



MERIDIAN ARTS COMMISSION MEETING

City Council Chambers, 33 East Broadway Avenue Meridian, Idaho

Thursday, April 09, 2026 at 3:00 PM

MINUTES

VIRTUAL MEETING INSTRUCTIONS

To join the meeting online: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81095276712>

Or join by phone: 1-253-215-8782

Webinar ID: 810 9527 6712

ROLL-CALL ATTENDANCE

Lizzie Taylor

Bridget King, Chair

Shaun Muscolo, Vice Chair

Eryn Turner

Crystal Paulson

Patrick O'Leary

Bobby Gaytan

Seoyoon Song (Arrived online around 4:00pm)

Jay Smith

*Also present: Arts and Culture Coordinator Cassandra Schiffler, City Deputy Attorney Emily Kane, Arts Assistant Brecken Bird, Meridith Mckinley and Erika Fiola from Via Partnership.

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

ADOPTION OF AGENDA [ACTION ITEM]

L. Taylor made a motion to adopt the agenda, seconded by C. Paulson.

All ayes; motion passes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES [ACTION ITEM]

- Approval:** Draft Minutes From the March 12, 2026 Meridian Arts Commission Meeting

P. O'leary made a motion to approve the draft minutes from the 3-12-26 meeting. E. Turner seconded.

All ayes; motion passes.

NEW BUSINESS

- Review and Approve:** Call for Nominations for the Tammy de Weerd Awards in the Arts ~ Brecken Bird, Arts Assistant [ACTION ITEM]

B. Bird reviewed a draft of the Tammy de Weerd Awards in the Arts Call for Nominations. She asked commissioners to review and discuss the document.

Discussion:

S. Muscolo asked if there are there any major changes from previous years?

B. Bird answered there were not any major changes aside from the location of the ceremony. This year the awards ceremony will take place during the Morrison Center's Neighborhood Concert Series at Bear Creek Park in Meridian on Wednesday, August 26, 2026 5:00pm - 8:00pm. The Tammy de Weerd Awards in the Arts Presentation will be at 6:25pm.

P. O'leary asked if he could nominate multiple people for the awards?

C. Schiffler answered that they can nominate as many people you want for each of the four categories, but that there would be just one winner chosen for each category.

E. Taylor asked if the nominees will be notified of the awards ceremony beforehand so they know to come? And will there be trophies for the winners.

B. Bird answered that yes, they will let the winners know beforehand so they can come to the awards ceremony. And yes, they will order trophies of some kind for the winners to be handed out at the awards ceremony.

B. Gaytan asked if they could nominate current Arts Commissioners for the award?

C. Schiffler recommended **not** nominating current commissioners. [After reviewing the drafted call, it was noted that it already states current commissioners are not eligible.]

C. Paulson asked if nominees need to both live and work in the City of Meridian?

B. Bird stated that priority will be given to nominees that live, work or have strong ties to the City.

C. Schiffler emphasized that nominees can either live or work in the City of Meridian. It can be either/or.

S. Muscolo made a motion to approve the Tammy de Weerd Awards in the Arts Nomination Guidelines. L. Taylor seconded.

All ayes; motion passes.

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

Meridith McKinley reviewed the Standard Public Art Project Management Process Draft with commissioners. (see presentation)

Discussion:

P. O'leary, on the topic of the development of project task forces, asked if there was a way we could do neighborhood canvassing and get community feedback on projects?

M. McKinley answered, sure. That would be something discussed in the beginning phase of a project. You could also have an artist meet with a community task force and give feedback. Definitely something to consider if community engagement is important to the project.

E. Turner pointed out two spelling errors that were missed in the graphic included in the draft memo. She also asked Meredith to discuss concept proposals vs. interview selection and how to know which avenue to choose for a specific project.

M. McKinley answered that this is also something that would be determined during the early stages of project planning. Asking a select few artists for proposals can be helpful when you want to see different options for design and perspective for a project. While interview selection can be helpful if you need an artist to do more community engagement and research to inform the design, the project has a large social or cultural impact, or for a project that the artist will need to work closely with architects, engineers, or general contractors in order for the project to be successful. We can include questions in the plan to help guide that decision.

E. Turner asked about the parks department's Artist Roster and if MAC should have their own separate roster?

M. McKinley stated that she is not sure having two rosters makes sense. A roster can be a good tool when you know what artist that you want to work with for a specific project or if staff doesn't have the capacity to facilitate a call-to-artists.

C. Schiffler stated that the roster associated with the Parks and Recreation Department is something that she has managed and that she would not recommend adding a roster because the current roster is essentially ours.

