

Public Art and Community Design

A Committee of the Arts Foundation for Tucson and Southern Arizona

APPROVED MINUTES

Agenda

Wednesday, September 14, 2022 at 3:30 pm

To join the Virtual Zoom Meeting from your computer, tablet, or smartphone use the following methods:

Video: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5439481270> | Meeting ID: 543 948 1270 | Phone dial in: +1 669 900 6833

Committee Members Present: Anne Lopez, Anne Trumble, Felix Lawrence, James (Jim) Glock, Janet Fischer, Kenna Smith, Marcelle Shillito, Margaret Joplin, Mel Dominguez, Nancy Fung, Robert Clark, Sadie Shaw, Valerie Sanchez, Valerie Sipp; **Committee Members Absent:** Alexandra Jimenez, Maureen Lueck, Emily Tate

Staff Members Present: Jenea Sanchez, Wylwyn Reyes, Donna Isaac, Adriana Gallego

Guests: Gabriela Barrillas, Patricia Schwartz, Imelda Cortez, Carlos Valenzuela, Armando Sotelo III, Yu Yu Shiratori

Agenda Item	Type	Presenter	Time
1. Roll Call to Establish Quorum Committee Co-Chair Sadie Shaw called the meeting to order at 3:33 pm, roll call was taken, and quorum was established (14-3).		Donna	5
2. Pledge of Allegiance		Sadie	1
3. Welcome & Chairperson's Report Committee Co-Chair Sadie Shaw welcomed all present and thanked PACD members for attending. There were no new reports to share.		Sadie	3
4. Arts Foundation Executive Director's Report Adriana Gallego, Executive Director for the Arts Foundation for Tucson and Southern Arizona announced that Committee Member Anne Trumble would be retiring this month as she completes her four-year tenure as representative for the City Manager's Office. Director Gallego thanked Member Trumble for their service and provided an opportunity for remarks. Member Trumble expressed appreciation and respect for the collective work the Committee and staff have undertaken to make improvements in the public art process. This concluded Director Gallego's report.		Adriana	3
5. Review & Approval of August 10, 2022, Meeting Minutes The meeting minutes were approved by a roll call vote of 14-0.	Action	Sadie	5
6. Donations Approval https://artsfoundtucson.submittable.com/gallery/a809a864-3653-4a74-bd06-e7c485805b61 Three donation requests to the City's Public Art Collection were presented, and then approved by a roll call vote of 13-0-1. Member Valerie Sipp recused themselves from the vote due to Conflicts of Interest. Ms. Gallego presented three donation requests to the City's Public Art Collection for PACD approval by separate roll call votes of 13-0-1. Member	Action	Adriana	20

Valerie Sipp recused themselves from the last two donation requests due to Conflicts of Interest.

- 1. Donation by Gabriela Barrillas featuring artist Yu Yu Shiratori**
- 2. Donation by Patricia Schwartz featuring artist Armando Sotelo III**
- 3. Donation by Imelda Cortez featuring artist Carlos Valenzuela**

Ms. Gallego clarified the Donation process the Arts Foundation currently uses through the online platform, Submittable. Each of the three projects presented have been a partnership with community stakeholders, elected officials City departments, and obtaining independent funding.

Ms. Gallego introduced each donation separately. Imelda Cortez with artist Carlos Valenzuela presented *Barrio Monuments*, focusing on the hardworking residents of South Tucson. The work is a mosaic artwork to be located in Ward 1. The next donation was presented by Patricia Schwartz and artist, Armando Sotelo, III. This is a Ward 3 collaboration funded by the 05 Initiative, City of Tucson Housing & Community Development, and titled Blue Moon Barrio Traffic Circle – Turtles, Shell, Lunar Calendar. The artwork is asphalt and intended as a place lifting strategy to be installed at the intersection of 14th and Helen. Committee Member Lawrence questioned what was being shown. Ms. Gallego clarified PACD was seeing an example of asphalt work in a traffic circle. The design by artist Armando Sotelo was then referenced. The third donation was presented by Gabriela Barrillas and artist, Yu Yu Shiratori. This work comprised of tile and mosaic art will be located on South 6th Avenue, near Armory Park and the Children’s Museum. It is part of a traffic calming project being undertaken by the City at 6th and 12 Avenue locations. The art references the history of flora and fauna and celestial elements representing community growth, regeneration of community. It is asphalt art with stained concrete.

