



## Special Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2016 6:00 p.m.  
Southridge Sports & Event Center  
2901 Southridge Blvd.

### 1. Call to Order

Ms. Moran, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

### 2. Roll Call: Linda Moran, Jason Watson, Abigail DeSteeze, Candice Bluechel, Barb Carter, Jenna Higley, Doug Gast, Paul Scharold, Linda Bauer (excused at 6:45 p.m.)

Staff present: Emily Estes Cross, Economic Development Director  
Isa Quintanilla, Recorder

### 3. Visitors – Latino Heritage Mural Committee Members (present)

Davin Diaz, John Lindeman, Jazmin Hallowell Santacruz

### 4. New Business

Ms. Moran, Chair, opened the meeting by welcoming the Latino Heritage Mural Committee Members (LHMC). She stated that it is an honor for the Kennewick Arts Commission to be working with the LHMC and that KAC is very proud to be a part of and to participate in any way. This is the first time a local committee has approached the Arts Commission, a group of citizens who came forward with a mural project. We are honored that we were asked to participate. We are probably at one of the turning points, for other community members to come forward with their ideas and make it happen for our community. When KAC does a call for artist, they review each piece; have a discussion and each Commissioner will vote on the art.

Ms. Carter helped spearhead this project with the Port of Kennewick. She stated that this is an extremely interesting and important piece that will add to the color and the public art collection in Kennewick.

Mr. Diaz stated that in the spring of last year, he met up with Tim Dalton, former Director of Historic Downtown Kennewick Association who had met with Mr. Lindeman who talked about a mural, celebrating the Latino contribution to the wine and agricultural industry.

Mr. Lindeman stated that when you enter Kennewick, off of Hwy 395 (near Hildebrand St.); there is a sign which states 'gateway to the wine country'. He has been involved in agriculture his whole life, mostly in the orchard business. He knows the contribution of the Hispanic community. In his opinion, wineries would not be wineries without the contribution of the Hispanic community. Hispanics have a place in our society where they produce a lot of the food that we eat. He himself comes from a Hispanic heritage. The Port of Kennewick has been very active working very hard with Umatilla Indian Tribes, placing two bronze statues of the Umatilla Indians. They already started a project of inclusion; this project would be a continuation. He stated that we have a rich heritage here in eastern Washington where murals are in a lot of places.

Per Mr. Diaz, when he met with Mr. Dalton about this mural idea, they discussed the opportunity to put a committee together to flush out this mural idea. Mr. Diaz presented the mural project idea to the Hispanic Chamber and asked for volunteers, to form a committee. One of the first things the LHMCommittee accomplished was to do an exercise to establish their values and to also discuss what they wanted to see within the mural itself. They recognized that this project not only represents the Kennewick Community, this also represents the Tri-Cities.

LHMCommittee members completed an exercise, similar to a Tri-City Leadership exercise, where they discussed what their values are and the results were as follows: 1) family and community, 2) respect, 3) cultural pride, and 4) strong worth ethic. Mr. Diaz has participated in these types of exercise with a handful of groups and this is the first time he has seen *respect* get as many votes as it did. This is an opportunity to talk about the positive contributions by Latinos, not only to the wine industry, but to the community as a whole. They asked what do they want the public to feel when they drive by or see the mural for the first time. They want the mural to be of exceptional quality, educational and the on-looker to be blown away, hoping that this is where people can't believe what they see. They want it to be educational and contemporary, representing the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The Port of Kennewick put out the Call for Artist. There were twenty-eight applicants who submitted proposals. The proposals were narrowed down to five, earlier this week by LHMCommittee. They selected their top two proposals after discussing the pros and cons of each mural. Later this evening they will disclose their top two picks.

The mural location is on two buildings on Columbia Drive (currently under construction). The Wine Village will back up to Duffy's Pond. Two buildings will have the murals. One mural will be 8' x 48'; the second mural will be 8'x 36', quite substantially large. They need to be visible from afar, and yet when you get up close, you will see the details. There are quite a number of wineries wanting to locate in the Wine Village.

**Art Commissioners criteria:**

Celebration of the heritage of the local Latino community and their valuable contributions made to the regions thriving wine and agricultural industries. That is the focus this evening when reviewing the five finalist proposals.

**The Port of Kennewick guidelines:**

- Hire professional artist experienced in large scale murals, open to community input
- Use highest quality materials, including sealants
- Use Dibond <sup>TM</sup>panels (provided by the Port of Kennewick)
- Encourage community involvement
- Encourage hiring local artists to train (encourage growth with our local artists)

**LHMC Committee requirements:**

Contemporary or modern in themes and the values

**The five finalist proposals selected by the LHMC:**

- Addy Boswell, Oregon (blue folder)
- Angelina Morina-Heidel and Joel Heidel, Oregon (yellow folder)
- Andrew Reid, Florida (green folder)
- David Ocelotl Garcia, Colorado (purple folder)
- Jared Bader, Pennsylvania (orange folder)

**All of the proposals submitted, were required to have:**

- 1) give a full description in their narrative of what story they were telling
- 2) a full description of all the supplies they were going to use
- 3) a budget
- 4) a calendar - of how long it is going to take them and how they were going to proceed

Ms. Moran commented that several years ago the Arts Commission presented a survey to the public and the results were that twenty-five percent are going to hate it, twenty-five percent will say it is okay, twenty-five percent just love it, and twenty-five percent will say they don't care. That is how the survey balanced out. This project is exciting; people who care about art in our community will applaud the LHMCommittee.