P. O'leary asked about task force members and if we can rotate them based on different projects?

M. McKinley answered that there would be a different task force for each project made up of specific individuals. She added that we can identify task force members by working with departments that oversee the site the project is associated with, neighborhood associations, we can also create a list of community members that are interested in participating in a public art task force.

P. O'leary asked how can we make sure to get someone from the community where the given project is located to participate in the task force?

M. McKinley stated that she can take a look at the wording and see if she can make it a little more open to include that kind of representation.

Portable Works Collection:

B. Bird gave a presentation on Meridian's Portable Works Collection (See attached slides). The City's collection was established between 2008 – 2010. It was spearheaded by the Mayor's Office and MAC to acquire permanent artworks for display within City Hall. These works were

selected and procured through an annual call-to-artists. 10 foundational pieces were collected during this process. The goals of this collection are to: Invest in our local art community, strengthen community identity, and to enhance civic spaces. A budget of up to \$5,000 should be allocated annually from MAPS funds. Acquisitions can be made through the following pathways: Annual/Periodic Call-to-Artists, Purchase Awards, Direct Recommendations. Works will be selected using the following criteria: Artistic Quality and Technical Mastery, Representation and Geographic Focus, Narrative & Cultural Relevance, Durability, and Portability and Spatial Versatility.

Discussion:

C. Paulson asked if MAPS funds carryforward into the next fiscal year if not used?

C. Schiffler answered yes.

C. Paulson followed up by asking if in that case could portable works funds carry forward if we wanted to acquire a more expensive piece of art?

C. Schiffler answered that technically they could and asked if that was something the commission was interested in, or would you want to ensure that the yearly budget is fixed?

L. Taylor stated that she thinks there needs to be some sort of guideline or limit.

B. Gaytan asked if MAC or the artist would set the purchase price of artwork?

B. Bird answered that the art would be purchased from the artist at fair market value set by the artist.

C. Schiffler clarified that in order to be fair market value the price of the artwork should be in line with the artist's prior sales history.

P. O'leary asked about the potential for a gallery show including all the works in the City's art collection, as well as a "people's choice" purchase award voted on by members of the public?

B. Bird said that she thinks it's a good idea to have an art exhibition of the City's portable works collection in the future, but that she doesn't think there are currently enough works to fill the gallery. She also asked P. O'leary to clarify what he meant by the second part of his question.

P. O'leary clarified that he is wondering if we could create a call-to-artists for the gallery for a specific art exhibition and allow the public to vote on their favorite piece. MAC would then purchase the piece with the most votes.

S. Muscolo suggested that if they were to do something like this in the future they should weight MAC votes vs. community votes, as she thinks that the deck could be stacked unfairly in situations like this.

C. Schiffler reminded commissioners that any purchase of artwork would be subject to the Mayor and City Council. She stated that she was concerned about potential

PR/media problems if a piece of art voted on by the public was rejected. She said that we could have a comment or suggestion box, but would prefer to have a more organized vote by MAC using a scoring rubric rather than a public vote.

C. Paulson asked what kind of work would be collected under the portable works collection?

B. Bird answered that the work collected must be portable and easy to move and display. Framed artwork or small sculptures would be considered, but 2D work will be prioritized.

S. Muscolo asked if City Hall has enough wall space to continue collecting?

B. Bird stated that in her estimation the City still has ample wall space to grow their 2D collection.

**4. Review and Discuss: Proposed Statement for AI Use in Artwork for MAC Programs ~
Cassandra Schiffler, Arts & Culture Coordinator**

C. Schiffler presented a memo of a draft AI statement to commissioners. (see attached memo)

If approved, this statement would be incorporated into future call-to-artists with the goal being to prioritize human created art. We will not allow images created exclusively using AI unless the artwork is purposefully interrogating AI and full disclosure is required if AI was used in any part of the process of creating the artwork.

Discussion:

S. Muscolo asked, how will we know if artists are disclosing honestly?

C. Schiffler answered that it may be hard to tell in some cases, but failure to disclose could result in disqualification or refusal of future submissions to the gallery.

L. Taylor stated that she thought the document was good. She said that she worried about AI use in open call submissions and that we should be careful but that commissioners were not the "AI police".

E. Turner asked if this draft statement had been looked at by someone from legal?

C. Schiffler answered yes.

E. Turner asked if we could create a template or form for applicants to fill out as part of the application process?

C. Schiffler answered that it was an interesting idea. She stated that in her mind this would be a written disclosure statement that would be submitted along with other application materials. She asked E. Turner what she is thinking this would look like?

B. King stated that she likes E. Turner's idea and thinks that having a box to check or a form to fill out would force the artist to stop and think about it more. She wonders if M. McKinley has any examples of something like this that we could reference?

