

Commissions seek art for new playground

The City of Eugene Visual Arts Commission and the Downtown Commission are seeking proposals from area artists for sculptures that will be placed in the new play area in the downtown mall on Broadway, between Charnelton and Willamette streets.

The total budget for the project is \$13,500. The commissions are seeking three to five permanently affixed sculptures that will provide a high-quality attraction for both children and adults and will enliven the edge of the new play area.

The two commissions favor

bronze sculptures that depict animals native to the state of Oregon, are safe for children to climb on and are visually pleasing and easy to maintain, said Jan Bohman, project manager for the renovation of the downtown mall.

The Visual Arts Commission

administers the city's municipal arts ordinance, in which 1 percent of the funds from public construction projects more than \$50,000 is set aside for public art.

The commission earmarked \$7,500 for the project, and the Downtown Commission, which

advises the city council about downtown issues and activities, donated another \$6,000 to the project.

More information is available from Sandra Gleason, public works public relations coordinator, at 687-5523.

Hult Center announces plans for 2 new signs

By Greg Hough
Emerald Reporter

Eugene's Hult Center for the Performing Arts last week announced tentative plans to add two electronic, computerized marquees near its location between West Sixth and Seventh avenues.

Hult Center Director of Operations Rich Scheeland said the Eugene City Council must give final approval to the marquee proposal before construction can begin at two locations near the center. He added that the council would probably take up the matter in February, and guessed the proposal would likely be okayed.

"There's a pretty strong consensus for it," Scheeland said. "The financing for it has already been established."

The Eugene Arts Foundation, Scheeland explained, had sold "personalized" bricks out in front of the Hult Center with the idea of funding a marquee near the top of its priority list, raising \$40,000 that can be spent on the project.

Other funding, Scheeland added, would come from unused construction funds for the Eugene Conference Center, which is across the street from the Hult. He estimated the total cost of the project would be about \$100,000.

If approved the marquees would be constructed by Eugene Signs, a local firm chosen from nine Northwest sign companies who bid for the project. Owner Ed King indicated that in the event of council approval next month, the marquees could be completed and installed by summer.

Scheeland said the marquees would be three-sided structures

Personalized bricks to provide funding

about 22 and one-half feet high, visible to vehicular and pedestrian traffic. He added that they would be "Flip-O-Matic" signs, with yellow lettering on a black surface forming mes-

sages on two of each marquee's three sides.

The Eugene Cultural Affairs Commission, considered a "watchdog" in city government for Hult-related issues,

recommended last year that the center pursue acquisition of the signs, according to Scheeland. He said that the center has sought some sort of outside announcement board since it

opened in 1982.

"When the building was built, one of the criticisms was that it doesn't really look like a theatre," Scheeland said. "People would come to town, stand right near it and ask passers-by, 'Where's the Hult Center?'"

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