

## Item 23-1419: Discuss next selection process of new artwork to be placed in the Welcome Tower in Houdini Plaza

Appleton Public Arts Committee

Wed, Dec 06, 2023 8:00AM

**Elyse-Krista Mische (Public Arts Committee Chairperson) 02:52**

Okay, so the next step then is to discuss the process of the new artwork. I was hoping that was what we would. Be placed in our welcome tower in Houdini Plaza. So, this is a really great, great step for you all to be a part of. So, we have the letter. And then Jessica, would you like to say anything more about that?

**Principal Planner Jessica Titel 03:15**

Sure. I can just talk a little bit about—so each year we pick a different theme for the Houdini Welcome Tower which is right in Houdini Plaza across the street from the building we're in right now. We have done a couple of photo contests. The last one was a photo contest. Previously, we picked images from Rhythms of the World program, and then we did a photo contest prior to that. Thinking this year we would again do a photo contest if the committee is agreeable to that.

**Principal Planner Jessica Titel 03:47**

So, what we need to do today is pick a theme. I have the draft contest rules from last year. So, once we pick a theme, I'll just have a few questions and confirmations for the committee. And once we pick that theme, I'll redraft the contest rules. If we—and then we will bring it back as an action item to the next meeting to make a recommendation on how we would move forward with that.

**Principal Planner Jessica Titel 04:12**

I did—so you'll see just a couple brainstorm ideas that I had. Last year we did Images that Define Appleton. Those are the images that are in the tower at the moment. We did—I did receive an email from Jen Stephany with ADI, Appleton Downtown Inc. She had a couple other ideas she'd like me to share with the committee. Um, that was Images from Downtown, for downtown—My Downtown Neighborhood or I Love Downtown living. And then another one from her staff was Pets Love Appleton, so pictures of Appleton pets. Those were some ideas she just threw out there.

**Principal Planner Jessica Titel 04:54**

I lost my train of thought. I was going to ask—oh, the—we've typically done the contest like this time of year, which is kind of drab in Wisconsin, with no leaves, the snow. I was thinking that after we set the theme, we maybe open the contest in like April or the spring this year just to get a different season. And I think a lot of times people aren't able to take the images with the contest. They pull from images that they may be already had. So, I was thinking this year, we would just push it out a little bit and then change the images out, you know, early fall once we have it done just to get a different season.

**Catherine McKenzie (Public Arts Committee Member) 05:35**

I like that.

**Principal Planner Jessica Titel 05:37**

Alright, so then just the committee, I'll open up for discussion, and you guys can pick the theme.

**Elyse-Krista Mische (Public Arts Committee Chairperson) 05:42**

Yeah, so any thoughts? Pets or Downtown Images? And neighborhoods—

**Principal Planner Jessica Titel 05:48**

And then the list on the memo

**Elyse-Krista Mische (Public Arts Committee Chairperson) 05:50**

—that we Yeah.

**Catherine McKenzie (Public Arts Committee Member) 05:53**

You know, I liked—I was just noticing in your picture, it's the one from the festival. And it's a lot of people faces, which I think look really great on the tower and it engages you to see faces up there. So, I don't know if it can be Appleton People or Appleton People and Pets, something like that. Or maybe something like Festivals because we have so many fun festival things or events in Appleton. Something like that. I'm just thinking of what would look fun and exciting up on the—

**Principal Planner Jessica Titel 06:37**

Yeah.

**Catherine McKenzie (Public Arts Committee Member) 06:37**

—the big pictures.

**Principal Planner Jessica Titel 06:38**

There's the one Recreation in Appleton and that could be like people do—you know, fishing or hiking or playing on the playgrounds. Or you could bring people into that one as well, I think.

**Catherine McKenzie (Public Arts Committee Member) 06:50**

Yep. Yep. I like that idea.

**Principal Planner Jessica Titel 06:51**

Like a more active images.

**Catherine McKenzie (Public Arts Committee Member) 06:54**

Yep.

**Elyse-Krista Mische (Public Arts Committee Chairperson) 06:55**

Yeah, I like the active idea, especially, like, if we're going to be putting it out in the spring, and then it may be can kind of get people excited about different opportunities that they can engage in as well.

**Principal Planner Jessica Titel 07:11**

We've always usually had more, like more landscape or structure, you know, not necessarily like always the people doing the images. So that would be kind of a different direction than in the past. Aside from the Rhythms of the World. I mean, that was obviously people.

**Elyse-Krista Mische (Public Arts Committee Chairperson) 07:28**

Any thoughts from...?

**Beu Vang (Public Arts Committee Member) 07:37**

I like the recreation as well, just gives a different side of what we had just previously done. I think oftentimes, our recreation is so individualized, where we're only enjoying it for ourselves, you know, and someone may see something up there that they think "Hey, what is that?" You know? So, it's very broad. It could span a lot of cultures, as well as, you know, what Appleton is known for.

**Laura Hoekstra (Public Arts Committee Member) 08:16**

Yeah, I agree. I think recreation is the one I'm leaning towards too.

**Jayne Laste (Public Arts Committee Member) 08:21**

The recreation, you know, leads to bright colorful images, you know, lakes, and especially in the spring, it could be you know, bright greens and, you know, dynamic photos that way.

**Catherine McKenzie (Public Arts Committee Member) 08:31**

I like that.

**Elyse-Krista Mische (Public Arts Committee Chairperson) 08:33**

Okay, well, if we feel like that's the direction we want to go in. I think it's really great because we—it shows us engaging, like our community members engaging with our community, like the physical community so.