Co-chair Shaw asked questions from the Committee. Committee member Lawrence questioned whether the artist, for the initial donation request, believes artist freedom is necessary to make art or can art be made without freedom of speech? Imelda Cortez responded by no, as a simple answer and gave her perspective about people creating art that represents who they are. Committee member Lawrence asked what is being proposed as art and for artists requiring permission to do so, do not have artistic freedom for their work. Discussion ensued about a donation and the artist giving up their property to the City. Co-Chair Shaw requested the discussion focus on the topic of the donations and their acceptance by PACD members. Ms. Gallego requested the discussion focus on the criteria. Committee member Lawrence responded that the criteria is the artwork. He further stated that his question is whether it is art or decoration. Artist Carlos Valenzuela responded that the artwork is both decorative and art. In giving the artwork to the City, which owns the property, he understands interpretation of the artwork will be different for different people. The images presented are common to the Latino communities of the Southwest. He further stated that he has a lifetime of giving art away. Lawrence questioned the limits of free speech. Committee member

Dominguez stated his appreciation of the artwork and the community involvement of the artist and reflected the images attribute to and commemorate community mentors who are living out their art. He pointed out that having a local artist is important for the long-term maintenance of the art. And further, he appreciated the imagery, which speaks to the environment around it. Co-Chair Shaw called for a motion, made by Committee member Lawrence and seconded by Committee member Clark. The motion passed 13 votes in favor with one member not voting.

Co-Chair Shaw requested discussion for the second donation presented by Patricia Schwartz. Committee member Lawrence posed the same question as to whether the donation was art or decoration. Artist, Armando Sotelo responded his belief that art is subjective, and his approach was to include community in making the artwork. His design was intended to fit both community needs, and art. Committee member Sanchez asked of all 3 proposals, what the next steps were after PACD review and vote. Ms. Gallego responded that after PACD the proposal is forwarded to the designated department to address risk review and maintenance protocols. These further review recommendations are for long-term viability for the artwork as part of the larger City collection. The proposal is then forwarded to the City Manager's office to make an informed decision with respect to acceptance of the art into the City's collection. As a follow-up, Committee member Sanchez asked whether the maintenance of the integrity and beauty of each piece is determined by the City department reviewing the donation. Ms. Gallego responded that artists submit a maintenance protocol as part of each donation. Giving a donation to the City is a gift and a responsibility. If a work is temporary, the artist will take the lead on any maintenance that may be required during the time of view. For permanent works, the artists always retain the artist's right to the artwork. The costs of maintenance are considered part of the larger budget for the City department. Committee member Dominguez noted this is an interesting mural and recognized the artist, Armando Sotelo, and his work with community. He also noted the use of the particular paint helps with maintenance and this artwork is a great donation. Committee member Lawrence asked the artist to expand on the quotation to be used on subtracting a month from the calendar. The artist responded that he grew up in Blue Moon. Turtle is a personal name. The images represent the neighborhood and Blue Moon is the 13th moon in the lunar cycle. The artist reflected on connecting the culture to the community of Blue Moon. There has been little improvement over the last few years in the barrio. He, as an artist, is now coming back to Blue Moon with the representation of 13 months, each with a 28-day cycle. The artist noted most native communities have some symbol to track the lunar calendar and to recognize the moon cycle and its significance. This artwork is a connection back to the earth and its importance to calm traffic. The artwork representing a big turtle on the street is to slow people down. Earlier designs have been simplified to 13 moons to tell the story. The artist also looked at those

