

ERIN MENDENHALL
MAYOR



LORENA RIFFO-JENSON
DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT of ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Salt Lake Art Design Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 6th, 2024

5:00 – 7:00 pm

PRESENT: Angela Dean Tiffini Porter Colour Maisch
Jen Lopez Alex Moya Michael Mejia

Staff Members

Felicia Baca, Executive Director, Arts Council
Renato Olmedo-González, Public Art Program Manager, Arts Council
Amy Childress, Public Art Program Coordinator, Arts Council

EXCUSED: Meggie Troili

GUESTS: Makaylah Maponga, Salt Lake City Public Lands, Public Lands Planner
Miguel Galaz, Roots Art Kollektive (finalist)
Alan Ochoa, Roots Art Kollektive (finalist)
Luis Novoa, Roots Art Kollektive (finalist)
Manuel Aarón García Becerra, Poetry and Literature Coordinator at Artes de México en Utah (community stakeholder)
Lina Vega-Morrison, Writer, (community stakeholder)

Mission: To amplify art in Salt Lake City to enrich, enhance, and build a dynamic city where art and artists thrive.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order, Introductions, and Welcome

Ms. Tiffini Porter welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated the Art Design Board's mission.

II. Approval of February 7th, 2024 Minutes

Ms. Porter put forward a motion to approve the February 7th minutes as written. Mr. Michael Mejia seconded; all board members present voted in favor.

III. Poplar Grove Park: Basketball Court finalist presentation

Mr. Renato Olmedo-González gave an overview for the *Poplar Grove Park: Basketball Court* commission. In the fall of 2022, the Board recommended the Roots Art Kollektive (the RAK) to create a site-specific mural for the tennis and pickleball courts for Poplar Grove Park. Although the project is currently on hold due to construction delays, it is scheduled to be constructed later this year. Last year, Public Lands received CIP funding for the construction of a basketball court within the same site; this CIP funding included a public art allocation and the inclusion of a commissioned

artwork within the site has been within the project scope. Because the RAK was already commissioned for a similar project within the site, the Public Art Program—in consultation with Public Lands staff—invited the RAK to create an additional site-specific art piece for the basketball court. For this project, Public Lands will remove the failing basketball court in Poplar Grove Park and replace it with a new, NBA-sized court. There will be approximately 3,742 square of non-playable surface that will be reserved for a surface court mural. The inclusion of this mural is entirely funded through the project's CIP funding and it is independent of Percent-for-Art funding. The commission budget is \$22,000. The park construction is expected to start in June/July of this year, with the artwork installation happening in July/August and a ribbon cutting and opening ceremony happening in September. Mr. Olmedo-González went over the project's artwork goals and showed the Board and project stakeholders the final renderings of the RAK's tennis and pickleball sports courts mural design as well as their design for the basketball sports court mural.

The RAK gave a presentation on their basketball court mural. The RAK is comprised of three artists: Miguel Galaz, Alan Ochoa, and Luis Novoa. For their design, the RAK took inspiration from the idea of a park being a place for community. For their mural, they wanted to focus on nature, the growth of a community, and the memories people create. They chose vibrant, energetic colors and included a wave design to show movement. To represent the game and the community, they included a basketball, water for the Jordan River Parkway, and a poplar leaf. The Jordan river and poplar leaf are also represented in their tennis and pickleball court mural, conceptually and aesthetically tying both projects together.

The Board liked the visual connection between the two mural designs. Ms. Colour Maisch made a motion to recommend the Roots Art Kollektive for the *Poplar Grove Park: Basketball Court* commission. Ms. Porter seconded the motion, and all board members present voted in favor.

IV. *Sidewalk Poetry: Senses of Salt Lake City*

Ms. Amy Childress gave an overview of the *Sidewalk Poetry: Senses of Salt Lake City* public art project including the artwork goals, submission guidelines, and project schedule. For this project, artists and writers who currently reside in Salt Lake City submitted short poems and poetic lines in both English and Spanish, that were inspired by the prompt, “How do you experience Salt Lake City?” During this meeting, 20 poems/poetic lines will be selected by the Board for recommendation to the Mayor. The selected artists/writers will receive \$250 for their writing. 81 eligible submissions were received. Community stakeholders for this project included Lisa Bickmore (Current Utah Poet Laureate), Manuel Aarón García Becerra, and Lina Vega-Morrison.

