



# **MEMORANDUM**

Providing a Better Quality of Life for You!

**Date:** January 15, 2008

To: Mayor Munson, City Council

From: Sioux Falls Visual Arts Commission Jerry Hauck, 2007 Chairperson

Stacey McMahan, 2007 Vice Chairperson

Subject: 2007 Sioux Falls Visual Arts Commission Annual Report

The Visual Arts Commission respectfully submits our 2007 Annual Report for your review. This report highlights the Commission's milestones, including activities, endeavors, and project planning during 2007.

stablished by City Ordinance 72-00 in August 2000, the Sioux Falls Visual Arts Commission is a group of seven city residents who serve in an advisory capacity, providing guidance and recommendations to the Mayor and City Council on matters related to visual art within the City.

The Visual Arts Commission members are appointed by the Mayor. The appointments are subject to the review and approval by the City Council. The appointments are for a three-year term, and Commission members are limited to two consecutive terms. The Commission meets monthly. The meetings are held in the Carnegie Town Hall, 235 West Tenth Street, at 9 a.m. on the third Tuesday of each month.

### **Visual Arts Commission Membership**

The following citizens served with dedication on the Visual Arts Commission in 2007:

Jerry Hauck, Chairperson Stacey McMahan, Vice Chairperson

Lary Etten Anita Kealey

Lyle Pudwill Kris Carmody Reaves

In December, Ceca Cooper and Ann Marie Davis were appointed to the Commission. Their terms become effective in January 2008.

Russ Sorenson, City of Sioux Falls Urban Planner, served as the staff liaison to the Visual Arts Commission in 2007.

Below is a summary description of the commission's 2007 milestones, including endeavors, activities, and project planning.

# **Visual Arts Commission Website Page**

After launching their initial website page in early 2005, the Visual Arts Commission continued developing and improving their website page in 2007. The website serves as an online resource to keep public visual art enthusiasts and interested citizens informed about Commission membership and duties, meeting agendas and minutes, general procedure guidelines for calls for art, jury pool/panel correspondence, public art presentation form, and specific public visual art projects.

The Visual Arts Commission website is at: www.siouxfalls.org/planning/visual\_arts.aspx

The website has a new look and is now linked to the Sioux Empire Arts Council, (www.siouxempireartscouncil.com), and South Dakota Arts Alive Network, (sdarts.org) websites.

## **Visual Arts Commission Duties and Responsibilities**

The Visual Arts Commission acts as an advisory body to the Mayor and City Council on matters pertaining to visual art. The Commission's duties may include:

- Developing a general policy for inclusion and approval of visual art in public places and projects.
- Establishing criteria for visual art, including compatibility with general, social, and physical environment with which the art is to relate; originality; diversity of style; structural design; quality; quantity; scope; scale; material; form; content; and durability.
- > Recommending visual art projects and identifying potential sites.
- Recommending the placement of statues, monuments, and memorials in City parks, in or on City property, and on public right-of-way.
- Encouraging the incorporation of visual art into the design of commercial, residential, and public projects.
- Encouraging artists' involvement at the inception of City design and building projects.
- Maintaining a directory of the City's inventory of visual art, including receipt annually of the City's plan for conservation and maintenance of art works.
- Reviewing and making recommendations upon all works of art to be acquired by the City, either by purchase, gift, or otherwise.
- Educating the community about the value and importance of visual art.
- Advising or receiving recommendations from other City boards and commissions on matters involving the visual arts, including aesthetics and beautification.
- Serving as the City's liaison with artists, and advising on any proposed alteration, removal, or destruction of visual art projects, statues, monuments, or memorials in City parks or on City property.
- Preparing an annual report to the Mayor and Council on the visual arts. The report may include a plan for future art projects.

#### **Mission Statement**

In 2007 the Visual Arts Commission was proactive in accomplishing their adopted mission. The Commission's adopted mission statement reads:

"The mission of the Sioux Falls Visual Arts Commission is to support and

encourage development of visual art for community buildings and spaces through its role as an advisory body to the Mayor, City Council, and other City government officials."

