

CITY OF SURPRISE  
ARTS AND CULTURAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

**Meeting Minutes – Approved**

September 13, 2021 / 6:00 PM

Community Room  
16000 NORTH CIVIC CENTER PLAZA  
SURPRISE, ARIZONA 85374

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**A. Roll Call**

Chair Deborah Welch, Vice-Chair Rhiannon Miett, Commission members, Susan deJong, Margaret Lieu, Kathie Morgan, Jay Lickus, Jo Grant.

Staff: Danielle Osborne, HSCV Administrator, Hobie Wingard, Assistant City Attorney, Karina Caraveo, Administrative Specialist – HSCV.

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

**C. Current Events Reports**

Commissioner Lickus shared he attended the Van Gogh Exhibit in Scottsdale and the Mayor's Exhibit at The Vista Center for the Arts.

Commissioner deJong also attended the Van Gogh Exhibit in Scottsdale and the Mayor's Exhibit at The Vista. She also visited the Grand Floor opening and the Poetry Slam.

Commissioner Lieu attended the Mayor's Exhibit at The Vista, the 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony, Roadway project meetings, and the Poetry Slam.

Chair Welch was part of the meetings regarding the Roadway project, which she would discuss in greater detail during the agenda item.

Vice-Chair Miett attended the Mayor's Exhibit at The Vista and a 9/11 Memorial in Verrado. She mentioned she learned about the history of Hobo Joe, an art piece located in the Town of Buckeye. She invited the Commission to join a dedication ceremony on September 25, 2021 at 9:00am in honor of this art piece.

Commissioner Morgan attended a Motown Revue performance virtually, and shared that WVAC CEO Sandra Bassett was one of the performers. Commissioner Morgan's daughter and granddaughter attended in person and both loved the concert.

**D. Staff Reports**

Ms. Osborne reported on the following items:

- Police Evidence & Readiness Center Art
- Fire Station 308 artwork
- 1.3% for the Arts ordinance
- Aquatic Center mural
- “The Five C’s of Arizona”
- Xeriscape Garden

#### **CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

None.

#### **REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS – NON PUBLIC HEARING**

##### **Item 1 – Consideration and action pertaining to approval of the August 2, 2021 Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission meeting.**

Vice-Chair Miett pointed out Commissioner Lieu’s designation as Chair on the signature line of the minutes. Ms. Caraveo responded that the name will be updated on approved minutes.

Commissioner Lickus moved to approve the minutes of the August 2, 2021 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting. Commissioner deJong 2<sup>nd</sup>. 7 Yes votes. Motion carried.

##### **Item 2 – Discussion and action pertaining to the bond-funded roadway art project in downtown Surprise.**

Ms. Osborne reviewed the bid and selection process of the final artists. She presented the art piece chosen by the selection panel and asked the panel to discuss how the selection was made.

Chair Welch stated that the panel focused on this piece because there is no other art piece like this in the West Valley, which makes it unique. She overviewed the panel’s preference for the artist concept, and pointed out Flora Mae Statler - Surprise’s founder - was attributed in the art piece; she mentioned that she would be in brass and not in stainless steel like the rest of the piece. She discussed the cactus blooms and their tie-in with the evidence facility art piece that was recently installed.

Commissioner Lieu said the panel loved this piece more than others because it was accessible from close up as well as from far away. She felt that the Flora Mae Statler tribute provides a welcoming feel for the art piece. Chair Welch felt that it could be great photo opportunity.

Commissioner deJong thought the artist was very accommodating and easy to work with. Chair Welch added that the artist was so creative in their proposal that it made the panel feel that he had gone above and beyond in his proposal, and even shared that some potential marketing pieces such as necklaces, pins and t-shirts based on this art piece. Commissioner Lieu agreed and said that the artist had done a lot of research into this and created a great identity opportunity. Chair Welch pointed out that the art piece name is “Bloom Where You’re Planted,” and compared it to Surprise residents because they do not originate from Surprise but rather are transplants that will bloom in the city.

Commissioner Morgan asked for clarification on placement for this art piece. Chair Welch explained this is yet to be determined, however the artist has previously completed other art projects that were installed in undeveloped areas.

Vice-Chair Miett pointed out the potential for damage by skateboarders. Ms. Osborne acknowledged this and explained that during the artist interview, the panel discussed the artist's flexibility in making the piece ADA accessible. Ms. Osborne explained that the Community Development Department would review the proposal as well. She added that the private landowner had been engaged throughout the process, and was interested in working with the city to make this statement piece a possibility. Ms. Osborne said that the last step prior to a contract with the artist would be City Council approval.

Commissioner Lieu moved to recommend the bond-funded roadway art project in downtown Surprise. Commissioner deJong 2<sup>nd</sup>. 7 Yes votes. Motion carried.

**Item 3 – Discussion pertaining to landscaping for the artwork at Fire Station 308.**

Ms. Osborne explained that she has been working with the artist, who has expressed concern about drawing out the landscaping for this location. Ms. Osborne said that she will continue to work with the artist and the current landscapers onsite and will bring proposals to a future agenda.

Commissioner Lieu asked if lighting was included with the art project fund, to which Ms. Osborne confirmed.

**Item 4 – Discussion and action pertaining to remedial maintenance for the Top Knot sculpture.**

Ms. Osborne provided an overview of the option to convert the art area from its existing concrete to granite.

Commissioner Lickus commented that the base is weathered, but not damaged. He suggested painting the piece on a routine basis to keep up with some damage versus making the expense of replacing the existing concrete, and felt that this is part of having a piece out in the public.

