



Scottsdale Arts – Scottsdale Public Art Advisory Board
September 13, 2023, at noon
Mezzanine Conference Room (MCR)
7380 E. 2nd Street, Scottsdale, AZ 85251
Directions/Information: Scottsdale Public Art, 480-874-4640

MINUTES

Members Present: Jessica Amrine, Mark Carroll, Kathy Duley*, Russell Grossman, Christine Kovach, Bryanna McHenry, Jeff Miller, Elan Mizrahi, Jaime Neuffer, Janet Priset Sandino, Dennis Robbins, Melody Salamo, Miho Schoettker*

*via Zoom

Members Excused Absent: Allison Colwell, Cassandra Saba

Members Unexcused Absence: None

Staff Present: Kati Ballares, Kiara Brown, Talia De La Garza, Tanya Galin, Jennifer Gill, Victoria Sajadi

1. **CALL TO ORDER-** Meeting was called to order at 12:02pm
Board Chair Christine Kovach introduced new board members, Russel Grossman, Janet Priset Sandino, and Mark Carroll. Kiara Brown, Canal Convergence Events Coordinator, was also introduced.

2. **CONSENT AGENDA-**

- 2a. Consider Motion to Approve June 14, 2023, Minutes

A motion was made by Jeff Miller and seconded by Bryanna McHenry to approve the consent agenda, as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

3. **ACTION ITEMS**

- 3a. Consider Motion to Approve McCormick-Stillman Railroad Concept Design – Victoria Sajadi, Public Art Coordinator

Victoria presented the McCormick Stillman Railroad Park Project, stating that the budget for the project is \$95,000. Elan Mizrahi was the board representative on the selection panel. The current estimated completion timeline is Summer/Fall 2024. Victoria outlined the overall project improvements at the railroad park and where the public art portion of the project is being proposed. She introduced the artist for the project, Kristine Kollasch, who presented her preliminary design concept, and Valerie Budnick from the Railroad Park, who also attended to answer any site-related questions.

The artist passed around a scale model of her concept to the board while she presented her concept. The concept's working title is "Line in the Landscape." She is proposing to create a mosaic tile mural wall and bench that would be a place for visitors to the railroad park to have a photo op. The mural would be made up of artist-made and community-made tiles that the artist would have people create at workshops. The mural will represent the Arizona Landscape and include state symbols such as the state tree, flower, bird, etc. There will also be a line of train tracks, and a train in the mosaic mural, and the mosaic bench seating will resemble train tracks. There will be a 3D sculpture of a saguaro cactus made from reclaimed train rails in the middle of the mural. The mural will be incorporated into the walls that surround the APS electrical boxes and equipment that are centrally located in the park.

The mural will be created in sections and installed like a large puzzle. Segments will be framed with 1" steel angle iron and will be backed with 1/2" Hardy Backer. Each mosaic section will be assembled and grouted prior to installation. Bolt holes for fastening each section to the brick will be incorporated into the architecture and covered with tile and grout upon installation. This process allows the artist to work in her studio rather than completely on-site, which will help her stay on schedule with fabrication. The Mosaic tile mural will include handmade tiles, custom glazed, commercial tile, ceramic wood planks, stones, glass, railroad spikes, an occasional small metal train, and glass marbles. The artist also presented her preliminary budget breakdown.

The panels will be in various sizes, so each is not too heavy to manage. The bench will be in a location with ample shade, so it will not be in direct sunlight. The park is already brightly lit at night, so there will not be any lighting added specifically for the art, but it will be lit by lighting already being provided in the park. The tiles will have some texture, but not enough for the mosaic to be climbable. Community workshops will be held for the creation of custom tiles that will be incorporated into the mural; for these murals, the artist will create a map of where the tiles will go so that when community members come to see the completed mural, they will be able to find the tile that they created.

A motion was made by Melody Salamo and seconded by Jeff Miller to approve McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park Concept Design. The motion passed unanimously.

3b. Consider Motion to Approve Thompson Peak Dog Park Concept Design – Tanya Galin, Public Art Manager

Tanya presented the Thompson Peak Dog Park Project, stating that the current budget is \$36,600. There are potential opportunities to add more funds to this project, and SPA will know more in November. Currently, we can only incorporate art into two out of six shade structures. This opportunity was for artists new to public art, so this is this artist's first big public art project. Erik Peterson was the board liaison for the project. Tanya introduced the artist, Shachi Kale, who joined the meeting via Zoom.