The mission statement is posted on the Commission's website page: www.siouxfalls.org/planning/visual\_arts.aspx

## **2007 Visual Arts Commission Activities and Projects**

#### **Activities**

### **Capital Improvements Plan Project Review**

In 2007 the Visual Arts Commission continued to invite various City directors and staff to attend their meetings to discuss the City's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) projects, and identify opportunities for the Commission to become more actively involved. The Visual Arts Commission established a subcommittee to review 2007–2011 CIP projects that could possibly incorporate artistic design elements into their project scope. The subcommittee constructed a City map illustration identifying approximately 17 CIP projects that related to various City departments, including Arena, Fire, Library, Parks and Recreation, Public Works, and Public Parking.

The Commissioners continued developing and refining their artistic design element ideas for some of the CIP projects. The Commissioners presented their ideas to the Parks and Recreation Director (regarding Harmodon Park), Siouxland Libraries Director (regarding downtown library renovation project), and the Public Works Director (regarding Eighth Street Bridge). The Commissioners expressed interest in continuing to construct project bulletins that would serve as visual aids for discussing and communicating their visual design element ideas in the future with various City department directors.

Some future projects and improvements identified that may involve Commission members and artistic input, where applicable, include: Harmodon Park, Falls Park, the Big Sioux River Greenway, several Public Works street and bridge improvement projects, future branch libraries, fire station buildings, parking facilities, and city gateways.

# **Projects**

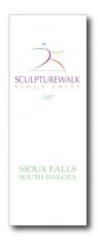
#### 2007 SculptureWalk-Sioux Falls

The SculptureWalk-Sioux Falls program enhances the beauty and culture of the Sioux Falls Downtown Area for all citizens and visitors to enjoy. In 2007 the SculptureWalk program of the Sioux Empire Arts Council had 55 new sculptures located within the central downtown business district for outdoor display. There are 65 sculptures currently

placed in and around downtown. In 2006, 2005, and 2004, there were 50 sculptures, 43 sculptures, and 34 sculptures, respectively, placed downtown.

The SculptureWalk program represents a broad collaboration of individuals and entities, both public and private, including Main Street Sioux Falls, the Sioux Empire Arts Council, the Chamber of Commerce, the City of Sioux Falls, and other interested organizations coming together in a community-wide team effort to beautify the community and grow the economy through increased tourism.

On March 19, 2007, the City Council adopted Resolution #44-07, accepting the Visual Arts Commission recommendations for the 2007 SculptureWalk Project.



### Sculpture Placements in City Parks and along the Greenway in Sioux Falls

In 2007 the Visual Arts Commission considered and recommended siting three sculpture proposals from SculptureWalk 2006 to the City Council. They include:





