

CITY OF KENNEWICK
ARTS COMMISSION

February 12, 2025

1. CALL TO ORDER

Time: 6:01 PM

2. ROLL CALL

Present:

Commissioner Chair McKenzie Kennedy
Commissioner Vice Chair Richard Reuther
Commissioner Jason Watson
Commissioner Jessie Southard
Commissioner Austin Wingle
Commissioner Warren Hughs

Absent:

Commissioner Bethany Lee

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Warren Hughs moved to approve the agenda as presented;
Commissioner Jessie Southard seconded. All in favor.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Jason Watson moved to approve the minutes as presented;
Commissioner Warren Hughs seconded. All in favor.

a. Past Meeting Minutes

5. VISITORS

a. Alora Stegall, South Columbia Creative District (SoCo) & Historic Downtown
Kennewick Partnership
Alora Stegall

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. South Columbia Creative District (SoCo) Update
Rohana provided a brief history of SoCo's journey to becoming a Creative Arts District, noting that the Arts Commission contributed \$1,000 toward the \$2,500 application fee. SoCo was officially designated as the 11th Creative District in the

state, with a total of 16 districts now established across Washington. Alora highlighted the SoCo festival's growth, including its success with the Quilt Show and White's Unfinished Furniture Woodworking Showcase, which attracted 6,000 locals and, being the same weekend as IronMan, brought in outside visitors. The district continues to provide valuable professional development resources for local artists, such as guidance on preparing artwork for galleries, obtaining business licenses, and securing insurance.

To further support artists, HDKP hosts Artist Alley on the first Saturdays throughout the summer, offering local artists a platform to showcase and sell their artwork. This year, they are also introducing Frog Patch, a monthly pop-up gallery experience in downtown Kennewick. Last year, SoCo and the HDKP collaborated with ArtsWA, where DS Watkins hosted The Billy Frank Jr. Statue Project. Moving forward, there is interest in strengthening the relationships between the Arts Commission, SoCo committee members, and community organizations seeking creative space. Currently, SoCo supports roughly 100 local artists and continues to foster partnerships that expand opportunities within the creative district community.

b. Benton Franklin Recovery Coalition Donor Wall RFP

The Benton Franklin Recovery Coalition has invited Arts Commission members to assist in reviewing artwork submissions for the rotunda wall inside the recovery center. Jason Watson, Warren Hughs, and Jessy Southard have accepted the opportunity. During the discussion, Warren Hughs inquired whether the project would follow prevailing wage guidelines. He is going to check on this and will provide an update on this question. Rohana will inform Eileen of their acceptance, sharing their contact details for the next steps.

c. Traffic Box Wrap Call for Artist

To ensure clarity, any potentially confusing wording was reviewed, and the following updates were made. Preference will be given to artwork not already featured on existing art boxes, and submitted pieces must not be currently displayed on a Tri-Cities art box. Artwork submissions remain open to community members of all ages, as noted in the promotional materials.

Last year, the project received 89 submissions, demonstrating strong community engagement. This year, Rohana and Jocelyn will continue sharing the call for artists with local universities, colleges, high school arts programs, downtown galleries, and HDKP. Additionally, outreach will expand to include the Arts and Filmmaking Advisory Committee, Caterpillar Cafe, and Adventure Underground.

If the agenda is approved in March, we plan to launch the call for artists, select artwork in May, and begin installations in June to avoid the cold weather we encountered last year.

d. Retreat Agenda Items

We plan to wait until the new commissioners join the Arts Commission before scheduling our retreat, ensuring that all new members can participate in these important discussions. During the retreat, we will explore the expansion to seven art

zones or scrap the art zones all together and consider establishing subcommittees to enhance our efforts. Warren clarified that he did not propose changes to the mission statement but rather a review of zone descriptions, with the addition of Arts Tourism and Economic Vitality for the Arts in Tri-Cities to the commission's focus.

Additionally, McKenzie Kennedy inquired about the Board and Commissions Banquet, and Rohana will follow up on the plans for this event.

1. Update to Art Zone Map and Commissioner Assignments
2. Mission Statement Review
3. Subcommittees

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Traffic Box Art Review

McKenzie Kennedy moved to approve the Traffic Box Wrap design "Faces" as presented, with Warren Hughs seconding the motion. All in favor.

8. BUDGET UPDATE

Rohana provided an update on the commission's budget, noting that the biennial budget was previously \$12,150 and has now been adjusted to \$10,669 after paying for traffic box wrap. A budget adjustment request has been submitted to allocate \$8,000 from the previous year's budget to cover the cost of traffic boxes that were not wrapped before the year-end deadline.

9. CONCLUSION

Meeting ajurned at 7:02 PM