



## MERIDIAN ARTS COMMISSION MEETING

City Council Chambers, 33 East Broadway Avenue Meridian, Idaho

Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 3:30 PM

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### MINUTES

#### ROLL-CALL ATTENDANCE

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lizzie Taylor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patrick O'Leary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bridget King, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bobby Gaytan
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shaun Muscolo, Vice Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seoyoon Song
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brecken Bird	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jay Smith
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Crystal Paulson	

\*Also present Arts and Culture Coordinator Cassandra Schiffler, City Deputy Attorney Emily Kane, Arts Assistant Brecken Bird, Tenisha Eastman-Dodson from the Erma Hayman House, Meridith Mckinley and Erika Fiola from Via Partnership.

Chair B. King called the meeting to order at 3:30pm.

#### ADOPTION OF AGENDA [ACTION ITEM]

C. Paulson motioned to adopt the agenda and S. Muscolo seconded.

All ayes; motion passed

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES [ACTION ITEM]

- 1. Approval:** Draft Minutes From the January 8, 2026 Meridian Arts Commission Meeting

L. Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes from 1/8/2026, seconded by S. Muscolo.

All ayes; motion passed

#### NEW BUSINESS [ACTION ITEMS]

- 2. Presentation:** Erma Hayman House ~ *Tenisha Eastman-Dodson, Cultural Sites Program Coordinator, Boise Department of Arts & History*

Tenisha Eastman-Dodson gave a presentation on the history and cultural significance of the Erma Hayman house and the River Street neighborhood. (See attached presentation)

There was technical difficulty with the sound on a video Tenisha wanted to show about the house, so C. Schiffler urged the commissioners to do some homework and watch the video on their own time by visiting <https://www.ermahaymanhouse.org/explore/videos/>.

The Erma Hayman House first opened to the public in 2022. They have several exhibitions at the house that rotate about every 6-9 months.

**3. Public Art Master Plan Update:** Review Draft Sections ~ *Meridith McKinley, Via Partnership*

Meridith and Erika from Via, presented a draft of the Public Art Master Plan to commissioners. (See attached presentation)

**Discussion Questions & Answers:**

- **Draft MAPS Mission:**

While discussing the “Draft Maps Mission” L. Taylor mentioned that she would like to see a clarification on where MAPS funds come included in the document.

M. Mckinley answered that there will be a section in the plan that includes that information.

- **Draft MAPS Goals:**

While discussing “Draft MAPS Goals” B. King commented that she liked the inclusion of the idea that we want to create public spaces “that people actively want to use and return to.”

- **Priority Public Art Opportunities:**

While discussing “Priority Public Art Opportunities” S. Muscolo asked if the opportunities included in the draft document were listed in order of priority.

Erika Fiola answered that they are not listed in order of priority, and that they are just a list of potential public art opportunities for consideration in a future yearly work plan.

P. O’Leary mentioned that there was a good example to look to for the “Rotating Downtown Public Art Program” in Sioux Falls, and asked if we could include specific examples of projects in the document.

Meridith answered that in the final design plan we can include examples for a lot of the listed potential projects. So people can get a good idea of what the project would look like and see that projects like it have been successfully executed in other cities.

P. O’Leary stated that he would also like links to these examples included.

Meridith answered it was possible to do so.

C. Paulson also had questions about the “Rotating Downtown Public Art Program” and how it would work.

Meridith answered that they have helped launch similar programs in the past. In past programs the art has stayed for 1-2 years. The artwork is usually leased from the artist for that time. The city is in charge of plinth or cement pad.

C. Schiffler added that she has looked at doing a project like this for a long time. She doesn't have the bandwidth for the project currently. Boise has a plinth and she has talked to staff from other cities about potentially rotating art throughout the valley.

P. O'Leary wondered if there could be a plan for potential budget increases added into the plan. He stated that he thinks we would need more than the MAPS funds to complete the majority of these projects.

Meridith answered that with MAPS funds we don't have a lot of budgeting concerns currently. She stated that project completion really comes down to a staffing's bandwidth rather than limited funds.

P. O'Leary agreed and thinks we should have a discussion about additional staffing or budgeting to be included in the plan.

Meridith answered that we will probably get some direction from the Mayor or others about how far we want to take it in the final plan, but we can lay out what those options might look like and evaluate what makes the most sense for the city moving forward to increase its funding and staffing.

