From:	Kia Liszak
To:	Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Subject:	Missoula Public Art Director
Date:	Monday, August 23, 2021 12:51:46 PM

Dear City Council Members,
I am writing to encourage you to prioritize funding in the 2021-2022 budget for a part time director for the City Of Missoula Public Art Committee.
During my five years as a member of the Missoula Public Art Committee, I saw many good ideas unable to reach their full potential due to lack of consistent leadership. Volunteers can do a lot, but without consistent leadership and direction, it is difficult to maximize volunteer's time and energy.

As Missoula grows, it is important to remember our values and our roots. MIssoula has always had a rich and vibrant arts and cultural sector. But if we don't put our money where our values are, and rely solely on volunteers to keep this part of our identity thriving, we risk losing this key component of who we are.
Public art adds cultural and economic value to the Missoula community. It contributes to our identity and fosters community pride and a sense of belonging. "More public art" has been identified as something our community wants and values in our Downtown Master Plan. I would be very excited to see what the Missoula Public Art Committee would be able to do with the right leader at the helm. I am certain that it would be a worthwhile investment in the future and the heart of our community.

Thank you for your time,

Kia Liszak
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