**Principal Planner Jessica Titel 08:52**

We can, if people like, also, like the pets theme, we could add, you know, just the pets and people, but if we want to just stick with people, I won't add anything extra.

**Elyse-Krista Mische (Public Arts Committee Chairperson) 09:05**

Okay, because it would be like recreation, right, because some people might—

**Principal Planner Jessica Titel 09:08**

Might just add it or just

**Catherine McKenzie (Public Arts Committee Member) 09:10**

Might have a dog when they're walking.

**Elyse-Krista Mische (Public Arts Committee Chairperson) 09:11**

They could have a dog. We could add pets. Yeah, I mean.

**Catherine McKenzie (Public Arts Committee Member) 09:14**

Yeah.

**Laura Hoekstra (Public Arts Committee Member) 09:15**

Recreation's so broad. That's kind of nice thing about it.

**Elyse-Krista Mische (Public Arts Committee Chairperson) 09:18**

Yeah. Like yeah, with your family, which can—or friends or other people in the community and can include animals.

**Beu Vang (Public Arts Committee Member) 09:26**

The only thing I have concern over with that is that the pet pictures, they're so powerful, that they may just take over the whole thing.

**Principal Planner Jessica Titel 09:34**

Yeah, that is very true. People love their pets. So, we maybe just don't add that, just do the recreation piece.

**Catherine McKenzie (Public Arts Committee Member) 09:40**

Yeah, it would just show up sort of organically if they're walking with their dog.

**Principal Planner Jessica Titel 09:44**

Okay.

**Catherine McKenzie (Public Arts Committee Member) 09:44**

Yeah. Maybe in the future we could do just the pets theme and just have pet's everywhere.

**Principal Planner Jessica Titel 09:50**

Yes. Okay.

**Jayne Laste (Public Arts Committee Member) 09:52**

How many photos do you typically get with

**Principal Planner Jessica Titel 09:55**

Usually get between 30 and 40. We'd get a pretty good um, good submittal from the community. Last year, we limited to two photos per person and then also with the caveat that only one image per contestant would be chosen. Because a year prior, we didn't have that. And we were getting—we had a couple—I don't know, two or three images that—one contestant had two images in the in the tower. So, we pick—yeah, we usually get between 30 and 40. There's 12 photos in the display, and we pick 12 of the top ones that the committee chooses. And then we usually pick like two runners up in case I can't always get the best quality images, sometimes. People taking with their phones are not—you know, so if we need to go to, you know, the 13th or 14th, and I have those backups.

**Elyse-Krista Mische (Public Arts Committee Chairperson) 10:47**

And then when we select them, we're pretty mindful of trying to have a diverse range of perspectives and imagery to kind of compliment on the tower too. So.

**Jayne Laste (Public Arts Committee Member) 10:58**

Would you say that the photographers are professional mainly or amateur?

**Catherine McKenzie (Public Arts Committee Member) 11:03**

Amateur mainly.

**Elyse-Krista Mische (Public Arts Committee Chairperson) 11:05**

We have a couple. Oh, sorry. Go ahead, Jessica. All right. Well, Would anyone else like to include any discussion on that topic? Otherwise, I think we could probably go ahead, and—

**Principal Planner Jessica Titel** 11:21

One other thing I'd like to ask. Last year, we did two entry categories, which was 18 and over, and then we did 17 and under, and I think we picked—I don't remember 2, 3, 4 of the younger than 17. Do we want to keep that as two categories? I think it was neat to see some of the images from the students.

**Catherine McKenzie (Public Arts Committee Member)** 11:41

I like that.

**Principal Planner Jessica Titel** 11:42

Okay.

**Elyse-Krista Mische (Public Arts Committee Chairperson)** 11:43

Yeah, I like that, too.

**Principal Planner Jessica Titel** 11:45

Okay. I will keep that in there. So, what I'll do is prepare the contest rules. We'll come back, and you guys can offer any comments or suggestions, and then make a vote on the final theme and the contest rules. And then when we want—then we'll decide at that point when we want to release the contest and announce it. But I think the spring will be—spring or early summer will be good this year to kind of get some different types of images and when people are actually out of their homes more.

**Elyse-Krista Mische (Public Arts Committee Chairperson)** 12:24

Yeah, I like the idea of the spring or late spring because then it kind of encourages people too I think, gives them something to look forward to.

**Catherine McKenzie (Public Arts Committee Member)** 12:33

Let's go get some pictures.

**Elyse-Krista Mische (Public Arts Committee Chairperson)** 12:34

Let's go get some pictures. Alright, so the theme then will be the recreation. If we approve. So, if everyone would like to think about that a second, and then if I can get a motion.

**Principal Planner Jessica Titel** 12:51

We don't need we don't need a motion on this one because it's just an information

**Elyse-Krista Mische (Public Arts Committee Chairperson)** 12:54

It's just an information item.

**Principal Planner Jessica Titel** 12:56

At the next meeting, we will take a motion and—

**Elyse-Krista Mische (Public Arts Committee Chairperson)** 12:58

Okay.

**Elyse-Krista Mische (Public Arts Committee Chairperson)** 12:59

—move forward with that. So, if anyone has any thoughts, suggestions, ideas in the meantime, you can just feel free to email me directly.

**Elyse-Krista Mische (Public Arts Committee Chairperson)** 13:07

Okay. Perfect. Anything else that we need to talk about today, then? No? Wonderful.