- **Annual Public Art Work Plan and Budget:**

In discussing the development of the Annual Public Art Work Plan, C. Paulson wanted clarification on the difference between a "task force" and a "subcommittee".

C. Schiffler clarified that a subcommittee is made up of all arts commissioners and would have to be officially noticed as a meeting. While a task force would be made up of a mix of arts commissioners, other arts professionals, and city staff. For creating the Annual Public Art Work Plan, it would be beneficial to have a diverse group of people and ideas.

Meridith clarified further that there would still be project specific task forces for artists selection. This task force would just be to develop the work plan and would not take the place of running separate task forces for those selection processes.

- **Public Art in the Unified Development Code:**

While discussing the inclusion of public art in the unified development code, C. Paulson wanted clarification on how developers point value reward system works.

Meridith answered that it incentivizes developers by requiring the inclusion of certain types of amenities in development projects to meet zoning laws. It is currently on the point system to include public art, but it is not worth many points, and the definition of public art is loose, so it is not very incentivized or is used for things that may or may not be "public art" without that definition.

P. O'Leary asked if it is possible for a percent for art program to be incorporated so they got more points for public art.

Meridith answered that the system is point system and not currently structured to be dollar driven. Thus, it wouldn't be percentage based but there could be some expectations regarding how they are investing in public art.

P. O’Leary do we have statistics on how many people use certain parks.

C. Schiffler stated that she doesn’t think we have that data but will check.

B. King asked if we had a timeline for the city to address the Unified Development Code to increase the point value reward for public art projects with developers.

Meridith answered that they don’t have a timeline yet, but she and C. Schiffler will follow up on this matter with the planning department.

- **Closing Questions:**

Before moving on from the Public Art Master Plan Draft, C. Schiffler asked the commissioners if there were any projects that they would add, remove, or prioritize on this list.

The commission did not have any additions or amendments to the potential public art project list at this time.

P. O’Leary asked about locations and timelines of potential public art projects.

Meridith answered that timing considerations will be included in the final document.

- 4. **Review and Approve:** Additional Poet / Artist Proposed by the Group Accepted for the "With Water" Initial Point Gallery Exhibit in August ~ *Brecken Bird, Arts Assistant* [ACTION ITEM]

B. Bird presented examples of Mary Kancewick’s work for the August Initial Point Gallery show “With Water”. (See attached images)

The other artists in the “ With Water” show include Claire Remsberg, Betty Mallorca, Jennifer Mangiantini, Jill Storey, Joyce Green, and Tony Morse. These artists applied together and were juried in by the Arts Commission. The group wants to add Poet Mary Kancewick to the group and place at least one of her poems on each wall to tie the show together. Mary has created six posters in total. These posters consist of photos of water taken by Mary herself and overlaid with her poetry.

B. Bird asked Mary if she would consider reading one of her poems aloud at the opening reception for the show and if accepted into the show, Mary said she would consider it.

- **Discussion Questions:**

S. Muscolo asked if there was room for this work and how it would impact the rest of the exhibit.

B. Bird answered that she isn’t sure how much artwork the group plans to show but that they seem to think the work will fit in with their own. She also stated that on the day of the installation they can trouble shoot what works best. Mary has created six images but is flexible on which works we display so we can take out a few. The artists want to display at least four in the gallery.

L. Taylor said she thinks adding a poet is a good idea but wants to make sure that if she reads a poem out loud at the opening reception that it is appropriate for city hall.

B. Bird said that if Mary does choose to read a poem aloud that she would ask for the material beforehand and review it to make sure it was appropriate.

P. O'Leary wondered at the possibility of recording the poems on all the posters and including a QR code on the wall so visitors could scan it and hear Mary read the poems aloud.

B. Bird said that it was a good idea, but execution of the idea would depend on her bandwidth and the poet's bandwidth leading up to the exhibit. She also stated that she didn't know how comfortable she was with the technical aspects of the project, but she could look into it and maybe incorporate something with sound in the gallery in the future.

S. Muscolo made a motion to approve Poet, Mary Kancewick's work into the "With Water" exhibition and C. Paulson seconded.

