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HAILEY ARTS COMMISSION TAKES ON PUBLIC ART PROJECT

(Hailey, Idaho) – Mayor Rick Davis and the Hailey City Council this week approved the Hailey Arts Commission’s request to develop and implement the city’s first major public art project. The project is a 25’ x 9’ mural on the west wall of the public meeting room in Hailey City Hall. The mural will depict Hailey’s history up to the modern day, emphasizing both the diversity and natural beauty of Hailey. Evoking a strong sense of place and engendering civic pride are key elements of the mural concept.

The mural will be completed off site, on movable panels, and then installed in the public meeting room. The commission chose this approach to minimize disruptions in the meeting space, to allow for the flexibility to exhibit the work in other locations, or to move the work should City Hall ever relocate.

The Mayor and Hailey City Council made a strong statement for support of public art by approving the commission’s request. City officials recognize that the arts and cultural tourism are important components of a diverse and strong local economy. The project budget is \$20,000, with \$10,000 allocated by the city towards the project. The Hailey Arts Commission is pursuing in-kind donations, private donations, and an Idaho Commission on the Arts public art grant to fund the remaining \$10,000. This project will proceed in tandem with needed upgrades to the City Hall infrastructure.

The artist for the project will be selected through a public process, which begins with a Call for Artists – Request for Qualifications. A selection panel will review the submissions and choose no more than three finalists to develop design proposals. The proposed designs will be placed on public view for comment, with the selection panel ultimately recommending one artist to receive the commission. The Hailey Arts Commission has review and approval of the selection panel’s recommendation, with a final review and approval by the Hailey City Council. The Call for Artists is expected to be released in early July of 2009, when all funding is securely in place for the project. Two artists’ workshops will be held for how to submit an application for the project; one in the spring and one after release of the Call for Artists.

Hailey Arts Commissioners are Pat Robinson Webb, Commission Chair; Joe Castle, Commission Vice Chair; Mark Johnstone, Elizabeth Zellers, Melissa Graves Brown, Jim Spinelli and Andrew Lewis.

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