



## MERIDIAN ARTS COMMISSION MEETING

City Council Chambers, 33 East Broadway Avenue Meridian, Idaho

Thursday, January 09, 2025 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 type="checkbox"/> Bridget King	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bobby Gaytan
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shaun Muscolo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seoyoon Song
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brecken Bird, Vice Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vassil Ivanov
<input type="checkbox"/> Crystal Paulson, Chair	

City staff present were Arts and Culture Coordinator Cassandra Schiffler and City Attorney Emily Kane.

#### ADOPTION OF AGENDA

S. Muscolo made motion to adopt agenda; seconded by L. Taylor

All ayes

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES [ACTION ITEM]

1. Approval of Draft Minutes From the November 14, 2024 Meridian Arts Commission Meeting

L. Taylor made motion to adopt minutes; seconded by P. O'Leary

All ayes

#### APPROVAL OF MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS [ACTION ITEM]

2. Approval of Financial Statement

P. O'Leary had a question about the \$9,866 from the Public Arts budget line. C. Schiffler informed the commission that this was for the traffic box wraps completed at the end of last year (2024), but during the current fiscal year (October 1, 2024-Sep 30, 2025)

L. Taylor made motion to approve monthly financial statements; seconded by S. Muscolo

All ayes

## REPORTS [ACTION ITEM]

3. **Presentation:** New Public Art GIS Map ~ *Hayden Smith, GIS Analyst and Cyndi Andersen, GIS Manager*

C. Schiffler has been working with GIS on an updated and revised public art map and expressed gratitude for all that Hayden Smith has done on this project. H. Smith presented the new website for public art. The website is ready to launch soon.

P. O'Leary asked about the selection of traffic boxes (C. Schiffler works with planning to identify new boxes, and uses the condition report to prioritize replacement of old boxes based on cracking, peeling, fading) and asked whether they the traffic boxes would be replaced by the same artwork or a new artwork. They are replaced with new artworks.) S. Muscolo asked about whether the new website would be marketed (C. Schiffler would handle marketing). S. Muscolo said the new website looked very attractive. B. Bird is excited about the new site.

C. Andersen told commissioners to let C. Schiffler know if they had any questions or edits for the site before the launch and staff can work on it.

4. **Initial Point Gallery:** Current Exhibit: "Midnight Metaphor" Treasure Valley Artist Alliance (Opening: Tuesday, December 3, Host: Lizzie Taylor; Additional Artist Panel Event on Tuesday, January 7) Upcoming Exhibit: "Inverted Reality" Devon William Smith, Rachel Reynolds, Gregory Ahley Newman, Mary Ann Fraser, Leslie Jay Bosch (Opening: Tuesday, February 4; Host: Ivanov) ~ *Lizzie Taylor, IPG Subcommittee Chair*

L. Taylor has been giving brief presentations on the gallery to various City commissions. L. Taylor and C. Schiffler have also met with the Boise Camera Club, and C. Schiffler has met with some members to go over various application questions.

S. Muscolo gave an update on the event from January 7. TVAA held a brief meeting and then an educational event moderated by Jon McMahon from the Idaho Commission on the Arts, with presentations by Meg Glasgow from Finer Frames, and Lorelle Rau, an art consultant on framing topics and artist professional practices like marketing and portfolios. Event was well received with a total of 59 people in attendance.

S. Muscolo gave an update on the "Art Search" activity. Seven kids participated at the opening and the activity went well. B. Bird was pleasantly surprised by the engagement level with the activity. C. Schiffler thought the activity was great. Mayor's Office is willing to accept the worksheets and hand out prizes. Activity is not high-maintenance, no downsides identified.

5. **Recap:** Ornament Drop and Seek and Children's Winterland Festival Events ~ *Crystal Paulson, MAC Chair*

C. Paulson was absent, but had a handout recapping the events (attached). P. O'Leary was amazing at how many kids were there and the quality of the ornaments. He thought it was a great event. S. Muscolo thought it was wonderful and hopes to be able to do it again next year. Over 200 ornaments were made. B. Bird thought it was good timing to do before the parade.