All ayes; motion passed

## REPORTS

### 5. **Initial Point Gallery** ~ *Lizzie Taylor, Commissioner*

Current Exhibit: "Storied Connections" Stephen Aifegha, Laurel Macdonald, Lawrence Manning, Gretchen Weitemier, and Leslie Jay Bosch; Opening Reception: Tuesday February 3, 4:30 - 7:00; Host: Shaun Muscolo

Upcoming Exhibit: "Abstraction: Five Perspectives" Gia Strang, Joelle Ater, Lauren Thiem, Nicole Hitchcock, and Sara Hill; Opening Reception: Tuesday March 3, 4:30 - 7:00; Host: Shaun Muscolo

L. Taylor gave an update on Initial Point Gallery. The opening reception of "Storied Connections" was well attended with about 48 visitors.

L. Taylor specifically thanked those who hung the show. She also asked how we can account for all of the visitors to the gallery.

C. Schiffler answered that they can't keep track of everyone who visits the gallery but that the best way we can gauge visitors is the guest book. After every show we record the guest book by scanning the pages and we keep a record of everyone who signs.

### 6. **Public Art Project Updates** ~ *Cassandra Schiffler, Arts & Culture Coordinator*

"Safe Passages" Public Art in the Linder Road Median

Community Center Public Art: 1st Task Force Meeting Held, Invitational Request for Proposals (RFP) Sent to Seven Invited Artists, Q&A Meeting with Invited Artists Scheduled

C. Schiffler gave an update on current public art projects.

- The "Safe Passages" project is on track and C. Schiffler stated that since this is a longer term project she may remove this item from future agendas until there is more of an update on the project.

- The Community Center Task Force met, and an invitational Request for Proposals (RFP) was sent out to invited artists asking for submissions. C. Schiffler has held Q&A sessions for the artists to answer questions. Proposals will be submitted, and the task force will review submissions at their next meeting.

**7. Event Updates ~ Cassandra Schiffler, Arts & Culture Coordinator**

Meridian's Main Street Mix Series: Six Concerts at Generations Plaza 5:30-7:30 PM on Consecutive Wednesdays: July 8, 15, 22, 29 & August 5, 12

Morrison Center's Neighborhood Concert Series: Bear Creek Park in Meridian: Wednesday, August 26, 2026 5:00 - 8:00 PM + Tammy de Weerd Awards in the Arts Presentation at 6:25

Art Spark at Kleiner Park: Saturday, August 29 from 11:00 - 7:00 PM (formerly the Community Art Party)

- **Meridian Main Street Mix - Review Draft Posters:**

The Main Street Mix is moving forward. C. Schiffler presented the new series to MDC, which has been the primary funding source for Concerts on Broadway. They were supportive of shifting to the new music series in Generations Plaza and funding the new series. C. Schiffler said the results of the weekday survey she send out were mixed, but there was a slight preference for Wednesday, so we are scheduling these for Wednesdays.

C. Schiffler asked for feedback on the initial drafts of two poster illustration designs for Meridian Main Street Mix. (See attached images)

S. Muscolo stated that option #2 was a bit hard to read.

S. Song said the font on option #2 wasn't legible.

B. Gaytan agreed that there could be more legibility and that the fountain design on option #2 takes up too much space in the design.

L. Taylor remarked that there was no mention of "Meridian" on design #2

B. King stated that without context of the artist's intent, option #2 is confusing. Since this is the first time, we are putting on this event we should go with something that clearly conveys what the event is. She prefers option #1

J. Smith likes the design of option #2 but agrees with B. King that option #1 is more clear.

The consensus is that the commissioners prefer option #1.

C. Schiffler will convey the commission's preference to the artist.

- **Tammy de Weerd Awards:**

S. Muscolo asked when exactly the call for nominations would go out for the Tammy de Weerd Awards.

C. Schiffler didn't have an exact date yet.

- **Art Spark at Keiner Park:**

C. Schiffler gave an update on Art Spark at Kleiner Park (formerly the Community Art Party). The time of the event has shifted from 10am to 3pm, to later in the day (11am to 7pm) and it will be longer than in past years.

J. Smith asked that since the event will be longer than in past years if we could compensate the live painters more for the additional time.

C. Schiffler stated that she would look into the possibility.

**NEXT MEETING - MARCH 12, 2026**

**ADJOURNMENT [ACTION ITEM]**

L. Taylor motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by S. Muscolo.

All ayes; motion passed

Meeting adjourned at 5:15pm

**Meridian Arts Commission 2026 All Commission Goals and Priorities**

Program monthly Initial Point Gallery exhibits, host opening receptions, market the gallery to the city and the community, market yearly Call-to-Artists, and serve as a selection panel for new exhibits.

Engage the community through Art Week in 2026 and participate in programming and marketing events.

