



WAYNESVILLE PUBLIC ART COMMISSION
MINUTES-SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
FEBRUARY 9th, 2026
MONDAY, 1:00PM
TOWN HALL BOARD ROOM

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
Mark James
Carolyn Kemmett
Steve Lloyd
Kathy Swingley
Doug Garrett
CJ Deering

Absent:

Tonya Harwood (attended virtually)

Staff Present:

Candace Poolton, Town Clerk
Jesse Fowler, Deputy Manager

Others Present/Guests:

Teresa Pennington (local artist)
Alex McKay (local historian)
Mountaineer reporter

Chairman George Kenney welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 1:01pm. The meeting was broadcasted live on YouTube. Several members of the public attended and were given rubrics to provide feedback on the presentations. The Clerk collected the rubrics at the end of the meeting.

Artist Presentation: Adam Schrimmer (in person)

Adam Schrimmer, an artist from Greenville, SC, explained that he is the owner of a mural company and has extensive experience. He said he likes to engage the community when installing his murals. He presented two concepts, one that was blue and featured Main Street and several other historical buildings, and one that featured the original arch and a metal worker. He said that he

will not be sealing the mural with UV protectant or anti-graffiti because he does not foresee sun or graffiti being an issue in that space. He said there were some rust stains on the existing mural that need to be addressed.

Artist Presentation: Max Dowdle (in person)

Max Dowdle said he is a resident of Durham, NC and is a seventh generation North Carolinian. He explained his goal of installing 100 murals in all 100 counties in NC. The concept he presented featured 1930s Main Street and postcards of historical places in Waynesville with the Smoky Mountains as the backdrop. He said that stucco is his favorite material to paint on, which is what the surface of the wall is. Mr. Dowdle said he sees no issues with the rust stains. He emphasized community engagement and said he likes to host a community paint day where members of the community can come out and help paint the mural. He said he will come out and fix the mural for free for the first five years of the mural's life and that he could complete the mural in 6-10 days. Mr. Dowdle also stated that he includes paint samples of all the colors used in case we need to make touch ups. He said he would paint the mural for \$25,000. Chairman George said that the WPAC has to spend \$35,000 on the mural regardless. Teresa asked if they could include a portrait of the original arch fabricator. Mr. Dowdle said he is very open to re-design.

Artist Presentation: Dominic Laporte & Anaïs Labrèque (virtual)

Dominic and Anaïs presented their concept, which included native flowers, musicians, and a photo of historical Main Street. Anaïs said they also like to involve the community when doing these projects. She said they use spray paint so they are able to create layers within the mural. They said the entire process would take roughly 10 days. Chairman George asked if the design is flexible. Dominic said they could negotiate.

Artist Presentation: Kristy McCarthy & Michael Mitchell (virtual)

Kristy said that her and Michael are teaching artists and like to involve the community in their work, both with listening sessions and community paint days. Their mural concept featured art deco themes and sepia and light blue colors, as well as mountain scenery, an antique home, a Roosevelt coin, historic Main Street, and a train. She said they would use Polytab to install the mural and would hire interns to help them paint. Kristy said they would hold a listening session in March, and install the mural April 1-15.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25pm.

ATTEST:

Candace Poolton, Town Clerk

Chairman George Kenney