

ERIN MENDENHALL
MAYOR



LORENA RIFFO-JENSON
DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT of ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Salt Lake Art Design Board Meeting

Wednesday, December 11th, 2024

5:00 – 6:30 pm

PRESENT:

Meggie Troili
Nate King

Colour Maisch
Michael Mejia

Jen Lopez
Tiffini Porter

EXCUSED:

N/A

STAFF MEMBERS

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

GUESTS:

Susan Lundmark, Planner, SLC Transportation
Jeff Gulden, Section Manager, SLC Transportation
Kira Johnson- Planner and Fairmont Park Project Manager,
SLC Public Lands

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

AGENDA

Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions

Ms. Colour Maisch welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated the Art Design Board's mission. Mr. Renato Olmedo-González had everyone in attendance introduce themselves. This meeting was the first for Nate King, who was approved by City Council for a term on the Art Design Board as its Architect from December 2024 – 2027.

Approval of November 6th, 2024 Minutes

Ms. Maisch put forward a motion to approve the November 6th, 2024 meeting minutes, Mr. Michael Mejia seconded the motion; all Board members present voted in favor.

FY24-25 CIP/Percent-for-Art Site Selection

Mr. Renato Olmedo-González presented the FY24-25 CIP (Capital Improvement Project) Percent-for-Art Site Selection process. Following City Council approval of CIP projects submitted by constituents and City departments, the Public Art Program and Salt Lake Arts Council staff have been reviewing these projects to evaluate their potential for public art. Collaborating with City colleagues, the program has identified

urban projects most suited for artistic enhancement. The next step is a Board vote to determine which projects will proceed, allowing the Public Art Program to plan and issue calls for artists.

Mr. Olmedo-González reviewed the Public Art Program CIP/Percent-for-Art budget, which totals \$200,000 this fiscal year following an increase by the Salt Lake City Council. Of this, \$40,000 is allocated for maintenance and \$160,00 will fund one but no more than two public art projects. Mr. Olmedo-González gave an overview of locations where public art projects have been commissioned in the past five years. He noted a lack of commissions and new projects for the East Bench (District 6) and Sugar House neighborhoods (District 7). He also emphasized that District 7 will be a key focus for public art efforts during the fiscal year to address the underrepresentation of public art in the area (District 6 received a commission through the GO Bond earlier this year). He also showcased a variety of budgets and locations from past projects, illustrating the program's breadth since 2019. The presentation also covered the criteria and guiding principles for site selection when it comes to public art. Mr. Olmedo-González emphasized the importance of fostering cultural equity, social impact, and placemaking through the integration of art in public spaces. Public art is not just about aesthetics but also about creating a sense of identity and community, elevating the arts sector, and serving as a catalyst for economic development. He asked the Board to keep in mind these factors to guide their decision on where art installations will take place in the coming years, ensuring that the art reflects the values and needs of each neighborhood.

Two projects were highlighted during the meeting as candidates for public art integration: the Fairmont Park Basketball Court Project, managed by the City's Public Lands Department, and the McClelland Shared Street Project, managed by the City's Transportation Division. Both projects are in the heart of the Sugar House neighborhood, within District 7, and will be presented to the Board for consideration.

Ms. Kira Johnson, Public Lands Planner and Fairmont Park Project Manager, presented on two potential artwork sites within Fairmont Park: on the north side of the park and at the basketball court. She provided a brief history of the park, which was originally established as Brigham Young's forest farm, ultimately becoming a public park in 1930. Fairmont Park is well-known for its numerous amenities, including a fishing pond, playgrounds, pickleball courts, a dog park, a skate park, soccer fields, an aquatic center, and a stream. She also outlined the funding for the park's improvements, including \$6.5 million from the Parks, Trails, and Open Space General Obligation (GO) Bond and \$75,000 from the FY 24-25 Capital Improvement Project funding, which will be used to convert a half basketball court into a full court.