B. Gaytan agreed that the statement was good, but is worried about its affects on digital artwork or on artists who use AI to create mock-ups or preliminary sketches of their work. He is concerned about the ramifications of artists who neglect to disclose properly and how far we would take it.

P. O’leary asked how we can prove something is AI or not?

B. King answered that there are experts in AI detection that we could potentially reach out to if the situation called for it.

E. Turner stated that is an individual wants to lie they will, but that this document is an excellent first step and start of this conversation. She thinks that this is an evolving situation and that we should remain open and flexible to change in the future, but that this is a great start.

B. King agreed that we need to remain flexible on this topic and evolve as the situation changes.

C. Schiffler thanked commissioners for their thoughtful discussion on this topic. She stated that it seemed the commission was more in agreement than anticipated, and that she would include the AI statement as an action item in the next meeting agenda for a vote to approve.

OLD BUSINESS

- 5. Call to Artists:** Initial Point Gallery Call to Artists for 2026 is Open, Application Deadline: May 15, 2026 ~ *Brecken Bird, Arts Assistant*

B. Bird reminded commissioners about the current call-to-artists for Initial Point Gallery. She stated that she would be moving forward with marketing the call and asked commissioners for help in spreading the word.

REPORTS

- 6. Initial Point Gallery** ~ *Lizzie Taylor, Commissioner*

Current Exhibit: "Field Studies: Interpreting the West" Lisa Flowers Ross and Clementine Zenner; Opening Reception: Tuesday April 7, 4:30 - 7:00; Host: Bridget King

Upcoming Exhibit: "Framed" West Ada School District Annual Art Show, on View April 28 - May 18; Opening Reception: Tuesday March 3, 4:30 - 7:00; Host: Jay Smith

L. Taylor gave an update on current and future events at Initial Point Gallery. She suggested that staff place “do not touch” labels in the gallery next to work by Lisa Flowers Ross. She said that the opening reception for “Field Studies: Interpreting the West” was well attended with around 47 attendees. The next show will be “Framed” the West Ada School District student show.

P. O’leary asked if art by the winners of the West Ada show be purchased by the City?

C. Schiffler answered that it is difficult to purchase the students artwork because the student and parents typically want to keep it. She said that the Mayor’s office has done this in the past

and often ended up purchasing a print of the artwork because the family wanted to retain the original.

S. Muscolo reminded fellow commissioners that the winners of the show get their work on a traffic box wrap.

7. Community Center Public Art Project Updates ~ Bridget King, Commission Chair

Chair B. King as a member of the Community Center Public Art Task Force, gave an update on projects for the new community center. At their most recent meeting the task force voted and deliberated on which artist's proposals to choose for the three current projects. B. King stated that although the choice was difficult, task force members are happy with their choices and excited to move forward with the chosen artist's proposals.

C. Schiffler stated that at the next meeting the task force will review the artist's revised designs for a final recommendation. Afterwards the recommendations will be presented to MAC for approval.

8. Event Updates ~ Cassandra Schiffler, Arts & Culture Coordinator

Meridian's Main Street Mix 2026 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, 2026 from 11:00 - 7:00 PM (formerly the Community Art Party)

C. Schiffler gave an update on upcoming events. She stated that she will keep these events on the agenda until they occur even if there aren't a lot of updates. She is currently working on gaining sponsors for Meridian Main Street Mix, and that she and B. Bird had a site visit with the audio person for the event during the past week.

C. Schiffler told commissioners that for Art Spark there will be tents with hands-on activities, and that staff is thinking about doing an Arts Commission tent where visitors could create something for the Art Drop event during Meridian Arts Week. She asked commissioners if anyone would be able to volunteer to run the hands-on activity?

Several commissioners indicated that they would be able to help out with this.

B. King asked how long volunteers would be expected to work during the Art Spark event?

C. Schiffler said that it will be a long day but that they will need all hands on deck for as long as volunteers are able.

C. Paulson asked when Meridian Arts Week is this year?

C. Schiffler answered that it will be September 13th – 19th and coincides with National Arts in Education Week.

NEXT MEETING - May 14, 2026

SPECIAL MEETING - May 26, 2026 at 3:30 at Initial Point Gallery

REGULAR JUNE MEETING WILL BE CANCELLED - June 11, 2026

ADJOURNMENT [ACTION ITEM]

S. Muscolo made a motion to adjourn the meeting. L. Taylor seconded.

All ayes; motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 4:53pm

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.