Ms. Childress went over the artist shortlist, created from previously submitted scores by the Board and project stakeholders. The shortlist consists of 37 artists. On the shortlist provided to the Board for discussion during the meeting, artists/submissions were listed from highest score to lowest score. The first 19 artists (tier 1) were highlighted in green, and the rest of the shortlist (tier 2) was highlighted in yellow. The 37 artists included in this shortlist included Time Glenn, Nan Seymour, Cesar Urbizu Rodarte, Jack Myhre, Kelly Goff, Nicolas Contreras, Cash Mendenhall, Paulina Burnside, Joe Robers, Pablo Ayala, Samantha da Silva, Jasmine Khaliq, Helias Hammari, Fazur Estrada, Simone Wiatrak, Samantha Shelley, Zachary Schwing, Elizabeth Cruz, Holly Henderson, Ryan Perkins, Susan Wurtzburg, Cadence Summers, John Boyack, RJ Walker, Sol Gonzalez, Keira Shae, Kallas Graham, Mathew Stevens, Arianna Rees, Aristotle Johns, Garrett Biggs, Tzahui Xocotle Alverdado Cortez, John Whipple, Jeremy Retamar, Patrick Gao, Marcus Koncar, and Gavin Wilkey.

The Board and the community stakeholders discussed the shortlist, focusing on the top 20 scored poems by both the Board and the community stakeholders. Since 25% of Salt Lake City residents

speak Spanish, the Board discussed a threshold for how many poems they wanted to choose in Spanish. The Board—with input received from the community stakeholders participating in this review—decided to focus on the quality of the writing in the final selection process. The Board and stakeholders were given an opportunity to bring up submissions that were not included in the top 20. The Board brought up the motion to vote to approve the top 16 submissions: Tim Glenn, Nan Seymour, Cesar Urbizu Rodarte, Jack Myhre, Kelly Goff, Nicolas Contreras, Cash Mendenhall, Paulina Burnside, Joe Roberts, Pablo Ayala, Samantha da Silva, Jasmine Khaliq, Simone Wiatrak, Samantha Shelley, Zachary Schwing, and Holly Henderson. Mr. Mejia brought up Simone Wiatrak's submission and felt that it was overwritten. The Board decided to hold off on approving Simone Wiatrak's submission. Ms. Dean made a motion to put forward a positive recommendation for Tim Glenn, Nan Seymour, Cesar Urbizu Rodarte, Jack Myhre, Kelly Goff, Nicolas Contreras, Cash Mendenhall, Paulina Burnside, Joe Roberts, Pablo Ayala, Samantha da Silva, Jasmine Khaliq, Samantha Shelley, Zachary Schwing, and Holly Henderson. Ms. Maisch seconded the motion, and all Board members present voted in favor.

The Board and community stakeholders continued discussion and focused on the submissions from Garrett Biggs, Aristotle Johns, Keira Shae, Susan Wurtzburg, Fazur Estrada, RJ Walker, Arianna Rees, John Boyak, Helias Hammari, and Marcus Koncar. Ms. Dean made a motion to recommend Susan Wurtzburg, John Boyak, Keira Shae, Arianna Rees, and Aristotle Johns. Mr. Alex Moya seconded the motion, and all Board members present voted in favor.

V. Public Comment

No public comment was received.

VI. Other Business / Adjourn

Mr. Olmedo-González gave an update on the first phase of *Wake the Great Salt Lake* project funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies. The first phase of the project is a Call for Artists, to fund at least 7 and up to 12 community-driven projects that will happen throughout Salt Lake City. The Call officially opens on March 7th and closes on April 18th.

Another opportunity for artists and community members is *Love Your Block* grant program. This program is organized through the Mayor's Office and applications are currently open.

Mr. Olmedo-González will be sending the Board the draft for the Request for Qualifications for Pioneer Park that will be sent to the Pre-Qualified Artist Pool for the Board to review and provide input. This public art opportunity will be open April 1st – April 18th.

Lastly, Mr. Olmedo-González brought up the July Board meeting and suggested the meeting be moved to the following week, July 10th. All Board members approved of the change.

Ms. Colours Maisch made a motion to close the meeting; Ms. Angela Dean seconded. All Board members present voted in favor.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, April 3rd, 2024.