

Arts Committee

Tuesday, September 8th, 2026 – 9:00am-9:50am
Virtual Meeting – Zoom

In attendance: Kristin Rydholm (Voting Member), Laura Botwinick (Voting Member)

Guests: Andrew Jarvis (Screams Everything Studio), Evan Ireland (Make & Co.)

Staff: Alice Howe (SSA #33 Program Director), Luke Scaletta (Community Engagement Coordinator), Lindsay Siebert (Outreach & Engagement)

Recommendations

Motion 1: The Arts Committee recommended to approve **\$4,000** from line item **2.06 (Public Art)** to fund the artist stipends to paint 6 utility boxes located throughout the WPB SSA #33 boundaries (26-0903)

Discussion: LS described local efforts from other communities to paint utility boxes to discourage graffiti, and provided permission from both the 1st and 32nd Wards to pursue the project. The Committee decided to start with 6 utility boxes at approximately 3 intersections throughout SSA #33.

*KR recommends. All in favor. **Recommendation passes.***

Updates

1. Make & Co. Gallery Café Mural Proposal
 - a. Evan Ireland from Make & Co. presented their proposal to install two new 8'x8' murals along the Wood St.-facing side of Gallery Café. After discussion, the committee wanted to hear the opinions of other members of the committee who were not able to join today, as they were tentative to approve a project that would not allow for rotating artists, as the space originally functioned as.
2. First Fridays Updates
 - a. LS discussed the previous First Friday, including Phil Circle's live performance in the public way and the progress of participating galleries. Going forward, staff have submitted a new order of First Friday bandanas and are seeking to activate at galleries that are celebrating opening receptions during future First Fridays, to reach the widest audience.
3. Mural Projects

- a. AH discussed the recent installation of the Liz Flores mural at Western Ave. and confirmed that the Tony Fitzpatrick mural at Door 24 Wine would be installed soon. She also shared that CJ Hungerman has nearly finished repairs on the Bucktown mural.
- 4. Bump out Mural Series
 - a. AH updated the Committee on a recent discussion with CDOT, and confirmed permission to hire artists to paint 6 bump outs located along the 1200-1500 blocks of Milwaukee Ave during MMOM on October 25th, and LS confirmed that the RFP was recently posted for this project.
- 5. IDA Conference Takeaways
 - a. AH shared a potential arts opportunity through the installation of CitiBins in WPB SSA #33, which would offer litter abatement ease and allow artists to design artworks on the side of neighborhood trash cans.
 - b. LS discussed efforts to build out a network of local graffiti artists to better discourage vandalism and build local trust.
- 6. CSE Postcard
 - a. LS and Maricruz Sauer will be finalizing the CSE postcard graphic soon.

Looking Ahead

- 1. KR shared a new project to potentially restore and liven up the mosaic art at certain building entrances around Wicker Park and Bucktown.

Next Meeting – October 6th