**6. Public Art Committee:**

Staff Updates on Projects: Chateau Park Public Art, Linder Road Median Public Art, Community Center Art, Traffic Boxes, Public Art Master Plan ~ *Cassandra Schiffler, Arts and Culture Coordinator*

Chateau Park foundations have been poured. Project is on track for spring installation.

Parks is contracting artist Stephanie Inman to do some design work to identify 3+ opportunities for public art at this site and think about theming and identity for the site. One project is likely something she would complete, others could be projects that could have a Call to Artists for submissions. C. Schiffler intends an effort to proactively make room for the art rather than retroactively trying to install something on a project that is already done.

Traffic boxes are all installed.

City Council gave a budget of 30,000 for the Public Art Master Plan. C. Schiffler thinks this is the most important thing that she will be working on this year. Via Partnership completed a survey for the City in 2019/2020 and did a great job, and C. Schiffler is working with them on a scope of work for the Master Plan. There will be an updated survey, and we will go out into the community to gather information for this plan. Via is also planning to subcontract Stephanie Inman as a local “thought partner” with help on this plan and future projects.

Review PAC Recommendations to Commission for 2D City Hall Artwork Purchase and Mural Artwork Purchase ~ *Bobby Gaytan, Public Art Committee Chair*

B. Gaytan said we had a busy year last year, and PAC has recommendations on the upcoming agenda items.

**OLD BUSINESS [ACTION ITEMS]**

**7. Recommend:** Linder Road Median Public Artwork ~ *Cassandra Schiffler, Arts & Culture Coordinator*

C. Schiffler presented the scale model for this project, reviewed the process for this project, the theme and concepts, and presented the project design and adaptations since the stakeholder committee selected the design. C. Schiffler requested commission approval on the design to move the project forward.

P. O’Leary asked about lighting. The project is intended to be lit, and lighting will be part of the landscaping package. P. O’Leary said he liked this project and gave “kudos” to the artist. B. Bird thought the design was very exciting.

B. Gaytan made a motion to approve the project and design to City Council. P. O’Leary seconded the motion.

All ayes.

**NEW BUSINESS [ACTION ITEMS]**

**8. Recommend:** Purchase of Meridian History Themed Artwork for City Hall 2D Collection with MAPS Funds in the Not-to-Exceed Amount of \$3,620

C. Schiffler presented the three paintings that are very specific to Meridian, featuring surrealist depictions of things like the Zamzows Mill, farmers, railroads, indigenous wiki-ups (not teepees) that Remsberg had researched at the State Archives. PAC still needs to recommend locations. L. Taylor says the pieces are exquisite and appreciates the research that went into this, but was concerned about the framing. B. Gayton asked about the medium (oil on canvas). C. Schiffler estimated \$150-250 for each painting, and said that the other frames in City Hall are standardized frames, so this framing would need to match the others. B. Bird says that PAC has the “homework” of identifying location.

P. O’Leary said he thought these were amazing and motioned to approve the purchase, with an additional not-to-exceed budget of \$1,000 for framing expenses. S. Muscolo seconded the motion.

All ayes.

**9. Recommend:** Purchase of Mural Panels from Art Party for Installation at Meridian Homecourt with MAPS Funds in the Not-to-Exceed Amount of \$1,600

C. Schiffler presented the mural by Lorelle Rau, with the PAC recommended fair market pricing of \$25/sq foot. L. Taylor asked about the medium. It is housepaint on ½ wood panel. L. Taylor asked about any coating or protective cover. C. Schiffler will ask the artist to varnish the painting.

L. Taylor motioned to approve, with the requirement that the artist provide a protective coating. B. Gayton seconded the motion.

All ayes.

**10. Update:** Upcoming Commissioner Seats Expiring; Reapplications and Recruitment

Three seats are expiring: Commissioners Gaytan, Ivanov, and O’Leary. Commissioner Ivanov has enjoyed this experience but is not reapplying due to work and personal commitments, but will host the exhibit next month.

