

2/23/2015 Board of Public Works.

### **Proposal**

That the north wall of the 1st floor elevator lobby (opposite the drinking fountain) be made available for three works of art submitted as part of the Artspire event. The works would be selected by City Arts Board representatives, 2 local arts experts and the Mayor. The works would hang for one year along with information and artist bio. The works would be replaced next year by 3 new works of art. The works would be hung in June 2015. The call to local artists would describe the subject matter, size, type of framing and all other details. The works would be hung at the risk of the artist although care will be given to the hanging system. The works would be professionally hung and annotated.

### **Purpose**

The City of La Crosse Arts board wishes to show continuing support for the Artspire event and local artists. By highlighting works of 3 different artists it shows that the City recognizes the value of the arts; recognizes the importance of arts as an important part of the economy; and supports the continuing success of local artists. The City is in a way 'the parent' of Artspire as the first year event was a part of our National Endowment of the Arts (NEA) grant. The mural was used as a kick start for the first year event. What makes Artspire different from art shows/festivals is the emphasis on community engagement. Not only is it a free event but there is an effort to bring under-represented segments of our community to the event as artists, performers, food vendors and patrons. These goals were a part of the NEA grant which the City received in the Fall of 2013.

### **Aside**

As two asides we offer the following:

+ We are aware of the approval to hang some historical images from the archives of the Historical Society. We support that effort.

+ As part of the Plan of Work of the Arts Board we had proposed taking responsible for hanging art in the 3rd floor conference room. We have also discussed several different approaches to adding art (color and vitality) to City Hall. We would be willing if there is interest in returning, at a subsequent meeting, and sharing some ideas for assisting with removing/organizing what some feel is a hodge podge of images, plaques, awards, commendations and proclamations. As there might be a fiscal note we would want to be in advance of budget development.

### **Present**

Donald Smith, Chair of City Arts Board

Eva Marie Restal, Chair of the Artspire event and City Arts Board Member

Toni Asher, Executive Director of the Pump House, Artspire sponsor