

CITY OF NORTH SALT LAKE  
ARTS COMMITTEE  
CITY HALL 10 EAST CENTER STREET, NORTH SALT LAKE  
MARCH 24, 2025

**FINAL**

PRESENT: Rachel Chase, Vice Chair  
Heather Hendrix  
Heidi Smoot  
Camille Thorpe  
Suzette Jackson, City Council (via Zoom)

STAFF PRESENT: Sherrie Pace, Community Development Director.

OTHERS PRESENT: Jean Montanaro, Sheila Montanaro, residents; Nicole Whetstone, Health and Wellness Committee member.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Rachel Chase, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. She invited those present to introduce themselves. Sherrie Pace acknowledged that Suzette Jackson was participating in the meeting electronically via Zoom. She also reported that the previously elected Committee Chair, Tom Hewitson, had resigned from the Committee.

Sherrie Pace introduced the Committee to a new SharePoint folder that members will have access to. She stated this shared digital space will include documents such as the bylaws and rules of procedure, eliminating the need to rely on paper or email versions. She noted it will also serve as a place to upload and exchange large files that may be too large for email, such as artwork or project materials. She continued the SharePoint will house ongoing committee documents, including a spreadsheet for tracking annual goals, which members can view and contribute to at any time. She planned to send out the access link via email.

2. MURAL PROGRAM DISCUSSION

Sherrie Pace reviewed the remaining tasks for the mural program, noting the need to identify buildings, form a community jury, and recommend the structure and theme for the program. She also introduced a shared schedule to help the group stay on track.

Sherrie Pace presented mock-ups of artwork by the late David Montanaro, proposed by Jean Montanaro for a mural on the former Bamberger Hotel building.

Jean Montanaro described her father as a self-taught artist who worked in North Salt Lake for over 40 years, emphasizing his vibrant, playful style.

Sheila Montanaro shared that the area was historically an artist hub and expressed enthusiasm for continuing her husband's legacy.

Committee members asked about the artwork's inspiration, to which Sheila Montanaro replied it was drawn from local landscapes and playful elements like argyle socks.

Heidi Smoot questioned Jean Montanaro's experience with large-scale outdoor murals. Jean Montanaro confirmed she and her siblings, also painters, were prepared to scale their work, though they had not painted building exteriors before.

Rachel Chase suggested using multiple pieces by David Montanaro across the City to highlight him as a local artist. She proposed additional mural locations, including Village Station apartments, City's Edge, Chevron, Sunshine Cafe, and Hope Food Pantry.

Sherrie Pace noted she knew the developers of Village Station and City's Edge and could inquire, though Heidi Smoot cautioned that City's Edge might face development conflicts.

Camille Thorpe suggested a wall near Brighton apartments and a maintenance building to be constructed in Hatch Park near I-15 may be a good options.

Sherrie Pace confirmed a \$10,000 City budget and a potential \$10,000 Davis County Tourism grant, estimating one mural at approximately \$9,000. She advised setting a budget for artist calls to ensure feasibility.

The committee agreed to focus on the town center, particularly the Bamberger Hotel site, and explore additional locations.

**Committee Member Smoot moved to recommend the theme of “leaning into the future” to the City Council and honor the work of local artists during the inaugural year of the mural program in the Town Center. Committee Member Thorpe seconded the motion. The motion was approved by Committee Members Chase, Hendrix, Smoot, and Thorpe.**

The Committee expressed excitement and enthusiasm for the art work of David Montanaro and were desirous to honor him with the City's mural project. The Committee also considered ways to make the murals interactive, such as adding plaques with QR codes linking to artist information.

Sherrie Pace emphasized the importance of securing approval from the City Council and building owners before proceeding. The Committee discussed the idea of creating a vibrant art

walk in the City, featuring permanent art displays, shops, and spaces for the public to enjoy as well as QR codes for engagement.

The Committee also discussed further steps, including reaching out to potential sponsors and developing a strategy for the project's budget and timeline. Additionally, Jean Montanaro suggested to feature a piece of art symbolizing protection at the City's entrance, reflecting the legacy of a local artist, David Montanaro.

### 3. REVIEW CITY BRANDING AND SIGNAGE PLAN

Sherrie Pace provided background on a 2021 grant-funded branding and wayfinding study focused on the Town Center. She shared that the study contained valuable recommendations for enhancing public spaces, including public art, unique seating, and features like murals and artistically designed bike racks. She emphasized the study's usefulness in shaping ongoing projects and stated that the document would be uploaded to SharePoint for committee review.

Sherrie further explained that the City had since acquired a small triangular parcel previously eyed for a coffee shop, with plans to incorporate it into the Town Center's landscape. She noted the City's landscape architect, who is currently designing Hatch Park, would also provide design concepts for this parcel.

The Committee discussed the branding study's proposed monuments and signage, intended to replace outdated Town Center monuments. These included thematic signage, maps with mural locations, a unified town logo, and coordinated flag and light pole designs.

Rachel Chase asked about incorporating artistic elements into Hatch Park. Sherrie responded that interactive features, including a central sculpture and designated plaza spaces for art, were being considered.

Camille Thorpe spoke on a recent City Council discussion, during which Councilmember Van Langeveld had proposed seeking professional public relations support to enhance awareness of North Salt Lake's identity—not just its physical location.

Heather Hendrix offered her expertise in branding and public relations to assist with this initiative.

Sherrie Pace expressed appreciation and noted the valuable skills within the Committee, adding that the previous committee structure had made it difficult to focus on art-related projects.

