

UNM Board of Regents' Historic Preservation Committee
Agenda for May 14, 2019 Hodgin Hall
11:00 am to 12:30 pm

Item 1: Approval of Agenda

Item 2: Review of April minutes

No quorum, to be reviewed via email.

Item 3: Hodgin Hall (Kathie Scott)

Moved to end of agenda.

Item 4: Community & Regional Planning Pump House Project (Francisco Uviña)

Moved to end of agenda.

Item 5: Adams' Murals Discussion (Rich Wood, Holly Barnet-Sanchez, & Ed Padilla)

Audra Bellmore provided a background on the murals going back to 2015. There has been intermittent controversy over the years and a course dedicated to the murals was conducted Spring semester 2019. Bellmore explained the role of the Historic Preservation Committee and the State Historic Preservation Office. In October 2018 Alex Lubin visited the HPC for an informal conversation. The next part of the process would include a formal proposal, but the HPC has never received a proposal. Bellmore indicated that a murals taskforce committee was created and chaired by Alex Lubin and some HPC members were part of that committee while she was away on sabbatical. Bellmore introduced Rich Wood.

Rich wood asked who was in the room, so attendees introduced themselves.

Enrique LaMadrid (Professor Emeritus), Ed Padilla (University Libraries), Theresa Spencer (New Deal Preservation Association), Marc Edmonds (University Libraries), Ed Padilla, Samuel Sisneros, Kathy Powers (Professor), Lloyd Lee (Professor), Heather Mays, Mel Rivas (University Libraries), Jason Asenap (University Libraries), Johnathan Hartshorn (University Libraries), Steven Lockwood (UNM Art Museum), Diana Gourlay (College of Fine Arts), Ness Beauchamp (Planning, Design, & Construction), Arif Khan (UNM Art Museum), Sarah Otto Diniz (Museum Studies), Taudy Miller (Planning, Design, & Construction), Francisco Uviña (Professor), Kathie Scott (Alumni Association Staff), Al Sena (Facilities Management), Marilyn Strube (HPC), Audra Bellmore (Professor), Portia Vescio (University Archivist), Maxine Marks (PhD Student), and Lea McChesney (Professor).

Rich Wood expressed appreciation for the people in the room because he wants to utilize a spirit of discussion regarding the controversy. Alex Lubin's idea stalled out on complexity & financing. Wood found that doing something temporary would cost as much as a permanent solution. What could the solution be? There are really good intentions surrounding this effort. Wood stated that they want to preserve the art for the longtime future and at the same time deeply respect those who feel objectified and marginalized by the artwork that crosses a lot of boundaries. Many people in several groups are affected by this artwork.

Rich Wood shared a slideshow presentation and gave some history on the most recent controversy, a letter from library staff in the fall of 2017. The murals taskforce was created for staff and faculty to think about the issue. Then, a course was created for the spring of 2019. The intent was to have a conversation across the university but also across a wider community arena. Public means a setting where people sit together and talk together.

The course students came up with several different resolutions for the issue. Proposals included adding new art to recontextualize the artwork, concealing the murals and adding new art, remove the murals entirely.

Summary of Final Projects:

- Add new art to recontextualize
- Conceal murals and add new art
- Remove murals entirely and put in another museum

Covering the murals was a temporary solution, but just as costly as a permanent solution. The taskforce voted to move the murals from Zimmerman Library. This likely would have created a long process that would slow things even more.

The proposal he and the president would like to bring forward is to cover the murals with “smart glass” that can conceal the murals except when necessary for classes or other purposes. The glass would be cloudy until a switch is flipped to reveal the murals. The glass would be covered with a film that would serve as a canvas for digital artwork projections. This mural issue is part of a greater national crisis. They chose glass over other materials because of the broad contextual applications possible while preserving the murals.

Taskforce: voted to move to another location.

Where things stand: the taskforce voted to move the murals to another location. However, the current proposal is to cover the murals with transparent smart glass.

- Shroud the images
- Reveal the images whenever a class or patron wishes to see them for education or aesthetic purposes
- Film covering will allow projection of alternative imagery and contemporary artistic visions to comment upon or further extend our thinking about the past, present, and future

Glass was chosen over curtains because:

Glass is more aesthetically pleasing.

Glass preserves the murals.

Glass \$20000, curtains same cost.

\$50,000 total with digital programming. Carving into wood necessary.

Audra Bellmore clarified that the wood beams are character defining features and this issue adds another level of complexity and review. She added that the HPC responds to and reviews proposals but does not initiate proposals. The HPC role is to review and advise proposals.

Steven Lockwood inquired about studies on feasibility and projection management.

Lea McChesney said that trauma is unavoidable in the current location, oral history amongst group, no prior public voicing, documented record, not just the covering up AND public understanding programming.

Samuel Sisneros said that the choice is interesting to look or not look, there are other education tools. Dialogue has been happening for a long time. It is social injustice.

Lloyd Lee referred to the controversy at Dartmouth College.

Kathy Powers cautioned any compromise because it sends a signal that we come back right to where we are now.

Francisco Uviña said that the longevity and politics of removing it are time consuming and require dedication.

Al Sena agreed and that otherwise it would just be another footnote.

Taudy Miller said that as a committee, the HPC, needs to reiterate to the Provost's office that the committee is not an arbiter, not a public meeting facilitator, and can't prepare the proposal for them.

Al Sena asked who actually has the ultimate say regarding removal?

Marilyn Strube asked if the mural could even be removed from the historic site.

Francisco Uviña said that all of this requires a SHPO review.

Kathie Scott cautioned that technology changes and how might this affect the intent to cover the mural in perpetuity.

Taudy Miller added that SHPO requires a formal proposal. She again reiterated that the HPC can formulate a motion or recommendation on a formal proposal, but it is not an arbiter and does not create or initiate proposals.

Francisco Uviña added that the HPC can advise the Provost's office on their proposal to meet state requirements. Audra Bellmore added that the last controversial review was the Biology Annex building. The HPC talked about it and can only make recommendations. Likewise, the HPC would need a formal proposal to assist the Provost's office with their efforts.

The discussion ended with thanks given all around by Rich Wood and Audra Bellmore with the understanding that the Provost's office would return with a formal proposal for HPC comment.

Item 3: Hodgin Hall (Kathie Scott)

Kathie Scott presented the need for additional security in the Hodgin Hall entrance to discourage public urination.

Item 4: Community & Regional Planning Pump House Project (Francisco Uviña)

Francisco Uviña showed student Leroy Duarte's video about the pump house.

Updates: Taudy Miller stated that UNM did a security evaluation recently. Campus wide changes are being considered and a finalized draft will be turned into a white paper, forwarded to Security Task Force, as security it is Stokes' #1 priority.

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 pm.