Kale presented her concept for the shade structures at Thompson Peak Dog Park. The back metal panels of the prefabricated shade structures will be water jet cut with the artist's patterns. The art reflects elements from the desert flora and fauna in the dog park area, along with a variety of dogs. Each shade structure is approximately 34 feet wide by eight feet tall and has two sections. The artist was inspired by the project's plant palette, which was restricted by the 15 ft maximum height

requirement. She studied drawings of each plant in the palette that were used as the beginning of her design so that it included a variety of local native plants and added texture to the design. The design also includes a variety of dogs doing “dog things”, a mountain landscape, and other animals alongside the plants. The design is reminiscent of the artist's style that embraces whimsy, storytelling, and folk art.

Kale also presented some alternative, simpler designs, and layouts in the event that SPA has to adjust to the budget. The current materials proposed for exploration are Corten Steel or aluminum with a non-directional finish. The project team and the artist will work to determine the appropriate material for the project based on budget and technical project requirements. Both the steel and the aluminum will have similar heat retention in the summer. Kale also presented her preliminary budget breakdown. It was suggested that if there were a possibility, it would be interesting to see the roof of the shelters cut with the artist's patterns as well to create shadows on the ground. Tanya responded that the project team is still determining which shade structure will be used, and SPA can make that suggestion.

A motion was made by Jaime Neuffer and seconded by Jessica Amrine to approve Thompson Peak Dog Park Concept Design. The motion passed unanimously.

4. UPDATES

4a. Canal Convergence Update – Jennifer Gill, Deputy Director of Canal Convergence

Jennifer presented an update on Canal Convergence. The featured theme this year is “The Power of Play.” All the artworks, workshops, and events relate to the concept of play. The dates are November 3rd through the 12th at the Scottsdale Waterfront. The hours will be 6-10pm on Fridays and Saturdays and 6-9pm on Sunday – Thursday. Admission is free and open to the public, with nominal fees for workshops and tours. Each night of the event will include workshops, activities, live music, site-specific dance performances, and fire shows by Walter Productions. Walter Productions’ fire show will be in the canal and will reference the theme of play through video games and it will have an interactive component. The other featured project is called “Dice,” and its five 14' x 14' cubes suspended just above the water and will have a projection of the viewer at each interaction area connected to motion tracking cameras. Jennifer also presented the seven remaining artists and interactive exhibits that will be featured throughout Canal Convergence. One of the featured artists will be local artist, Isaac Caruso, who will paint three murals that Augmented Reality will activate for the viewer. The murals will be located at the Waterfront, Scottsdale Fashion Square, and the Civic Center for the Lululemon 10k race. A new event this year will be a film festival on Wednesday. Beer and wine will be available throughout the duration of the event, and an additional food truck was added. Workshops will be held in the Nationwide Innovation Zone. Tours will be offered every night of the event, including an ASL tour and a Spanish tour. The One Water Brewing Showcase will return with Scottsdale Water on the first Friday and Saturday. The opening celebration will happen on the first Saturday night, November 4th, from 6pm – 9pm. The VIP lounge will be opened to the public on the second weekend.

Jennifer passed around a sign-up sheet for board member volunteers for Canal Convergence. There will not be a November SPA Advisory board meeting, so we can free up some time for board members to volunteer at the event if availability provides.

4b. September SPA Advisory Board Retreat – Talia De La Garza, Executive Assistant

Talia reminded everyone that there will be a board retreat from 1pm – 4pm at the Design Center on September 22nd. We will provide lunch and hope everyone can attend.

5. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Christine Kovach reported the following:

- Volunteer for Canal Convergence, November 3rd – 12th
- Celebrate 50 Years of Public Art and Dedication of Desert's Garden Event on October 16th at 4pm. The Mayor will also dedicate City Hall as a historic designation.
- Dreamy Draw Music Festival on November 3rd and 4th
- Civic Center has been recognized for several national and regional awards.
- SMOCA also has a fall opening on Friday, September 22nd.

6. REPORT FROM DIRECTOR

Kati Ballares thanked the team for their support while she was on leave and gave a quick overview of the topics for the upcoming board retreat.

7. BOARD OF TRUSTEES UPDATE

Dennis Robbins reported the following:

- RSVP for Sunpunchers – Soft opening of Civic Center event on Thursday, September 14th
- There has been a gift to Scottsdale Arts that will be announced with a Press Release shortly.

8. NEW/ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

9. NEXT SPA BOARD MEETING: October 11, 2023, at noon in the Mezzanine Conference Room, Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts 7380 E. 2nd Street, Scottsdale, AZ 85251

NOTE – there will be No November meeting, but there will be some approvals sent out via email.

10. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jeff Miller at 12:35pm