



December 18, 2018

RE: 2018 PAN Council End of Year Report

Dear AFTA PAN Members:

Another productive and tumultuous year in the world of public art draws to a close and we at the [Public Art Network Advisory Council](#) of Americans for the Arts would like to send our best wishes and share some of the highlights of PAN's 2018 accomplishments.

Public art, with its unique place at the intersection of public space and discourse and its purpose to engage, enliven and inspire or provoke, is as crucial and important as ever. With that in mind, the Council began its work in January 2018 in Washington DC, welcoming new members Tracie D. Hall, Joyce Foundation from Chicago and the Great Lakes region, Clare Haggarty, Los Angeles County Arts Commission in Southern California, Carrie Geraci, Jackson Hole Public Art in Wyoming, Mandy Vink, City of Boulder Office of Arts and Culture Public Art Program in Colorado, and Amina Cooper, Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County in Maryland. There we spent two days connecting with other councils, engaged the AFTA board, and honed our collective message, while as a council we formed committees and laid out our goals. Chief among the goals were further development of the Best Practices for Public Art Projects that were launched in 2016 to look at ways to add supplemental notes and directions.

A Cultural Equity committee was formed and has researched and developed programming and recommendations in conjunction with further development of the [Best Practices for Public Art Projects](#). This is among the most important work we are tackling to ensure that artists' commissioning processes are equitable to all artists, and that as public art programs embrace diversity, equity and inclusion work we are providing resources to aide in the updating of practices.

Communication and messaging is an area of growth that members are interested in



expanding, with a more robust social media presence that builds upon the [PAN Year in Review](#), the nation's primary platform for public art honors, to share more details and information about those projects throughout the year. Early next year you will see the fruits of that labor as a monthly blog series will highlight the 2018 projects in a lead up to the announcement of the 2019 artworks.

Planning and development of the annual Public Art Preconference is an important part of the Council's work, and this year's preconference in Denver broke an attendance record, of which we are all proud, and grateful to our Denver-based council members, Michael Chavez, Denver Arts & Venues and Mandy Vink. We coordinated the annual PAN Year in Review and we bestowed the PAN Leadership Award as well, to Renee Piechocki, an entertaining and dynamic leader who continues to inspire us all. And you can continue to be inspired by following her public art travels through [#PublicArtPostcard](#) on Instagram.

Working closely with Patricia Walsh, Public Art & Civic Design Program Manager, we shaped the publications [Why Public Art Matters](#), a succinct and persuasive paper that is useful in advocacy, outreach and telling our story, and [Guiding Questions for the Development of a Public Art Program](#) to assist communities in how to set up a successful public art program. Council members lent their expertise in the Ask an Expert virtual conversation series during the [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Practices in the Public Art Process](#), and in the development of a new U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development fact sheet [Public Art and Noise Mitigation](#).

A key strength of the council structure is the communication and sharing among the 15 members. Each has a perspective, experience and depth of knowledge about our field and coming together in monthly conference calls and bi-annual meetings provides an environment for problem-solving, new ideas, and initiatives that carries over into all of our work and programming. We are pleased to welcome three new members, Ben Owen, Arts@MSP, Airport Foundation MSP in Minnesota, Chris Guerra, City of Santa Monica Cultural Affairs in Southern California, and Susan Lambe, Arts in Public Places City of Austin in Texas to the Council.



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And last but certainly not least, 2018 sees the departure of two Council members: Jimmy LeFlore from the San Antonio Public Art, and Caroline Vincent, Metro Arts Nashville in Tennessee. Jimmy joined us six years ago and has been a constant and supportive voice throughout many changes, including staff changes within AFTA, the development of the Best Practices for Public Art Projects and more. His thoughtful demeanor and expertise in all things public art will be greatly missed. Caroline in her three dedicated years on the Council has helped usher in the Cultural Equity committee and provided her expertise on multiple panels for the Public Art Preconferences. We will miss her quiet and intelligent comments that have kept us focused. Thank you, Jimmy and Caroline, for all that you have done for us!!!

We meet next in Seattle this January and will start another year as experts, advisors and advocates for public art. We look forward to and encourage all members to reach out to us through AFTA on matters of program development, policy and practice issues, and of course, to join us at the 2019 Public Art Preconference taking place in Minneapolis, MN from June 13th – 14th.

Lester Burg, MTA NY Arts & Design
2018 Chair and 2019 Incoming Chair

Caroline Vincent, Metro Arts Nashville
2018 Vice Chair

Ruri Yampolsky, Seattle Office of Arts & Culture
2019 Incoming Vice Chair