

**Scottsdale Cultural Council's Scottsdale Public Art Board (SPA Board) Monthly Meeting
Annex Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Mercado Verde Building, Suite 18
7373 E. Second Street Scottsdale, AZ 85251
Directions/Information: Public Art Program Assistant Rasheda Smith, 480-874-4645**

May 12, 2010

AGENDA

12:00

1. CALL TO ORDER

12:00 – 12:10

2. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

12:10 – 12:15

3. BOARD MINUTES

ACTION ITEM

Consider Motion to Approve April Minutes

12:15 – 12:45

4. PUBLIC ART PROJECTS

ACTION ITEMS

4a. Scottsdale Public Art Budget and Annual Program and Project Plan: Consider Motion to Approve Preliminary SPA Budget and Annual Program and Project Plan

4b. Downtown Cultural Event: Consider Motion to Approve Contract Authority for \$50,000 Art in Public Places Funds (AIPP) for Beautiful Light Implementation Phase 1: Site-Specific Engineering

12:45 – 12:55

5. MUNICIPAL ART COLLECTION ACTION ITEM

ACTION ITEM

Consider Motion to Accept *Untitled*, by Cheng Li, dated 2010, dimensions 27.5 x 53 inches, Painting on Paper into the Scottsdale Municipal/Portable Works Collection

12:55 – 1:25

6. REPORTS & DISCUSSION

6a. Emerging Artists Update: *Community Love*

6b. *OVERFLOW!* at Scottsdale Arts Festival Project Update

6c. 5th Annual Cycle the Arts Update

6d. Belle Art Update: Cycle 1 and Cycle 2

7. NEXT SPA BOARD MEETING: June 9, 2010

1:25

7. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

3. BOARD MINUTES

ACTION ITEM

Consider Motion to Approve April Minutes

4. PUBLIC ART PROJECTS

ACTION ITEMS:

4a. Scottsdale Public Art Budget and Annual Program and Project Plan: Consider Motion to Approve Preliminary SPA Budget and Annual Program and Project Plan
Staff will present a budget update and overview of the annual plan and budget. **The Board will be asked to approve the preliminary budget and plan at Wednesday's meeting and to approve the final budget and plan at the SPA June meeting.**

4b. Downtown Cultural Event: Consider Motion to Approve Contract Authority for \$50,000 Art in Public Places Funds (AIPP) for the *Beautiful Light* Implementation Phase 1: Site-Specific Engineering

Associate Director Margaret Bruning will present this item. The Downtown Cultural Event *Beautiful Light* is a free community public art event tentatively scheduled for March 18-20, 2011. It is designed to attract locals as well as visitors to Scottsdale. SPA has worked with CVB to develop this event, which was made possible by an innovative co-commission partnership with City of Toronto.

This is a long lead production artwork, requiring site-specific installation design and acquisition of display related equipment. Implementation Phase 1 contract authority will enable the artist to work with project engineers and purchase long-lead time required supplies and equipment.

Beautiful Light will take place along the Scottsdale Waterfront with the keystone artwork being Mr. Therrien's *4 Letter Word Machine* and including switch operator/performers, and various audience interactive elements. The free community event will also feature artworks by other artists along the canal and highlight the new Soleri Bridge and Plaza.

The Board will be asked to consider a motion to approve contract authority for \$50,000 Art in Public Places Funds (AIPP) for *Beautiful Light* Implementation Phase 1: Site-Specific Engineering.

Project history

Oct 2008- Jan 2009: Public art community events *Night Lights on the Canal* and the prototype performance of **Beautiful Light**, garnered unprecedented media exposure, attendance, and critical success for the new Waterfront destination venue.

Feb 2009: Preliminary event concept development contract authority approved by SPA Board for artist D.A. Therrien to bring *Beautiful Light* to another SPA community arts event at Scottsdale Waterfront.

June 2009: Co-commission funds approved by SPA Board for funding partnership with City of Toronto Special Events/Scotiabank *Nuit Blanche* to produce weather resistant expanded version of the *Beautiful Light* prototype, first presented in Scottsdale Jan 2009.

October 2009: *Beautiful Light* gains international audience as keynote artwork recruited by Toronto *Nuit Blanche*, the largest contemporary art event of its kind in North America.

December 2009: SPA staff delays the community event date from Fall 2010 to the next fiscal year to allow for funding expansion across fiscal years and fundraising.

January 2010-present: Staff and CVB do further event development to include additional artworks, volunteer and educational opportunities, and fundraising.

March 18-20, 2011: Date selected to include and showcase the newly completed Soleri Bridge and Plaza (to be completed Fall 2010).

5. MUNICIPAL ART COLLECTION

ACTION ITEM

Consider a Motion to Accept *Untitled*, by Cheng Li, dated 2010, dimensions 27.5 x 53 inches, Painting on Paper into the Scottsdale Municipal/Portable Works Collection

Collections and Exhibitions Manager Wendy Raisanen will present this item to consider a motion to accept a painting on paper into the Scottsdale Municipal/Portable Works Collection: *Untitled*, by Cheng Li, dated 2010, dimensions 27.5 x 53 inches.

