

# Brookings Public Arts Commission | 2017 Annual Report



The vision of the Brookings Public Art Program is to create public art spaces and experiences that enrich the quality of life in Brookings, South Dakota and beyond.

## Public Art Program

The purpose of the Dedicated Public Art Fund is to provide funding for the advancement of a comprehensive public art appreciation and public displays program through design, purchase, acquisition, installation and maintenance of public art for the City of Brookings.

## Commission Role

- Develop a unified public art strategy for the City of Brookings;
- Advise the City Council and other community groups and agencies who are initiating a public art project concerning the proposed site, selection of a professional artist and commissioning of a public artwork;
- Oversee the Public Art Fund;
- Guide and monitor the design development process through reviews at various stages to ensure artistic and design quality, integration with the site and relevance to the community;
- Approve the final design and artwork, installation procedures, and maintenance plan prior to installation.

## Brookings Public Art Commission (BPAC) Members

Jamison Lamp | Chair

Lynn Verschoor | Vice Chair

Darla Biel

Leah Brink

Jean Jostad

David Merhib

Trayce Meyer

Linda Purrington

Tim Steele

Kate Treiber

*Staffing/City Department: Shari Thornes, Brookings City Clerk*

## Activities Snapshot

- ▶ DEC 15-JAN 16 TASK FORCE DRAFTED ENABLING ORDINANCES AND INITIAL GUIDELINES
- ▶ FEB 9, 2016 CITY COUNCIL ADOPTED PUBLIC ARTS FUND & COMMISSION ORDINANCES
- ▶ JUNE 14, 2016 BPAC MEMBERS APPOINTED
- ▶ SEPT 19, 2016 FIRST BPAC MEETING
- ▶ OCT 20-21, 2016 PORTER ARNEILL PUBLIC ART VISIONING PRESENTATIONS
- ▶ FEB 2017 ADOPTED 2017/2018 WORK PLAN
- ▶ MAY 2 PARTNERED WITH CHILDREN’S MUSEUM OF SD ON GLACIAL LAKES GRANT
- ▶ MAY PARTNERED STICKWORK VIDEO
- ▶ MAY 9 PRESENTED TO CITY COUNCIL
- ▶ MAY 10 MILLION CUPS TALK
- ▶ MAY 18 CO-HOSTED ARTIST TALK & RECEPTION FOR PATRICK DOUGHERTY
- ▶ JUNE-JULY RESEARCHED BEST PRACTICES & OTHER PROGRAMS; DRAFTED GUIDELINES
- ▶ AUGUST ADOPTED GUIDELINES OUTLINE; SECURED CONSULTANT TO REVIEW
- ▶ SEPT 12 UPDATE PRESENTATION TO CITY COUNCIL ([POWERPOINT](#))
- ▶ DECEMBER REVIEWED SOUTH DAKOTA SCULPTURE TRAIL INITIATIVE

## **Next Steps | 2017-2018 Work Plan**

The BPAC and staff researched various national and municipal public arts programming/processes for the development of the 2017/2018 work plan.

- ◆ COMMISSION
  - ▶ Bylaws
  - ▶ Create Permanent & Temporary Working Committees
  - ▶ Web And Social Media Presence
  
- ◆ COLLABORATION ON COMMUNITY-WIDE PUBLIC ART INITIATIVES
  - ▶ Children’s Museum Of South Dakota On Stickwork Sculpture Installation By Patrick Dougherty
  
- ◆ SHARE PUBLIC ART VISION
  - ▶ Create Video About Public Art Vision For Brookings
  
- ◆ PUBLIC ARTS GUIDELINES
  - ▶ Draft Guidelines And All Legal And Process Documents
  - ▶ Review And Approvals
    - ▶ Secure Professional Art Administrator/Consultant To Review And Finalize
    - ▶ City Departments
    - ▶ Legal
    - ▶ City Council
  