**11. Election:** 2025 Meridian Arts Commission Chair and Vice Chair Elections

B. Bird stated that City Code directs the Commission to hold elections in the first meeting of each calendar year and that the Commission’s bylaws state the offices of the Commission shall include the office of the Commission Chair and Commission Vice Chair. B. Bird, as current Vice Chair, was automatically nominated for Chair, per the Commission bylaws. No other nominations for Chair were made. B. Bird requested nominations for the Commission Vice Chair and nominated B. King for Vice Chair.

B. King, though absent, sent a nomination acceptance note:

“Hey everyone! I apologize for being absent at today’s meeting, but I just want to take a moment to express my gratitude for being considered for the vice chair position on this amazing arts commission. It’s truly an honor.



A huge thank you to all of you who have shared your passion and dedication to the arts. We all know that art is not just about expression; it's about connection, understanding, and bringing people together. You have all demonstrated this mindset so thoroughly and I have learned so much from you and your dedication and volunteering this past year. I look forward to spending more time with each of you as we promote the arts in 2025.

Thank you once again for this incredible consideration. I look forward to another wonderful year of serving on the arts commission!

Bridget King”

No other nominations for Vice Chair were made. S. Muscolo made motion to elect B. Bird as Chair and B. King as Vice Chair; seconded by L. Taylor. All ayes

## **NEXT MEETING - FEBRUARY 13, 2025**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

S. Muscolo motioned to adjourn. L. Taylor seconded the motion.

All ayes.

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### **Meridian Arts Commission 2025 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.

Participate in the partnership with the Parks and Recreation Commission and staff to add theming and identity reinforcing art in Meridian parks and pathways. Focus this year on Fuller Park.

Engage the community through Art Week in 2025 and participate in programming and marketing events.

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

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

Support Concerts on Broadway Series in 2025.

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

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

Plan to present the 2026 biennial Tammy de Weerd's Awards in the Arts

## Events & Outreach Review

### Children's Winterland Festival:

- Commissioners that helped: Bridget King, Patrick O'Leary, Shaun Muscolo, Crystal Paulson
- Served 200 participants at our table
- Participants enjoyed how well the pens and markers worked on the black paper and many parents inquired on the brands.



### Ornament Drop & Seek



- Good initial response from inviting the Boys and Girls Club and Meridian Elementary.
- Had a nice turn out for ornament making.
- Covered by Channel 6 news along with other events.
- Saw other ornaments made by the public while Cassandra and Crystal were placing them downtown.
- Had interaction on social media with participant.



# MAC Approval for Linder Road Public Art

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# Process

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- Three local artists/artist teams from the Parks Identity Theming and Public Art Roster were chosen by PAC to submit proposals for the project
- Artwork Proposals were received from Ken McCall, Trademark Design, and Stephanie Inman
- A stakeholder committee with representatives from ACHD, Planning Department, the Landscape Architect, the Arts Commission, and Parks Staff reviewed presentations and unanimously selected Stephanie Inman's design on July 7, 2024
- Since then, the artist has been working directly with the landscape architect, lighting engineers, fabricator, structural engineers, and city staff on the updated design
- Artist has adapted the design, per stakeholder committee requests, to create additional bird wing positions. Each design needs structural drawings and engineering, and increases fabrication costs. With the additional cost, the design was adapted to 11 birds instead of 12 to remain in budget.
- With MAC's recommendation, staff is ready to finalize the artist's contract agreement through City Council's execution

