
Minutes
Public Art/Art in Private Development Committee
Subcommittee of Tempe Municipal Arts Commission
February 11, 2009

Minutes of the Public Art/Art in Private Development (AIPD) Committee meeting that took place at 5 p.m. on February 11, 2009, in the Tempe Center for the Arts (TCA) 201 Lounge, 700 W. Rio Salado Parkway, Tempe, AZ.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Betsy Fahlman – Chair
Robert Bortfeld
Judy Ellison
Shirlee King

(MEMBERS) Absent:

None

City Staff Present:

Elizabeth Lagman, Public Art Coordinator
Rachael A. Peterson, Cultural Services Division Administrative Assistant

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

- Betsy Fahlman called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m.
- B. Fahlman announced that the Rio Salado South Bank Multi-Use Path opened to the public on Jan. 30; Fahlman added that the path is lined with artwork that frames desert life and urban landscape.
- Elizabeth Lagman presented an article titled, “New art lines the Salt River in Tempe,” to the committee members and further explained that the article highlights the work of sculptor Tom Strich. Lagman encouraged the committee members to view Strich’s rusted steel, geometric, window-like sculptures that frame the Camelback Mountains, the Papago Buttes, Piestewa Peak, the Salt River and Tempe Town Lake. Lagman added that the Rio Salado South Bank pathway runs along the Salt River from the TCA west to Priest Dr.

Agenda Item 2 – Tempe Public Library Renovation Design Team Artist

- Betsy Fahlman presented the committee with an update related to the Tempe Public Library Renovation Design Team Opportunity Review Panel meeting that took place at 9 a.m. on Feb. 9 in the Tempe Historical Museum Board Room. Fahlman explained that the panel viewed 59 artist submissions and aggressively worked to narrow the 59

submissions down to four. Fahlman further explained that the panel was interested in works by well-known artist teams as well as works by young artists with highly-creative minds.

- B. Fahlman reported that after three rounds of viewing, discussion and voting, the panel reviewed and discussed four artists that received the highest rankings from the panel members; again, scores were tallied and artist Erin Shie Palmer received the highest ranking from the panel. Fahlman stated that after further discussion, the panel unanimously agreed to choose artist Erin Shie Palmer for the Tempe Public Library Renovation Design Team Artist Opportunity.
- B. Fahlman reminded the committee that \$20,000 of Percent for Art Program funding was added to the Tempe Public Library Renovation Public Art Project Budget to be used to support a design team; the total budget for the Library Renovation Project, with proposed funding, is \$80,000.
- Elizabeth Lagman facilitated the presentation of digital images submitted by E. Palmer; B. Fahlman further defined and explained the images to the committee members.
- B. Fahlman reported that the Tempe Public Library Renovation Design Team Opportunity Call for Work was a national call; artist E. Palmer resides in Seattle, WA. Fahlman added that E. Palmer was drawn to the quiet environment of the library; Palmer explores non-tangible qualities of place and perception of space. Fahlman further reported that E. Palmer has previous experience integrating her work into a library setting; Palmer explained in her letter of interest that she creates richly-textured physical and psychological topographies working with architectural surfaces, space and objects in space.

MOTION: Robert Bortfeld moved to approve the Tempe Public Library Renovation Design Team Opportunity Panel's recommended selection of artist Erin Shie Palmer.

SECOND: Judy Ellison seconded.

DECISION: Recommendation of artist Erin Shie Palmer to fulfill the Tempe Public Library Renovation Design Team Opportunity public art project approved.

Agenda Item 3 - Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned by Betsy Fahlman at 5:21 p.m.

Prepared by: Rachael A. Peterson

Reviewed by: Elizabeth Lagman