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Roswell Arts Fund initiates 'Artist Around the Table' meetings to increase presence of public art

Lindsay Moscarello Nov 20, 2018

Roswell Arts Fund facilitated the inaugural "Artist Around the Table" work session on Oct. 23.

According to a news release, the session aims "to spark city leader's public art imagination and deepen the city's commitment to integrating public art into the very fabric of what defines Roswell."

"A first of its kind in our region," five accomplished public artists were invited to a half day work session with four Roswell City Department representatives.



Artists Michael Dillon, Lauren Dillon, Gregory Johnson, Megan McKeithan and Marcus Mello listened to presentations from city departments, discussing current or future projects.

Attending artists were given time “to explore potential integration of public art, either functionally or stand alone” after the presentations.

Artists will submit their recommendations for integrating public art within two weeks of the work session.

Participating artists could have the opportunity to be invited “to continue to serve as an advisor, have a seat at the table as an artist in residence, and/or be commissioned for specific public art work.”

Roswell Arts Fund will be hosting two Artist Around the Table meetings each year, demonstrating the importance of Public Art as a value proposition for the City of Roswell and seeking to further implement our Public Art Master Plan.



According to a news release, “thriving Arts communities are magnets for creatives and entrepreneurs who in turn attract customers, workers, and visitors, strengthening local economies and boosting tourism.”

“Roswell has tremendous natural, cultural and historic resources that can attract even more tourism, in addition to being enjoyed by locals, so I would think that showcasing those elements through public art in capital projects would likely pay for itself economically,” said City Traffic Engineer Scott Brunner.

Roswell completed its Public Art Master Plan in March 2016. Although a percent for art policy has not yet become policy,

Roswell Arts Fund proposed “one strategy to guarantee integration of public art into capital projects is adopting a percent for art ordinance.”

The group has been working on “strengthening the public art landscape and mindset for over three years” with ArtAround Roswell Sculpture Tour, Street Pianos, plus support and advocacy for additional murals and private developer engagement.



Artist Megan McKeithan, described she was “in a word, impressed” with the meeting and presentations.

“Roswell Arts Fund believes public art can activate the city’s ‘Modern Spirit, Southern Soul,’” said in a release.

They credit “the support of Mayor Lori Henry, Roswell City Council Members and City Staff” for support of the efforts.

“We look forward to next steps, as we continue to break new ground to integrate Public Art into our landscape,” said Roswell Arts Fund in a news release.

Neighbor News Online will continue to provide updates on this initiative as details become available.