



SEATTLE PUBLIC ART SUPPORT GROUP

MEETING 2

AGENDA

Date and Time: Oh, soon. Very soon.

Location: Calamity Jane's, Georgetown

Order of Business

- I. Ordering of tall beers
- II. Approval of last meeting's minutes, August 2008
 - A. Intros/war stories
 1. **Dan Webb**, who designed thought bubbles for Olympia City Hall that were killed by a dumb public (who thought they looked like turds) and gutless politicians (who are turds).
 2. **Leo Berk**, group organizer, working on underground planetarium for UW light-rail station, lightly razzed at public meeting for coloring it dark blue and white (you know, roughly the color of the night sky) instead of the official UW school colors: purple and gold.
 3. **Eric Eley**, trying to make abstractions that will in no way disturb families coming to inquire about their mysteriously dead at the King County Medical Examiner's Office.
 4. **Jenny Heishman**, who fought for her own budget on her very first project, a series of pipes that move water and act as a handrail in disguise for Ernst Park in Fremont.
 5. **John Sutton, Ben Beres, Zac Culler** (SuttonBeresCuller), who can't remember what it's like to sleep, eat, or make art because they've been in back-to-back meetings with bureaucrats and lawyers for months for three public-art projects: a city park on polluted land in Georgetown, public chalkboards in West Seattle, and a glowing manhole cover for the Seattle Streetcar.
 - B. Question: Do we have to pay our dealers a cut of public commissions?
 1. Undecided.
 - C. Special guest: advice from elders of public art, part 1
 1. **Cris "Tough Love" Bruch**: Get good contracts. Then give your subcontractors good contracts. Also: No whining.
- III. New business: briefings
 - A. Fails
 1. Autopsy: Webb's thought bubbles in Olympia. (See item II, section A, subsection 1.)

IV. Group sigh

V. Ordering of whiskey

VI. Announcements

- A. Webb, undeterred, renews his vow to love public art even after his Olympia debacle.
 1. "When I talk to artists, they're like, 'See, I told you so, you've gotta get over this public-art thing.' But it's like, you ask the pretty girl to the dance, she says no, and what are you gonna say? 'Well, fuck it, I'm gay?'" —Webb

VII. Triumphant cheers

VIII. Ordering of Jägermeister

IX. New business

- A. Discussion items: pressing anxieties, curiosities, and conundrums
 1. What if a private collector wants a copy of my public piece? (Berk)
 2. What's the difference between diplomatic and spineless? (Eley)
 3. How do I talk to people who hate me because I'm using their tax dollars to make public art? (Berk)
 4. How do I keep what happened to Webb from happening to me? (All: See item III, section A, subsection 1.)
- B. Special guests: advice from elders of public art, part 2
 1. **Buster "Public Art OG" Simpson**: "When we started doing this public-art thing, we were inventing it. As soon as we stop inventing the system, we're doomed."
 2. **Norie "Sound Transit Master" Sato**: "Public art is not the same as other work. The percentage of time you spend making art is minuscule. You just need to be prepared for it."
 3. **Jack "Dance Steps on Broadway" Mackie**: "Remember the big idea. There's a thing about critical mass that you learn: It has to be a big enough idea to hold itself in its physical form."

X. Action items

- A. Rock harder.
- B. Support each other with criticism.
- C. Just say no when it's gone too far.
- D. Don't take any shit from turds.

XI. Join hands for sing-along: "Modern Art," Art Brut

XII. Adjourn

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| ARTIST | FABRICATOR | CLIENT / MANAGER INTERFACE | ARCHITECT TORTURER | COLLABORATOR |
| PROJECT MANAGER | ACCOUNTANT | WRITER | PLANNER / URBAN PLANNER | PUBLIC |
| CONSTRUCTION MANAGER | CAJOLER | MAGICIAN / ALCHEMIST | CARPETBAGGER | OBJECT OF SCORN |
| SUBCONTRACTOR MANAGER | SALESPERSON / MARKETING MANAGER | LAWYER | STUDIO/OFFICE MANAGER | RESEARCHER |
| ARCHITECT INTERFACE | EDUCATOR / TEACHER | STRATEGIST | TRAVEL AGENT | WORKER/LABORER |