

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 11, 2006

TO: Mayor Munson
City Council

FROM: Sioux Falls Visual Arts Commission,
Susan Hainje Hauff, 2005 Chairperson
Rod Pierce, 2005 Vice Chairperson

RE: 2005 Sioux Falls Visual Arts Commission Annual Report.

The Visual Arts Commission respectfully submits our 2005 Annual Report for your review. This report highlights the commission's milestones including activities, endeavors, and project planning during 2005.

Established by city ordinance (72-00) in August 2000, the Sioux Falls Visual Arts Commission is a group of seven city residents who serve in an advisory capacity, providing guidance and recommendations to the Mayor and City Council on matters related to visual art within the city.

The Visual Arts Commission members are appointed by the Mayor. The appointments are subject to the review and approval of the City Council. The appointments are for a three year term, and Commission members are limited to two consecutive terms. The Commission meets monthly. The meetings are held in the Carnegie Town Hall, 235 West Tenth Street, at 9:00 a.m. on the third Tuesday of each month.

The following persons served on the Visual Arts Commission in 2005:

Susan Hainje Hauff	Chairperson
Rod Pierce	Vice Chairperson
Jim Clark	
Jamie Dehaven Rosenbaum	
Stacey McMahan	
Edward Thompson	
Darwin Wolf	

Russ Sorenson, Planning, served as the staff liaison to the Visual Arts Commission in 2005.

The Visual Arts Commission acts as an advisory body to the mayor and city council on matters pertaining to visual art. The Commission's duties may include:

- Developing a general policy for inclusion and approval of visual art in public places and projects.
- Establishing criteria for visual art including compatibility with general, social, and physical environment with which the art is to relate, originality, diversity of style, structural design, quality, quantity, scope, scale, material, form, content, and durability.
- Recommending visual art projects and identifying potential sites.
- Recommending the placement of statues, monuments and memorials in city parks, in or on city property, and public right-of-way.
- Encouraging the incorporation of visual art into the design of commercial, residential, and public projects.
- Encouraging artists' involvement at the inception of city design and building projects.
- Maintaining a directory of the city's inventory of visual art, including receipt annually of the city's plan for conservation and maintenance of art works.
- Reviewing and making recommendations upon all works of art to be acquired by the city, either by purchase, gift, or otherwise.
- Educating the community about the value and importance of visual art.
- Advising or receiving recommendations from other city boards and commissions on matters involving the visual arts, including aesthetics and beautification.
- Serving as the city's liaison with artists and advising on any proposed alteration, removal, or destruction of visual art projects, statues, monuments, or memorials in city parks or on city property.
- Preparing an annual report to the mayor and council on the visual arts. The report may include a plan for future art projects.

The 2005 Visual Arts Commission milestones including activities, endeavors, and project planning are highlighted below.

SculptureWalk – Pavilion to the Falls

A total of 46 SculptureWalk sculptures were reviewed by the Visual Arts Commission, and recommended to the City Council for placement on public property. The sculpture contest and the SculptureWalk Steering committee is supported by SEAC, Main Street Sioux Falls, City Planning, the Visual Arts Commission, City Parks and Recreation and the Chamber of Commerce.

The SculptureWalk program places sculptures in locations around downtown for public viewing for 12 months. The Visual Arts Commission considered and recommended two siting proposals from SculptureWalk 2004 to the City Council. They include:

People's Choice Sculpture – "Coming Home" @ 4th & Phillips Avenue
Best of Show Sculpture – "American Farmer" @ Falls Park Observation Tower

Capital Improvements Plan Project Review

The Visual Arts Commission invited various city directors and staff to attend its meetings to discuss the city's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) projects, and identify opportunities for the commission to become more actively involved. Some future projects and improvements identified that may involve commission members and artistic input, where applicable, include:

Falls Park and Phillips to Falls Archway;
River Greenway;
41st Street Bridge over diversion channel;
Water Treatment Plant and Airport area;
City gateways.

General Procedure Guidelines for Calls for Art

The Visual Arts Commission has been proactive in 2005. The Commission focused on establishing and adopting general procedure guidelines for future calls for art. A Call for Art is an invitation designed to inform and entice artists into submitting a personal piece of qualifying art for display and possible award. Organizations planning a public or private art display can find themselves needing to know a lot about this process; however, they may not have the expertise or resources to perform all the necessary steps. Members of the Visual Arts Commission had been approached for such guidance and as a result, decided to outline the steps they have taken when serving on other similar committees.

Jury Pool Correspondence

Another demonstration of the Commission's upbeat endeavors was to initiate jury pool correspondence in order to form a jury pool / panel. The Visual Arts Commission is searching for a diverse group of individuals who care about building a legacy of public art in Sioux Falls, and are willing to participate as a member of a jury pool to serve on a jury panel for a three (3) year term. A total of 65 persons, listing their art specialty or interest, responded favorably to the Commission's first jury pool / panel request.

