

CITY OF WEST CHICAGO

WHERE HISTORY & PROGRESS MEET

WEST CHICAGO CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

Special Meeting

Thursday, March 10, 2022
(This meeting will be held remotely.)
7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Establishment of a Quorum
2. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Cultural Arts Commission of February 3, 2022
3. Public Participation/Presentations
4. Items for Discussion and Possible Action
 - a. Alebrijes Community Art Project
5. Other Business
 - a. 2022 Art Banner Exhibit – Call for Artists: Results
6. Adjournment

Meeting ID: 819 3845 9766

Passcode: 908506

During the COVID-19 Pandemic, public meetings may be held remotely due to distancing restrictions. Public meetings held remotely will allow interested people to teleconference from home or another location on the Zoom app. Downloading Zoom from zoom.us will provide the audio link to the meeting. Anyone wishing to provide comment on a topic or an agenda item, may address the Cultural Arts Commission by 4:00 p.m. the day of the meeting. You may do so either by an online form on the City's website, email to the Cultural Arts Staff Liaison at dpeck@westchicago.org or voicemail message at (630) 293-2205 x139. Your comment to the Cultural Arts Commission will be read during the Public Participation portion of the agenda.

CC: Mayor Ruben Pineda, City Council, Michael Guttman, West Chicago Cultural Arts Commissioners,
Media, Daniel Peck

West Chicago Cultural Arts Commission
Thursday, February 3, 2022
7:00pm
MINUTES

1. Call to Order at 7:02pm by Heidi Kuharich; Roll Call: Uwe Gsedl, Anni Holm, Judith Horsley, Heidi Kuharich, Deborah Walsh, and City Liaison Daniel Peck in attendance; Quorum established; Statement from Mayor Pineda read
2. Welcome New Member to Commission
 - a. Moved to next meeting
3. Approve Minutes of January 6, 2022
 - a. Deborah Walsh made motion to approve, Judith Horsley seconded; Approved unanimously
4. Update on 2022 Art Banner Submissions—Call for Art
 - a. Current submission count at 15
 - b. Kay McKeen of SCARCE agreed to be 2022 juror; announcement going out week of February 7th
 - c. Confirmed 50 banner frames with Streets Dept
 - d. Uwe Gsedl will forward past banner maps to Dan Peck for reference
 - e. Judith Horsley recalled summers when selected banners from previous years were also hung; suggests revisiting the practice, especially if submissions are low
 - f. Moving forward, e-mail previous contributors early. Also art departments at local colleges, Irene O’Neil’s Awakenings Project, D33/D25/D94 art teachers, etc.
 - g. 2023 Theme should be selected in May to better position PR as 2022 banners go up.
5. Update on Cultural Arts Master Plan Document Writing Assignments
 - a. Deborah Walsh led directional discussion about budget control for Collective Oversight section
 - b. Discussion about City Council perspective led to question about inviting a council member to join Commission
6. Update on Los Alebrijes—Discussions with Mexican Cultural Arts DuPage & DuPage Convention and Visitors’ Bureau
 - a. Dan Peck had suggestion for façade “stickers” that glow in the dark; could lead to an alebrije scavenger hunt
 - b. Discussion centered on ideas to draw people to West Chicago to view more alebrijes, piggybacking off Cantigny display
 - i. Possibly creating a West Chicago “born and raised” alebrije
 - ii. Possibly including PR on a few banners (if they could be a draw, not push people out of town)
7. Other Business
 - a. Dan Peck stated need for various types of community photos for use in general PR, website, FaceBook, etc; there really are none currently at his disposal and he’s trying to build up a library of images
8. Public Participation: N/A
9. Adjournment: Anni Holm made motion, Uwe Gsedl seconded, unanimous: 8.28pm



AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Alebrije Community Projects – Project Proposal

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 5a

AGENDA DATE: March 10, 2022

PRESENTING MEMBER(S): Heidi Kuharich, Chairperson; Daniel Peck, Marketing & Communications Coordinator (Staff Liaison)

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY:

The West Chicago Cultural Arts Commission (CAC) is committed to partnering with the Mexican Cultural Center—DuPage (MCC) in promoting the *Alebrijes: Creatures of a Dream World* at Cantigny Park, and providing a community engagement and enrichment project for the West Chicago community that correlates with the event.

The proposed project(s) for consideration are based on initial insight from a discussion between City staff and MCC regarding a potential exhibit at Gallery 200 that will incorporate a portal from which alebrijes creatures emerge from. MCC provided some initial thoughts on potential community projects, and the proposed projects are based on MCC's preliminary ideas.

Both projects are to be executed in collaboration with MCC, with the CAC championing and managing the proposed projects. Each project includes avenues of support centered on: establishing a partnership with MCC; injecting West Chicago's community identity into the alebrije movement of the summer; and providing residents and business owners with an opportunity to contribute and celebrate the alebrije exhibit as a community.