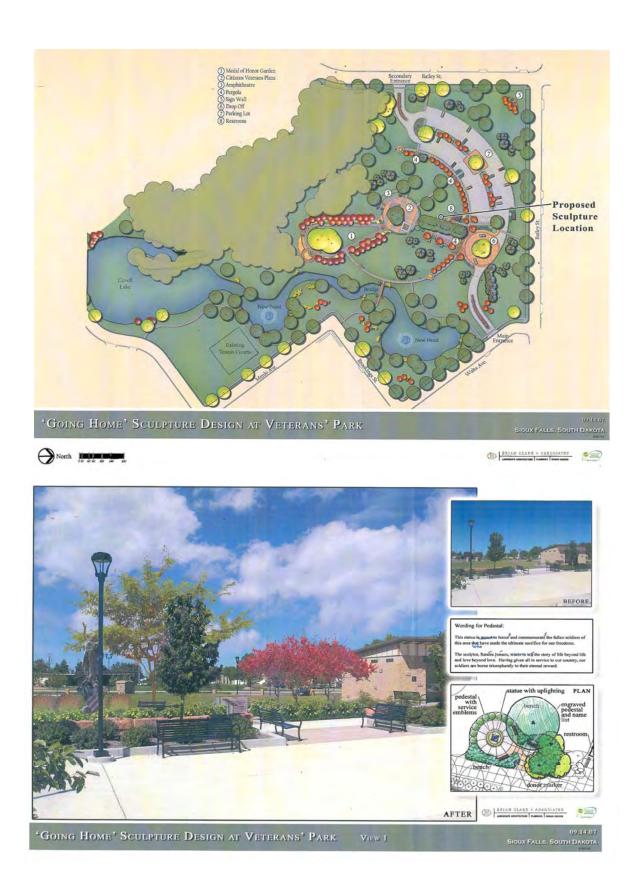
➤ People's Choice Sculpture—"For Which It Stands," by artist James Haire, is a bronze cast sculpture that depicts two small children pledging allegiance to the flag. The sculpture is located west of the Falls Park Visitor Information Center. City Resolution #165-07 was adopted November 8, 2007. Installation is complete.



- <u>"Potato Man"</u>—This sculpture, known as "Potato Man" by Susan Geissler, is a colored bronze sculpture that depicts an Irish potato farmer. The sculpture was purchased by several local Irish citizens and donated to the City. It will be located in the southwest corner of McKennan Park. City Resolution #141-07 was adopted September 4, 2007. A 2008 installation is planned.
- "Going Home" —This sculpture art project, known as "Going Home," has been commissioned by Staff Sergeant Robb L. Rolfing's family, and is being sculpted by nationally known artist Sondra L. Jonson. As proposed by Staff Sergeant Robb L. Rolfing's family, the new sculpture will be a bronze cast sculpture that depicts an angelic figure lifting a fallen soldier, thus symbolizing the victory of eternal life over the power of death.

The sculpture will be exhibited at the Sioux Falls Veterans Memorial Park (along West Bailey Street), and cited within a newly created outdoor and reverent space generally located mid-way between the north park entrance and the Citizens Veterans Plaza. When completed, the sculpture honors and commemorates **all** fallen soldiers of this area who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms. City Resolution #166-07 was adopted November 8, 2007. A 2008 installation is planned.







#### CommUnity Youth Mosaic Project—Phase II

The proposed location of the CommUnity Youth Mosaic is the retaining wall located along East River Road, between Ninth Street and Fawick Park. Phase I was constructed in 2006. Phase II includes the continuation of the colorful mosaic wall and involves a continued community partnership art project involving Sioux Falls middle school students, Sioux Falls School District officials and teachers, the Sioux Empire Arts Council, local businesses, and the City.

Under the guidance of Sioux Falls School District art instructors Lisa Brunick and Jennifer Waldera, approximately 500 middle school students created a work of art celebrating diversity and unity in our community. On January 19, 2007, the City Council adopted Resolution #08-07, approving Phase II of the CommUnity Youth Mosaic Project.



Phase II construction on the mosaic wall was completed and a ribbon cutting ceremony and community celebration were conducted on September 29, 2007.

For more project information, visit the Commission's website page, www.siouxfalls.org/Planning/visual\_arts/youth\_mosaic.aspx.





### Phillips to the Falls Archway Art Panels Project

On August 21, 2006, the City Council adopted Resolution #118-06, approving the Phillips to the Falls Archway Art Panels project. The panels are located in the downtown vicinity of Fifth Street and Phillips Avenue.

In early 2007, sculptor Benjamin Victor delivered two clay molds for the Phillips to the Falls Gateway Arch Panels Project. The artworks are known as "The Falls Past" and "The Falls Today..." "The Falls Past" is a bronze relief panel of a Native American woman standing close to a settler woman as each admires the beauty of the other's child. The second panel, known as "The Falls Today," is a bronze relief panel of a family of three standing in the foreground of the Falls.

