

The Honorable Tim Kabat

Mayor of La Crosse

400 La Crosse Street

La Crosse, WI 54601

Dear Mayor Kabat and Common Council,

I am writing to you as a representative of the La Crosse Arts Board and would specifically like to speak upon the allocation of the remaining funds in our budget and how they relate to the "Arch of Nature" sculpture.

I would first like to thank each and everyone one of you for your dedication and hard work during this incredibly challenging time. I am all too aware of the fiscal challenges facing the City of La Crosse and many of its businesses and do not envy the difficult decisions needed to made.

The Arch of Nature is a sculpture to be crafted by Roald Gundersen. The Arch is to be installed at the bridge trail head leading into the River Point trail from Riverside Park. The Arch is to be made up of invasive species plant life harvested directly from the River Point trail.

The Arts Board officially commissioned the Arch of Nature on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 (meeting minutes attached) using Arts Board funds. Prior to the commission the Arts Board sought after grant opportunities to fund the \$9750 project, all of which were denied. At the time of commissioning, the Arts Board was confident in the funds available to complete this project.

It was the intent of the Arts Board to carry over the 2019 funds and use 2020 funding to complete the project in the Fall of 2020 (which coincides with species harvesting). Knowing that final location scouting and flood plain challenges lay ahead a 2019 completion was not feasible. Unbeknownst to myself and the board our remaining 2019 funds were absorbed and are no longer available to us (just learned this today).

I would ask that the council postpone the cutting of our remaining budget for a 90 day period. This will allow the Arts Board time to plan and find alternative sources for the current deficit we are facing in the Arch of Nature funding. If the Arts Board cannot secure the remaining funds needed to complete the Arch of Nature project, we will happily relinquish our remaining 2020 budget. We will also guarantee a spending freeze and only use the remaining funds to complete the aforementioned project.

I appreciate your time, and please know that this project has been in some stage or another for going on two years now. Having overcome so many challenges and being so close to completion, I hate to see that work lost. I am available for questions if you need further information.

Again, thank you for service to our community and thank you for your time this evening.

Sincerely,

Dillon McArdle

[dmcardle@webercenterarts.org](mailto:dmcardle@webercenterarts.org)

608-780-2425



# City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall  
400 La Crosse Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601

## Meeting Minutes

### Arts Board

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Friday, November 1, 2019

8:30 AM

5th Floor Conference Room

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#### Call to Order

Weidenbach called the meeting to order at 8:40 am.

#### Roll Call

**Present:** 5 - Roger Christians, Robin Moses, Dick Record, Doug Weidenbach, Jennifer Williams  
**Excused:** 1 - Dillon McArdle  
**Absent:** 2 - Gail Cleary, Barry McKnight

#### Approval of Minutes

Williams made a motion to approve the minutes from August; Christians seconded. The motion carried by a voice vote.

Record made a motion to approve the minutes from September, Christians seconded. The motion carried by a voice vote.

#### Notices and Discussions

*Pen Project reception at County Admin. Center on 11/1 @ 4 pm*  
*Center for Afrofutures Study reception at UWL on 11/1 @ 4 pm*

#### Agenda Items:

1 [18-0671](#) Gundersen's Triumphal Stick Arch Sculpture

**Attachments:** [Socrates Sculpture Park Example](#)  
[Gundersen Proposal](#)  
[Dougherty Specifications](#)  
[Potential Art Sites Map](#)

*Williams suggested sculpture could inspire other artists to use invasive species for stick sculptures and art on climate change.*

Record made a motion to approve the proposal and allocate \$9,750 for its completion; Moses seconded. The motion carried by voice vote with Williams abstaining.

- 2     [19-0826](#)     Lyra Relocation - Parks, Recreation, & Forestry Department
- Attachments:**     [Repainting Photo \(Sep '19\)](#)  
                                  [Moving Photos \(Aug '19\)](#)  
                                  [Condition Photos \(Jul '18\)](#)
- Landscaping and lighting will done in Spring. Weidenbach donated Attis photographic print canvas to City for suggested display in 5th Floor Conference Room.*
- 3     [19-1442](#)     Plaque Subcommittee Report
- Gary Thurk shared plaque standard - stainless steel storybook style like in Powell Park and Poage Park - most of which were from La Crosse Memorial; color and size can vary, though. Thurk asked for direction on what to do with old plaque. Weidenbach suggested possible plaque and new lighting for Dancers and reaching out to Luke Achterberg about old plaque.*
- 4     [19-0845](#)     2019 Mural Project(s) - Moses, Williams
- Moses and Williams will create application and review process for public art.*
- 5     [19-0005](#)     La Crosse Center Art - Weidenbach
- Attachments:**     [Art Submission Portal Example](#)  
                                  [Community Art Project Mobile Example](#)  
                                  [Myklebust+Sears Public Art](#)
- Approx. \$35,000 allocated in 2018 can be used for art in existing section or in the exterior of the La Crosse Center. Williams referred to Myklebust+Sears, whose art appears in Centennial Hall as a possible contributor for a large piece.*
- 6     [19-1443](#)     Keenan's Home Sculpture
- Keenan doesn't have a budget for bronze casting; will build a wood on UWL campus.*
- 7     [19-1620](#)     Listening Session Planning
- Board discussed possibility of session in late January. Williams suggested its intention be to build awareness of new work and Artspire; Moses suggested getting feeding on artist challenges via a round table; Record suggested explaining what the Arts Board has done and ask what participants would like next.*
- 8     [19-1623](#)     Compression Planning Report
- Attachments:**     [Report](#)
- Weidenbach suggested using goals from plan in listening session.*

## Next Meeting / Agenda Items

*Next meeting will be December 6th. Agenda items may include: volunteer recruitment for arch construction, discuss and approve text for Lyra plaque, discuss and approve text for Dancers plaque, discuss and approve public art application form, discuss and review appropriation of La Crosse Center Art CIP funds, review cost estimate and location for Home, discuss and approve tasks and assignments in compression plan, and scheduling date and location for listening session.*

## **Adjournment**

**Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 am; Christians seconded. The motion carried by a voice vote.**

*Notice is further given that members of other governmental bodies may be present at the above scheduled meeting to gather information about a subject over which they have decision-making responsibility.*

### **NOTICE TO PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY**

*Requests from persons with a disability who need assistance to participate in this meeting should call the City Clerk's office at (608) 789-7510 or send an email to [ADAcityclerk@cityoflacrosse.org](mailto:ADAcityclerk@cityoflacrosse.org), with as much advance notice as possible.*