

Follensbee, Analisa L

From: Jenny Robinson <jrob.harvey@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 11:24 PM
To: Madison Arts
Subject: Support Jenie Gao as recommend artist

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Madison Arts

I am writing in support for the East Washington art work proposed by Jenie Gao and accepted by the city in 2022. I attended the original proposals and she stood out as my choice then and for many participating residents. I support her requests, to do right by the vision, use our budget by and for the residents and allow the project to move forward.

Thank you,
Jenny Robinson

Follensbee, Analisa L

From: Rachel Werner <littlebookprojectwi@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 3, 2024 10:50 AM
To: Madison Arts
Cc: Madison Arts
Subject: URGENT/Metro Public Art Project: Support of Jenie Gao

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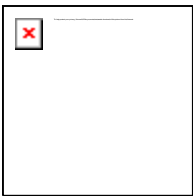
Hello,

I am sending this email to request that an appropriate and timely resolution be reached in regard to the public art project Jenie Gao was chosen to be the artist for in 2022. It seems unnecessary for this matter to be sent back to the Common Council for consideration (and a potential vote). Also the most direct way for this matter to be ethically resolved is to support the solutions that Jenie needs to make completing this project in 2025-2026 logistically and financially plausible. Cities are designed to center the needs of the institution. But good processes must center and ensure the success of the artist. With that in mind, please give her adequate time during today's meeting to share the information and the data she has compiled.

Sincerely,

Rachel Werner

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Rachel Werner

Creative Director

[*The Little Book Project WI*](#)

Hello Madison Arts Commission,

Thank you for your initial awarding of the Metro Public Art Project funding for artist, Jenie Gao. From what I gather, there have been unexpected obstacles and delays. During that planning time Jenie has spent her own funds to create the most advantageous group of subcontractors and comprehensive project plan, to hit the ground running (originally for this summer, 2024) on this extraordinary public art works mural.

As I understand it, it is now proposed that the mural be delayed, and it is questionable as to the funding. Jenie has spent 18 months fulfilling the requests the City made and has ended up with no contract, no payment, no work for her subcontractors, no art project, and two summers lost.

Please consider scaling down the project (for the cost will now be more than the original proposal), or increasing the funding for the original proposal (again, cost increases) and retaining Jenie as the MAC artist on this Public Art Project.

As I suggested in my support of her in 2022... Jenie is REALLY astute at using social media and the web at inviting, engaging, sharing, promoting (in her former projects and life pursuits) and asking for help. This is at once savvy and welcoming. Her own promotion of the project as it unfolds (including all of us helping with the painting!) will put the Madison Arts Commission and the Public Art Project in the "news" consistently and robustly. Choose Jenie- she's a whirlwind of energy and ability, and that building (and community) will SHINE!

Please help this project move forward in a sane, inclusive and equitable (financial) way.

Thank you,

Micaela Sullivan-Fowler
6410 Old Sauk Rd.
Madison, WI 53705
608 658-8821

Follensbee, Analisa L

From: Mar Gosselar <tenpenn@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 3, 2024 1:02 PM
To: Madison Arts
Subject: Metro Transit Percent for Art Project - Comment

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello MAC crew,

First, thank you for all of the time and labor you give to support the arts in Madison - I know it must be as challenging as it is rewarding to do this work in our least-funded state. I know you value artists, their time and labor, and you understand what it is to work in this field during ongoing inflation and an unspoken recession.

It seems like there are a number of things out of your direct control with this, but I really trust you all to stand for Jenie Gao and the Metro Transit Project that you already supported. You know that she is experienced, capable, transparent, and that her plans can be trusted and relied upon. Please, continue to support Jenie as the recommended artist, with budget adjustments to account for the delays and surface changes.

The incredible back and forth that has already transpired (largely on Jenie's end, emailing, revising, redesigning, combing over contracts, researching specs to ensure the success and brilliance of this project, totaling over 320 hours, mostly unpaid) cannot be for nothing. Madison is lucky to have such a dedicated and insightful artist at hand to enhance a main cultural artery! Frankly the back and forth and contradictions from City Engineering have been exhausting, not just for you and Jenie but for the subcontractors and down-stream workers who have been delayed yet another year, suffering financial loss as they had to pass on other guaranteed work in favor of this project. This is so much bigger than just one person and one contract, this is about deciding what we want the standards of respect and accountability to be for our city to our artists and craftspeople.

If Madison wants to be known as the kind of city that supports artists, that is not untrustworthy, but upstanding, a leader in Wisconsin for culture and art like it claims to be, we need the Madison Arts Commission to fully stand beside Jenie Gao and the solutions they have created to make this possible in 2025/26. I know you and I trust you to do the right thing.

Thank you for all of your work and time,
Mar Gosselaar
Red Clover Tattoo Collective

Follensbee, Analisa L

From: Ari Gochberg <arigochberg@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 3, 2024 1:55 PM
To: Madison Arts
Subject: Agenda Item #3 (Metro Transit Mural)

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Dear Madison arts commission,

I am writing to ask that you support the solutions that Jenie Gao needs to be able to complete and move forward with the Madison Metro project. She has made a more than reasonable flow chart of options for the commission to make the changes necessary while still supporting her in this project. Because the timelines for this project have been extended, The project either needs to scale down or the budget increased. Jenie also should be paid for their time spent in these meetings and the redesign time to create the chosen solution. It is also important the she and supporters are given the time they deserve to discuss this issue during the meeting this evening and not cut short.

Thank you,
Ari Gochberg

Follensbee, Analisa L

From: Angela Richardson <angelarichardson1000@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 3, 2024 2:03 PM
To: Madison Arts
Subject: Madison Metro Public Art Project - please support Jenie Gao!

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Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for serving on MAC. As a longtime Madison resident and artist, I deeply appreciate the time, energy, and thought you put into Commission efforts.

I write to ask you to, **please, continue supporting Jenie Gao as the recommended artist for the Madison Metro Public Art Project.** Don't send this back to Common Council, who already approved Gao as the vendor in 2022.

Support the solutions that Gao needs to make the project plausible in 2025-2026. Specifically, this means: **increasing the budget as necessary to meet increased labor and materials costs** OR decreasing the project's scale to fit within the previously proposed and accepted budget.

Gao's proposal is solid and she deserves the opportunity to see this project through while also being properly compensated. I look forward to seeing *The Time is Ours* on the Madison Metro Transit System building.

Sincerely,
Angela Richardson
217 Dunning St, Madison, WI 53704