Participate in the partnership with the Parks and Recreation Commission to add theming and identity reinforcing art in Meridian parks and pathways. Focus this year on Community Center public art.

Participate in planning for new MAPS projects and future updates to the MAPS Public Art Workplan. Focus on the completion of a new Public Art Master Plan.

Support Meridian's Main Street Mix concert series in 2026.

Maintain existing Traffic Box Series program; select WASD artworks, recommend locations, and use Call to Artists to commission installation of new traffic box wraps.

Increase inclusive programming through representation of diverse populations and marketing to underserved and underrepresented populations.

Support youth performing arts programs through partnership and fiscal support of performing arts projects.

Present the 2026 biennial Tammy de Weerd's Awards in the Arts.



# The Erma Hayman House

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Preserving Place, Amplifying Community, Elevating Storytelling



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About the Erma Hayman House Project

# The (Historic) River Street Neighborhood



- Post WWII – Most culturally diverse neighborhood in Boise; spans from Front St. and the Boise River and/or around 10<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>/Americana
- Housed many working-class, immigrant and African-American families – to include some household names.
- Unofficially redlined; sits in the middle of a flood plain w/ faulty dam measures – the “other side of the tracks”
- Subject to urban renewal threats during the 70’s and 80’s
- RSN (Prime 40’s-50’s vs. now) – Preservation groups securing grants to fully secure the history in this neighborhood.



# Erma Andre Madry Hayman's Legacy

- Neighborhood Matriarch; Mother of 3, Centenarian
- Purchased 617 Ash Street in 1948 – lived in RSN for 61 years
- Created and served as chair of the River Street Neighborhood Council
- Layered career – riveter, waitress, clothing display manager, senior nutrition program coordinator
- Demonstrated the impact of individual actions and the power of collective action.



# Museums (and Cultural Sites) Matter!

- City of Boise building their portfolio of cultural sites: James Castle House & Erma Hayman House
- Focus on preservation of more tangible, but lesser-known human histories and their impacts
- Connects preservation, public art, and storytelling and allows for reflection
- Expands opportunities for representation, the arts, cross-partnerships, and supplemental education for our youth and the general public
- Allows historic sites to be seen as “alive” and not static history



Ode, Celebration, and Meditation



# Exhibitions



Erma Hayman  
House

In Schools + In Community



# Programs & Events



Tour the Erma Hayman House



AASLH 2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
"I, TOO, AM AMERICA"





Thank you all for  
your time!

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**Meridian Arts Commission**  
February 10, 2026

Draft Mission, Vision, Goals

Priority Opportunities for Public Art

Planning for Public art

**PLAN OUTLINE DRAFT**

- I. Executive Summary
- II. Introduction
  - a. History of MAPS program
  - b. Methodology
  - c. Summary of Findings
- III. Mission, Vision, Goals, Strategies
  - a. Mission (what do we do?)**
  - b. Vision (what is the impact?)**
  - c. Goals (expands upon the vision)**
  - d. Strategies (how do we achieve the vision?)
- IV. Opportunities**
  - a. Project Types**
  - b. Priority Opportunities**
- V. Planning for Public Art**
  - a. Annual Plan Process**
  - b. Public art recommendations in area plans, park plans and the comprehensive plan
- VI. Public Art in Private Development
  - a. Developer guide/faq
  - b. Updating the amenities process/criteria

- V. Roles and Responsibilities
  - a. Council
  - b. Mayor
  - c. MAC
  - d. Parks Board
  - e. Arts & Culture Coordinator
  - f. Selection Committees
- VI. Artist Selection Process
- VII. Funding and Staffing
- VIII. Collection Management
  - a. The MAPS Collection
  - b. Documentation
  - c. Maintenance and Conservation
  - d. Deaccession (reference policy)
- IX. Awareness and Engagement
- X. Appendices
  - I. Inventory of opportunities/potential future sites
  - II. Accession and Deaccession policy
  - III. MAC strategic plan
  - IV. Comp plan page
  - V. Engagement results

**MISSION, VISION, GOALS**

## MAC MISSION

The Meridian Arts Commission (MAC) was established by the City of Meridian in 2006 with a mission to **develop, advance and nurture all facets of the arts** to enhance the **quality of life** for Meridian residents and visitors.

