

City Talk for Dec. 14, 2022
City Manager's Office
Nancy Lattanzi, arts and culture coordinator

Arts and culture programming updates

As the end of the year approaches, I'd like to take a minute and update you on arts and culture programming, which has been full steam ahead in 2022. The project of procuring art for four roundabouts along State Route 179 continued in 2022. In the latter part of 2021, the public voted for their favorite sculptures in person at the Sedona Library or viewed the submissions online and voted by mail. Ballots were meticulously counted and the recommendations for the top four pieces were presented to City Council. Local artists Susan Kliewer, James Muir, Mark Feldtkeller and Santa Fe artist, Don Kennell, were awarded contracts.

Kliewer's sculptures *Julian and Maria* are of renown southwest potters who began their careers in 1907 and will grace the Canyon Drive roundabout. Kennell's *Sedona Roadrunner* is a playful sculpture that will act like a zoetrope as you slowly drive around it and be placed in the Morgan Road roundabout. Muir's *Eternal*, to be installed in the Chapel Road roundabout, is a mobius ring containing a solar lantern that will guide the traveler's path. The Back 'O Beyond roundabout will be home to Feldtkeller's *Look In Up*. Honoring our night skies and paying tribute to ancient cultures, this sculpture is comprised of obelisks replete with carved petroglyphs and constellations. Once the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) approved the four designs, the artists were awarded contracts this past September. The artists have one year to complete their work. Installation and unveiling dates will be announced in 2023.

The City Hall Art Rotation program exhibits art year-round and rotates showings every four months. I'd like to thank all the artists whose work was displayed in 2022: Betty and Howard Carr, Susan Kliewer and Jeff Dolan, as well as Robert Albrecht and Shirley Eichten Albrecht. Currently on exhibit are captivating landscape paintings by Melanie Chambers Hartman, dramatic landscape photography by Stan Rose and nature photography by Susie Rose. There is still time to make an appointment to view this beautiful display. The exhibit will end Jan. 4, 2023. We were fortunate to have musicians Gina Machovina and Alberto Inohoza, William Eaton and Nathan "Saith" Gangadean perform for the individual artist receptions. Thanks to all for their beautiful music.

After an erratic schedule the last two years due to the pandemic, it's wonderful to have a refresh for the valued Artist in the Classroom Program. School year 2022/2023 has relaunched with 27 artists, nine new and five returned after a hiatus. I am excited to welcome the following new talent in the program: photographer Bob Coates, sculptor Dennis Sohocki, cartoonist Jan Marc Quisumbing, writer Jennifer Strait, painter Leanne Lee, writer Melanie Lee, drummer Sabina Sandoval, basket weaver Shirley Eichten Albrecht and ceramicist Valerie Smith. After presenting the program to our local schools, I have received a long list of requests for artists to augment curriculum. I look forward continuing to connect teachers with artists, who will creatively inspire learning throughout the school year.

Plans for the Mayor's Arts Awards will begin in 2023. I want to take this opportunity to thank previous Mayor Moriarty for being such a strong supporter of the arts and this event. I know current Mayor Scott Jablow will do the same and carry the torch into another round of awards celebrating our artist community. The awards recognize those who have contributed to the success of the arts in Sedona. The four categories honored are: Individual, Organization/Business, Education and Lifetime Achievement. Look for the Call for Nominations in January. If you know of someone deserving of this distinction, please enter a submission.

For those interested in learning more about arts programming at City Hall, please contact me at NLattanzi@sedonaaz.gov.