Meridian Arts Commission

April 2026

Standard Artist Selection Process

Roles and Responsibilities

Portable Works Collection

PLAN OUTLINE DRAFT

Plan Outline

- I. Executive Summary
- II. Introduction
- III. Mission, Vision, Goals, Strategies
- IV. Opportunities
- V. Planning for Public Art
- VI. Public Art in Private Development
- V. Roles and Responsibilities**
- VI. Standard Project Management Process**
- VII. Portable Works Collection**
- VIII. Guidelines for Contracting with Artists
- V. Funding and Staffing
- VI. Collection Management
- VII. Awareness and Engagement
- VIII. Appendices
 - I. Inventory of opportunities/potential future sites
 - II. Accession and Deaccession policy
 - III. AI Use in Artwork Statement
 - IV. MAC strategic plan
 - V. Comp plan page
 - VI. Engagement results

STANDARD ARTIST SELECTION PROCESS

1. Develop a Project Plan and Convene a Public Art Project Task Force

Project Plan

- 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.
- Task Force 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.

2. Develop the Artist Pool

- Artist Solicitation: Should it be an open call, invitational, direct selection, or use the roster?
- Artist Selection: Do we want to select an artist based on qualifications or get multiple proposals?

Open vs. Invitational

- An *open call* invites any interested artist to submit qualifications.
- For an *invitational*, a short list of artists is identified and invited.
- For a *direct selection*, a specific artist is selected without looking at a broader pool.
- For the *roster*, a pre-approved list of artists is used to develop the pool for a specific project.

Qualifications vs. Multiple Proposals

- For both, artists submit a letter of interest, images of previous work, and a resume. The Selection Panel reviews submittals and selects finalists.
- If selecting based on qualifications, the panel interviews finalists selects a single artist to work with.
- If multiple proposals, finalists are paid to develop a design concept from which a final artist is selected.

3. Select the Finalists

Qualifications

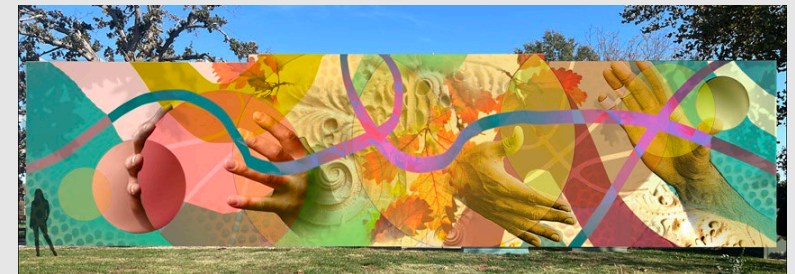
- A statement from the artist expressing their interest in the project
- A resume or bio,
- Examples from the artist's portfolio with a corresponding description of each project

The Public Art Project Task Force reviews artist qualifications based on criteria outlined in the approved Project Plan and selects 3-5 finalists.



4. Select the Final Artist and Concept – Concept Proposal Option

- Finalists each develop a Design Concept that includes:
 - Renderings
 - A narrative
 - Description of materials/fabrication
 - Preliminary budget
 - Estimated timeline
- Finalists presents the Concept Design for technical review.
- Artist presents the Concept Design to the Task Force.
- Task Force makes a recommendation to the MAC.
- For projects in Parks, recommended concept also goes to Parks and Recreation Commission.
- Project goes to Mayor and City Council for approval.



