

**Duluth Public Arts Commission**

**MINUTES for Monday, June 15th, 2020**

**4:30pm-6:00pm**

**LOCATION: Webex**

**Call Meeting to Order**

President Tennis called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Bret Amundson, Paula Gudmundson, Noah Hobbs, Sandy Johnson, Melissa LaTour, Mary Tennis, Christina Woods

Absent: Jodi Broadwell, Ashley Kolka-Lee

Guest Speaker: Classie Dudley

Staff Present: Eleanor Bacso, Steven Robertson

**Introductions**

President Tennis welcomed the new commissioners and each commissioner introduced themselves.

**Additions to the Agenda**

There were no additions to the agenda.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

February Meeting Minutes

Johnson makes a motion to approve the minutes from February meeting, LaTour seconds. The motion to approve was passed by the following roll call vote:

Amundson	Gudmundson	Hobbs	Johnson	LaTour	Tennis	Woods
Yea	Abstain	Abstain	Yea	Yea	Yea	Abstain

**Financial Report**

Staff liaison, Eleanor Bacso gave a brief update on DPAC’s financials. There has been no major change in the fund since February.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Mural- Classie Dudley**

Classie Dudley shared with DPAC that there is a collective that has come together with an idea to create a contemporary mural for people of color in the Duluth community. The collective is interested in painting on a City-owned wall. Classie shared that Duluth does not have much diverse representation in the art landscape and this mural will create a sense of belonging. The collective wants to push forward with a mural representing Black lawyers, doctors, etc. A few preliminary sites have been picked out and the goal is a location that is eye catching and in the heart of the city. Gudmundson asked if there will be multiple artists what they will be painting. Classie said there would be multiple artists involved and would like to include the community and possibly host an event so the mural is less likely to be vandalized. Woods would like an agenda item of absent narratives and underrepresented communities to be added to an upcoming DPAC meeting. Classie shared she had an artist looking at Electric Fetus' wall and it came out to 100,000k and that they are looking for funding. Woods shared that typically murals come out to \$35-\$45 per sq. foot. Tennis asked if the mural would be applied directly to the building or if it would be made out of panels. Classie shared the preference is for the mural is to be painted directly on the side of the building. Johnson asked about the exact details of the project and what the mural will look like and Classie shared that they are still working on the concept. Gudmundson said DPAC needs to be intentional and get as much information about the mural. Classie wants to make sure that this is not just a one-time mural as she wants to continue to show different representation in Duluth. Mary asked how DPAC can be of service to this project so we can develop trust and relationship. Amundson is interested in knowing how DPAC can support on-going efforts with Classie's projects and how can DPAC help this art continue to happen. Classie said it is all about continuing to build relationships, after this mural there will be a better step-by-step process. Classie shared that ARAC is in full support of the mural and they are going to write letters of support for this project. Classie mentioned that she can be of assistance to do bias training for DPAC in the future (as she does the programming with ARAC as well). Woods is interested in doing a bias training and proposes to discuss this on the next agenda. Tennis said partnership and coordination going forward is going to be great and DPAC would like to implement some sort of working relationship moving forward. Tennis also brought up a maintenance plan, DPAC would like to discuss this with Classie at some point. Classie made a request of DPAC for helping to fund the mural project. Woods asked what the startup costs would be. Classie said the startup cost would be \$10,000. Woods made a recommendation that DPAC would give \$10,000 for funding up front. Johnson said she would like to know further specifics of the mural and would like to see a rendering.

Woods makes a motion that DPAC commit \$10,000 to the project for startup funds, contingent upon the City agreeing on a city building and that those funds become available once the City building is identified and based on a signed agreement as drafted by the City attorneys.

Gudmundson seconds. The motion to approve was passed by the following roll call vote:

Amundson	Gudmundson	Hobbs	Johnson	LaTour	Tennis	Woods
Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea

Hobbs suggested it would be helpful to use this funding from DPAC as a challenge for other organizations to donate dollar for dollar. Classie said that would be helpful and she shared with the group that she used to fundraise in her previous job. Classie stated the board of Clayton Jackson McGhie Memorial has been very supportive as well as the Duluth Chapter of NAACP and Target. Johnson asked if the City could draw up a contract with the group for commissioning other pieces around the City. Bacso said she will discuss with the attorney's office once a location has been selected. Woods added for the record to use the City's attorneys to help DPAC to be more nimble in supporting this project. Tennis said she would love to stay close to this project and wants to partner in the future. Bacso will send everyone Classie's contact information.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Clayton Jackson McGhie Memorial- Jodi Broadwell**

Broadwell was not in attendance to share the update.

**Leif Erickson- Mary Tennis**

Tennis talked about colonizer art and the Leif Erickson statue. Tennis said on the Leif Erickson statue it reads, "Leif Erickson Discoverer of America" which is extremely offensive. Tennis said DPAC has had some discussions with the Sons of Norway who technically own it. Tennis wanted to bring the new commissioners up to speed on this and that DPAC needs to have a real conversation with the Sons of Norway at this point. Woods said she would be willing to help with this project.

**Airport- Jodi Broadwell**

Broadwell was not in attendance to share the update.

**Tia Salmela Keoboungpheng Project Update – Eleanor**

Eleanor gave a brief update on the project. Tia is looking to launch her project on Labor day and is planning on having it on display until the fall.

**Superior Street Project- Sandy Johnson and Mary Tennis**

Tennis shared that the last Superior Street Project meeting was cancelled. Previously, DPAC has thought about performance spaces for some of the bump outs. She also discussed an idea of a 5 year rotation program or there could be a combination of things. Johnson, Kolka-Lee and Tennis are on a subcommittee for this project. Woods shared an idea of a possibility of bringing some of the placemaking pieces of Imagine Canal Park for a season into downtown. Woods also said that an outdoor weaving project and having art that represents a wide variety of cultural

experiences would be great. Johnson shared that it was important to make sure whether or not the procedures or policies that would prohibit using the sidewalk space for performances/performers. Johnson emailed City Clerk Chelsea Helmer regarding provisions going forth with the projects. Johnson will send her email to Eleanor to follow up on.

**Maintenance Plan Update-** Ashley Kolka- Lee

Kolka-Lee was not present at the meeting to give an update.

**Art in City Hall –** Eleanor Bacso

Bacso shared that DAI and the City are discussing what to do with Art in City Hall since City Hall is only open by limited appointment.

**Public Comment**

**Adjournment: 6:07pm**