



# City of Columbia, Missouri

## Meeting Minutes

### Commission on Cultural Affairs

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Monday, January 8, 2024  
4:15 PM

Regular

City Hall  
701 E Broadway  
Council Chambers

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#### I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Spear called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

Staff present: Sarah Dresser and Andrea Jira.

**Present:** 9 - Kristin Gadsden, David Spear, Cameron Dorth, Keondre Harrison, Jim Little, Molly Froidl, Diana Moxon, Stacey Thompson and Kathleen Murphy

**Excused:** 3 - James Melton, Lee Ann Garrison and Linda Helmick

#### II. INTRODUCTIONS

None.

#### III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Motion to approve the agenda made by Murphy, seconded by Dorth; motion carried.**

#### IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Motion to approve the minutes from December 11, 2023 made by Murphy, seconded by Dorth; motion carried.**

Minutes from December 11, 2023

**Attachments:** [12.11.23 Draft Minutes](#)

#### V. OLD BUSINESS

Correspondence to City Council

Spear thanked the Commission for their input in creating the letter to be sent to City Council. It is planned to be on the January 16 City Council agenda as a report. Spear will be at the meeting to present the key highlights of the letter to City Council.

#### VI. NEW BUSINESS

Accepting Gift of Art Proposal

Dresser shared information about a proposal received for accepting a gift of work of art to the City. There is an ordinance for accepting donated art; after the Commission reviews a proposal their recommendation is passed along to City Council for acceptance.

The proposal is for artwork in Clary-Shy Community Park, which is home to the Activity & Recreation Center (ARC), the MU Health Care Pavilion, utilized by the Columbia Farmers Market, and an agriculture park managed by the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture (CCUA). The Columbia Parks and Recreation Department, in collaboration with CCUA,

have proposed a series of insect sculptures to be integrated into the built environment of the park. The sculptures would represent a variety of native insects as well as add artistic interest to the various buildings and structures throughout the park. The sculptures are designed and created by local artist, Stephen Feilbach.

Artwork: Created by artist Stephen Feilbach, the sculpture depicts a praying mantis, which has been constructed out of metal, industrial foam, Line-X bed liner material and automotive paint. The dimensions are approximately 5 feet long, 4 feet tall and 2 feet wide. Since the sculpture has been created from very durable materials, there is no annual maintenance required. The value of the artwork is \$6,500. The proposed display site would be on the east-facing awning of the CCUA Schoolhouse, which is just off the path to the center entrance from the parking lot into the MU Health Care Pavilion. The sculpture has been created with loopholes in its lower four legs that will allow it to be bolted to the roof of the awning. Parks and Recreation staff would plan to install the sculpture, requiring little cost to the City.

Donation to the City: The donor of the sculpture is Dr. Taylor Sirois who will retain title to the sculpture, but grant its use to the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department, with an initial agreement of a long-term display of 10 years in Clary-Shy Community Park.

Timeline: The praying mantis sculpture is complete and ready for installation. Columbia Parks and Recreation is currently in discussion with the artist about proposed future insect sculptures to be created and donated to the City. When those details become available, proposals will be presented to the Commission on Cultural Affairs and City Council.

The Commission had a few questions regarding the donation under consideration. Some were concerned about the weight and size of the piece at its location. Staff said that these concerns had been discussed on site with the artist and the Parks & Recreation team, who all seemed to find no issue with the sculpture and its planned installation.

**Motion to recommend the acceptance of the sculpture donation made by Dorth, seconded by Harrison; motion carried.**

## VII. REPORTS

### Commission

#### Secretary's Report

There was no secretary's report. Spear asked if we could send thank you letter's to Dr. Sirois and the artist Stephen Feilbach thanking them for their donation. Also, Spear asked that OCA staff send correspondence to our City-funded arts organizations alerting them to the Commission's correspondence to City Council with the request for more arts funding.

#### Standing Committee on Public Art

Staff reported that there are no open calls for art currently. The next Traffic Box Art program call will likely be open at the end of February. Staff is looking into a potential restructure of the program. The Commission requested that report on proposed changes to the Traffic Box Art program be presented at the next meeting.

### Staff

#### Columbia Arts Fund Update

Dresser reported that the current balance is \$328,037.35. This does not include funds

raised from CoMoGives.

**CoMoGives**

Dresser reported that \$2,800 was raised for the 2023 campaign. We raised \$2,200 for 2022 campaign and \$3,705 in 2021. We did have a bit of a boost in 2020 with \$5,215 raised (suspected that giving was up that year because donors has more discretionary funds to make larger gifts).

Murphy asked if we get the names of those who have donated and if we include them in all of our fundraising asks.

**Columbia Values Diversity Celebration**

Jira reported that the deadline to purchase tickets is this Wednesday. Currently we have less than 300 seats left.

**Commemorative Poster**

Staff shared that the call for entries for the 2024 Commemorative Poster opens today. The deadline is March 8.

**Agency Assistance**

Dresser shared that response has been good for the Board School training series planned for 1/17 and 1/31 - with currently 9 organizations registered including staff and board members (approximately 35 people). The deadline for groups to sign up is this Wednesday, so we might see another 1 or 2 organizations sign up.

**Status of FY23 & FY24 Funding**

Dresser reported that for FY23 arts funding we currently have final reports due from North Village Arts District, Access Arts, and TRYPS Children’s Theater.

**OCA Office Move**

Staff shared that the department is now located in the Gentry Building at 1 S 7th Street. We plan to invite you all to an open house to take place later this month or early February. Date TBD but watch your email inbox for more details.

**VIII. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, MEMBERS AND STAFF**

None.

**IX. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting will be February 12, 2024.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion to adjourn at 5:00 p.m. made by Murphy, seconded by Dorth; motion carried.**