# Artwork Concept

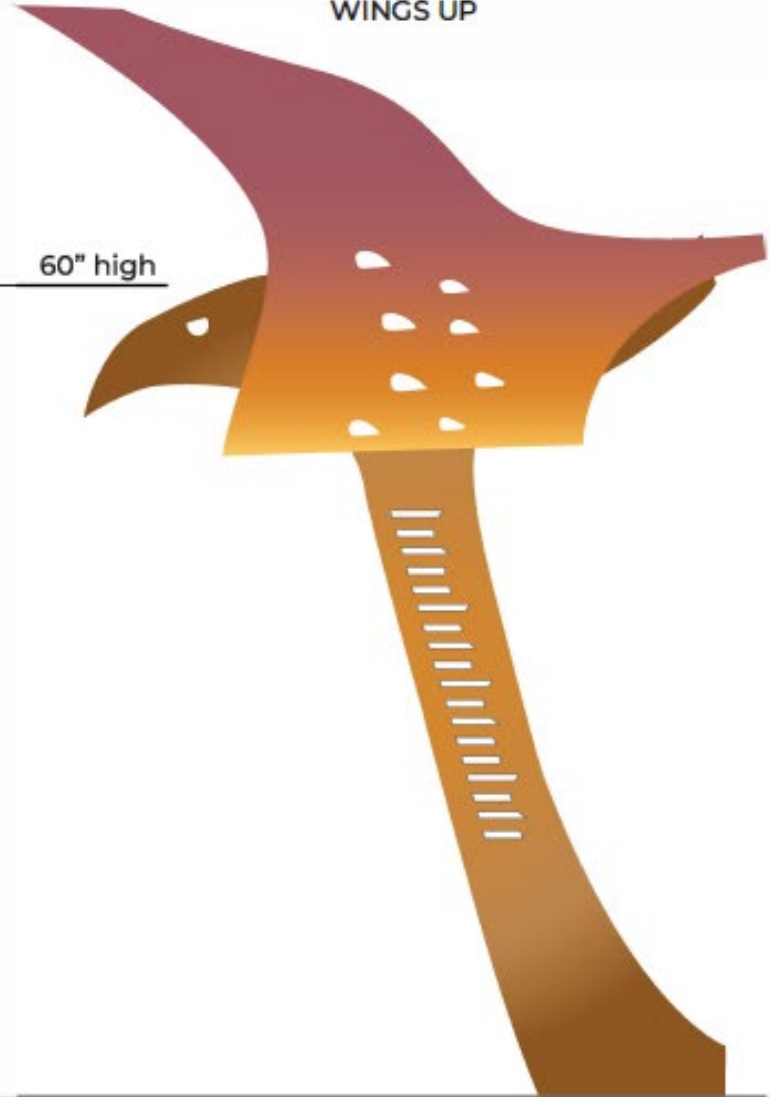
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Inspired by the landmarks along Linder Road, from the Snake River to the Initial point of Idaho and into Meridian and to the foothills, SAFE PASSAGE captures the natural rhythm of birds of prey. These majestic creatures soar and hunt within the warm air currents rising from the canyon floor, navigating updrafts and crevices. From low rivers to high canyons and arid deserts, the Snake River area boasts the highest concentration of nesting birds of prey in North America. Creating birds of prey from swooping sheets of aluminum, this installation symbolizes their journey and the story of safe passage.



