

I am Donald Smith and was planning to attend the BPW meeting on the 19th of October but the meeting was canceled. I am unable to attend the meetings of October 26 and November 2nd. Dale Hexom and Bob Haines are familiar with what is being proposed and support the project. They will explain what is proposed. A member of the Arts Board is present to support them.

Proposal: To have fabricated and installed an assembly made of a frame of black stained oak and black wall fabric. The assembly will serve as a back drop for the art to be hung on one wall of the elevator lobby on first floor. The assembly would be installed by use of a ledger board and would fit flush to the wall. This project is to be paid for with funds from the Farmer's Market booth rental already earmarked for minor City Hall improvements.

Background: The hanging of the Artspire festival award winning art was approved by the BPW in April. At the same time the board agreed to have the Arts Board prepare a proposal for improving the general appearance of City Hall Public Spaces. The Arts Board chair agreed provided there would be some budget made available to fund the outcome of the study.

This rather minor project came to the BPW in August and was tabled 'in order to learn the big picture.' The Arts Board chair was out of town for 8 weeks and it was decided to wait for his return.

The Big Picture: The big picture is to install one of these assemblies at the previously approved location. The assembly solves two problems for hanging items on the aggregate stone 'tip up' panels of City Hall. 1. The stone background is an unattractive surface over which to install anything. The installed item is simply lost into the gray stone. A black background will match the black painted door frames and black stained millwork/wood accents used throughout City Hall. 2. The stone is inherently damaged by each object hung. Since the assembly will have a 3/4" plywood backing covered by a self-healing fabric, objects can be installed and removed repeatedly without wall damage. The assembly is hung on a ledger board which requires four secure attachments and if removed would leave four holes into mortar to be patched.

Currently there is a hodge-podge of hanging 'systems', including light oak assemblies and various items affixed directly to the walls. It is anticipated that this assembly will form an element that can be replicated at key locations throughout City Hall, providing a flexible, unifying and attractive system. The purpose of the first assembly is to test the theory, install the Artspire artworks, and determine the general acceptance of the approach. Once this assembly is installed the committee (comprised of arts board members, City Hall staff and talented citizens) will meet twice and then bring its recommendations to the BPW in January. The general theme is to 'provide a professional and visually attractive space providing the visiting public with a sense of a dynamic and active City Government.'

You are encouraged to permit Bob Haines to contract for an assembly for the north wall (opposite the drinking fountain) for the display of the Artspire artworks using funds already designated for this purpose.

Thank you. For the Arts Board and City. Don.

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Chair, City of La Crosse Arts Board