

**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**

**November 11, 2009**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Gail Bradley, Sam Campana, Andrea Forman, Dick Hayslip, Bill Heckman, Audrey Horne, Maria Marshall, Carol Nunzio, Joe Willie Smith, Ruben Valenzuela

**Members Absent:** Janie Ellis, Jerry Foster, Anne Gale, Chris Irish, Darren Petrucci, Aleta Ringlero, Scott Robertson, Bret Sassenberg, Susan Kay Schultz, Beryl Sherman, Nora Trulsson, Joe Willie Smith

**Staff Present:** Anna Bierne, Annie Gatz, Maggie Hess, Valerie Vadala Homer, Donna Isaac, Wendy Raisanen, Rasheda Smith, Kirstin Van Cleef, Jana Weldon

**Staff Absent:** Margaret Bruning

**Guests:** Kathy Carlisle O'Connor (Economic Vitality), Jim Green (Scottsdale Cultural Council)

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 4:05pm.

**2. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR**

Board Chair Audrey Horne and staff presented upcoming events and announcements.

**3. SCOTTSDALE PUBLIC ART BOARD MINUTES ACTION ITEM**

The August and September Minutes will be tabled until December's Board meeting.

**4. SCOTTSDALE PUBLIC ART (SPA) BOARD:  
MEMBER NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS  
ACTION ITEM**

**Consider Motion to Appoint/Reappoint SPA Board Members & Officers**

**SPA Board Designated Trustees for the Scottsdale Cultural Council Board of Trustees:  
Dick Hayslip & Audrey Horne**

SPA Board member Dick Hayslip was reappointed to a one year term commiserate with his term as designated trustee for the Scottsdale Cultural Council Board. Mr. Hayslip's term as designated trustee will end on July 1, 2010. SPA's other designated trustee is SPA Board Chair Audrey Horne who will continue to serve on the Cultural Council Board through her term as SPA Board Chair which ends in September 2010. The SPA Board nomination committee will be meeting to interview and recommend possible members to the board. Board members Janie Ellis and Anne Gale term limits have been reached and must leave the board for at least one year.

The SPA nominating committee recommended that Mr. Robertson be appointed for a 3 year term thru September 2012. The SPA nominating committee recommended that, after serving one partial term and one full term, Maria Marshall will be appointed to a second 3 year term to end September 2012.

**The SPA Nomination Committee Co-Chaired by Sam Campana and Nora Trulsson with members Dick Hayslip presented the following slate of new officers and member reappointments which were approved by SPA:**

- **Reappointments of Board Member of Maria Marshall**
- **Reappointment of Board Member Scott Robertson**

The SPA nominating committee recommends that former SPA board member Scott Robertson will be appointed for a 3 year term thru September 2012. Mr. Robertson will be returning to the SPA board after a one year leave of absence. Board member Dick Hayslip will continue to serve as a Board of Trustees member.

**Members to be appointed/reappointed for three year term from September 2009 – September 2012:**

Maria Marshall  
Scott Robertson

**SPA officers for 2009 – 2010:**

SPA Board Chair: Audrey Horne  
SPA Board Co-Chair: Bill Heckman  
SPA Board Secretary: Nora Trulsson

**Andrea Foreman moved to appoint/reappoint Maria Marshall and Scott Robertson.**

**Gail Bradley seconded the motion.**

**Dick Hayslip moved to appoint/reappoint SPA Board Officers.**

**Ruben Valenzuela seconded the motion**

**Motion carried 10-0 with no abstentions.**

## **5. BUDGET UPDATE AND PROCESS OVERVIEW**

### **ACTION ITEM**

#### **Consider Motion to Approve Revised Public Art Annual Project & Program Plan**

Last Spring in conjunction with the budget review and approval process, the SPA Board and Scottsdale Cultural Council Board of Trustees approved the preliminary Public Art Annual Project & Program Plan for Fiscal Year 2009 – 2010. Staff presented a preliminary plan for review and discussion. Kathy Carlisle O'Connor commented on staff and structural changes in the city and the beginning of the new budget process. Jim Green, CFO of the Scottsdale Cultural Council stated that the Finance Committee meeting is scheduled to meet on Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss the SCC budget.

Revisions to the annual project and program plan reflect changes in project schedules, budgets for projects, programs, and events that have been more fully developed since the spring. Director Valerie Vadala Homer gave an overview of the revised plan and asked board members to review it prior to next month's SPA board meeting when the plan will be presented for approval. Staff wanted to give the board more time to study the plan prior to approval. A formal overview of the plan will be given at December's Board meeting. Ms. Vadala Homer will also provide a comparison to last fiscal year.

**The motion to approve the revised Public Art Annual Project & Program Plan was tabled until December's Board meeting.**

## **PUBLIC ART PROJECTS**

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **6a. Advance Water Campus: Consider Motion for Final Approval of Project Funding and Direct Selection of Artist Buster Simpson**

Project Manager Donna Isaac led a discussion related to the City's Water Campus that incorporates state-of-the-art membrane technology to treat effluent for recharge into the aquifer. The project offers opportunities to create a visually compelling artwork, while educating the community about new technology and water resources.