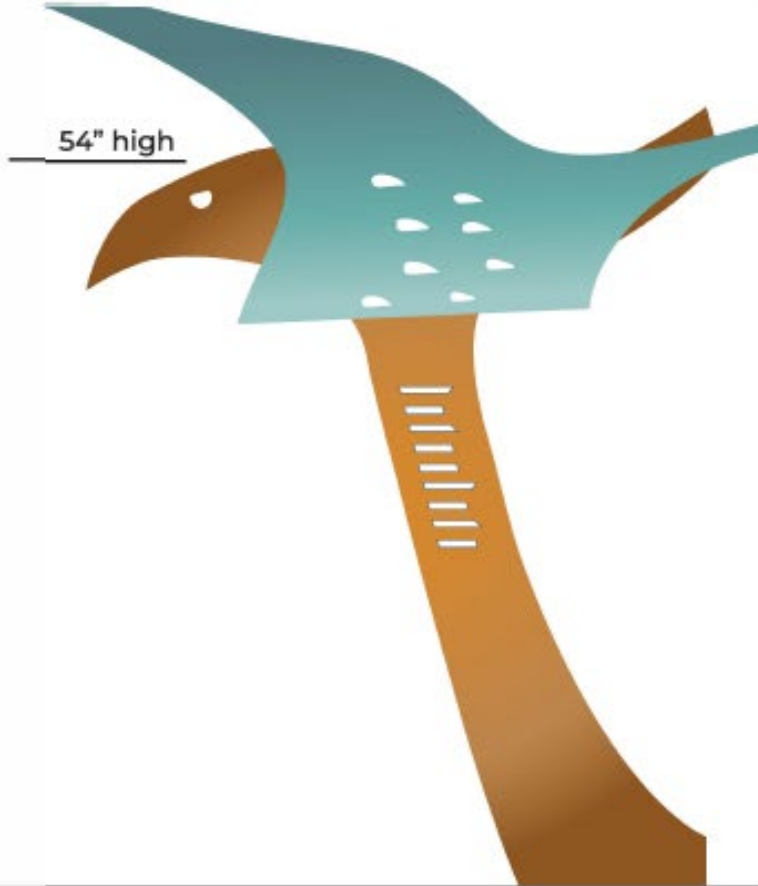
WINGS UP

60" high



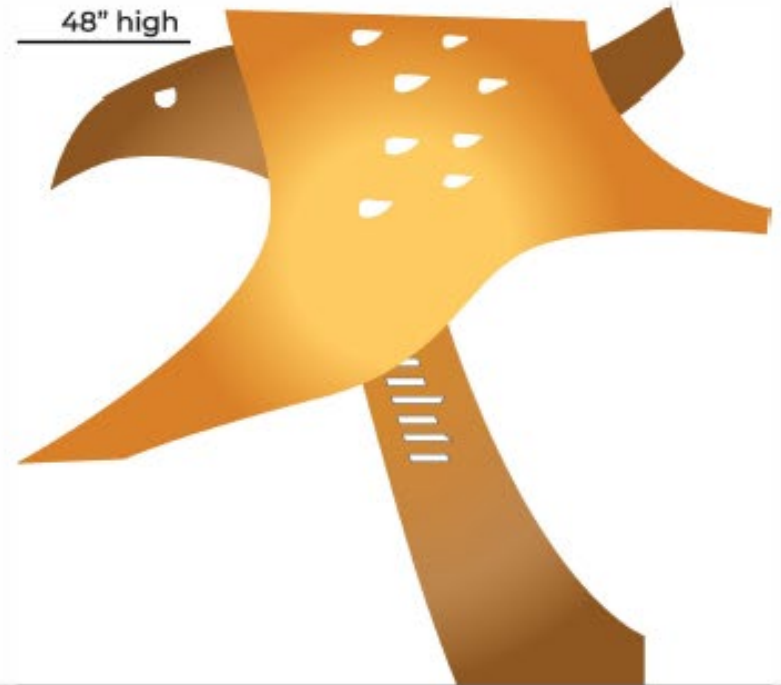
WINGS OUT

54" high



WINGS DOWN

48" high



3 BIRD STYLES (there will be 11 total birds)

# Bird Shape

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Sketches and experiments with scale models resulted in this swooping bird design. The curved beak is distinctive to birds of prey. There is a hooded eye and measurement notches along the base to reference survey equipment (a tool used to determine Idaho's nearby Initial Point). The curved aluminum body connects at the tips of the wings and again at the tail feathers to create a structurally sound shape that is visually interesting at vehicle level, from either direction. Drainage holes allow for rainfall not to accumulate, and wind can easily pass through the form. The leaning shape mimics the motion of flight. The body will be made of Cor-ten steel.

They will be spaced to mimic the movement of wings up, wings down, and wings out slightly curved and soaring. The overall placement of the birds in the median reflects the natural rhythm of birds of prey. I will send more detailed drawings next week, but refer to the sketch attached. This overall rhythm is spread out and could be interpreted as one bird in motion, or multiple birds. The colors of the wings will reference canyons, tall grasses, and blue rivers. The birds are at 3 different heights.



# Elevation Plan Sketch

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ELEVATION SKETCH



PLAN SKETCH

# MAC Approval for Mural Purchase of Lorelle Rau's art for Meridian Homecourt

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# Lorelle Rau

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8 x 8 feet

\$25/square foot

\$1,600

Work is from the Art Party event and is unfinished; artist will need to finish the work. Artist responsible for installation, but Parks can help with some installation needs.

