



2009 VISUAL ARTS COMMISSION ACTIVITY SUMMARY

Membership

- First terms expired in September, 2009, for Kris Carmody Reaves, and in December, 2009, for Commissioners Lary Etten, Anita Kealey, and Lyle Pudwill. All have agreed to serve another three -year term upon re-appointment by the Mayor and City Council.
- Visual Arts Commissioners for 2009 included Ceca Cooper, Ann Marie Davis, Lary Etten, Jerry Hauck, Anita Kealey, Lyle Pudwill, and Kris Carmody Reaves.
- City staff liaison to the Commission is Russ Sorenson, Urban Planner.

Elections

Lyle Pudwill was elected as 2009 Chairperson in January 2009.

Ann Marie Davis was elected as 2009 Vice-Chairperson in January 2009.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Sioux Falls Visual Arts Commission is to support and encourage development of visual art for community buildings and spaces through its role as an advisory body to the Mayor, City Council, and other City government officials.

Activities and Projects

• 2009 SculptureWalk—Sioux Falls

This year's program featured 50 new sculptures located within the central downtown business district for outdoor display. On March 16, 2009, the City Council adopted Resolution #19-09, accepting the Commission recommendations.

Visual Art Placements on City Property

• Visual Art Wall – "In Varietate Concordia"

After conducting a call for art, on April 21, 2008, the City Council adopted Resolution #60-08, approving the Commission's recommendations for placement of a visual art wall along the west side of North Phillips Avenue, north of Fifth Street, along the curved roadway, just before the railroad trestle. The visual art

wall, known as *In Varietate Concordia* ("United in Diversity"), designed and constructed by South Dakota artist Matthew Kargol, was completed in early 2009.

According to the artist, "Walls are metaphorical barriers to understanding, the wall forms in *In Varietate Concordia*, work to contradict this perception. The four geometric silver forms create a wall which is open, allowing for free passage of ideas and communication. They act to anchor the cranes in the environment. The cranes represent the four races in the world and are made to look like folded paper cranes to convey the wish that all people will come together to find strength in their differences. It is the artist's hope that through this sculpture people of Sioux Falls and visitors will reflect on the potential greatness that exists when we embrace our diversity and grow together".

• **CommUnity Youth Mosaic— "Phase III"**

A dream come true is realized! On April 21, 2008, the City Council adopted Resolution #59-08, approving the Commission's recommendation for placement of Phase III of the *CommUnity Youth Mosaic* along East River Road, between Ninth Street and Fawick Park. Phase III is designed by high school students of the Sioux Falls School District. Three years after the first installation of colorful tiles on the wall along East River Road, the third and final section of the Community Youth Mosaic Wall Project was completed and celebrated on August 29, 2009.

Phase I of the project was created by Hawthorne Elementary School students and was installed and celebrated in May, 2006. Phase II was created by area middle school students and was installed and celebrated in September, 2007.

Nearly 500 running feet of art features the assembled work of hundreds of students in our city – from preschool children to high school seniors. Each student drew or painted spontaneous, beautiful images that they believe carry a profound message of peace to this community. As Sioux Falls becomes increasingly rich with people from many diverse cultures, students in our schools are learning from each other in the spirit of world peace. The CommUnity Youth Mosaic Wall illustrates the tremendous growth of children through art, as they realize the joy and challenges of living in an increasingly diverse community. Thank you students for your gift to the city!

• **Veterans Memorial Park Sculpture – "Going Home"**

This sculpture art project commissioned by Staff Sergeant Robb L. Roling's Family, was sculptured by nationally known artist, Ms. Sondra L. Jonson. The sculpture was gifted to the City by the Roling Family and is exhibited at the Sioux Falls Veterans Memorial Park. The new bronze cast sculpture measures eleven feet and depicts an angelic figure lifting a fallen soldier, thus symbolizing the victory of eternal life over the power of death. The sculpture honors and commemorates all fallen soldiers of this area – who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms.

City Resolution #166-07 was adopted November 8, 2007. Installation and public dedication, including military fly over, was held on November 7, 2009.

• **McKenna Park Sculpture – “Helen McKenna”**

As part of the recent landscape makeover for McKenna Park, a bronze sculpture bust of Helen McKenna, by artist Martin Wanserski, was purchased by the McKenna Bust Foundation and donated to the City of Sioux Falls. Sculpture installation and dedication was held August 26, 2009. You will find this sculpture prominently displayed on a quartzite pedestal in the southern portion of the park.

On December 1, 2008, the City Council adopted Resolution #185-08, approving the Commission’s recommendation for placement of this sculpture.

