

NEWS ADVISORY



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For immediate release

NEW TRAFFIC SIGNAL BOX ART READY FOR DEDICATION Public invited to celebrate seven new works Friday, Oct. 1

Seven artists have completed seven new pieces of public art on traffic signal boxes around Missoula in the third round of the City of Missoula Public Art Committee's highly successful traffic signal box project. They will be dedicated on Friday, Oct. 1, at 6 p.m. at Studio D Gallery at 420 N. Higgins Ave, Suite D, as part of First Friday activities.

Artists awarded commissions in this third art call by the Committee are: Amber Bushnell, *Ospreys Surfing the River*, at Orange and Broadway; Michael Greytak, *Digital Organics: An Exploration into Earth's Wildlife*, at Brooks and Stephens; Christy Green, *Missoula the Garden City*, at Brooks and Reserve; Kip Herring, *Missoula, a Perspective on Trees*, at Stephens and Mount; M. Scott Miller, *Busy Bodies*, at Brooks/Southgate Mall; Greg Siple, *Bicycling to Missoula*, at Higgins and Spruce; and Rebecca Weed, *Past Time*, at Broadway and Pattee.

The Public Art Committee collaborates with the City of Missoula Public Works Department, the State of Montana Department of Transportation, the Missoula Redevelopment Agency, the Missoula Police Department, the Missoula Downtown Association, the Missoula Business Improvement District, and various private entities from conception to selection on the signal box project. In addition to the Public Art Committee, the selection committees are composed of representatives of the various organizations, agencies, and individuals, as well as representatives from the neighborhoods where the boxes are located. The boxes in this third round have been funded by the Missoula Redevelopment Agency and the Missoula Business Improvement District, with individual boxes sponsored by Southgate Mall and the businesses surrounding the Spruce/Higgins corner.

Commissions of \$1,000 for each traffic signal box design chosen are awarded to the winning artists. The project, open to all artists residing in Missoula County, is an on-going, multi-year program intended to enhance visual surroundings in the city as well as to serve as a proven deterrent to damage and graffiti. The winning models of this round of traffic signal box artwork have recently been on display in City Hall outside the Mayor's Office.

In the first and second phases of the program, 14 traffic signal boxes artwork were installed throughout the city. Missoula Public Art Committee member Kathi Olson is the chair of the subcommittee coordinating the project.

"The art work on the traffic signal control boxes functions as a form of communication to a moving audience with the goal of creating a safe, inclusive and visually exciting environment," Olson said. "The proposals chosen foster community pride in what makes Missoula unique. Moreover, the project gives Missoula citizens the opportunity to become acquainted with the diversity and creativity of local artists."

The art project is in keeping with larger, long-term community goals such as the Greater Missoula Downtown Master Plan, which emphasizes an interesting built environment that lends character and diversity to commercial areas.

Further details of the project can be obtained on the City website at:

<http://mt-missoula.civicplus.com/index.aspx?NID=899>

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