

Follensbee, Analisa L

From: Jennifer Hedstrom <jlhedstrom87@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 11:08 AM
To: Madison Arts; Madison Arts
Subject: Metro Mural Project

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To whom it may concern:

I am one of the many people who submitted comments in support of Jenie Gao when the Metro Mural project was first being planned. I am disappointed to hear that there have been many delays and that Jenie has put in hundreds of hours toward the project already, mostly unpaid, with no clear idea of how/whether the project will continue.

I have been looking forward to seeing Jenie's artwork on E. Wash and had been wondering when it would finally grace our eyes!

I am urging you to continue supporting Jenie as the recommended artist. Please do not send this project back to the Common Council, who already approved Jenie as the vendor in 2022. Please support one of the many solutions that Jenie has provided to make this project feasible in 2025-2026.

And most importantly, I sincerely hope Jenie will be compensated for her work on the project so far, no matter what steps the city takes next. As a musician, I know from experience how many hours of preparation go into a project before it is presented to an audience. It would be a mistake for the Madison Arts Commission to not recognize this labor.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Hedstrom (she/her/they/them)
Freelance Musician and Piano Teacher

Follensbee, Analisa L

From: Custer, Betty <Betty.Custer@lfg.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 2:21 PM
To: Madison Arts; Madison Arts
Subject: Madison Metro Public Art Project

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Commission members and Karin Wolf:

As a lifelong resident of Madison, I have been so grateful for the role that Public Art has been playing in our community for some time. I have great respect for Karin and her efforts and that of the Arts Commission. I was so sad to learn that because of some needed work on the Madison Metro building the planned Public Art on that facility has been pushed into the future for some significant time. I know there was great enthusiasm for the competition that resulted in the selection of Jenie Gao. I thought all the artists were excellent, and Jenie was my favorite.

I am concerned about the long-term impact of decisions the City of Madison and the Madison Arts Commission may be making. I believe the competition on this project came from artists of great reputation and from places far away. If Madison becomes known as an entity that does not live up to his contracts with artists in the same way it would hopefully stand by all its legal obligations, we might not have such a diverse submission group in the future. More importantly, at this time, I believe we have an obligation to the contracted artist, who has already invested time and travel and other expenses for which she may now be out-of-pocket. I've been told she has over 300 hours into the plan and has hired outside advisors. It took 18 months for her to get a contract that she could sign. I ask that the City keep its agreement with Jenie Gao and work with her on elements that might need changing. The City Council already approved her after many public interactions where many of us stated our support of her. To make any changes now would be a disservice to those who take time to give public input and to those artists who share their gifts with us.

I would sincerely hope that MAC can advocate for artists as it so often does and this artist, in particular. We will cause her personal harm and I believe influence how other artists view us as an entity going forward. And the lack of support and helping this artist work out a solution that is favorable to all will send the opposite, much more positive message.

Thank you for your consideration.

Betty Harris Custer



Betty Harris Custer, CFP®, CRPC
Founding Managing Partner
Betty.Custer@LFG.com

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Follensbee, Analisa L

From: N Landsem <nipinet@redclovertattoocollective.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 2:55 PM
To: Madison Arts; Madison Arts
Subject: April 3 vote on Metro Transit Mural

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Boozhoo,

I'm writing to express my support for Jenie Gao as the artist completing the Metro Transit Mural. I think it is extremely important that the project and budget be reworked to make it feasible for Jenie to complete the project in 2026 and fully support the changes she has suggested in order to make this happen. Inflation is very real and equity for artists is so important-- it would not be fair to expect Jenie to complete this project at the same scale and budget four years later with the economy changing as it has.

I believe Jenie has some really well-crafted solutions to this issue! I hope the council agrees.

Miigwech,
Nipinet

Follensbee, Analisa L

From: Kim Knorr <knorrk4@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 3:45 PM
To: Madison Arts
Subject: Madison Metro Trans public art project

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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MAC Leaders,

I was excited that Jenie Gao Studio was selected to produce the Madison Metro Public Art Project in 2022. Her community-inclusive innovative design and thorough presentation made her an excellent choice. Her project definitely had my support!

Now I am writing to support Jenie Gao again. I am incredibly disappointed to learn that your committee has continued to delay schedules, increase costs, and thwart the planning the artist has incurred. Is your committee not responsible to the same level as the contracted artist to ensure the budget is fair and modifications caused by “unforeseen” issues, with alternative proposals made, are approved?

Jenie Gao is the artist that we citizens want and MAC selected. Let’s get this project finalized! Please do your part!

Kim Knorr
Madison Citizen
502 Morningside Ave

Follensbee, Analisa L

From: Erin Crawley <ec77147@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 5:16 PM
To: Madison Arts
Subject: unequivocal support for Jenie Gao and the Bus depot murals

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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1. I continue to support Jenie Gao as the recommended artist for Madison Metro Art Project
2. This should not be sent back to Common Council! They already approved her as the vendor in 2022. This would be a waste of time and money!
3. Support the solutions that Jenie Gao needs to make proceeding with this project plausible in 2025-2026.

I would like to give my strong support for the Madison Metro Public Art Project that was awarded to Jenie Gao for her amazing mural project. Surely the City of Madison does not want to maintain an image of being inhospitable to artists and their public art projects--and of being particularly dismissive of the work artists of color. Not to mention the total disregard of the support and desires of community members who showed overwhelming support for this project, which the city's recalcitrance suggests.

The city has shown such callousness and disrespect towards Jenie Gao and all those working with her. It's really shocking.

I have been really excited by this project and so looking forward to seeing these murals. Whenever people visit us, I show them where the project will be and what it will look like. It's really impressive and visitors we've had have been really impressed by the project and the work that went into its development. What a shame that the city itself seems so clueless.

Do the right thing and move forward with this project.

Sincerely,

Erin Crawley
2218 Center Ave
Madison 53704