

MINUTES OF THE
SANTA FE COUNTY ARTS, CULTURE
AND CULTURAL TOURISM COMMITTEE

August 12, 2016

Santa Fe, New Mexico

This meeting of the Santa Fe County Arts, Culture, and Cultural Tourism Committee (ACCT) was called to order by Vice Chair Michelle Laflamme-Childs at 2:00 p.m. on the above-cited date in the Projects, Facilities, and Open Space Conference Room, 901 W. Alameda, Suite 20C, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

A quorum was indicated with the following members present:

Members Present:

Michelle Laflamme-Childs, Chair
Karen Nance
Charlene Cerny
Ramona Sakiestewa

Member(s) Excused:

Jayne Levant, Chair
Ann Weisman
Deborah Torres

Staff Present:

David Griscom, Economic Development Manager

Guest(s):

James Horn, Spears Horn Architects

III. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Sakiestewa moved approval as published and Ms. Cerny seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes: July 8, 2016

Upon motion by Ms. Sakiestewa and second by Ms. Nance, the minutes were unanimously approved.

V. Report from the Chair

There was no report.

VI. Matters from the Public

None were offered.

VII. Action Items

None were offered.

VIII. Presentation and Discussion: Potential Arts Programming for New County Office Complex

Spears Horn Architects has been selected to design the new Santa Fe County office complex on Catron and design the renovations to the old courthouse/existing admin building on Grant.

James Horn said the existing admin building/old courthouse is a John Gaw Meem design and originally had a courtyard in the middle area facing Johnson Street. Sometime in the 1970s, the Assessor's Office was added on the ground floor and the Legal office on the second floor. There are discussions to return to the original design providing a 30 x 40 foot courtyard with a tremendous natural light gain inside the building.

Referring to the new building, Mr. Horn said there will be underground parking and it is expected to be two or three stories. The idea is to build the new complex, then relocate personnel from the old courthouse and renovate that building. He identified the new building may house Growth Management, a new Film Office, the Clerk, Assessor, and departments now at the Bokum building. The new building will have showers and exercise areas for staff, conference areas, common space, public and department bathrooms. It is uncertain where the Projects Development Department will be housed, it may be on 599 at the Public Works building.

A question of whether public funds could be used to re-implement the original design of the John Gaw Meem building and if so, Meem's daughter Nancy Wirth was mentioned as a strong advocate and fundraiser.

The architects held their first public project announcement meeting on July 21st at the First Presbyterian Church.

In regards to showing art in the building, Mr. Horn said at this point they envision a formal lobby with alcoves. Hallways will connect to different departments and art could be exhibited in alcoves or display cases.

Following discussion, a makerspace was deemed problematic, expensive and competing with already struggling makerspaces. Additionally, there are liability issues that the County may not want to take on.

The following points were discussed:

- Do we want to attract the public to the building? If so, how will it be accomplished?
- The City's Community Gallery has a strong user presence and does not need to be repeated
- A good conference space that could be rented is needed
- Showing art is a value to the community and beneficial to local artists
- Display of art would create an element of Santa Fe's culture and provide exposure to artists
- Display cases could be similar to those in hotels
- The displays/exhibits could be changed three times annually. How to display art on a rotating basis in the new building?
- The question of quality requires thought - art would have to be vetted by the ACCT and would require staff time
- Something similar to the Sunport's display (between the garage and entrance) was mentioned with less "mishmash" and enough space to show the broad diversity of the County
- Who pays for the flexi-box?
- County could provide a great opportunity for the artist not represented by a gallery
- There may be an opportunity for the BCC to adopt a "one percent for the arts" building construction concept: a decision could be made to put permanent art in the building
- The design concept includes pedestrian ways that could include sculptures, plantings, and perhaps a pocket park
- If the Grant admin building is returned to its original design which was minimalist, the courtyard could facilitate a portal-type program
- Use the hotel model letting interested buyers directly contact the artist
- The notion of a vendor was mentioned
- Who uses the building? Staff, wandering-in public, public doing business with the County, tourists, etc.
- The showcases should not replicate anything else going on in town
- Consider a kiosk to obtain artists' information and show film history in Santa Fe
- The existing building on Grant will house the Commission, Manager, Attorney's office, purchasing and the Treasurer
- Charrettes will be set up at the Grant building

After the programming is established Mr. Horn was slated to return to this committee.

Destination weddings were mentioned as a possible economic opportunity for Santa Fe County.

IX. Matters from the Committees

- a. Discussion of a potential County Arts Commission: no report
- b. Discussion of a potential County arts/culture space in County buildings
[Discussed above]
- c. **Discussion of a Potential County Arts in Public Places Program**

Ms. Laflamme-Child said they met with “Sherry” from the Bernalillo Public Arts program and learned a great deal about the City of Albuquerque and the County of Bernalillo’s programs. Bernalillo’s program was modeled on that of the City and it works by aggregating funds. Capital improvement projects are reviewed and a percentage removed. One percent is returned and earmarked for public art. “While it is smoke and mirrors it is more palatable.”

Two percent is being suggested by the subcommittee. The question of general liability insurance came up and its tremendous expense for artists.

Bernalillo and Albuquerque do this with all capital programs – roads, drainage, etc. and bond regulations allow them to fund that money for any related facility within the County. Of the 1 percent, .2 percent goes to administration which includes restoration and repair of the work and .8 to art.

The subcommittee believes if the BCC agrees to this idea it could be very good for Santa Fe County. The idea of an app, for instance, one relating to the heritage corridor for downloading on their phone would be great. The Heritage list should be mobile friendly.

The subcommittee will provide additional information to include ordinances used by Los Alamos County, City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County. The program is about cultural enhancement, a quality of life marker, and while it could lead to economic development that is not its function.

Keeping the competition open to residents outside of New Mexico elevates the quality of work in the state. Residency in New Mexico could increase the rating which is already in Santa Fe County’s procurement code.

Rather than bids, New Mexico Arts conducts a public call for art and selections are made in public hearings. There are exemptions to the state’s procurement code that include the acquisition of fine art and advertising.

X. Matters from staff

Referring to the February 2016 BCC presentation, Mr. Griscom said he would extrapolate the key points and develop a digestible format.

There was agreement to skip a September meeting and meet in October.

A. Agenda items for next meeting

- Invite County Communications Coordinator Kristine Mihelcic to discuss branding, messaging and logo
- AIPP – draft ordinance
- Architect rendering/programming

