

**City of South Portland
Arts & Historic Preservation Committee
December 11, 2020 minutes
Planning and Development Department**

Members in attendance:

Hannah Holmes, Chairperson
Doreen Gay, Vice Chairperson
Jessica Kessler
Jim Flahaven
Caitie Whelan

Staff in attendance:

Milan Nevajda, City Planner

Absent:

Mark Wiesendanger
Kathy DiPhilippo, South Portland Historical Society
Alessa Wylie, Greater Portland Landmarks

Guests:

Orion Breen, Representing South Portland Cape Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce

Agenda:

To discuss the history of public arts efforts, as well as goals and objectives for public art within the AHPC.

Meeting was called to order at 12:00pm.

Doreen and Jessie gave an overview of past efforts and conversations among the subgroup of the AHPC focused on public art, so that newer members could understand the history of committee efforts. Then, members opened the discussion up to brainstorm goals and priorities for 2021.

Among those ideas were:

- 1) Revisiting the west side overpass, especially because of the middle school consolidation in that neighborhood. Doreen will contact the group working on the walking route along Broadway and address the railroad overpass with them.
- 2) How to raise visibility for the AHPC in the community. Tempo art and art events were discussed. Members suggested that tempo art may be a solution for the armory concrete slabs, as a means to reduce costs. Jim suggested hosting sidewalk chalk art at the Buglight Kite Festival.

- 3) Members discussed the middle school consolidation, and opportunities to participate in shaping public art in the new school. Jessie will follow up on a conversation she had with Pedro Vasquez, a member of the middle school consolidation steering committee, regarding percent of art. Jim offered to contact the Maine Arts Commission regarding this project.
- 4) Doreen discussed pursuing bus shelter art, and stated she will work with Milan and Donna Tippett, the new transportation director, about the idea of using the bus shelters as a canvas for an art installation.
- 5) Caitie shared the idea of temporary art on non-emergency city vehicles, and offered to contact the city to discuss this possibility.
- 6) Catie stated she would contact previous member Mary DeRose for context about the west end of the city, its history and past efforts regarding those neighborhoods.
- 7) Members discussed how AHPC could raise visibility through social media, creating and/or updating our database and making it available from the city website.
- 8) Jessie stated that she would love to see more murals throughout the city. Members discussed the challenges of selecting appropriate sites and fundraising for projects.
- 9) Members revisited Hannah's idea of Lights on Broadway for next year, and spoke about getting in touch with William Mann, Economic Development Director
- 10) Caitie suggested that the AHPC include the Human Rights Commission in our efforts.
- 11) Members spoke of how subtle creative choices throughout the city could be a cost-effective start, such as the use of colorful paint on benches whenever possible.

Meeting concluded at 1pm. Next scheduled meeting is to take place at 7:30am on January 6th, 2021.