- ◆ ADDITIONAL FUNDING & PARTNERSHIPS
  - ▶ Develop Fundraising Strategy
  - ▶ Explore And Apply For Grants
  - ▶ Constituency Building

◆ EXISTING ART

- ▶ Complete List Of Artworks In The City's Current Collection
- ▶ Compile A Photo Archive And Map Of Artworks
- ▶ Evaluate Urgent Conservation Issues
- ▶ Develop Conservation Plan For Each Artwork

◆ FUTURE ART

- ▶ Review And Seek Opportunities To Integrate Public Art In The City's 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan
- ▶ Set Priorities For Public Art Locations
- ▶ Discuss And Identify Potential Public Art Locations – Temporary And Permanent

**Video**

In May 2017, the Children's Museum of South Dakota hosted internationally acclaimed artist, Patrick Dougherty, who worked for three weeks to design and build, on the museum grounds, a large-scale sculptural installation that uses 6 tons of locally harvested willow saplings as construction material. Over 75 community members of all ages volunteered 600 hours on the public art installation. This project had the support and cooperation from the Brookings Public Arts Commission.

The sculpture, which Dougherty titled "Tangle Town," features nine silo-like elements covering an area 33' x 45' with a height of 14'. Patrick Dougherty has installed more than 800 of his innovative public art pieces, known as "Stickworks"—from Scotland to Japan to Brussels—and all over the United States. The installation at the Children's Museum of SD, an award-winning facility also known for innovation, is the first Stickwork in South Dakota.

During the installation, Nick Schmeichel of Sideline Productions captured the artistic process and community engagement with the piece in over *two terabytes* of video and interviews. The City of Brookings partially funded the fees to edit the raw footage into a video that will be shared via the internet and submitted to South Dakota Public Broadcasting for their consideration and possible distribution through their network.

In addition to documenting the installation, Nick captured over five hours of (raw) video interviews with artists Patrick Dougherty and his son, Sam, and several key community members, including the following:

- Carrie Benson, Director of Education at Children's Museum of South Dakota
- Darla Biel, Brookings Public Arts Commission Member
- Keith Corbett, Mayor, Brookings, SD
- Sue Hegg, Former Director, Children's Museum of South Dakota
- Harriet Leivan, Brookings Artist and Stickwork Volunteer
- Mike Mogard, Associate Director, Children's Museum of South Dakota and Project Manager for the Stickwork installation.
- Tim Steele, SDSU School of Design Director; Brookings Public Arts Commission Member
- Kate Treiber, Executive Director, Children's Museum of South Dakota, Brookings Public Arts Commission Member
- Lynn Verschoor, Executive Director, South Dakota Art Museum; Brookings Public Arts Commission Member

- Rachel Novak, SDSU design student and Intern at Children’s Museum of South Dakota
- Molly Wicks, Instructor, SDSU School of Design
- Jeff Weldon, City Manager, Brookings, SD
- Jean and Loren Davis - San Antonio, TX residents and volunteers who traveled to work on the project

In the video, interviewees speak about the importance and value of art, both personally and in terms to a larger community. Dougherty and his son Sam, a potter, speak about the site-specific installation, about the relationship between place and art, and the overlap of various art forms, such as that between line drawing and the Stickwork process of sculpting with twigs—linear forms; and the difference in scale between pottery and creating a 14’ vessel form. All the interviews include a statement on the meaning of art and the ways that it can impact a community.

In addition to statements from Dougherty and his son, the video includes reflection on the specific value and definition of Public Art. It also provides a record of community involvement, and an articulation of the City of Brookings’ 2016 Dedicated Public Arts Fund and the formation of the Brookings Public Arts Commission.