## DRAFT MAPS MISSION (what do we do?)

MAPS supports the MAC mission by:

- **Commissioning and acquiring public art** for Meridian's parks, facilities and public spaces.
- **Stewarding the City's public art collection**, ensuring its preservation and accessibility.
- **Promoting community access** to and engagement with public art.
- **Partnering with other entities**, including other public agencies and developers, creating public art in Meridian.

## DRAFT MAPS VISION (what is the impact?)

Public art in Meridian builds the city's **unique identity** rooted in place and community, develops Meridian as a **creative and engaging city** for all ages, and transforms public spaces into **distinctive, engaging destinations** that connect past, present, and future.

## DRAFT MAPS GOALS (what is the impact? – expanded)

**Unique Identity and Sense of Place:** Public art will strengthen Meridian's distinct identity by reflecting its heritage, landscape, and community character.

**Creative and Engaging City:** Public art will demonstrate that Meridian values creativity and cultural expression while prioritizing interactive experiences that engage families and people of all ages.

**Distinctive and Engaging Destinations:** As Meridian continues to develop, public art will transform public spaces into attractive, engaging environments that people actively want to use and return to.

**PRIORITY OPPORTUNITIES**

# PRIORITY OPPORTUNITIES

## OVERVIEW

This section highlights priority opportunities for public art, identifying projects with strong potential for impact, visibility, and feasibility. It provides an overview of where investment and planning efforts can be most effectively directed.

## SPECIFICS INCLUDED IN PLAN

- Project Overview
- Initial Goals
- Timing and Technical Considerations
- Next Steps

# PARKS

## JULIUS M. KLEINER PARK

Add a permanent artwork focused on remembrance and legacy at an existing site near Memorial Plaza

## SETTLERS PARK

Create a signature, iconic public art piece that reinforces Meridian's identity and "Settlers" history

## FULLER PARK

Integrate art emphasizing nature and environmental stewardship

## FIELDS DISTRICT PARK

Integrate public art early to shape park identity while maximizing efficiencies by coordinating installation during park construction.



# PARKS

## BEAR CREEK PARK

Neighborhood and gateway-focused art connecting the park and Stoddard Road corridor

## GORDON HARRIS PARK

Integrate art along the Ridenbaugh Canal pathway that supports future trail development.

## 8<sup>TH</sup> STREET PARK

Small-scale placemaking art enhancing neighborhood identity

## TULLY PARK

Additional durable neighborhood-scale art supporting everyday use



# DOWNTOWN & COMMUNITY FACILITIES

## DOWNTOWN GATEWAYS (ARCHWAYS)

Landmark gateway art defining Downtown Meridian at key entry points

## DOWNTOWN FESTIVAL STREET

Integrate public art into event-focused street design

## ROTATING DOWNTOWN PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

Temporary, rotating art encouraging repeat visitation

## CHERRY LANE LIBRARY

Partner on civic-focused interior public art



# COMMUNITY FACILITIES & TRANSPORTATION

## LINDER ROAD CORRIDOR

Corridor-scale art unifying a major civic route

## TRAFFIC BOX MURALS

Additional mural wrapped traffic boxes that feature artwork developed with the school district and professional artists.

## VALLEY REGIONAL TRANSIT SHELTERS

Artist-designed transit shelters enhancing rider experience

## PATHWAYS & TRAILS

Art supporting wayfinding and identity along trail and greenway network



# PLANNING FOR PUBLIC ART

## **ANNUAL WORK PLAN AND BUDGET**

The Annual Public Art Work Plan and Budget lists projects that are expected to begin in the coming fiscal year, projects that are carrying over from previous fiscal years, and projections for the following two to four fiscal years.

## ANNUAL WORK PLAN TASK FORCE

The Annual Work Plan Task Force consists of at least five and up to seven members.

- Up to three members from the Meridian Arts Commission
- At least one from the Parks and Recreation Commission
- At least two members with professional expertise in visual art as a visual artist, arts educator, arts administrator, curator, or fabricator
- At least one member with professional expertise in a field of environmental design, such as urban design, city planning, architecture or landscape architecture.

Some members may satisfy more than one category described above.

# ANNUAL PUBLIC ART WORK PLAN AND BUDGET DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

A. The Arts and Culture Coordinator collects information regarding potential public art project and program opportunities, as well conservation needs.



B. The Coordinator presents information gathered to the Task Force for discussion. The Task Force should use the criteria for evaluating opportunities as a guide for discussing which projects to pursue.



C. The Task Force may hold a subsequent meeting conduct site visits to potential sites to aid in the evaluation process.



D. The Coordinator will develop a draft Work Plan and Budget based on the recommendations of the Task Force and present it to that group for feedback and endorsement.



