



Lin Lisberger, Co-Chair
Julia Kirby, Vice-Chair
James Cradock
Jenna Crowder
Christopher Devlin
Councilor Jill Duson
Penny Harris
Alison Hildreth
Pandora LaCasse
Tony Muench
Corey Templeton

Management & Administration
Caitlin Cameron
Urban Designer, Planning Division

Portland Public Art Committee – Special Meeting

Monday, August 22, 2016

4:00 p.m. Portland City Hall, Room 24

Attendance: Lin Lisberger, Chair, Julia Kirby, Vice-Chair, James Cradock, Christopher Devlin, Tony Muench, Corey Templeton. Staff: Caitlin Cameron. Not in attendance: Jenna Crowder, Penny Harris, Alison Hildreth, Pandora LaCasse, Councilor Jill Duson. Members of the Press: Carol McCracken, David Harry Members of the Public: George (no last name given)

Call to Order 4:06pm

The Congress Square Art Selection:

Lisberger asked to hear the recommendation from the subcommittee for the Congress Square Public Art Commission.

LaCasse, representing the subcommittee, presented recommendation of Sarah Sze for the project.

Muench commented on the selection criteria and how the committee wrestled with the decision. The subcommittee felt that any of the finalists could have done a good job.

LaCasse reinforced that the public survey contained the same sentiment.

Lisberger stated Sze expressed excitement about the project and has family connections in Maine. Sze is highly regarded and internationally known. The art world admires her work and personality. Sze does not appear to have a big ego.

Kirby asked how the committee or public will be able to engage with the artist now that she has been selected.

LaCasse mentioned the public engagement opportunities coming up – there will be a storefront workshop as part of the process in the fall.

Kirby expressed a desire for more information about the selected artist.

Devlin asked what about Sze made the subcommittee think she would be collaborative. LaCasse responded that all finalists had that kind of experience but Sze expressed excitement about it. Muench added that when the subcommittee made this decision, Sze was high on everyone's list. Her communication style and presentation style was strong. She also has an architecture background which is an advantage for communication with the design team.

The Portland Public Art Committee moves to accept the subcommittee recommendation of Sarah Sze for the Congress Square Public Art Commission. [Lisberger, Kirby 7-0 in favor]

McCracken asked how many people were on the subcommittee – Seven

Kirby asked whether the other artists had been notified – Yes

McCracken asked what the next steps will be. LaCasse responded that a contract needs to be executed and then the design process will start with the Storefront Workshop. Cameron further elaborated on the public process and workshop.

Lisberger added that fundraising will also need to be considered as part of the process.

LaCasse reaffirmed that the initial goal at this point is to develop a design. Once we have that, the hope is that it will begin to inspire fundraising. Lisberger added that the fundraising will include crowdfunding to include the

public in the process as much as possible.

Harry asked whether the Storefront Workshop will include old work or new – working session to create new work.

Devlin thanked the subcommittee.

Lisberger suggested that people will come to Portland to see a Sarah Sze piece as a big art draw.

LaCasse added that all four finalists are big art draws and that the subcommittee was very fortunate to have them come and show interest in the project. She added that our process is new and innovative, well-attended, and demonstrated a nice way to engage the citizens of Portland in this process. And the idea of collaboration is very unique and a great opportunity for us.

Adjourn at 4:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Caitlin Cameron