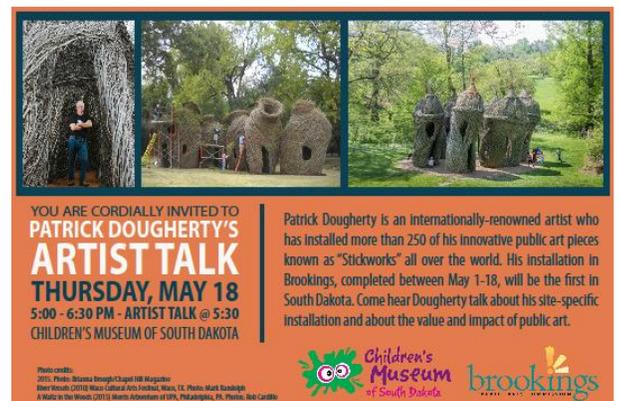
The appointed members of the Brookings Public Arts Commission see education and outreach as part of their overall mission, and, furthermore, as a crucial first step to obtaining community “buy-in” to the value of art as an enriching addition to the city’s built environment and culture. As their first public project, the Public Arts Commission and City of Brookings partnered with the Children’s Museum on Patrick Dougherty’s installation. A video of the artistic process and statements by community leaders and volunteers about their engagement with the piece will be a key component of the commission’s endeavor to increase understanding of the value of art and to build awareness of South Dakota’s first municipally-funded Public Arts Commission.

While the Stickwork is extremely significant as a stand-alone installation, the video documentation of the process and interviews with key stakeholders and volunteers is part of a broader community-wide strategy to provide local, state and regional visitors the opportunity to engage and learn about the impact of Public Art. The video for which we seek support from the City of Brookings will document the Stickwork process from start to finish, and will emphasize the value of art and illuminate the engagement of volunteers and community members with art.

### **Public Art Reception | Patrick Dougherty**

In collaboration with the Children’s Museum of South Dakota, the Brookings Public Arts Commission co-hosted Patrick Dougherty’s Artist Talk and Reception on May 18, 2017.

Dougherty is an internationally renowned artist known for stick sculptures utilizing local saplings. In May 2017, Patrick Dougherty created Tangle Town, an installation constructed with the help of 77 volunteers and Children’s Museum staff. The six tons saplings, predominantly willow, were gathered from six nearby sites and transported to the museum where they were woven together to create nine silo-like structures. He has completed hundreds of installations worldwide and this was his first installation in South Dakota. Dougherty has



been featured in the *New York Times*, *Smithsonian Magazine*, and CBS Sunday Morning Program. Children’s Museum of South Dakota <https://www.prairieplay.org/patrick-dougherty-exhibit>

### **Public Arts Guidelines**

Over the course of several months, the Policy Committee researched national best practices and guidelines of public art commissions across the country to develop draft guidelines. The guidelines address legal responsibilities, acquisition, donation, installation, deaccessioning, inventory, and maintenance of a public art collection. A professional art administrator will review the draft document prior to City staff and legal review. Adoption by the Brookings City Council is slated for spring 2018.

### **Bylaws**

The Commission developed and adopted formal bylaws, which can be found on the BPAC website ([bylaws](#)).

### **South Dakota Sculpture Trail**

The SD Sculpture Trail is a series of sculpture collections across the state of South Dakota. The program promotes South Dakota as a tourist destination and acts as a guide for visitors when they arrive <https://southdakotasculpturetrail.org/>. The program seeks to entice visitors to stop at communities across the state to experience local arts, along with other amenities. The Sculpture Trail is currently funded by the SD Department of Tourism, but they need city-buy in to continue. The cities of Vermillion, Sioux Falls, Yankton, Watertown, Chamberlain, Pierre, and Rapid City, along with the Mt. Rushmore and Crazy Horse monuments are members. They’d like to add Lemmon, Milbank and Brookings in the program. Members receive their own page on the SD Sculpture Trail website, inclusion in rack maps, digital marketing, and features in several national magazines (AAA, SDT). Each city must provide a Facebook administrator for their site. It would require a \$2500 annual financial commitment. The Commission was supportive of the program and concept, but did not feel it would be an appropriate use of the BPAC’s funds.

“Creativity takes courage.”

- Henri Matisse