E. The Coordinator presents the Work Plan and Budget to Parks and Recreation Department senior leadership and the MAC review and approval.



F. Once approved, the Work Plan will be presented to Council as an information item and the Budget will be incorporated into the Parks and Recreation Department budget for approval.

## **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

Content/Vision Alignment

Location

Experience

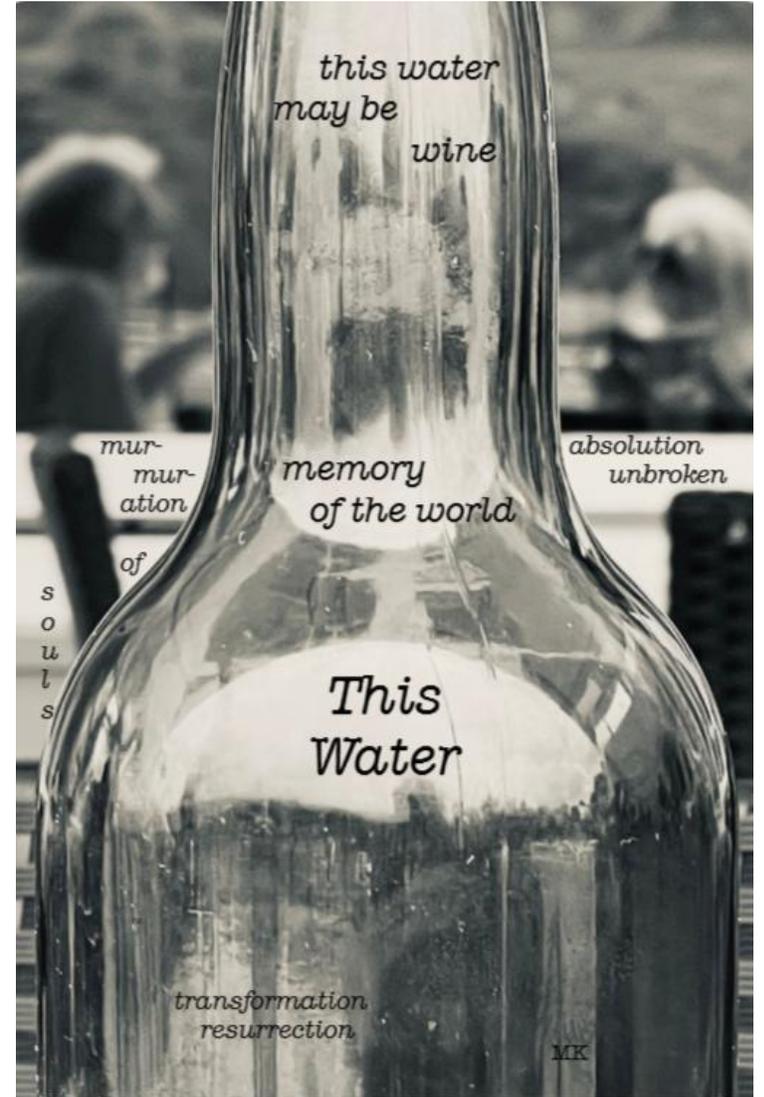
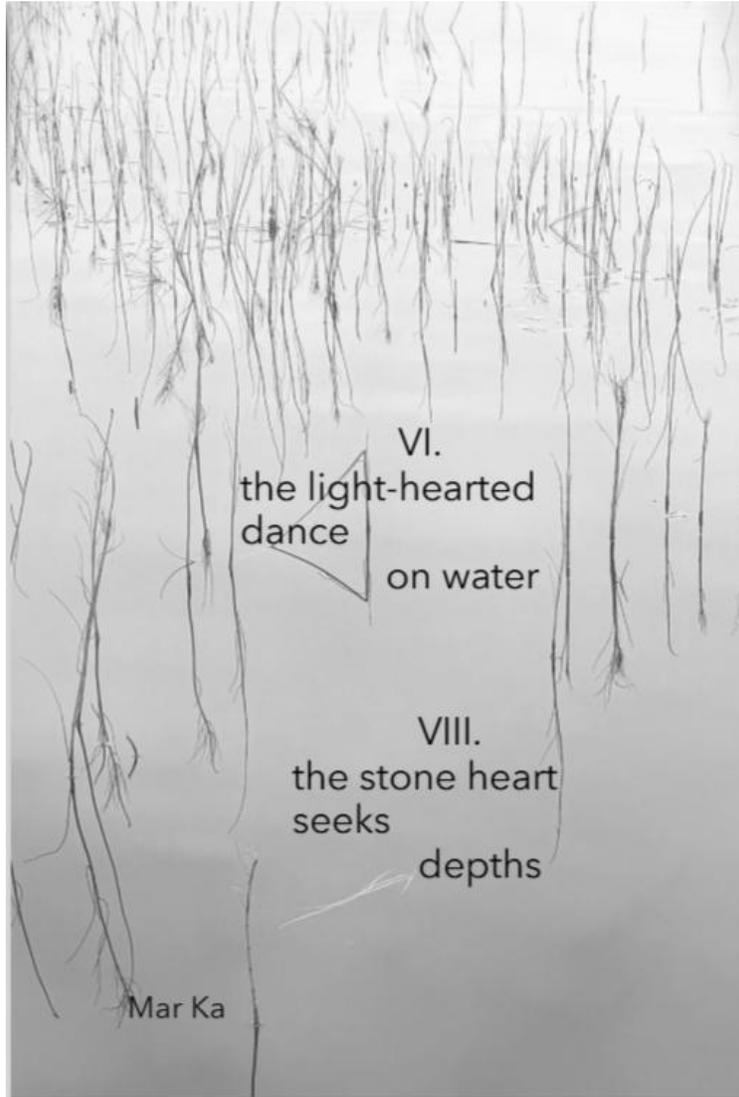
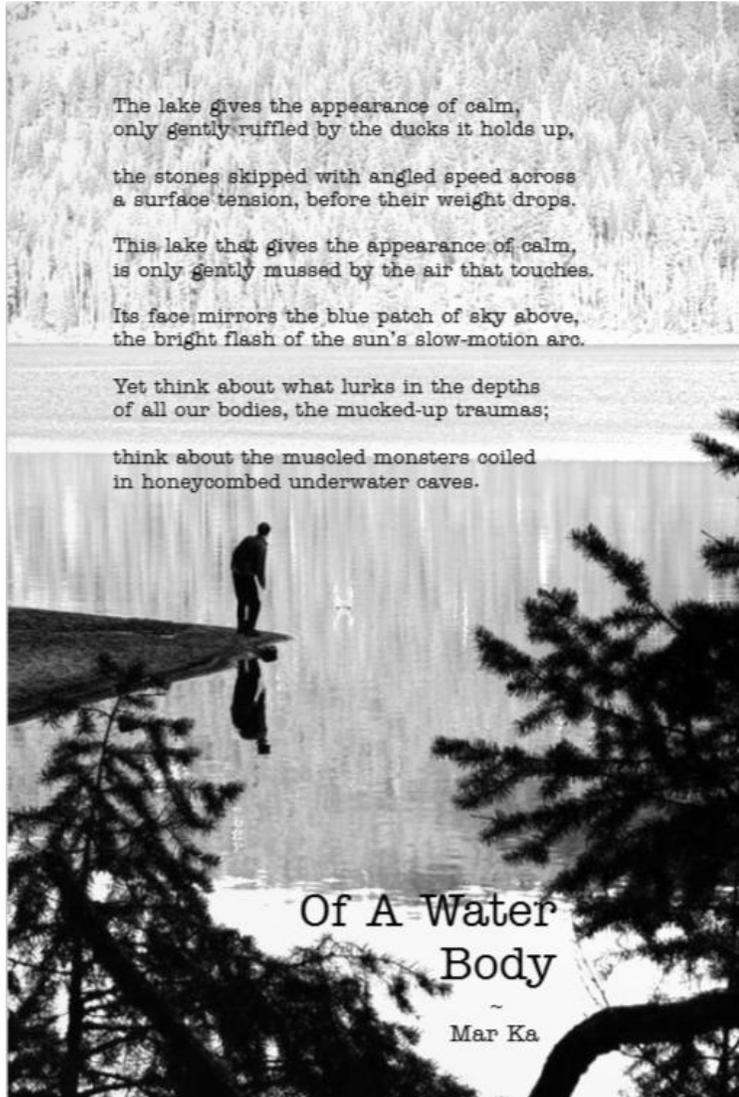
Resources

## PROJECT PLANS

- A description of the project's location and other information regarding the proposed siting.
- The project's expected lifespan, if temporary.
- The project goals and how the project relates to the overall vision for public art in Meridian.
- Evaluation criteria against which the artist selection and Concept Proposal can be evaluated.
- The budget and funding source(s).
- The project schedule.
- Art Selection Committee members.
- Internal and external stakeholders.
- The artist's scope of work.
- The artist solicitation method and artist selection method.
- A community engagement strategy.
- Potential partners and needed agreements.

