

*Capitol Complex Advisory Council
Women's Mural Subcommittee
Selection Committee Minutes
Thursday, December 5, 2013
Room 105 Old Livestock Building*

Selection committee Members: Lynda Moss - absent
Diane Sands
Representative Liz Bangerter
Kirby Lambert
Tom O'Connell
GB Carson
Carolyn Anderson

Subcommittee member: Liz Gans

Department of Administration Staff: Angie Gifford
Monica Abbott - minutes

Montana Historical Society: Jenifer Bottomly-O'looney

Special Guests: Kim Hurtle, Facilitator
Mary Murphy

1. Introductions – Angie Gifford

Angie started the artist selection meeting with introductions.

2. Proposal Criteria – Kim Hurtle

Kim explained the process of the selection today. Each artist submitted a proposal with an art sample and a video. Both artists suggested using both the east and west walls for their murals. Originally, three artists were selected but one failed to send a submission.

3. Semi-finalists displays and DVD presentations

Angie introduced Janet MacKenzie's video explaining her process to create her proposal. In her video, she described the message she wanted to portray with her panels. Janet submitted six large canvass panels.

There was a discussion of whether Janet's panels are large enough for the space. Carolyn added that cotton canvas should be used as it expands and contracts less.

Kim introduced Hadley Ferguson and spoke about the aluminum panels she uses. Her video showed her working on another mural using aluminum panels. Hadley requested mottos or quotations to add as captions under her panels.

The members discussed the aluminum panels – a newer medium. Carolyn mentioned that museum art glass could be used on Janet's panels, but Hadley's panels are too large for museum glass.

4. Discussion

Members discussed the light and protection of the art along the walls, especially with the amount of traffic from visitors and during legislative sessions.

Kim explained that Hadley wants to work in collaboration on the work and is willing to make changes and adjustments.

Both proposals are sketches and not finished work. The submissions give styles and basic concept to each proposal. It was mentioned that an artist has to show the words visually.

The discussion covered both artists' strengths and weakness shown in their proposals. Mary Murphy mentioned the content of the murals. She felt the mural doesn't have to be literal, pictorial but without context it is difficult for visitors.

Lynda Moss viewed the proposals before the meeting. Angie read her reviews of both proposals. Her comments echoed many of what was discussed by the members present.

The landscape of Montana is important to the project. The mural needs to be historical accurate. Both artists will need to collaborate with the historian. A timeframe needs to be set for the times covered in the project. More action and more urban was suggested.

The members discussed which artist is more appropriate for the capitol. They also asked which artist would be able to make the suggested changes and which is the more complete artist. There is a need to create a symbol of women in Montana. Quickly understanding and relating but also making a statement.

The consensus was that neither submission works perfectly. The committee discussed reopening the selection.

5. Vote

A vote was taken after the selection committee rejected the idea of reopening the process. There were five votes for Hadley Ferguson and two for Janet MacKenzie. The selection committee members were asked to submit suggestions for Hadley to incorporate in the mural. The members each were given copies of the submission by Hadley to take help them compile there list of suggestions. The selection committee agreed the timeframe should cover a more modern timeframe. Up to post World War II with compelling content.

6. Special consideration

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the artist will include a performance bond. It will require completion by September 1, 2014. After it is signed by both parties the announcement will be made.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.