The project's public art funding was provisionally approved at the August 12, 2009 SPA Board meeting pending questions regarding visitorship and accessibility of the site. Ms. Isaac stated the board concerns have been communicated to and will be addressed by the artist. For best accessibility to future art, Water Resources and public art staff have identified a publically accessible site in the landscaped area along the front of the Water Campus administration building (located on the south side of Hualapai Drive from Grayhawk community).

The Water Campus is located at Hualapai Drive, one block north of Union Hills Road and one block west of Pima Road). There is still investigation into the future extension of Hualapai Road to Hayden and the amount of ROW around the north and east perimeters of the water campus. The intent is for the proposed artwork to be publicly accessible to visitors and community users of the area's recreational path. The new artwork will join SPA's artwork *Water to Water* (1999) by Paul Edwards & Christine Tanz located at the entrance to the administration building.

Artist Buster Simpson is being considered for a direct commission due his extensive experience and artworks related to conservation and environmental concerns. Simpson was invited to visit the site and meet with Water Resources staff and SPA Board members during a two day visit over August 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009. During those discussions, Simpson was made aware of the Board's concerns and the particular challenges of the site. Simpson has an international reputation for his extensive expertise in environmental and water projects especially throughout the West.

There will be an initial design contract for Simpson to develop 2 to 3 schematic designs. He will work with the focus group to decide on an appropriate design to be developed into a full proposal with model and/or computer generated graphics and related comprehensive budget. The focus group will make a recommendation to the SPA Board for their consideration and approval.

Ms. Isaac anticipates that Simpson will conduct two to three site visits which will include meetings with the focus group. Board member Gail Bradley requested that SPA view the schematic design and budget prior to approval. Ms. Isaac stated that the schematic will be presented to allow for input prior to any Board approval. If the artist's design is not acceptable to the focus group and has not addressed the project concerns, the contract can be terminated. Mr. Simpson has expressed a keen interest since his visit and has been working to develop several initial design ideas.

On November 3, 2009, the project focus group met for the first time to discuss issues. The focus group is comprised of Board members Andrea Foreman and Ruben Valenzuela, members of the water campus staff, water resources, and Scottsdale city staff, community members, and Bruce Ferguson, director of F.A.R. @ ASU (Future Arts Research). Mr. Ferguson is also heading the Desert Initiative intended to support artists working in desert climates across the world.

Ms. Isaac's presentation highlighted the importance of public art in enhancing projects and facilities; reinforcing the facility's mission to the public; and bringing public awareness to the Water Campus' essential purpose and function.

She reminded the board that it is also important to recognize how public art acts as a driver to local economy in the following ways:

- Through funds that come back to local economy
- Draws visitors – local and tourists visit cities for arts and culture

- Throughout Scottsdale, public art encourages people to explore, see new areas of Scottsdale, and seek out what is interesting and new
- Environmental and water issues are some of most important facing Arizona over the next decades
- Visitors to Advance Water Campus on a regular basis are local, national, and international as the campus provides a view of cutting edge technology

The CIP funding of \$450,000 will cover all project costs including costs of design, fabrication, and installation. Vice-chair Bill Heckman queried as to the amount of initial funding for the design proposal contract for the artist. Ms. Isaac stated this initial design contract would be \$20,000 and would include three visits, developing schematic designs, and presentation of a completed proposal. The artist will lead a team to provide site support during all design and construction document phases of the project. Mr. Heckman commented the excellent credentials and past work of the arts but expressed concerns about the Water Campus site and the overall maintenance of the facility.

**Dick Hayslip moved to approve a project budget not to exceed \$450,000 to be funded with Capital Improvement Funds (CIP) and direct selection of artist Buster Simpson for the project.**

**Ruben Valenzuela seconded the motion**

**Motion carried 9-0 with 1 abstention**

#### **6b. Appaloosa Library, *Golden Alchemy*: Consider Motion to Approval Artist Fulfillment of Contractual Obligations**

Project Manager Donna Isaac provided an overview of the completion of *Golden Alchemy*, the sculpture in glass created by Anna Skibska and located in the new Appaloosa Library:

- The project was funded from the CIP budget for the new library with additional funding through AIPP funds
- Project approval was given in June 2008
- Artist Anna Skibska was selected through a limited invitational competition and interview in August, 2008
- Construction of the Library began in August 2008
- The Library, dedication on November 4, 2009 was with the City grand opening, artist on hand for dedication, two public art talks given

A slide presentation was presented showing images of preparation and installation of the artwork. Ms. Isaac also reviewed the funding sources for the project:

- CIP funds, \$100,000
- AIPP , \$ 50,000 (initial)
- AIPP, \$ 24,000 (additional amount)
- **Total cost, \$174,000**

For the project, Skibska created an assembly of 93 delicate amber-colored spheres floating above the reading area of the Library. Ms. Isaac explained the additional funding was for 20 additional spheres for a total of 80 to be able to carry the space. Ms. Skibska actually installed 93 total individual spheres to complete the installation. Ms. Isaac commented on the attendance for the VIP tours and thanked members of the Board for their support during the artist's visit.