## PUBLIC ART IN THE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT CODE

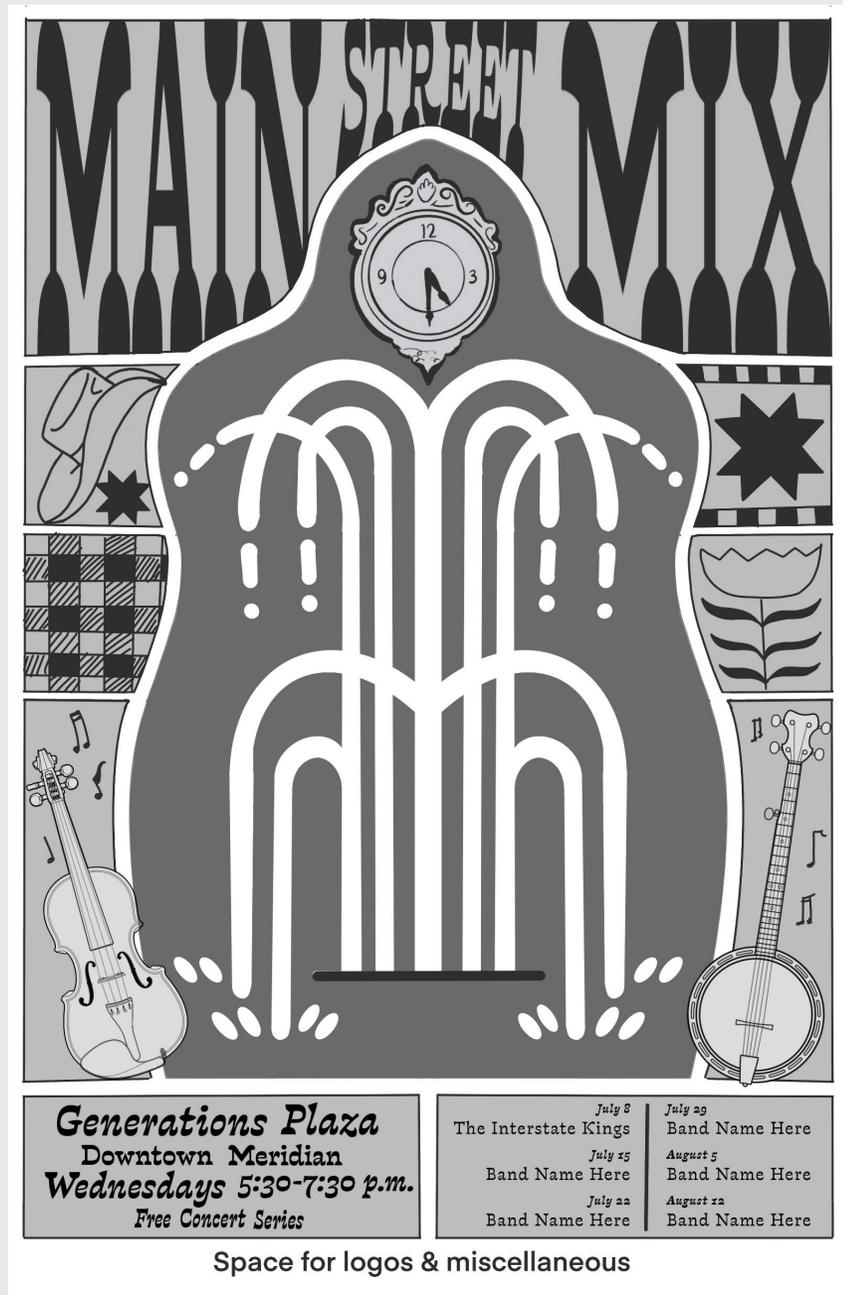
- Establish a definition of public art that aligns with the Public Art Master Plan.
- Increase the point value awarded for incorporating public art to both encourage its incorporation and to reflect the standards that the City sets for the quality of work provided by developers.
- Create a process and set of criteria by which City staff reviews and accepts the developer's public art contribution.







Design Concept 1



Design Concept 2