



April 20, 2022

Dear City of Steamboat Springs,

Steamboat Creates has recently convened a Public Art Curatorial Committee comprised of artists, experts and community members to review public art proposals for the City of Steamboat Springs. The committee reviewed 5 proposals in total and made recommendations on each.

**Basecamp:**

The committee came to a consensus regarding recommending 'Basecamp' and does not recommend this project based on lack of quality and innovation, timelessness, and compatibility with the site. In particular, the committee that reviewed this proposal for the City of Steamboat Springs does not accept proposal due to extenuating circumstances regarding content. This proposal was discussed at length, highlights include:

- A lack of quality and innovation. Noted as being generic but pretty. Additionally, the artwork appears to have some Native American themes that do not seem appropriate but to the appearance of cultural appropriation.
- It was felt that the content does not reflect enduring quality and does not feel sensitive to questions of appropriation. Clarify context - is it appropriation or performative? Consider how the design relates (or doesn't relate) to the site.
- A unique consideration due to it being on private property. The tone of the Curatorial Board's conversation was not positive regarding the design, content or cultural sensitivity.
- The committee did note their interest in a mural at this location, and that the design could be "tweaked" - in trying to think of a path forward, the only thing I could come up with is giving the developer/artist some feedback and asking them to come back with some different design options without the Native American and generic landscape content.

Please refer to the scoresheets and minutes of the meeting for clarification on the recommendation.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kim Keith".

Kim Keith  
Executive Director  
Steamboat Creates

**About Public art**

Public art is exactly that, art in public spaces. The term "public art" may conjure images of historic bronze statues of a soldier on horseback in a park. Today, public art can take a wide range of forms, sizes, and scales—and can be temporary or permanent. Public art can include murals, sculpture, memorials, integrated architectural or landscape architectural work, community art, digital new media, and even performances and festivals!

Public art is often site-specific, meaning it is created in response to the place and community in which it resides. It often interprets the history of the place, its people, and perhaps addresses a social or environmental issue. The work may be created in collaboration with the community, reflecting the ideas and values of those for whom it's created.

Being public, the art is free and accessible to everyone. Public art creates a heightened awareness in the viewer of the site of the people and the broader context of what's around them. Today, viewers may capture a photo of the public art on their smartphone and share the work and the experience with others, extending the reach of public art beyond the site.

Whatever the form, public art instills meaning—a greater sense of identity and understandings of where we live, work, and visit creating memorable experiences for all.  
- Source, Americans for the Arts 2017

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