From this jury pool / panel, five to seven artists/art enthusiasts will be asked to serve on a jury panel for a three (3) year term along with a Visual Arts Commission representative. Jurying will include:

1. Unsolicited gifts of art to the City, and
2. Submittals answering formal calls for public art.

During the three (3) year term, the panelists may be assembled to review and discuss merits of piece(s) submitted to the Commission for consideration. The Commission also developed jury criteria and a score sheet for future jury panel / pool project reviews. The panel will be given information about the work and its proposed context etc. as well as an outline to guide the jurying process. After reviewing submitted art works, the panel will make a recommendation to the Visual Arts Commission for their consideration. Based on panel comments and further consideration, the Commission will give their recommendation to City Council for final determination.

Public Art Donation Form

The Visual Arts Commission created a public art donation form. The donor of public art would be requested to complete the form and submit it to the Commission for review and recommendation to the City Council. The form specifically addresses:

- Why is this art piece being donated to the City of Sioux Falls?
- Concept/history/context:
- Mounting requirements:
- Whom will be installing:
- Maintenance requirements:
- Comments:
- One 8" x 10" photo of the art piece would be requested to be kept on file.

Website Page.

The Visual Arts Commission developed and launched it's initial website page in early 2005 to keep public art enthusiasts and interested citizens informed about Commission membership and duties, meeting agendas and minutes, general procedure guidelines for calls for art, jury pool / panel correspondence, public art donation form, and specific public art projects. The Visual Arts Commission

website page http://www.siouxfalls.org/planning/visual_arts.aspx is linked to the City of Sioux Falls www.siouxfalls.org and Sioux Empire Arts Council <http://www.siouxempireartscouncil.com> websites.

Public Input

In 2005 the Visual Arts Commission received public input at their meetings on such topics as freedom of expression, fairness to artists, diversity, artistic opportunity, sculpture and displays for children's art opportunities.

Projects

CommUnity Youth Mosaic Project

The proposed location of the CommUnity Youth Mosaic is the retaining wall located along East River Road, between 9th Street and Fawick Park. This is a community partnership art project involving Hawthorne Elementary School Students, SF School District officials & teachers, Sioux Empire Arts Council, local businesses, and the city. Under the guidance of Lisa Brunick, Art Educator at Hawthorne Elementary School, approximately 400 Hawthorne Elementary School Students have created a work of art celebrating diversity and unity in our community. Ms. Brunick has obtained the cooperation and financial support of local businesses to transform the art into a porcelain mosaic and install it as the first phase of a longer mosaic. The Sioux Empire Arts Council has agreed to assist in the project and coordinate a continuation of the mosaic along the wall in the future. City Engineering staff have indicated that the mosaic project would not interfere with the flood wall system and that there are no scheduled street works or retaining wall repairs in the near future. In May 2005 the Commission recommended approval of Phase I for the CommUnity Youth Mosaic to the City Council. The mosaic tiles have arrived and installation is scheduled for the Spring of 2006.

Phillips to the Falls Archway Art Panels Project

In 2005 the Sioux Falls Visual Arts Commission conducted their first call for public art involving the Phillips to the Falls gateway and arch located just north of Fifth Street and Phillips Avenue. Artwork will be in the form of two relief panels, one on each column of the gateway columns. Artwork will become the property of the City of Sioux Falls and the City agrees to maintain such Artwork. The artist (s) would install the artwork subject to certain specifications. Architectural drawings and photo renderings providing dimensional and vicinity information were provided. Panel medium is open to artist selection. A project budget of \$6,000, funded by the City of Sioux Falls, was offered and inclusive of all project expenses. Information packets were sent to approximately 76 South Dakota sculptors. Proposals were due on November 18, 2005. There were no submittals received. The Visual Arts Commission has since requested the archway subcommittee to reconvene, review and provide recommendations for a 2nd Call for Art in 2006.

R. F. Pettigrew Project

Sculptor, Darwin Wolf, presented his "R. F. Pettigrew" sculpture proposal. The proposal is to sculpt a full life-size bronze sculpture of R. F. Pettigrew holding a letter. It would be similar to the small model version currently displayed in 2005 SculptureWalk. The proposed sculpture piece measures 8 feet tall and would be mounted on a 4' X 4' pedestal base, for a total height of 12 feet. The total cost for the sculpture is \$60,000. The completed sculpture would be donated to the city and installed upon acceptance by the City Council. Various sites have been suggested by Mr. Wolf. The artist information and site documents are in the process of being presented to a jury pool / panel. Jury recommendations will be forwarded to the Visual Arts Commission and the Council in 2006.

Veteran's Memorial Park Project

After receiving inquiries and proposals regarding the placement of memorials and marker signage the Veterans Memorial Park Advisory Board called upon the Visual Arts Commission for assistance in developing initial written policies and guidelines for reviewing future Veterans Memorial Park memorial and marker signage proposals. Criteria to consider accepting artworks for the park have been presented to the Veterans Memorial Park Board for their consideration. The Commission stands ready to further assist the Veterans Memorial Park Board in their 2006 endeavors.

In conclusion, there are many positive changes occurring in Sioux Falls that are emphasizing and including public visual art and aesthetics. The Visual Arts Commission is very excited to be a part of this community evolution. The Visual Arts Commission meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 9:00 a.m., Carnegie Town Hall. We would be pleased to have you attend at any time.

We are grateful for the opportunity to serve you and the citizens of Sioux Falls. We thank you for your continued support.