



NEWS ADVISORY

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For immediate release

New Artists Chosen for Six New Traffic Signal Box Projects

Missoula County artists will be busy on Memorial Day weekend installing their work on six traffic signal boxes in three areas of Missoula. The artists are the latest group chosen by the City of Missoula Public Art Committee in its popular Traffic Signal Box public art project.

The new art installations will be on traffic signal boxes along 39th Street, at Southgate Mall and at Higgins Avenue and South Fifth Street East. The spring commissions are the fourth round in the multi-year project, which has put 22 works of art on traffic signal boxes around Missoula.

The artists and their works are Amber Bushnell, "Fancy Elk"; Kip Sikora, "Long May the Wild Be Wild"; Stoney Sasser, "Iris in the Spring"; Max Mahn, "Untitled"; the Missoula Electric Quilters, "Missoula Quilted" and "A Quilted Heritage." The Public Art Committee chose the artists in a competitive process. The commissions pay each artist \$1,000. This round is funded by the City of Missoula Neighborhoods Grant Program, Southgate Mall and the Downtown Business Improvement District of Missoula.

News coverage opportunities:

- Artists are available for interviews. Contact Kathi Olson, chair of the subcommittee coordinating the project, at 544-7359 or at kameomt@yahoo.com. Other subcommittee members contact information is listed below. Models of the winning projects will be displayed outside the Mayor's Office on the second floor of City Hall.
- Memorial Day Weekend: Artists will install their works. More information about location and times will be available near that time.
- Dedication: Friday, June 3, at 6 p.m., location to be announced.

The Public Art Committee chose the six locations considering a safe environment for artists to work and maximum visibility for pedestrians and drivers. They are:

- 39th Street/Stephens Avenue/High Park Way
- 39th Street/Russell Street/Hillview Way
- 39th Street/Dore Lane/23rd Street
- 39th Street/Reserve Street
- Higgins Avenue/South Fifth Street East

The project is an ongoing program designed to enhance visual surroundings around the city as well as to serve as a proven deterrent to damage and graffiti, said subcommittee chair Kathi Olson.

“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,” she 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.”

Contacts for interviews:

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