

## Public Art Advisory Committee Meeting

June 24, 2025

12:00 p.m.

Council Chambers, 305 SW A Street

Contact [skerr@bentonvillear.com](mailto:skerr@bentonvillear.com) to request participation via Zoom.



## MINUTES

Member	Attendance	Ex Officio	Attendance
1 Elizabeth Miller	Virtual	Beckie Seba, City Council	In person
2 Allan Paulose	Virtual	Kalene Griffith, Visit Bentonville	Absent
3 Chad Nicholson, Chairperson	In person	Alison Nation, Visit Bentonville	Absent
4 Kate Schaffer	Absent	Cynthia Post Hunt, Crystal Bridges/The Momentary	Absent
5 Anne Jackson, Vice Chairperson	In person	Melisa Durkee, OZ Art	In person
6 Clint Schaff	Virtual		
7 Tom Hoehn	In person	<b>Staff</b>	
		Shelli Kerr, Comprehensive Planning Manager	In person
		Josh Stacey, Deputy Director of Parks	In person

Guests: Bonnie Bridges, Michael McCranie

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** Chairperson Nicholson called the meeting to order at 12:03 pm.

### ADMINISTRATIVE

- 2. Approval of Minutes – May 27, 2025**

*Tom made a motion to approve the minutes for May 27, 2025. Clint seconded. All in favor, motion passed 6-0.*

### PROPOSALS – None Received

### OLD BUSINESS

- 3. Water Tower Rd Roundabout.** Shelli recommended that due to budget constraints, the roundabout project should be put on hold until city council makes decisions on capital projects. Once we know the direction of council, the committee would like to invite in NWACC to discuss roundabout artwork in its vicinity.
- 4. The PAAC Race.** Allan discussed the PAC race, noting that there was alignment on most elements but a slight conflict with DBA's focus on downtown public art. The group discussed challenges with organizing a public art scavenger hunt event and decided to pause execution of the project unless an external partner like DBI can be found, as the group is not in the business of running races.  
  
Anne mentioned potential collaboration between arts councils in northwest Arkansas cities and the need for joint learning sessions.
- 5. Bus Shelter Grant /Storm Wood Repurpose.** Shelli provided an update on a bus shelter grant, explaining that it was not suitable for their original design concept. The group discussed the repurposing of the stormwood and the need to find a new use for it. Josh will provided photos of what is available.
- 6. Program Recommendations:**
  - Curatorial theme:* Allan asked about the need for a curatorial theme. The group acknowledged past struggles in defining a clear curatorial theme and decided to maintaining their current focus on community and inclusion.
  - Complaint policy.* They also reviewed a draft complaint policy for public art, which is still a work in progress. Allan suggested including information about the complaint process in the formal unveiling of new public art. The group agreed to review the draft policy and consider how to present the complaint process to the public. The group discussed a notification plan for artwork

complaints, with concerns raised about the 3-month timeframe for complaints and the need to consider safety and accessibility issues that could arise long after installation. They agreed to research best practices from other communities, with Elizabeth noting she would investigate benchmarking data. Add a clause to indicate when a determination has been made by council, that it is applicable for a certain amount of time so the same complaints do not continue to require a new review process.

- *Local artists:* The group discussed the balance between supporting local artists and considering national or more experienced artists for city-funded projects. They acknowledged that while local artist engagement is important, sometimes the pool of local talent may not meet project needs, leading to a mix of local and national artists being used. Elizabeth suggested developing local artists by providing them with the necessary tools and skills to compete for larger projects, as they may lack experience in submitting high-quality proposals. The group also noted that while they aim to support local artists, they cannot always control who is selected for projects funded by other organizations or private entities. The group discussed improving their RFP process by holding informational sessions to share past successful and unsuccessful RFP examples. They agreed to be cautious about setting too many specific guidelines for artwork, as each project's needs can vary.

**NEW BUSINESS** – No new business

## **PROJECT UPDATES**

7. **Proposals.** Shelli reported that Legal is finalizing the agreements for both *Thaden School Urban Studies Library Mural* and *Trout Crosswalk Mural*. The goal is to have these to City Council in July.

### **8. Installations**

- *J and John DeShields Roundabout.* Tom reported that the Crystal Bridges art committee approved the roundabout project featuring Natasha Bowden's design, which is scheduled for installation in 2026, though site prep can begin this year.
- *Fish of Bentonville.* Shelli noted that the Fish of Bentonville project is expected to be installed by late July or early August, after the artist returns from a 3-4 week absence.

### **9. Maintenance**

- *Monarch and Dandelion.* The agreement to repair Monarch and Dandelion is awaiting the mayor's signature, with repairs planned for early fall.
- *PAC Man.* The committee debated between different repair options, with costs ranging from \$6,760 for cleaning to \$8,447 for a new backpack, and considered getting additional quotes from regional conservators. The group also discussed a broader approach to artwork maintenance by issuing an RFQ to identify contractors who could clean multiple pieces at a group rate.
- *Upper Cut.* Staff have reached out to the artist for cost estimates to make repairs to *Upper Cut*.
- *Little Library Repair.* Public Works is able to take care of this maintenance at a cost of approximately \$50.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

- Tom mentioned the new art piece, *Melancholy*, at the Alice Walton School of Medicine.
- Elizabeth mentioned the installation of 13 sculptures across campus as part of Walmart Associates Week.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

*Anne made a motion to adjourn. Tom seconded. All in favor, motion passed 5-0 (Clint had left before the vote). Meeting adjourned at 1:09 pm.*