Ms. Johnson explained the goals for the Fairmont Park project, including conducting robust community engagement to gather feedback and improve park activities based on local input. The project aims to align with the "Reimagine Nature" Public Lands Master Plan and to enhance the park's appeal both for the local neighborhood and as a regional destination. She highlighted the importance of fostering relationships with organizations to support the project. The timeline for the project includes a concept plan by the end of 2025, design development by 2026, and construction potentially beginning in 2027. The improvements will be focused on the north side of the park.

During the meeting, the Board inquired about existing public artworks within the park. Mr. Olmedo-González responded that the Public Art Program has three pieces in its collection: Stephen Glassman's *Sk8180* sculpture in the skate park, Silvia Davis's *Dream Dog* sculpture near the pond, and Darl Thomas' *The Diver* on the north facing façade of the Fairmont Park Aquatic Center. Ms. Johnson was asked about park visitation and while she didn't have exact numbers, she noted that the park is heavily used daily. Additionally, she mentioned that the park has not received significant funding since 2006, highlighting the importance of the current improvement efforts.

Mr. Jeff Gulden, Transportation Section Manager, and Ms. Susan Lundmark, Transportation Planner and McClelland Shared Street Project Manager, presented on the McClelland Shared Street Project in Sugarhouse. The project created a pedestrian-friendly space in the Sugar House Business District, spanning 2100 South to Sugarmont Avenue (north entrance to Fairmont Park). It prioritizes safety, comfort, and accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists while connecting the McClelland Trail to the S-Line. Although the roadway elements were completed in 2023, public art was planned but not implemented, leaving an opportunity for future integration. Ms. Lundmark highlighted potential locations for public artworks, such as pavement mural areas, which could add visual interest and improve traffic calming. These public art elements (standalone sculptures, placemaking features, and pavement murals) were considered in the original vision for this project but were never constructed.

Ms. Lundmark also discussed the project's community engagement efforts and the remaining budget, noting that \$90,000 in Transportation funds are available for a public art installation. These funds, originally designated under the CIP program, offer flexibility in their use. She emphasized the importance of involving the Sugarhouse Chamber of Commerce and the Sugarhouse Community Council in the public art process to ensure the artwork reflects community needs and interests. The Board inquired about funding limitations, and Mr. Gulden confirmed the availability and intent of the funds for public art integration.

The board discussed the two projects. Ms. Tiffini Porter suggested they be combined into one public art project and unify the street and park design more cohesively. She asked for clarification regarding how CIP funds could be divided between multiple projects. Mr. Olmedo-González pointed out differences in the projects and their timelines but expressed confidence in the feasibility of this proposal. The Board requested more information about the \$90,000 from Transportation and decided to postpone the site selection decision until the January meeting to allow time for further clarity on the funding. Ms. Johnson, Ms. Lundmark, and other Board members expressed interest in merging the two projects into a single public art commission.

Public Comment

No public comment was received.

Other Business / Adjourn

Mr. Olmedo-González provided updates on the Public Art Program, noting that the Board's January meeting has been moved to Wednesday, January 8th. From January to May, the Art Design Board meetings will tentatively start at 5:30 pm instead of 5:00 pm, pending confirmation. The Donner Trail Project has been paused in response to community feedback. The Public Art Program is collaborating with Public Lands to develop community engagement strategies. Ms. Felicia Baca added that the Salt Lake Arts Council has educational materials available for East Bench residents and encouraged Board members to share them with any contacts in the area.

Ms. Baca provided updates from the Salt Lake City Arts Council, informing the Board that the annual Public Art Maintenance Transmittal, which outlines completed and upcoming maintenance projects, has been sent to the City Council as required by Ordinance. This transmittal is needed to allocate funding for maintenance, which is tentatively set for approval on January 7th. The Board will receive a copy of the transmittal. Mr. Olmedo-González acknowledged Ms. Amy Childress for her work on public art maintenance projects.

Ms. Porter made a motion to close the meeting