The proposed agenda item is for the consideration of two separate community engagement/enrichment projects: Community Wreaths and a Community Alebrije Sculpture

Project 1: Community Wreaths Project

Carrying over the success and joy experienced with similar community engagement/enrichment projects, including *The Butterfly Effect* and the *2020 Haiku Project*, the CAC would create, provide instruction on how to create, and promote Community Wreaths as an opportunity for residents/businesses to participate in a personal way with the alebrijes exhibit. Additional project details include:

- Wreaths would be in locations visible from the sidewalks with participants being encouraged to post photos of their completed wreaths with details on dedicated webpage.
- Wreaths would fall into one of two categories: Alebrijes/Dreamworld or Renewal. (Alebrijes/Dreamworld would coincide with the summer's theme, and also include anything that embodies the Mexican cultural, and Renewal would coincide with the Summer Art Banner theme and could include anything natural, recycled, reborn, etc.)

Considerations

- Providing pre-formed wreaths to encourage easy participation, and provide a suggested size.
- Implementing an online People's Choice contest utilizing submitted photos with categories. (e.g.; age, region, etc.)
- Creation of digital map showcasing wreath locations. (This has been a big part of the past campaigns.)

Project 2: Community Alebrije Sculpture

To coincide with the larger alebrijes that will be at the Cantigny Park exhibit, the proposed project would have the CAC create a large alebrijes sculpture (approximately 5'-6') with the community that is based upon specific West Chicago features (i.e.; trains, monarchs, water tower, etc.) Community member would be encouraged to participate in providing ideas on how to create the sculpture and items specific to West Chicago to be incorporated, and will also be encouraged to participate in the overall creation during community events, and/or workshops.

Proposed Project Timeline

- April: Initiate an online survey allowing community to vote on sculpture specifics.
- May (prior to Blooming Fest on May 21): CAC members will construct the raw form of sculpture based upon online input.
- Blooming Fest Event: CAC attends event, and encourages community to apply the papier mache necessary to build up the structure of the creature.
- May (after Blooming Fest on May 21): CAC hosts smaller events to give the community further opportunity to decorate the sculpture.

Considerations

- Begin with a scaled copy of the iconic West Chicago downtown Water Tower
- Host a “Name Our Alebrije” contest online.
- Have sculpture present at events during the summer: Railroad Days Parade, Food Fests, Mexican Independence Day Parade, etc.
- Where will the completed Alebrije reside when not out making appearances, and how will it be protected from outdoor elements?

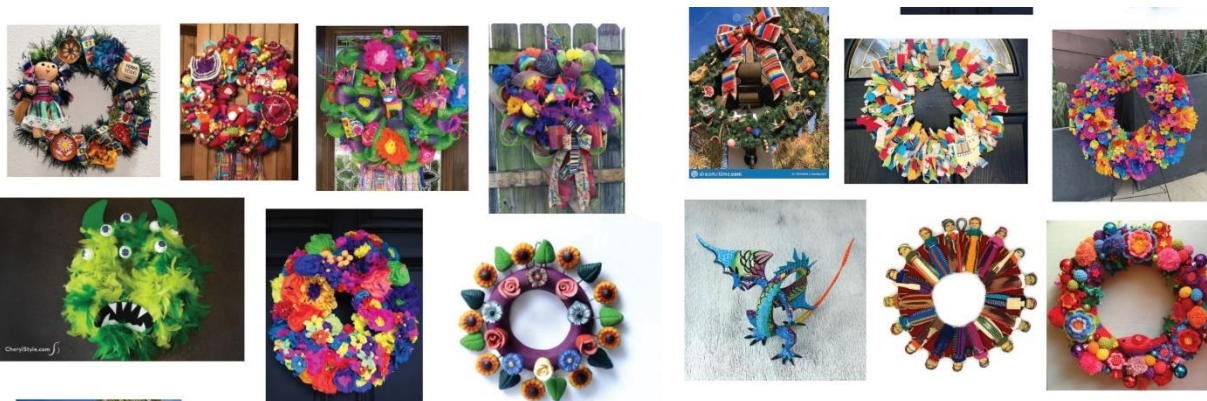
ACTION(S) PROPOSED:

- Approval of direction and continued development of Project 1: Community Wreaths Project.
 - Proceed w/ establishing budgetary needs and preliminary planning
- Approval of direction and continued development of Project 2: Community Alebrije Sculpture
 - Proceed w/ establishing budgetary needs and preliminary planning
- Consider staff recommendation of the creation of two sub-committees to manage each project separately if both projects approved

NEXT STEP(S):

Should the Commission chooses to proceed with either, or both, projects then details will be further investigated and preliminary planning will commence. Final project plan(s) and budget will then be presented for approval during the next Cultural Arts Commission meeting on Thursday, April 7 as a separate agenda item, “Alebrije Community Projects – Project Approval.”