The panels were bronze cast in Sioux Falls by Bronze Age Art Casting. The completed archway art panels were installed on November 13, 2007. The total project cost was \$17,000.

For more project information, visit the Commission's website page, www.siouxfalls.org/Planning/visual\_arts/archway\_panels.aspx.





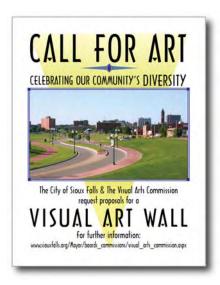
### "A Round Town" Termesphere

This magnificent art project was commissioned by Avera McKennan Hospital and University Health Center and constructed by South Dakota's own internationally known artist, Dick Termes (of Spearfish). Avera is committed to the arts in creating a therapeutic health care environment. Avera McKennan donated the original artwork piece to the City for placement in the Sioux Falls Convention Center lobby. Avera's facilities feature numerous pieces of original artwork and expressed their pleasure in sharing "A Round Town" Termesphere with the Sioux Falls community and visitors.

A "Termesphere" is a large sphere that is completely painted on the outside by the artist. The unique spherical painting allows for interesting visual perspective, continuity, and a three-dimensional presence. The four-foot diameter colorful "A Round Town" Termesphere depicts Sioux Falls' urban transformation and landmarks from the past and present, and into the future. City Resolution #132-07 was adopted August 20, 2007. Installation is completed and an unveiling and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony was conducted on October 15, 2007.

#### Request for Proposals for Call for Art—Visual Art Wall

During 2007 the Visual Arts Commission worked on developing a project idea known as the Visual Art Wall, that would celebrate our community's diversity. The proposed project location is on public property, located on the west side of North Phillips Avenue to the Falls. The Commissioners reviewed and approved a draft "Request for Proposals for a Call for Art—Visual Art Wall," and timeline, subject to project funding availability. City Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funding in the amount of \$50,000 was approved by the City Council on August 13, 2007, for this project.



Three Visual Arts Commissioners volunteered to serve on a subcommittee to assist and oversee the Call for Art and jury selection processes. Commission consensus for this particular Call for Art is:

- Only local artists (statewide) will be eligible for consideration for this Visual Art Wall project.
- ➤ Distribution of the Call for Art will include posting an electronic postcard notice on various websites including, but not limited to: S.D. university art galleries, The S.D. Art Museum, S.D. Arts Council, South Dakotans for the Arts, Sioux Empire Arts Council, and Builders Exchange—Plains. The postcard would be linked to the Sioux Falls Visual Arts Commission website.
- Resolve to establish a separate jury panel, separate of the Commission, for this project.
- ➤ Resolve to conduct and conclude the Call for Art and jury selection processes by early 2008.
- Present recommendation(s) to the Mayor and City Council in the spring of 2008.
- Complete project by October 1, 2008.

The Call for Art and Call for Art postcard notice were distributed by the staff liaison as requested by the Visual Arts Commission on December 7, 2007. Proposals are due January 17, 2008. A separate jury panel, separate of the Commission, will be established and will convene for this project. Jury panel recommendation(s) will be forwarded on to the Visual Arts Commission for consideration and recommendation(s). The Visual Arts Commission will then forward their recommendation(s) to the Mayor and City Council in March 2008, for their final action.

# **Public Input**

In 2007 the Visual Arts Commission received public input at their meetings about such topics as establishing a review process for public visual art proposals within City parks, and further promoting visual art opportunities for community youth.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, there are many positive changes occurring in Sioux Falls that are emphasizing and including public visual art and aesthetics. The Visual Arts Commission is very excited to be a part of this community evolution. The Visual Arts Commission meets the third Tuesday of each month at 9 a.m. in Carnegie Town Hall. We would be pleased to have you attend at any time.

We are grateful for the opportunity to serve you and the citizens of Sioux Falls.

Thank you for your continued support.