Commissioner deJong asked when this piece was last powder coated. Ms. Osborne responded stated it was two or three years ago and the cost was \$1500. She suggested adding this piece to the commission's maintenance plan and building it into their annual budget.

Commissioner Lieu wondered if the decomposed granite would truly protect the piece for a longer period versus maintaining it. Chair Welch asked how long the piece been out in place before the maintenance. Ms. Osborne responded that it was first powder coated in 2019.

Commissioner Morgan suggested building an article of awareness to the public. Commissioner Lieu agreed, and discussed educating the community through city programming. Chair Welch acknowledged the idea, and suggested that it be placed on a future agenda for discussion.

**Item 5 – Discussion and action pertaining to the AZ Humanities Speaker Series schedule and funding for FY2022.**

Commissioner Morgan asked that the commission consider the funding of \$500.00 for the AZ Humanities Speaker Series, and said that she would present format options at a future meeting. Chair Welch asked if funding would determine whether the presentation will take place in-person or virtually, to which Commissioner Morgan responded that the funding amount would remain the same for all five presentations, regardless of format.

Chair Welch asked when the presentations will begin should the funding be approved. Commissioner Morgan stated that they would run from January – October 2022. Ms. Osborne advised that if approved, the funds can be expended and the speakers secured, which should not be delayed due to the limited availability of the grant funding.

Commissioner Lieu asked if the format be presented during the next Commission meeting, to which Commissioner Morgan responded yes.

Vice-Chair Mielt moved to approve the AZ Humanities Speaker Series at a cost not to exceed \$500.00. Commissioner Lieu 2<sup>nd</sup>. 7 Yes votes. Motion carried.

#### **Item 6 – Discussion pertaining to the Mobile Museum special events display.**

Vice-Chair Mielt overviewed the working group's ideas with the Commission, and stated that the purpose is to draw people in and interact with them in the Mobile Museum. She advised that the suggested recommendations are not final decisions, and can be dictated by the Commission based on the event.

Commissioner deJong asked if the commissioners would do the face painting. Vice-Chair suggested that the Commission could contract it out. Commissioner deJong asked whether artists would be paid for their involvement, to which Vice-Chair Mielt responded that they would. Commissioner deJong asked if the display wall would remain, to which Commissioner Morgan responded that it would since it has not yet been utilized.

Ms. Osborne asked if the Commission would like to participate in the Surprise Party this year. Commissioner Lieu felt that it would be a great event for the Commission to participate in. Commissioner Morgan suggested bringing something interactive for the kids to enjoy. Commissioner Lieu suggested a coloring wall.

Vice-Chair Mielt asked if the Marketing Department could be approached for assistance on creating the coloring wall. Ms. Osborne responded that if this is a concept the Commission would like to pursue, she could begin working with the city's graphic designer.

#### **Item 7 – Discussion pertaining to the 2021 Fiesta Grande event.**

Ms. Osborne shared that the Fiesta Grande event is scheduled for October 9<sup>th</sup>. She asked the Commission if they would like to participate.

Commissioner Lieu suggested setting up the Mobile Museum next to WHAM and allowing them to utilize the space inside for their activities.

Upon discussing schedule availability for individual commissioners, the group came to a consensus and decided not to host a booth at this year's event. Instead, they plan to include their literature, maps, and handouts with the Human Service & Community Vitality Department's table.

**Item 8 – Discussion pertaining to the commissioning of a docent for the public art tours.**

Commissioner deJong explained that the City of Surprise is the only city that offers public art tours, and felt that as the tours continue to grow, a docent should be considered.

Ms. Osborne asked if this is something that the Commission would like to have at every tour. Commissioner Lieu suggested a test run with one bus tour. Ms. Osborne agreed, and stated that she would look into this and plan a pilot tour with a docent in 2022.

Vice-Chair Miett suggested that surveys be made available to all attendees for feedback. Commissioner Morgan suggested that Commissioner deJong share some talking points from her time leading the tours. Commissioner deJong stated that she already has them and will share with staff.

Ms. Osborne stated that she would be bringing back on a future agenda.

**Item 9 – Discussion pertaining to the promotion of public art in City Hall.**

Commissioner deJong suggested the formation of a working group to build a plan that would encourage the community to bring their families in to City Hall to view art. Commissioner Morgan asked what the working group's role would be. Commissioner deJong suggested that the working group could come up with different possibilities for promoting the current art installations in City Hall.

Ms. Osborne advised that if there are key items that the Commission would like to highlight, she would approach Marketing and Communications to seek assistance with promotion. Vice-Chair Miett asked if starting with the History Wall could be a possibility for promotion, since she felt it lost the spotlight due to the abrupt onset of the pandemic. Ms. Osborne said that she would relay this to the Marketing & Communications team and provide some feedback to the Commission. Commissioner Lieu reminded the group that the History Wall was going to be unveiled to the public during the State of the City presentation in 2020, and suggested that it be included during next year's presentation.

**Other Business and Future Agenda Items:**

Fire Station 308 Landscape  
AZ Humanities Speaker Series  
Display Case Relocation  
Surprise Party  
Poetry Slam

**ADJOURNMENT** – Motion to adjourn 7:31 p.m. – Commissioner Lieu. Commissioner deJong 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
7 Yes votes. Motion carried.

---

Deborah Welch, Chair

**ATTEST:**

---

Karina Caraveo, Administrative Specialist

**CERTIFICATION:**

I, Danielle Osborne, HSCV Administrator for the City of Surprise Human Service & Community Vitality Department, Maricopa County, Arizona, do hereby verify that these are the true and correct minutes of the Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission meeting held on September 13, 2021.

---

Danielle Osborne, HSCV Administrator