



ART SELECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, April 5, 2012 11:00 – 1:00 PM
City of Fairbanks, City Hall, 800 Cushman Street
City Council Chambers

1. Call to Order
2. Introduction of Members, Staff and Attendees
3. Public Comment Period
4. Approval of the April 5, 2012 Agenda
5. Approval of the March 22, 2012 Meeting Summary
6. New Business
7. Old Business
 - a. Access Update
 - b. Public Participation Plan
 - c. Website, Student Flyer, Committee Statement, One Page Question Summary and Powerpoint
 - d. April 28 Event Status Update and Assignments
 - e. Art Theme Process
 - f. Budget Discussion (on hold)
8. Public Comment Period
9. Other Issues
10. Adjourn

Next Meeting: April 19, 2012 at City Hall Council Chambers



Fairbanks Metropolitan Area Transportation System

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FMATS Art Selection Advisory Committee Meeting Summary March 22, 2012

IN ATTENDANCE: *FMATS Art Selection Advisory Committee Member

- *Donna Gardino, FMATS (Chair)
- *Julie Engfer, Festival Fairbanks (**Absent**)
- *Mark Fejes, Community Artist
- *Kelley Hegarty-Lammers, Chena Riverfront Commission
- *Ron Inouye, Historian, Community Member
- *George Lounsbury, Pioneers of Alaska (**Absent**)
- *Carole-Ann Newcomer, Doyon (**Absent**)
- *Amy Nordrum, Fairbanks Downtown Association
- *June Rogers, Fairbanks Arts Association
- *Sue Sprinkle, Graphic Designer

Kellen Spillman, FMATS; Barry Hooper, DOT; Nancy Webb, public; Bob Pristash, City of Fairbanks; Public; Patti Skondovitch, Public, Dermot Cole, FDNM

A meeting of the FMATS Art Selection Advisory Committee was held at 12:00 pm on Thursday, March 22, 2012 at the Fairbanks City Hall, City Council Chambers.

1. Call to Order

Chair Donna Gardino called the meeting to order at 12:04 pm.

2. Introduction of Members, Staff and Attendees

The FMATS Art Selection Advisory Committee and members of the public introduced themselves.

3. Public Comment #1

There were no public comments.

4. Approval of the March 22, 2012 Meeting Agenda

- **Motion:** To approve the March 8, 2012 Meeting Agenda. (Hegarty-Lammers, Sprinkle)
- **Vote on the Motion:** None opposed. Approved.

5. Approval of the February 23, 2012 Meeting Summary

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- **Motion:** To Approve the February 23, 2012 Meeting Summary. (Inouye, Sprinkle)

Ms. Hegarty-Lammers said that she would like to note that there were some ideas attributed to her in the meeting summary that she did not raise.

- **Vote on the Motion:** None opposed. Approved.

6. New Business

a) Access

Mr. Barry Hooper, DOT Design Manager, gave a presentation on the apex area of the Illinois Street Reconstruction project regarding access to the area.

There were multiple questions about the need for a guardrail around the area and Mr. Hooper said that the guardrail on both sides will serve to protect electrical pedestals that will be installed as part of the project. Mr. Hooper said that the guardrail on the Cushman Street side would not be required for vehicle safety after the Cushman Street Bridge goes to one-way traffic. Mr. Hooper said that the guardrail on the Barnette Street side is required to keep vehicles from hitting the bridge, but it is built larger than the minimum approach length to protect the pedestals.

The FMATS Art Selection Advisory Committee expressed a desire to shorten the guardrails to increase access to the greenspace. Mr. Hooper said that it is possible for the greenspace to act as a staging area when the DOT begins construction on the Cushman Street Bridge project, as it did for the Barnette Street Bridge.

Ms. Sprinkle pointed out that the access to the greenspace from the bike path is also very steep, approximately a four to one slope. Mr. Hooper said that when the area was designed it was not designed as to encourage people to access the greenspace from the bike path. Mr. Hooper pointed out that in conversations with the Army Corps of Engineers they did not want access to the river, but rather a natural bank. Mr. Hooper said that there will be smaller material that will fill in the riprap under the bridges, for a potential access point to the river. Mr. Hooper said that the greenspace was designed by three criteria, 1) to serve as drainage for the area, 2) so the area could be actively policed, and 3) so the area could act as a potential staging area for the Cushman Street Bridge Project.

Ms. Rogers pointed out that often police like activity in public areas, which can reduce problem activity.