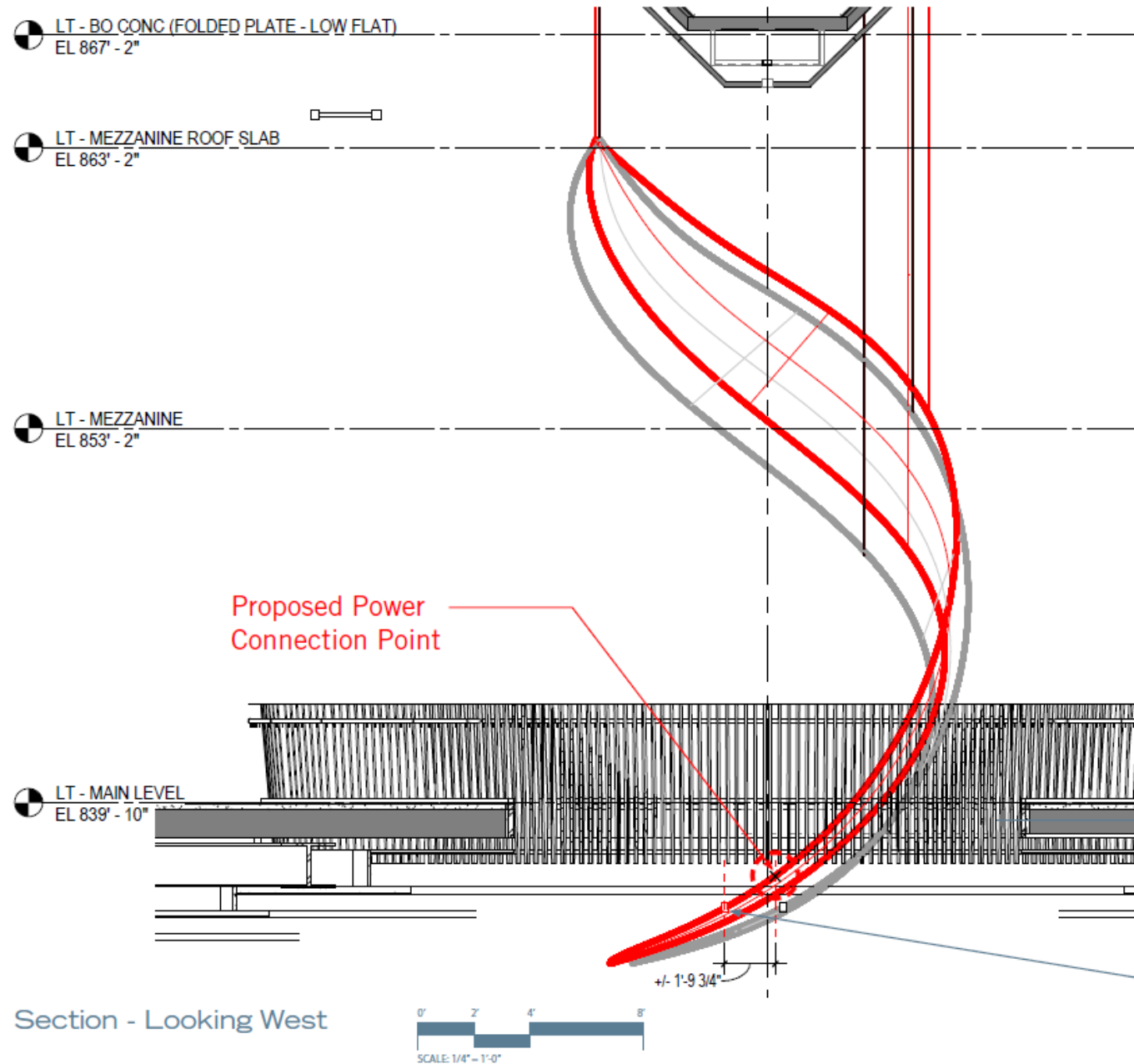
4. Select the Final Artist and Concept – Interview Option

- Finalists interview with the Task Force. A single artist is recommended to be placed under contract.
- Once under contract, the selected artist does a site visit, conducts research, stakeholder meeting, individual conversations, etc.
- Artist develops a Concept Design that includes:
 - Renderings
 - A narrative
 - Description of materials/fabrication
 - Preliminary budget
 - Estimated timeline
- Artist presents the Concept Design for technical review.
- Artist presents the Concept Design to the Task Force.
- Task Force makes a recommendation for approval.