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS/IMAGES:



Sample cultural/alebrije style wreaths provided by MCC



CITY OF WEST CHICAGO

Cultural Arts Commission

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: 2022 Art Banner Exhibit – Call for Artists: Results

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 5a

AGENDA DATE: March 10, 2022

PRESENTING MEMBER(S): Daniel Peck, Marketing & Communications Coordinator (Staff Liaison)

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY:

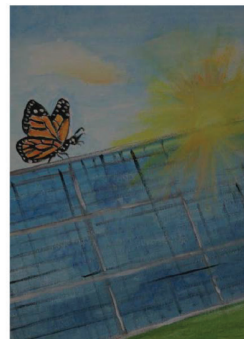
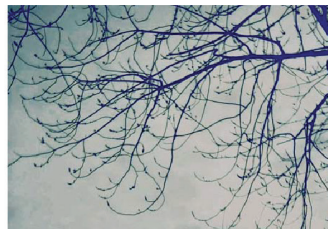
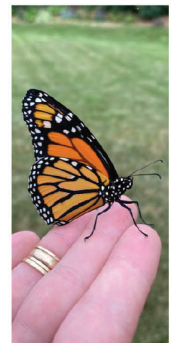
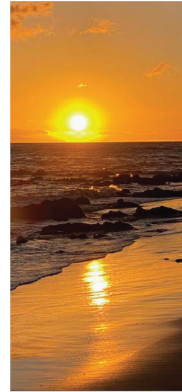
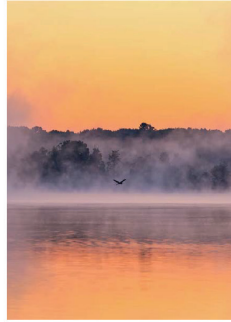
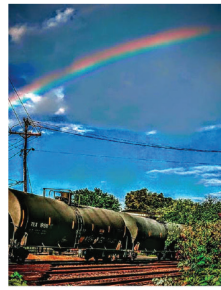
The West Chicago Cultural Arts Commission's 2022 Annual Art Banner Exhibit concluded the Call for Artists portion of the project. In 2022, the Annual Art Banner Exhibit–Call for Artists resulted in 90 different pieces of art submitted by 43 different artists from 19 different communities.

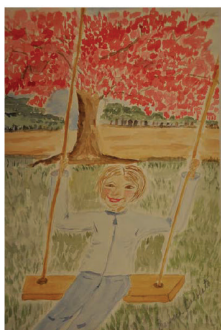
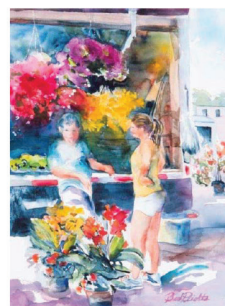
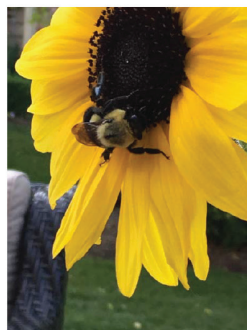
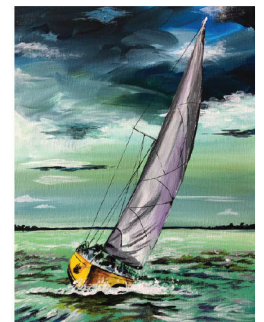
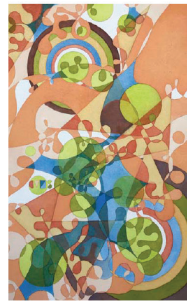
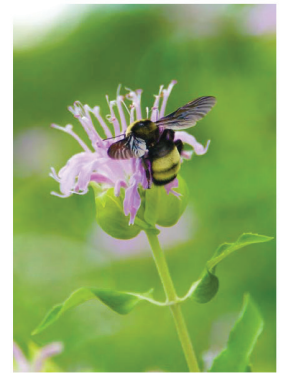
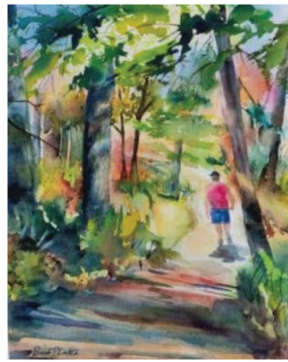
NEXT STEP(S):

- Review artwork/send confirmation to entries; submit artwork to judge for selection (March)
- Prepare selected artwork for production; send artwork to printer (April)
- Have banners installed; launch art banner map (May)

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS/IMAGES:

See attached.







Metalia Terevna, "Transformation", Computer Graphics

