



WAYNESVILLE PUBLIC ART COMMISSION  
MINUTES-SPECIAL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2024  
THURSDAY, 3:00PM  
TOWN HALL

***Mission Statement: The mission of the Waynesville Public Art Commission is to engage the community and enrich public spaces through original art that celebrates Waynesville's historic, cultural, natural, and human resources.***

**Present:**

Chairman George Kenney  
Steve Lloyd  
Douglas Garrett  
Ginny Moe  
Ashten McKinney  
Skip Middleton  
Vicki Mangieri  
CJ Deering

**Staff Present:**

Jesse Fowler, Assistant Town Manager  
Candace Poolton, Town Clerk

**Others present:**

Gregory Wheeler, Pigeon Community Multicultural Development Center

Chairman George Kenney welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:03pm. He thanked Gregory Wheeler for his participation and insight and several staff members including Lisa Burnett for preparing the artist RFQ, Jesse Fowler, and Candace Poolton. Chairman George said the Commission had 16 applications and they narrowed it down to seven, which will be presenting at this meeting. He mentioned to the public that if they would like to support more public art projects, they can donate. He said donations are accepted by the clerk at 16 S. Main Street.

**Presenters Jhonattan & Samantha Arango**

Mr. Arango said that he and his wife create murals with a sculptural element, and the murals go on in plastic layers. He said they use three dimensional triangular shapes to give the mural dimension. They said they work with the community to allow anyone of any age to paint with them. They said that involving the community gives people an opportunity to paint and makes a generational impact. Mr. and Mrs. Arango proposed three concepts that offer historical acknowledgment of the space. The first mural depicted a young African-American girl holding an open book with a pigeon flying out of it. They said that each concept has a human element with an emotional message, and depicts safety, hope, joy, community, playfulness, accessibility, and inclusion. The second mural they presented was called Trust Fall, and depicted a child being lifted up. The third mural they presented was called Leap Forward that depicted children playing leap frog. They explained that the topcoat of the mural can be wiped with soap and water, and they provide care instructions.

### **Presenters Jeannette Brossart & Maria Geary**

Ms. Brossart said that she is from Durham, NC and has been an artist for over 20 years. She introduced Maria Geary who has been an artist for over 10 years. She said she has experience with schools and community groups and has facilitated thousands of children with almost 200 schools. She said her medium is mosaics and she listens to the community and what they envision for the project. Ms. Brossart said that mosaics can be mounted on panels on the wall, placed on walkways, or installed on other structures. She said that the community assembles the mosaic. Her proposed designs included a three sided tower, a mandala, a bench with a “mountain-like” back. Two other ideas she presented included mounting several 6x9 foot panels on the wall and a twisted prism with six different facets. Vicki asked Ms. Brossart what the time frame would be for the community sessions and installation of the mosaic. She replied that it would be finished by September.

### **Presenter Ndubisi Okoye**

Mr. Okoye said that he is a multidisciplinary artist born in Raleigh, NC. He said that his murals tell stories that motivate people, inspire, and uplift. Mr. Okoye presented his concept, “Your God’s Child Too”. Mr. Okoye said he pulled quotes from “Lift Every Voice” to inspire his concept. He said the quote on the mural, “You’re God’s Child Too”, is from the book. His concept also included the state flower and food. He said he aims to inspire the future by quoting the past and he is open to working with community on the design. Chairman George asked what material he used on his murals. Mr. Okoye said he uses a mixture of acrylic paint and spray paint and an anti-graffiti coating.

### **Presenters Dominic Panziera & Daniela Garofalo**

Mr. Panziera said they use mixed media to create their work. Their concept they presented was called Positive Energy, inspired by Albert Einstein. Mr. Panziera said the sculpture mounts to the wall and has small details on the individual pieces. He said the sculpture is mostly made out of metal and fiberglass.

### **Presenter Todd Frahm**

Mr. Frahm, the artist from Asheville that did the Plott Hound in Hazelwood, said that he has been a sculptor since the early 2000s. He presented several bronze and limestone sculptures that he has done for libraries and museums. The concept he presented was called Stronger Together and depicts two arms carved out of limestone grasping each other. He said that it's showing that each culture is enriched by other cultures and new perspectives are born out of cross pollination. He also presented a metal option that could be mounted to a wall.

### **Presenter Kristy McCarthy**

Ms. McCarthy said that she is a muralist and teacher. She said her work offers visual storytelling, is research based, and she likes to include flora, fauna, and textiles. She said she uses symbolism in her work and likes to use her own photography or historical photos as inspiration. Ms. McCarthy said the community helps design the mural and paint. The concept presented would be a mural that would be painted on both walls of the Pigeon center. She said the mural acts almost like a timeline and has features from the community center's past, present, and future. She said the way she involves the community is she leads a workshop so the community can brainstorm ideas, and then there's a design review session where she gets feedback from the community. Ms. McCarthy said the material she uses on her murals is a poly tab-polyester non woven fabric. She said it lasts 15-30 years and attaches to the surface of the brick. She said she will hire two local assistants to help install the mural.

### **Presenter Grace Cathey**

Grace Cathey, the Waynesville artist who fabricated Wildflowers in the Smokies said her concept aims to create a local gathering place that includes outdoor seating, landscaping, lighting, benches, pathways and a "stage" that would hold a sculpture. She said her inspiration for the sculpture would be a teacher and two students from the 1920s era. The Commission expressed some concern about the cost of the project. Ms. Cathey said she may have to rely on donations of materials and volunteers.

*There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Skip Middleton, seconded by CJ Deering, to adjourn at 5:13pm.*

ATTEST:

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Candace Poolton, Town Clerk

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Chairman George Kenney