After the April 27 "Talk Cinema" screening of *Mao's Last Dancer* in the Scottsdale Center for Performing Arts, the artist Cheng Li painted this work in the atrium and presented to staff.

Mr. Li is from Shanghai, China, and has exhibited extensively in Shanghai and other cities. Horse related imagery is the current focus of his work. In China, the horse represents power, energy, and success. Li's horse paintings are represented in many Chinese corporate collections. **The Board will be asked to consider a motion to accept one painting on paper into the Scottsdale Municipal/Portable Works Collection: *Untitled*, by Cheng Li, dated 2010, dimensions 27.5 x 53 inches.**

6. REPORTS & DISCUSSION

6a. Emerging Artists Update: *Community Love*

Associate Director Margaret Bruning will give an update on *Community Love*, a community happening executed by artist Jesse Fairchild and a crew of volunteers during rush hour on March 24, 2009 along Scottsdale Road.

6b. *OVERFLOW!* at Scottsdale Arts Festival Project Update

Project Coordinator Kirstin Van Cleef will update the board on this temporary installation which was on view during the Scottsdale Arts Festival (March 12-14, 2010).

Austin-based artist Virginia Fleck's proposal for *OVERFLOW!* was selected during a limited invitational for festival projects. Fleck participated in a site visit shortly after her selection. During this visit, the artist and Ms. Van Cleef met with SCC staff as well City of Scottsdale staff including Parks and Recreation Director Jan Cameron to discuss the possibilities and constraints regarding installation of one piece of the artwork in the "lagoon" fountain in front of City Hall. Parks and Recreation staff generously assisted in the fountain installation and deinstallation as well as providing access for over a week to the second floor of the

Pepperwood building for the artist and crew to safely fabricate and store the artwork and supplies.

SPA conducted a bag drive and a call for volunteers/paid crew via Facebook and email in the weeks leading up to *OVERFLOW!* In addition to building early recognition of the artwork, thousands of plastic bags were contributed by community members and combined with bags from the artist's large personal collection to create this artwork. All materials used in *OVERFLOW!* were recycled or sent back to the artist's studio to be reused in new artworks.

Over 20 crew members and volunteers spent a week inflating thousands of colorful repurposed plastic bags with the artist, who has been working with plastic bags since 2002. With factory rejects and donations, they created a low tech, eye-popping artwork that was both humorous and disconcerting—a gleeful explosion of consumerist excess in which Fleck examines social and environmental issues. Ms. Van Cleef and the artist posted progress images to Facebook throughout the fabrication and installation process and various local media sources ran stories about the project prior to the festival weekend.

Festival attendees saw *OVERFLOW!* as an intriguing call to action to use less plastic and reuse the plastic we do have. The completed installation included three components throughout the festival grounds—the floating lily pad bag assemblage in front of City Hall, a monumental bag curtain frothing from the roof down the side of the SCPA building exterior, and two palm trees behind City Hall decked out in a playful striped pattern made of bags encircling their trunks.

Although the actual installation of *OVERFLOW!* was on view for one weekend only, the project was visible for weeks leading up to the festival and continues to have a web presence through images and a video that is nearing completion.

6c. 5th Annual Cycle the Arts Update

Senior Project Manager Jana Weldon will give an update on the 5th Annual Cycle the Arts event that happened on April 11, 2010, carried out in partnership with City of Scottsdale's Department of Transportation in conjunction with Valley Metro's Bike Month. This year's tour de Scottsdale highlighted new pieces in the public art collection and the Indian Bend Wash greenbelt.

6d. Belle Art Update: Cycle 1 and Cycle 2

Senior Project Manager Jana Weldon will provide the board with an overview of the first cycle of installations for the Bell Tower, an update on the May 6, 2010 reception for the current installation, *Photo-luminescent Sound Garden*, and a review of the new call for the second cycle.

Photo-luminescent Sound Garden, the current artwork in the Scottsdale Mall Bell Tower, by ASU Professors Todd Ingalls and Mary Neubauer, is the last of the first cycle of temporary installations. The artists created a suspended garden responsive to human motion – intertwining music, light and form. Six translucent layered forms with a photo-luminescent surface absorb sunlight and emit a glow at night, echoing night-blooming desert flowers. Pedestrians activate additional illuminations and soft bell-like tones, moving the space from contemplative to active. Each sculpture has over fifty layers of laser cut photo-luminescent material and edge-glow plastic mounted on light tubes. The tubes diffuse LED strip lighting that responds in a lively random sequence to passing pedestrians, which then ramps down to a low

illumination mode if no motion is detected after twenty minutes. Simultaneous to responsive lighting, motion also notifies an audio sequence – sounding like electronically altered bells in the distance.

Bell'e Art provides an opportunity for artists, especially local and emerging artists, to alter and enhance the bell tower, a key entry point to the Scottsdale Civic Center Mall, and to create unexpected experiences, a reason to linger and to return. The overview of Cycle 1 and a review of the current call of the project will serve as a discussion opener on the success of the project.