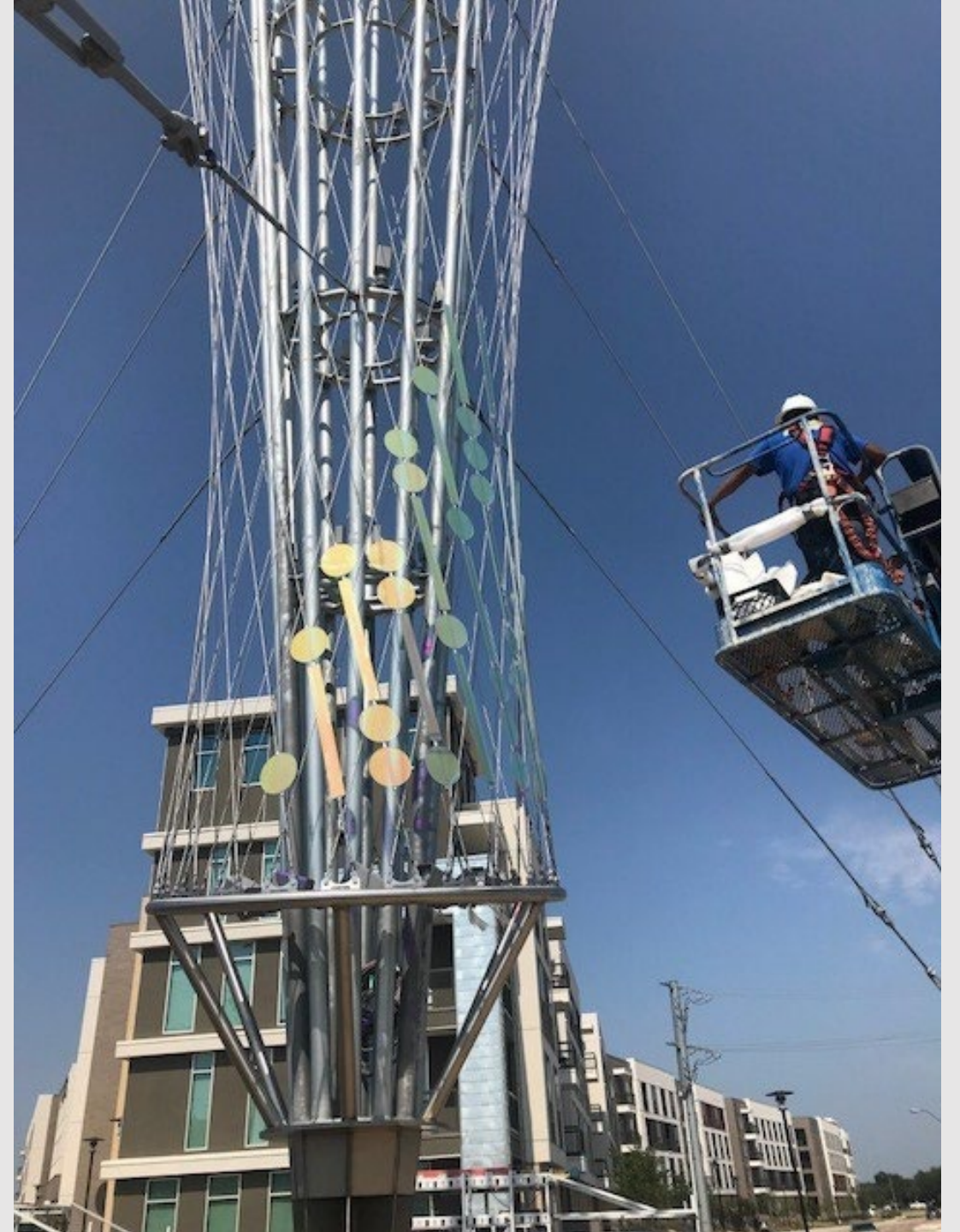
5. Approve the Final Design

The Artist oversees development of the final design package – which may include shop drawings and elements that have been reviewed and stamped by an engineer.



6. Monitor Fabrication and Installation

- Artist fabricates work based on approved Final Design
- Arts & Culture Coordinator monitors progress and inspects the work prior to delivery
- Artist delivers and installs work
- Arts & Culture Coordinator helps secure necessary permits, coordinate with site work
- Arts & Culture Coordinator designs and installs plaque



Variations to the Standard Process

Smaller Budget Projects

- For public art projects with a budget of \$5,000 or less, the MAC should provide final approval of the artist and concept
- Option for selecting artists through a design competition for small-scale, temporary projects, where applicants would be invited to submit a design as part of their initial submission

Other Variations

- Options for altering the solicitation and selection processes include having the MAC serve as the review body rather than convening a separate Public Art Project Task Force or having the Arts and Culture Coordinator recommend an artist for approval by the MAC
- Variations would need to comply with the City's procurement policy

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Roles and Responsibilities

Mayor

City Council

Meridian Arts Commission

Public Art Project Task Force

Parks and Recreation Commission

Arts and Culture Coordinator

Meridian Arts Commission

MAPS Program Responsibilities

- Review and recommend the MAPS Public Art's Annual Public Art Work Plan.
- Participate on Public Art Project Task Forces.
- Review and recommend Concept Designs for Public Art projects for approval.
- Make recommendations regarding acceptance of gifts of permanent artwork on City property.
- Review and recommend de-accession of public art from the Meridian Public Art Collection.
- Make recommendations regarding proposed revisions to public art policies and procedures.
- Serve as an advocate for public art in Meridian.

Public Art Project Task Force

Representation

- A member of the Meridian Arts Commission.
- At least one member with experience/expertise in the arts (artists, curators, administrators, educators)
- At least one member with experience/expertise in design (architects, landscape architects, etc.)
- At least one member with specific knowledge and experience about the site, including site/facility staff
- At least one member with specific knowledge and experience with the subject matter/ ideas being addressed, if applicable.
- A member of the Parks and Recreation Commission, if applicable.
- The architect or landscape architect of the related capital project, if applicable.