The artist has completed her contractual obligations, which culminated in the submittal of a project summary form including maintenance recommendations. Board member Dick Hayslip  
SPA Board Minutes November 11, 2009

suggested some recognition of the artist and a way to express the Board's appreciation. Discussion ensued around giving Soleri bells with the SPA logo to be given as an appropriate way to thank artists.

**Bill Heckman moved to approve fulfillment of contractual obligations for *Golden Alchemy* by artist Anna Skibska.**

**Audrey Horne seconded the motion**

**Motion carried 10-0 with no abstentions.**

## **REPORTS & DISCUSSION**

### **7a. Indian Bend Improvements: Update**

Project Manager Jana Weldon gave an update on completed components, design changes, and the schedule for completion of the public art at Indian Bend Wash. Background of the project was given:

- October 12, 2004 Project Approval
- February 14, 2006 SPA Board approval of Laura Haddad and Tom Drugan from National Call
- October 11, 2006 SPA Board Approval of Preliminary Concept
- May 6, 2006; October 7, 2006; May 31, 2007; June 7, 2007; September 12, 2007 Public Meetings Concerning Design

Artists Haddad and Drugan's landscape architecture background, environmental responsiveness, versatility, and eloquence with a touch of whimsy best suited the project requirements. The artist team has designed site-specific public art features that enhance the character of Indian Bend Wash. The design is integral to the structural work of the flood control wash basin features. The concepts blend natural phenomena and cultural narrative through interrelated focal points in a drop structure on the north side of the bridge and the wash basin elements on the south.

Public art on the south side of the bridge is near completion with no changes since final design. Stadia Walls sculpturally mark the changing of the water heights and create a formal counterpoint between the bridge structure and naturalistic Flow Berms.

Public art on the north side of the bridge has undergone structural design changes. The concept and the aesthetics remain the same:

- A series of five horse gargoyles will be integrated into the drop structure on plinths extending toward the roadway
- Each sculpture will reside on a charcoal grey mineral paint on sand –blasted concrete plinths
- The faces of each plinth will have a series of 1" deep chamfered horizontal score lines set apart at 2-foot intervals
- The horse gargoyles will each have a different pose creating a simulation of running as one passes

During low floods water will flow through the mouth of adjacent gargoyles, with only medium floods engaging all five gargoyles, and during high floods storm water will flow both through and around the gargoyles. At night, the horse gargoyles will be elegantly up lit with blue lights on the east side and yellow lights on the west side.

Design changes to the barrier on the bridge by the City were not communicated to the design team prior to their implementation; the design change resulted in changes to the plinth design and to the mechanics of the water flow. The new design raises the height of the horses four feet so that the horses can be more easily viewed from the westbound lanes on Indian Bend Road. The redesign, which had to go through flood control and city approvals, has delayed the installation of the art features on the north side until January or February 2010. The City supported the needed changes and funded the additional design and construction consultant costs. Extraordinary cooperation in addressing the needed changes and close coordination has kept the project on schedule as close as possible.

Board member Sam Campana suggested making the installation an event to coincide with other “horse” events, such as Prada De Sol and the Hashknife ride. She also suggested closing the street to create a celebratory atmosphere when the project finishes—as was done prior to opening the Pima Freeway. Staff responded positively and will try to coordinate such a convergence as city project and event schedules allow.

#### **7b. Schedule for SPA Board Retreat**

Director Valerie Vadala Homer mentioned the SCC will be holding an All Board Retreat, scheduled for Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. Further information will be provided to board members prior to the retreat. Staff would like to schedule a SPA Board retreat for late winter/early spring, Ms. Vadala Homer asked board members to think of topics/agenda items that should be discussed for the SPA board. The Board of Trustees topic for the All Board retreat is development and how all boards can work together. SCC CFO Jim Green mentioned that a Task Force team has been formed to create an agenda for the retreat.

#### **7c. Recent Project Achievements**

Staff presented a PowerPoint chronicling recent project achievements. The summer & fall have been incredibly active and productive time for public art with CIP projects completing, temporary installations, and international touring projects. Projects included:

- September 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> lecture and opening for Dennis Oppenheim
- D.A. Therrien’s *Beautiful Light* at Toronto’s Nuit Blanche on October 3<sup>rd</sup>
- October 24<sup>th</sup> SCPA Gala and Dedication of *Spirit of Camelback*
- October installation on R. Luke Dubois’ *Hindsight is Always 20/20*
- November 4<sup>th</sup> Grand Opening/Dedication of Appaloosa Library and Anna Skibska’s *Golden Alchemy*
- Dedication of bronze sculpture *The Chaplain* by artist Austen Deuel on November 11<sup>th</sup>
- Scottsdale Public Art at Green Street, which included:
  - The Scottsdale Crochet Coral Reef at ARTscene
  - Soleri Bridge information table
  - *Community Love* by artist Jesse Fairchild
  - *Live Action Mural* by artist Ryan Griffin

#### **8. NEXT BOARD MEETING: December 16, 2009**

#### **9. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

Board Chair Audrey Horne adjourned the meeting at 5:45pm

Respectfully submitted, Rasheda Smith