communities surrounding Blue Moon and how to unify those neighborhoods. The artist believes people now are disconnected from the moon, earth, and stars. Committee member Lawrence asked whether the artist was referring to a particular white man in his quote and some intentionality in subtracting a month. Discussion ensued with the artist responding about the community experience with and response to the white man in general. Lawrence asked about censorship. The artist responded that the artwork has been adjusted with respect to freedom of speech. Co-chair Shaw pointed out the didactic material will not be included with the artwork. The artist agreed that the mural will be seen and experienced without any descriptors. Committee member Trumble voiced her appreciation of how the artist used personal experience with place – infrastructure with myth and with relationship with the rest of nature. Committee member Sanchez also appreciated the thought in the artwork from the cultural and historical perspectives. Committee member Dominguez asked when the artwork might be installed. The artist responded, if approved, on October 1st at 9 a.m. Co-chair Shaw called for a motion, made by Committee member Lawrence and seconded by Committee member Shillito. The motion passed with one abstention.

Co-Chair Shaw requested discussion for the third donation with Gabriela Barrillos and artist Yu Yu Shiratori. Committee Lawrence posed the question whether art is possible without freedom of speech. The artist, Yu Yu Shiratori responded that one must have their own voice in their art. Her design was inspired by the environment of Tucson. There was further discussion about the artwork and the artist pointed out there was community feedback and there was not anything to censor. Committee member Lawrence asked whether the artist intended to make something acceptable. The artist responded that the work focuses on community inclusion and not alienating any group when thinking about art. Committee member Dominguz pointed out that this donated art is a different scenario. The comment made that artists are not in person to discuss their work was brought up. PACD members do have an opportunity to interact with artists through the panel process. This was reiterated by Co-Chair Shaw. A question was brought forward with this beautiful art, would the general observer have some descriptors. The artist responded about possibly developing a QR code for anyone interested in the narrative. Gabriela Barrillos also commented about placing plaques inside the 20 planters for people to interact with the art. Council member Dominguez supported how much public art is being seen by the community and helping to keep people in South Tucson. Co-chair Shaw entertained a motion. This was made by Council member Lopez and seconded by Council member Shillito. The motion passed with one abstention and Committee member Glock not voting.

7. Panelist Input from PACD

<https://airtable.com/shrJ1bkdVor8JWsH9>

Public Art Project Manager, Wylwyn Reyes proposed Pete Guerrero as a Panelist for the Public Art project on Santa Cruz River: Irvington to

Action	Wylwyn	5
Announcement	Donna	3

Drexel PA C142. The recommendation received unanimous approval from PACD by roll call vote of 14-0.

Consultant Donna Isaac solicited Panelist Nomination input from PACD members for several active projects and directed PACD members to the standing Panelist Input link on the agenda. No action was taken.

8. Request Additions for Next Month Agenda No items were proposed.	Announcement	Sadie	3
9. Call to the Audience Besides the invited guests, no additional members of the public were present virtually, therefore no call to the audience.		Sadie	3
10. Adjournment Committee Co-Chair Sadie Shaw adjourned the meeting at 4:35 pm.		Sadie	

Public Art and Community Design Committee Meetings are Open to the Public

Citizens, particularly artists, interested in public art are encouraged to attend. Action may be taken on any agenda item. Pursuant to safe practices during the COVID 19 pandemic, all in-person public meetings are cancelled until further notice. This meeting will be held virtually to allow for healthy practices and social distancing. Meeting materials will be presented as part of the virtual meeting. Community members who wish to speak at the Call to Audience will be added to a list on a first come first serve basis; follow this link to sign up <https://airtable.com/shr1SX8hMC5u3iS5p>.

Committee Members

Chairperson Alex Jimenez, Co-Chairperson Sadie Shaw, Anne Lopez, Anne Trumble, Emily “Lily” Tate, Felix Lawrence, Janet Fischer, Jim Glock, Kenna Smith, Marcelle Shillito, Margaret Joplin, Maureen Lueck, Mel Dominguez, Nancy Fung, Robert Clark, Valerie Diaz, Valerie Sipp.

Accessibility

If you require an accommodation or materials in accessible format or require a foreign language interpreter or materials in a language other than English for this event, please call the Arts Foundation at 520.624.0595 ext 4. or email PACD@ArtsFoundTucson.Org at least 2 business days in advance.