

Annual Report of the Norman Public Arts Board
Report to the City of Norman
March 2013

It is my pleasure to provide the annual report of the activities of the Norman Public Arts Board. This Board, created by city ordinance in the fall of 2007, has enjoyed an active year. This Board, though a civic entity, is mandated to additionally serve as a committee of the Norman Arts Council. All activities of the PAB are therefore subject to the approval of the NAC in addition to working with the City.

The members of this Board, the entities they represent, and their terms (expiring in October each year) are:

Mayoral Appointees:

Jana Moring	(Secretary)	2014
Carol Dillingham		2015
Jonathan Fowler		2013
Norman Gallery Association		
Douglas Elder		2013
Ally Richardson		2014
Norman Convention Visitors Bureau		
Sara Kaplan	(Vice-Chair)	2013
Norman Arts and Humanities Roundtable		
Larry Walker	(Chair)	2015
Ex-Officio Member		
Jud Foster	, Director of Parks and Recreation	

This report covers the activities for the past year.

1. *CRE8nSK8*, an ongoing project with contemporary street art in Blake Baldwin Skate Park, was refreshed with new art in the Fall of 2012. Our thanks go to Andy Jacobs who is the Project Coordinator. He has managed this project with artists, volunteers, and the Park and Recreation Department. This year's refresh is scheduled for August 17 – 18, 2013 and will incorporate designs and paintings by high school art students and professional artists.
2. The public arts map is in the final approval stage after major revisions by Stephanie Brinkman at the NCVB. This map detailing art in public places in Norman will be available through the NCVB, Norman Arts Council and at the City's offices
3. Two new sculptures were added to the City's collection. The sculptures are located at the northeast corner of Main/Webster and the southeast corner of Main/Santa Fe. *Sun Dial* by Norman artist Craig Swan and *Silver Lining* by Norman artist Jonathan Hils are 7' sculptures that enhance the Downtown Arts District. The total budget for this project was \$27,000.
4. As of the date of this report, three 44" tall fiberglass ducks enhanced by local artists are waiting to be installed in Eastwoods, Rotary, and Lion's Memorial parks. This will then total six parks with the duck sculptures. In the next month, we will be selecting designs for three more sculptures to be placed in three additional City parks.
5. A new project this year resulted in the placement of four sculptures in Lion's Park on Flood for a temporary exhibit from November through March. These sculptures are the works of students from the OU School of Art and Art History. They are the students of Professor Jonathan Hils. Their proposed sculptures were

- juried by individuals trained/experienced in public art projects. This highly successful project helped train artists interested in pursuing the placement of their pieces of public art. Their pieces have been viewed and experienced by the large number of people who utilize this park and people visiting the Firehouse Art Center. It is our intent to repeat this process in the Fall of 2013.
6. Another new project this year was the selection of designs submitted by local artists for bicycle racks. Fowler VW pledged \$15,000 for the first round of racks to be designed by artists and fabricated locally for placement in the Downtown area. The sponsorship includes all costs, including honorariums for the selected artists. These will be installed in the Spring of 2013. We had 180 designs submitted and five have been selected. We have worked with the City in determining all requirements and standards for these racks. In addition, Fowler VW has pledged to repeat this process again for racks to be placed in different areas of Norman.
 7. As Chair of the PAB, I served on a panel of representatives from public art entities from Edmond, Tulsa and Oklahoma City for a presentation called "*Takin' It To The Streets*" for the Oklahoma Arts Council Annual Conference. During this presentation, I was proud of our accomplishments, especially when compared to the other three cities which all receive funds from "percent for art" ordinances in their cities. These ordinances mandate that a set percent of municipal construction projects be set aside for public art.

Finances

Finances are a controlling factor of the PAB when looking at additional projects. Currently, the donations through the utility bills generates between \$800 to \$900 dollars each month. Major pieces of public art range in prices starting at \$50,000 and up to several million. Consequently, we must manage our available funds, consider realistic fund raising efforts, and work to expand public art in Norman as we progress.

All funds voluntarily donated through utility bills are transferred quarterly to the Art In Public Places Fund held and managed by the Norman Arts Council. In addition, when the NAC receives any donations designated for public art, they are placed in this account.

Summary

Since the creation of the Public Arts Board, we have accomplished several projects and goals. Future project are limited by available funds, so we must continue to devise methods of securing funds while we build a broader base of volunteers and supporters. We need to extend our thanks to the staff and Board of the Norman Arts Council for their support, and the City's staff for their assistance, especially Shawn O'Leary, Jud Foster, and the City Attorney's office. The continuing support of the City and City Council is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry P. Walker, Chair
Norman Public Arts Board