Rachel Chase suggested incorporating interactive musical sculptures like those found in Moab's Rotary Park. Sherrie confirmed that such features were being reviewed as part of the playground design.

The Committee also discussed the potential for implementing rotating public art displays, referencing similar programs in Ogden and Bountiful, where sculptures are leased and changed out periodically. The Committee agreed to explore the feasibility and cost of such a program, with the intent of preparing recommendations and a potential budget proposal.

#### 4. DISCUSSION OF TREE PLANTING ALONG EAGLERIDGE DRIVE

Suzette Jackson introduced a proposal to beautify Eagleridge Drive, particularly the corridor from the roundabout up the hill, noting that the City Council would soon review revised conceptual plans.

Sherrie Pace provided background, explaining that the Council had previously tasked staff with exploring beautification options and that a landscape architect had created conceptual designs. She explained that while these plans were extensive and costly, they served as a foundation for discussion. She noted key considerations included low-maintenance landscaping, irrigation, lighting, and welcome signage.

Suzette Jackson emphasized that the current entrance to the City from Highway 89 was unattractive and a common complaint among residents. She expressed excitement about the Committee's role in enhancing City aesthetics through landscaping, murals, sculptures, and other art.

The Committee reviewed example designs, some of which were inspired by native plantings in Sandy, Utah. Committee members, including Heidi Smoot and Rachel Chase, expressed a preference for more natural, native landscaping over the Tuscan-style renderings, agreeing that it would better match North Salt Lake's identity.

The Committee discussed using consistent landscaping themes citywide, including the potential for flowering trees such as Japanese cherry blossoms to become a recognizable feature. Heidi Smoot and Sherrie Pace agreed that design elements should be cohesive across City entrances, including future I-15 and 2600 South improvements, and suggested the Committee establish standard landscaping guidelines for future projects.

Suzette Jackson reiterated her interest in beautifying the Eagleridge Drive corridor and encouraged members to begin thinking of ideas.

Camille Thorpe reminded the Committee to consider views, such as sunsets or rooftops, when planning tree placement.

## 5. EAGLEWOOD GOLF COURSE STAGE FOR LIBERTY FEST

Sherrie Pace introduced an early-stage concept to construct a permanent stage at Eaglewood Golf Course. She stated the idea stemmed from the annual \$15,000 expense to rent a stage for Liberty Fest, with hopes a permanent structure could also be used year-round for concerts, plays, or other events. She explained the proposal was described as a “napkin sketch” and had not been professionally developed.

Heidi Smoot, who resides near the golf course, expressed strong concerns on behalf of nearby residents. She cited existing noise issues, loss of peace and quiet, increased traffic during events, and diminished property values as major drawbacks. She emphasized that homeowners purchased with the expectation of a peaceful golf course setting, not a public venue.

Rachel Chase and Sherrie Pace discussed alternative locations on the golf course that might be less intrusive, as well as implementing specific usage hours and considering existing or future noise ordinances. The Committee also explored the idea of constructing the stage into a hillside or closer to the clubhouse.

Suzette Jackson mentioned that the City was already considering building a stage at Hatch Park, which could serve as a larger permanent venue. She suggested possibly investing in a single stage at Hatch Park instead of constructing one at the golf course.

The Committee widely supported the idea of a portable or modular stage as a potential compromise. The Committee discussed that this would reduce recurring rental costs, allow flexibility across multiple City parks, and distribute the cultural and entertainment impact more evenly.

Jean Montanaro noted her partner’s experience building collapsible, portable stages for large companies and could be a valuable resource.

The Committee responded enthusiastically to the collaborative brainstorming and potential community connections, expressing appreciation for the diverse input and creative problem-solving. There was consensus of the Committee to explore a portable stage to serve multiple parks.

## 6. DISCUSSION COMMITTEE GOALS AND PROGRAMS

The Committee discussed goals throughout the meeting, including advancing the mural program, establishing consistent City branding, and exploring public art like sculptures and interactive park elements.

Sherrie Pace committed to creating a spreadsheet for goals in a shared SharePoint folder.

#### 7. REPORT ON APPROVED COMMITTEE BYLAWS

Sherrie Pace reported the City Council had approved the Committee's bylaws with a small change that would give more flexibility on the meeting dates, if needed.

#### 8. DISCUSSION REGARDING FORMULATING COMMITTEE GOALS AND PROGRAMS

The Committee continued discussing goals, integrated into prior agenda items, focusing on murals, branding consistency, and community engagement through events like NSL Reads.

Rachel Chase reiterated that the Committee had been formulating Committee goals and programs throughout the meeting and those would be incorporated into a spreadsheet and shared through SharePoint.

#### 9. NEXT MEETING MAY 5, 2025

Rachel Chase proposed May 5, 2025, for the next meeting. After discussion, the Committee settled on April 28, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

Camille Thorpe announced a historical tour with Stan Porter on April 19<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup>, preferring April 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m., to provide context for future planning.

Camille Thorpe also updated on the NSL Reads event, which engaged 1,300 participants through school assemblies and a City Hall event with author Frank Cole, promoting reading and little free libraries.

#### 10. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Arts Committee minutes of March 3, 2025 were reviewed and approved as drafted.

**Committee Member Thorpe moved to approve the minutes of March 3, 2025. Committee Member Smoot seconded the motion. The motion was approved by Committee Members Chase, Hendrix, Smoot, and Thorpe.**

11. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

*The foregoing was approved by the Arts Committee of the City of North Salt Lake on April 21, 2025 by unanimous vote of all members present.*

  
Wendy Page, City Recorder