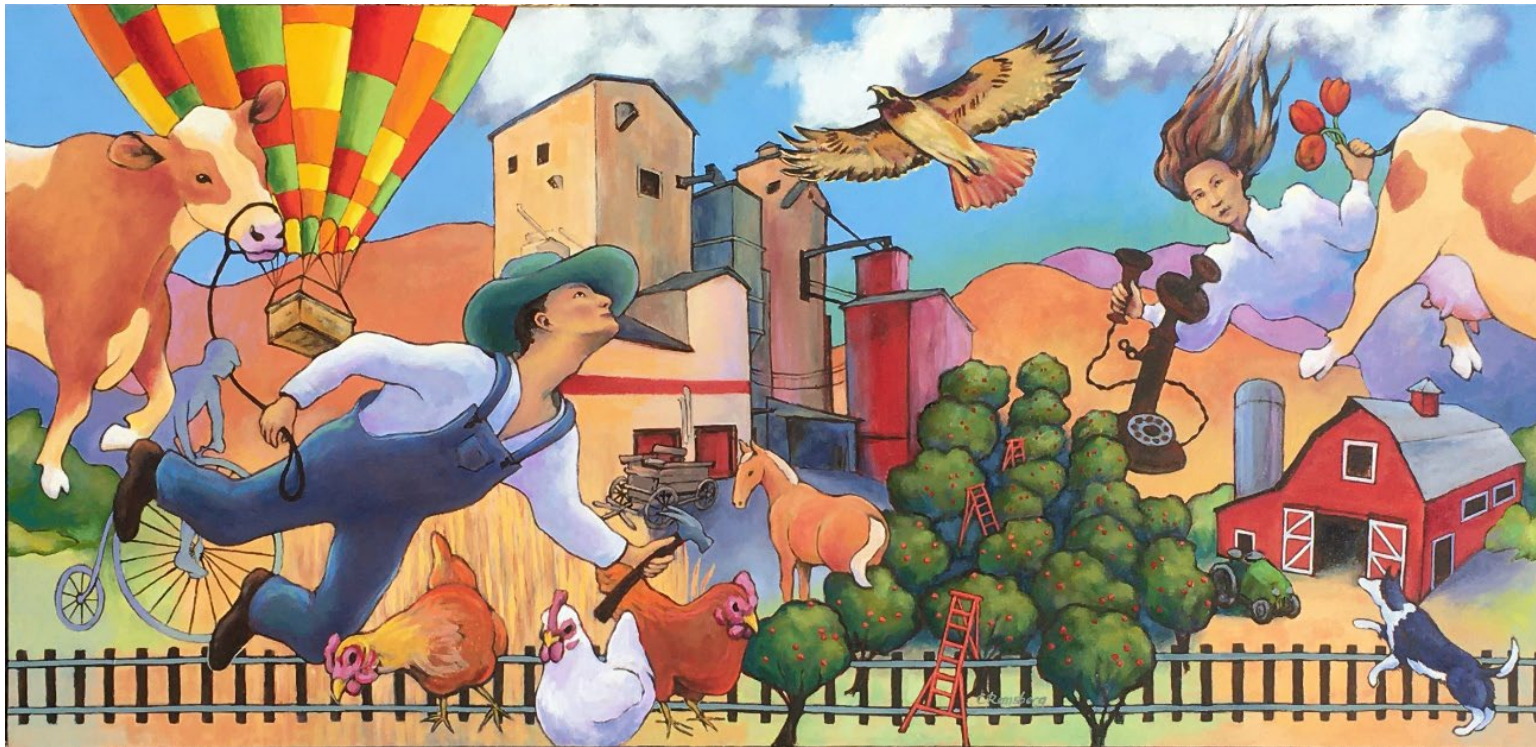
MAC Approval for  
2D Painting Purchase of Claire  
Remsberg's three pieces for install at  
City Hall

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# Claire Remsberg

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These paintings were created from the recent traffic box commissions and features all Meridian specific imagery

Prices are artist's set painting prices

PAC's homework: Specific locations must be recommended

Will need framing to match other City Hall art

Unframed prices are:

\$2000      *Flying Farmer & the Cloud Wife*

\$635      *The Indigenous Clearing*

\$985      *Imagining Egger's Farmstead*



# Claire Remsberg

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