Mr. Gast top picks are D. Garcia and A. Reid. He appreciated the style, real sense of style, strong crisp lines, a lot of action, and a lot of movement, superior.

Mr. Scharold inquired that since the LHMCommittee already selected their top two picks, if the Arts Commission needs to spend extra time selecting top picks. Also, what happens if the KAC do not select the same top picks as the LHMCommittee. Ms. Moran responded by stating, that this is where conversations begin.

Ms. Moran number one choice is D. Garcia; he is the most original, the most original of all proposals. She loves the expressiveness, style, use of color, really unique. The lines across the line drawings, one image flows into the next, so complex yet looks so simple when he colors it in. He also included apples, and bees and a lot of learning parts, where one could talk about each part. It fulfilled and was much more broad than expected. The other proposals were kind of predictable. When people visit the Tri-Cities, this is something you can bring them to. Stylistic feels so contemporary. It feels magical in the way it keeps moving.

Ms. Bluechel also shared her two favorite pieces submitted by D. Garcia and A. Reid. They both had objects or parts that would be very visual from the street driving by. Yet, there is so much stuff you would want to come back and look at these. We want return traffic and both Artists capture this in both designs.

Ms. Bauer likes both, yet J. Bader's proposal looks like folks who live here, where you could identify with your neighbors.

Mr. Watson likes, D. Garcia's work, it is a better quality. He likes the color palette, matches lots of buildings. It is a very nice stylistic choice, matches to color of buildings in the community.

Ms. DeSteeze commented that once you see it on the large wall, it will still be busy, yet bigger. If Ms. DeSteeze was critiquing students, and if D. Garcia was one of the students, Ms. DeSteeze would say the mural seems to have a nice flow. She is drawn to things that are bright in color, a personal preference. The other looked a little photographic. The pre-history represents, it shows culture, represents where they came from, it is a nice addition.

Ms. Carter stated D. Garcia and A. Reid were her favorites as well. D. Garcia had a lot of renaissance quality, the committee wanted more today and local community life. She likes A. Reid more than D. Garcia, his were more austere and more focused on the vision he was trying to do. He was extremely contemporary and a couple of bandanas may need to get rid of. Ms. Estes-Cross asked Ms. Carter to elaborate on her comment about the bandanas. She stated that the first impression looked kind of scary, a look not what you would normally want to see. We want to make sure not to encourage graffiti. It wasn't as much of the bandana, but the scowl of his eyebrows. Ms. Moran felt it was stereotypical, too much right up front. The girl in the back with the bandana

did not appear that way; she did not look like a masked bandit. If D. Garcia was asked, would he be willing to change that.

Ms. Higley loved D. Garcia's work, the colors, and she believes people would want to return, because there is a lot to see.

It was noted that A.Reid is the one artist who submitted information about choosing an assistant as part of his proposal. Since one of the ultimate goals for our community is to be growing our own artist, giving them the experience. D. Garcia said he would be painting in his studio. The question is what studio, locally or in his hometown. The Port of Kennewick can ship panels to him but that would eliminate community involvement. That would have to be discussed with him if he were to get the contract.

Mr. Diaz stated when the LHMCcommittee evaluated each of the proposals, they had four criteria; 1) artistic design, 2) community values , 3) community involvement, and 4) narrative/budget They were scored from one to five in each category. The LHMC top two picks were the same as KAC, David Garcia and Andrew Reid. A. Reid was the number one selection, with total points 116, David had 105. All three others tied at 93 points. The LHMCcommittee intention is to have a high quality mural with a fine artist and most importantly to create conversation. As in wearing bandanas, they wear bandanas because of the spray. Mr. Diaz appreciated the conversation relating to that. Mr. Lindeman stated that many times in the field you cannot tell that whether it is a man or woman wearing a bandana. Mr. Diaz commented that the LHMCcommittee goal is to create that dialog. Mr. Diaz loved the story telling in D. Garcia's art, the vibrant colors. D. Garcia was his personal favorite, but he would be happy with either one being selected.

Ms. Bluechel stated that traditionally, to share in the same playing field, all finalists be contacted for clarification regarding community involvement, working with local artists. Ms. Carter stated during the conference call it that was the artist opportunity to bring it up.

After further discussion, the Kennewick Arts Commission confirmed that their two top choices are, first, David O. Garcia, and second, Andrew Reid.

## 5. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

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Respectfully Submitted,

Isa Quintanilla, Recorder