ELGIN
Cultural Arts Commission

Public Art Plan Proposal

Human Relations Comments

Some of the most enthusiastically responded to or repeated comments were:

- Some members of the public felt deceived and wish that there had been a conversation about the mural at it's inception.

- There is no frame of reference or even a plaque about the mural to give the history of the work.

- Concern that removing the mural promotes ignorance or shows that history is a burden rather than an opportunity to educate/have a conversation/prevent the past from repeating.

- Questions about the vetting process for the mural and how it came to be approved.

Human Relations Commission Vote Responses

- Vote breakdown:
  - Return mural to original place with explanatory plaque. 17% (16 votes)
  - Find alternative permanent home for mural with explanatory plaque. 37% (34 votes)
  - Do not display the mural at all. 35% (32 votes)
  - Other. 11% (10 votes)
  - Total of 92 votes

The Cultural Arts Commission (CAC) has in place two projects that are based on public art

1. Public Art Database- The city of Elgin is working with the CAC to build a database that will catalog all currently owned public art as well as include important information such as location, artist information, piece information and history, etc. This database is currently in beta and will begin the catalog process in the next month, with a goal of rolling out the first map in October.

2. Public Art Plan- The CAC has begun working on a Public Art Plan to manage all aspects of public art from the call for art to implementation to maintenance.

In preparation for the Public Art Plan, The CAC looked at other communities that have implemented similar plans.

- In each location that we looked at, the following circumstances were present:
  - Each community entered into the process of starting their plan due to need based on funding, growth of public art interest, and/or growth of the public art collections.
  - Each community had specific goals based on their communities' individual needs.

Santa Rosa, California

- Notable goals of their Public Art Plan:
  - "… the hope is that vital, targeted and successful public art initiatives will revive the broader community's interest in the arts and culture policy."
  - "Overall, the goal is to put in place an operations framework that can produce projects that create civic excitement about public art- demonstrating that public investment in public art, and by extension in arts and culture, has a clear public benefit."

Eugene, Oregon

- Notable goals of their Public Art Plan:
  - "To develop a public art plan that establishes a vision, and re-shapes the program to ensure it will flourish"
  - "The Master Plan is also intended to address questions about funding methods, art selection and commissioning, siting, security, ongoing conservation and maintenance, and staffing."

City of Elgin

- Proposed goals of the city of Elgin's Public Art Plan:
  - Provide a fully realized Public Art Plan to the City Council for approval
    - Plan goals would potentially include:
      - Commissioning of new artwork each year, seeking the highest level of creative excellence
      - Continual search for outside funding sources and grants
      - Create policies regarding the solicitation, implementation, and maintenance of public art
      - Manage the current and expanding collection of artwork
      - Stimulate public awareness of and conversations about public art in general
      - Establish partnerships with other city departments and local businesses
      - Establish roles and responsibilities for the implementation and continuation of the Public Art Plan.
  - Provide guidance and recommendation on the Public Art Plan to City Council.

Positive Impact of the Public Art Plan

- Each community we looked at noted that the positive impact from their implementation of the public art plan included things such as:
  - Securing additional outside funding such as NEA grants which are based on national funding rather than state or city funding.
  - Creating better accessibility for all public art
  - Continuing the growth of the level of art in the community
  - Continuing to build better and stronger relationships with local businesses, artists, and community members.

Public Art Plan Creation Process

- Propose planning process to City Council
- Define purpose and need for public art
- Define goals, objectives, and policies
- Hold public forum
- Refine proposed goals, objectives, policies
- Hold public form
- Recommend to City Council for adoption

This proposed plan will span approximately 8 months.

Sources

- http://srcity.org/doclib/Documents/SantaRosaPublicArtMasterPlanforweb.pdf
- https://www.eugene-or.gov/731/Art-in-Public-Places
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