From: Ram Murphy
To: Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Subject: Director for the Public Art Committee
Date: Friday, August 20, 2021 2:16:26 PM

Dear City Council Members,
Missoula has been unique in the Northwest and certainly more so in the past five years. I have found that public art unites a community and gives it identity. This was certainly true for Portland in the 80's and 90's and it appears the Red X's and the Caras Park Trout pull those two areas into an integrated downtown. I truly think further ventures into Missoula being recognized as an art destination, and not just a fishing town with beer, would only be served by having a salaried director and not a volunteer. A salaried position would insure that we have a dedicated professional overseeing the public artworks and allow that person to dedicate time and commitment to the choosing of any public art project. As a gallery owner, I talk to many visitors that had no idea we possessed such a varied and vibrant art community. In fact the concept of "unique" is mentioned quite often. This designation can definitely wane if we don't continue to present creative concepts that are original and highly visible. I don't think we can improve and maintain the standard of excellence with a volunteer directing and overseeing our public art displays.
Thank you,
Ram Murphy
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