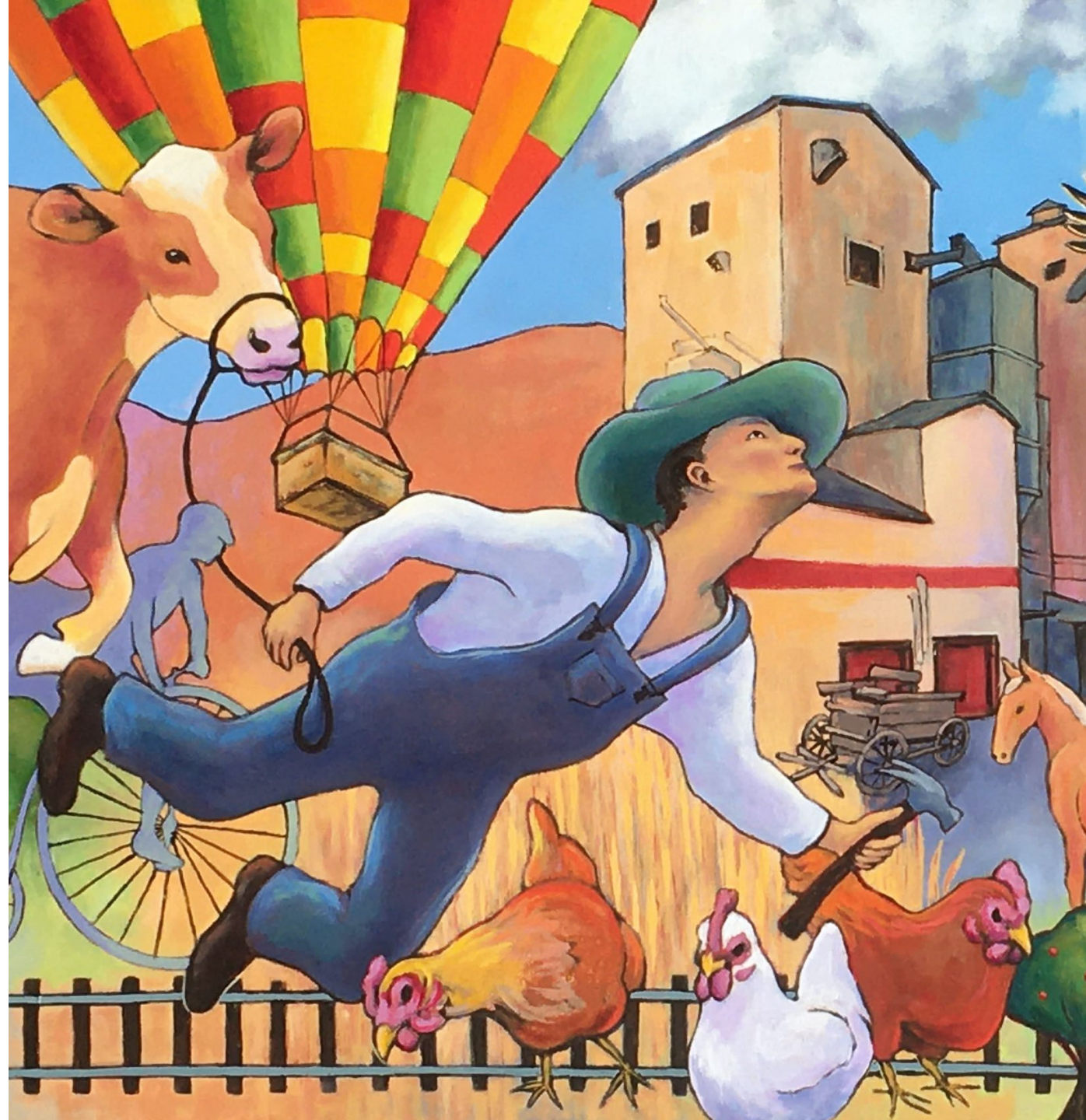
MAPS Program Responsibilities

- Review artist qualifications and select finalists.
- Review artist concepts/interview artists and recommend final selection.
- Review and recommend approval of artist Concept Design

PORTABLE WORKS COLLECTION

Meridian's Portable Works Collection

Detail of "Flying Farmer & the Cloud Wife"
by Claire Remsberg





Portable Works Collection

Background:

- Established between 2008 – 2010; spearheaded by the Mayor’s Office and MAC to acquire permanent artworks for display within City Hall
- Selected and procured through an annual call-to-artists
- 10 foundational pieces