• **Sertoma Park Sculpture - “Summer Garden”**

On July 20, 2009, the City Council adopted Resolution #67-09, approving the Commission’s recommendation for placement of a tile mosaic butterfly sculpture (a 2008 SculptureWalk entry), known as “Summer Garden”. This colorful sculpture was designed and constructed by sculptor artist, Chon Love, Montana. The sculpture was purchased by Sertoma Butterfly House volunteers and donated to the City of Sioux Falls. The sculpture is prominently displayed on a precast base at the main entrance to the Butterfly House within Sertoma Park. Installation is complete.

• **Outdoor Campus Sculpture at Sertoma Park - “Summer Garden”**

City Council adopted Resolution #111-09 on November 16, 2009, approving the Commission’s recommendation for placement of a colored bronze sculpture known as “I’ve Been Kissed”, by artist Pokey Park, Arizona. This sculpture, depicting a frog with human hand characteristics, was selected and purchased by the South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation. Sculpture placement is at the Sertoma Park Outdoor Campus, near the existing butterfly garden.

• **Orpheum Theater Sculpture– “Circle of Friends”**

On November 16, 2009, the City Council adopted Resolution #110-09, approving the Commission’s recommendation for placement of a bronze sculpture know as “Circle of Friends”, by artist Karen Crain, Colorado. This sculpture was chosen as the 2008 SculptureWalk’s People’s Choice Award and depicts a young girl lying inside a circular ring reading. The sculpture is appropriately placed along Phillips Avenue at the east main entrance of the historic Orpheum Theater.

At this time the Visual Arts Commission continues to consider recommendations for appropriate placement locations regarding the 2007 and 2009 People’s Choice Award recipient pieces: *Jack’s Storytime*, by Gregory Johnson, and the *Summer Distractions II*, by Lee Leuning and Sherri Treeby, respectively.

Calls for Art

• Art Bike Racks

The Commission conducted a 2009 call for art to South Dakota artists to submit designs for artistic bike racks. The proposed nontraditional bike racks include a free-form design used for racks placed on private and public property, and a standard design for racks that could be affixed to abandoned parking meters on public property.

The primary goals of this project are to promote energy conservation by encouraging citizens and visitors to safely bike within our community and to provide public useable art for aesthetically functional bicycle parking.

The intent is for selected artistic bicycle rack designs to become part of an acceptable comprehensive city inventory list or "catalogue" that is acceptable to the city and designated for public and private entities to consider in addressing bicycle parking on their properties. There is no guarantee that a selected artistic bicycle rack design will be purchased or placed for bicycle parking by the City of Sioux Falls or a private citizen.

The Commission received a total of 68 submittals from 20 individual artists. The Commission established a project subcommittee and conducted a separate jury panel review process for the project. Ten artistic bicycle rack designs were selected and recommended to the City Council. On July 20, 2009, the Council approved Resolution # 70-09 approving an inventory list of artistic bicycle rack designs on public property.

City Project Design Assistance

• 8th Street Improvement Project

City Public Works Department requested assistance from the Visual Arts Commission to consider artistic design elements for the proposed 8th Street Improvement Project. The phased project involves 8th Street, between Minnesota Avenue to the Big Sioux River Bridge. The Commission established a subcommittee to work on conceptual design ideas and to present to the Commission and project manager. Copies of the Commission's conceptual project ideas were submitted and well received at the 8th Street Improvement Project Open House held on November 17, 2009. 8th Street Improvements are scheduled for construction in 2010.

• Harmondon Park Project

City Parks & Recreation Department requested assistance from the Visual Arts Commission to consider artistic design ideas for a significant art piece to be placed within Harmondon Park. This eastside park is considered our region's premiere

ballfield complex. The Commission is in the process of establishing a subcommittee and will begin working on design ideas in early 2010.

• **Communication to the Public**

2009 Channel 16 Programming

The Visual Arts Commission strongly supports and encourages development of visual art to accent our community's public buildings and spaces for everyone to enjoy. Throughout 2009, the Commission proudly served the public by announcing and highlighting artwork projects to the public, via CityLink Channel 16 Programming. Such project programming will continue in the future.

Website

The Visual Arts Commission continues to develop and improve their website. The website serves as an online resource to keep public visual art enthusiasts and interested citizens informed about the Commission membership and duties, meeting agendas and minutes, general procedure guidelines for calls for art, jury pool/panel correspondence, public art presentation forms, and specific public visual art projects.

The public is invited to view the Commission's website.

www.siouxfalls.org/Mayor/boards_commissions/visual_arts_commission

Conclusion

There are many positive changes occurring in Sioux Falls that emphasize and include public visual art and aesthetics. The Visual Arts Commission is very excited to be a part of this community's art evolution. The Commissioners are grateful for the opportunity to serve the citizens of Sioux Falls.

The Visual Arts Commission meets the third Tuesday of each month at 9 a.m. in Carnegie Town Hall. They are pleased to have visitors attend their meetings at any time.