Michael Kimmelman

Thursday, June 21

"From New York to Europe and Back Again"

Michael Kimmelman's talk is an intimate and story-filled reflection on his path from The New York Times's Chief Art Critic, trawling the world's museums and galleries to Foreign Correspondent (based in Berlin), reinventing cultural reporting from Marseille to Gaza to Berlin and Istanbul, all of which prepared the way for his current post as Architecture Critic, writing about issues facing us at a time when society and cities are rapidly changing.

Beth Lipman

Monday, June 25

Beth Lipman lives and works in Sheboygan Falls, WI. She has exhibited her work widely and received numerous awards including a Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Grant, Wisconsin Arts Board Fellowship, and a Ruth Chenven Foundation Grant. Lipman has exhibited her work internationally at such institutions as the ICA at MECA, the RISD Museum, the Milwaukee Art Museum, and the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

Radcliffe Bailey

Monday, July 2

Radcliffe Bailey creates his mixed media paintings by piecing together ancestral photographs, collected objects, and painted words and maps. Born in 1968 in New Jersey, Bailey now lives and works in Atlanta. He earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Atlanta College of Art in 1991. His work is permanently installed in the Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport and in numerous permanent collections including The Corcoran Gallery of Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The High Museum of Art, and The Art Institute of Chicago.

Amze Emmons

Monday, July 9

Amze Emmons is an artist, illustrator, curator, living and working in Philadelphia, PA. Born in rural upstate New York, he received a BFA Ohio Wesleyan University. He went on to receive his MA and MFA from the University of Iowa. His work is exhibited both nationally and internationally. Currently, he teaches art at Muhlenberg College in Allentown. Prior to that he taught printmaking at the University of Iowa and drawing and print at University of Vermont.

Stanya Kahn

Monday, July 16

California-based Stanya Kahn is an interdisciplinary media artist. Working primarily in video, with a practice that includes performance, writing, and photography, Kahn's work inhabits a space between fiction and document, and stems from an extensive background in live performance. Kahn has worked in a collaborative team with artist Harry Dodge, and her work has shown in numerous venues nationally and internationally, including the Whitney Biennial, the California Biennial at the Orange County Museum of Art, and The Museum of Modern Art.

Francis Cape

Monday July 23

Francis Cape was trained as a woodcarver before receiving his MFA from Goldsmiths College, University of London. He has exhibited his work extensively in the US, including shows at the P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center and the Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art. Cape is represented by Murray Guyin New York City. He lives and works in Narrowsburg, NY.

Denise Markonish

Monday July 30

Denise Markonish is the curator at MASS MoCA where she has curated the exhibitions of Nari Ward, Petah Coyne and Inigo Manglano-Ovalle. Markonish also co-edited with Susan Cross the book Sol LeWitt: 100 Views. Previous to her work at MASS MoCA, Markonish was the curator at Artspace in New Haven, CT.

Anne Wilson

Monday, August 6

Anne Wilson is a Chicago-based visual artist who creates sculpture, drawings, performances and video animations that explore themes of time, loss, private and social rituals. Wilson is the recipient of grants from the Driehaus Foundation, Artadia, the Tiffany Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Wilson's work is represented by Rhona Hoffman Gallery, Chicago and Paul Kotula Projects, Detroit. She is a Professor at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

WEBSITE UPDATE

Mr. Jaegerman said that website RFP is ready to go out.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Jaegerman announced that he has allowed the Portland Public Library to use the image of the Little Water Girl in a recognition for employees. Committee concurred with the decision.

Ms. Murtagh asked the Committee to select a retreat meeting. Committee agreed to holding a workshop during the October 17 regular meeting and extending time to 4:00 – 8:00 with dinner. A new location will be needed. Ms. Lisberger offered Peloton Labs.

Adjourned, 5:55 p.m.

Minutes by Jennifer Hutchins.