Detail of “Creamery Photo #5”
by Charles Hoffman

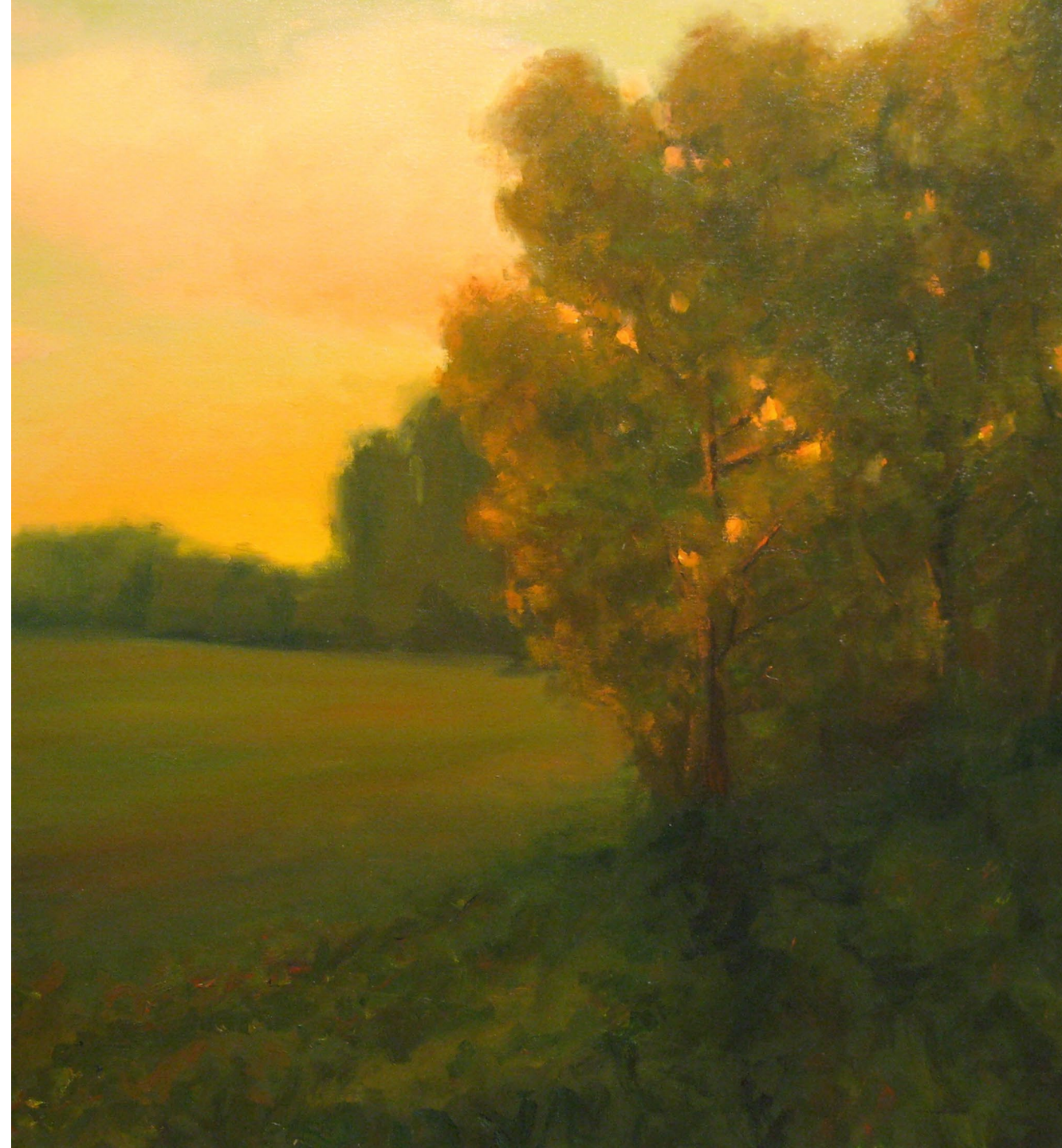
Portable Works Collection Goals

Invest in Our Local Art Community: Providing support to Idaho artists through fair market purchases and recognition through the collection.

Strengthen Community Identity: Strengthening Meridian’s distinct identity by building a visual record of its heritage, landscape, community character, and the diverse cultures that shape the region.

Enhance Civic Spaces: Culturally enhance the environment of City Hall and other municipal buildings, by offering access to and engagement with fine art in public spaces.

Detail of “Summer Evening”
by Gregg Russell





Acquisition Strategy and Budget

- A budget of up to \$5,000 should be allocated annually from MAPS funds.
- Acquisitions can be made through the following pathways:
 - **Annual/Periodic Call-to-Artists**
 - **Purchase Awards**
 - **Direct Recommendations**

Detail of “Old East Meridian”
by Dwight Williams



Selection Criteria

- **Artistic Quality and Technical Mastery**
- **Representation and Geographic Focus**
- **Narrative & Cultural Relevance**
- **Durability**
- **Portability and Spatial Versatility**

Detail of "Brook Blues"
by Joyce Green