



MEMO

TO: Mayor Ghatan and Town Council
FROM: Julie Greene, FHAC Coordinator
DATE: March 26, 2021
RE: 2020 FHAC ANNUAL REPORT

The Friday Harbor Arts Commission would like to report on their accomplishments in 2020 and plans for 2021.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- The FHAC currently meets at 11 am the second Tuesday of each month via GoToMeeting. In 2020, meetings were held monthly with the exception of April due to the initial lockdown and November due to lack of urgent business (a first).
- We began the year with members Mayor Ghatan and Commissioners David Jenkins, Diane Martindale, Peter Lane, Cloud Oakes, and newly appointed Commissioners Lisa Lamoreaux and Jackie House—our youth representative. Commissioner Lynn Weber/Roochvarg was appointed in March.
- Commissioner Oakes vacated her position in November, two months shy of completing her three-year term, citing her dislike of the virtual meeting format. This position remains open.
- Founding Commissioner Martindale stepped down at the end December, one year prior to completion of her current term; youth Commissioner House has been appointed to complete the final year of that vacated term. The youth position is now open.

PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2020

- **Poetry Gardens contest and installation**
Commissioner Jenkins presented, coordinated, and shepherded this project through to completion. Due to COVID, installation was delayed from April (Poetry Month) until June, and the ribbon cutting was cancelled. I handled all communication with the contestants and assisted with creating the map and proofreading content for the book of winning poems funded and produced by the citizen half of the poetry committee. I created the document "Poetry Garden Project" for the Town website with photos and map of the gardens and the list of winning poets. This project is intended to be repeated every two years. However, due to COVID's effect on 2020 tourism, the FHAC plans to delay the next contest to summer 2022 with installation in spring 2023. A press release was issued last week promoting the gardens during April—National Poetry Month.
- **Edward Warbass and Bob statue installation**
After several personal and pandemic setbacks, the Warbass statue was completed and installed in October—one year past the original installation date. A QR code at the site directs interested parties to the Town website document "Ed Warbass Statue—The Story." Our website also includes "Ed Warbass Statue—Concept to Completion," a photo outline of the sculpture process. The artist provided a bronze of the dog's head that we hope to use as part of a pet watering station at the refurbished Sunshine Alley restrooms.

- **Public art catalog update**

The Town's public art catalog was updated to include the two Gerber statues and Micajah Bienvenu's sculpture at the Grand.

OTHER ACTIVITIES IN 2020

- **Blair Avenue mural RFP**

The Town received nine proposals from the Blair Avenue Mural RFP. Per FHAC guidelines, an Artist Selection Panel (ASP) of commissioners, artists, and neighboring property owners convened in August in two small, COVID-conscious groups. The FHAC agreed with the ASP that none of the proposals as written would be appropriate. The Council approved the commission's request to issue an RFP that more specifically outlined the FHAC's expectations. This RFP was issued in January 2021 with a deadline of March 22nd. Eleven proposals were submitted and are being reviewed by the ASP.

- **Stop, Look, Wave crosswalk project**

The FHAC designed a pedestrian safety stencil for the Council's consideration. This design was approved at a recent Council meeting.

- **Guest speaker: Deborah Hoskinson**

The Director of the SJI Visitors Bureau proposed a springtime art week similar to the fall Savor the San Juans festival.

PROJECTS IN PROCESS FOR 2021

- **Public art catalog revision**

Poetry Gardens, Warbass statue, and Spring Street School student mural will be added.

- **Public art brochure and map revision:**

Discover Art in Friday Harbor brochure and map will be updated to include the five pieces installed since the previous publication. This might require a full redesign of the brochure to allow for additional text and a QR code.

- **Improved access to the catalog and brochure:**

FHAC members have noted that our public art publications are buried within the Town's website and access should be more user-friendly. Suggestions include adding direct links on the Town's home page, promoting the guides on the Visitors Bureau site, finding appropriate locations in town for displaying QR code access, and setting up a Google tour app.

- **Stop, Look, Wave crosswalk project installation**

The stencils will be created and installed on Spring Street crosswalks at the First Street intersection after completion of the Spring Street utility project. If the project is well-received, additional sites could be considered.

- **Grange pocket park**

Similar to the Breezeway park, this will have Tom Small polished boulders as artwork. Once the park has been completed, the FHAC will consider what, if any, additional artwork would be appropriate.

- **Exaggeration Postcards Breezeway art installation**

I've assisted project coordinator Sandy Strehlou with proofreading. The FHAC will provide feedback and assistance as needed but is currently not involved.

The FHAC appreciates the Council's on-going support of their efforts and looks forward to bringing more quality art and cultural experiences to the town. ###