- **Motion:** To recommend to the Policy Committee that the DOT&PF improve access to and from the triangle by removing the guardrail on the Cushman Street segment, make the design adjustments necessary to reduce the Barnette Street guardrail to the minimum approach required, and to modify the grade from the bike path to the triangle area to a twelve to one slope. (Hegarty-Lammers, Inouye)

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- **Vote on the Motion:** All in favor. Approved.

7. Old Business

a) Public Participation Plan

- **Motion:** To approve the FMTAS Art Selection Advisory Committee's Public Participation Plan. (Sprinkle, Inouye)

Ms. Sprinkle said that she would be willing to assist in graphic designing sections of the public participation plan, such as the cover.

Ms. Hegarty-Lammers said that most of the text that she has included in the document, and the website, was from comments that she heard from the public. Ms. Hegarty-Lammers said that she would like to see the amended paragraphs from the newsletter inserted into the public participation plan, to make it more public friendly.

Ms. Gardino said that she would make the desired changes and put the plan on the next meeting agenda. Ms. Gardino asked for any other changes to be forwarded to her by Wednesday, March 28, 2012.

- **Vote to Table Motion:** All in favor. Motion Tabled.

b) Website

Ms. Hegarty-Lammers said that she would like to see a new picture on the homepage, which shows what the area is like now, as opposed to a historical photo. Ms. Gardino asked for any other changes to be forwarded to her by Wednesday, March 28, 2012.

c) Art Theme – Questions

Ms. Gardino asked what the Committee would like to do with the questions after they have been established.

Mr. Fejes said that he would like to have an event held down at the area. Mr. Fejes said that he has spoken with a number of people about the event, including businesses like the Big I and Bobby's downtown, and they have been very supportive of the idea.

Ms. Gardino said that she has spoken with the DOT and it appears that it would be possibly to use the space for an event. Ms. Gardino noted that in the near future she is going to have a conflicting meeting, with the Art Committee Meetings, and asked if it would be possible to move the Art Committee meetings to 11:00am. The Art Committee agreed.

Mr. Fejes said that the purpose of the event is to get people familiar with the site in question, have them respond to the five questions, and get them talking about the project. Ms. Sprinkle

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said that she has also reserved the Cushman Street banner for a period of time in April, to potentially hang a sign on advertising the project and the event.

Mr. Dermot Cole, Fairbanks Daily Newsminer, said that a letter to the editor would be very affective in bringing attention to the event.

Ms. Gardino said that she would confirm one more time that the space could be used for an event. Mr. Inouye said that, in the meantime, the Committee needs to start thinking about what will be needed for an event, such as tables, chairs, clipboards, and easels. Ms. Gardino said that the Committee has a budget that could be used on an event such as this. Mr. Fejes said that he would look into getting quotes from agencies on printing services.

- **Motion:** To authorize up to \$2,500 in funding for a public event to promote involvement in the Art Selection process. (Inouye, Nordrum)

Mr. Fejes said that he could also write a community perspective, very similar to a letter that he passed out at the meeting. Mr. Cole said that he would also mention the event.

- **Vote on the Motion:** All in favor. Approved.

Ms. Rogers said that it might also be worthwhile to approach Denali State Bank about supporting the event and they have been known to contribute hotdogs to community events in the past.

d) UAF Archives Video Clip Follow-up

Ms. Gardino said that Mr. Lounsbury worked with the UAF Archives to develop a short silent film of history on the area. The video is available in the FMATS office and will be linked on the website.

e) Agency List

Mr. Spillman said that he approached the Noel Wien Public Library about a binder containing agency information from the Fairbanks area. Mr. Spillman said that such a binder existed until 2007, but has not been updated since.

8. Public Comment Period #2

There were no public comments.

9. Other Issues

a) Missing Members

Ms. Sprinkle pointed out that every member of the FMATS Art Selection Advisory Committee signed a form stating that they would be in attendance and if more than three consecutive meetings were missed they could be removed from the Committee.

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b) Presentations

Ms. Gardino said that she thinks that there should be a standard presentation for members of the Art Selection Advisory Committee to give. Ms. Nordrum said that she would be happy to assist with developing a presentation.

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 pm and the next meeting of the FMATS Art Selection Advisory Committee will be held on April 5, 2012 at 11 am in the City of Fairbanks Council Chambers.

Approved: _____
Donna Gardino, Chair
FMATS Art Selection Advisory Committee

Date: _____



Photo courtesy of Candy Waugaman

FMATS Art Selection Advisory Committee

Public Participation Plan

**For Our Residents in Selecting Meaningful
Enhancements for the greenspace formed by
Cushman Street and the Barnette Street Extension
bound by the Chena River to the south**

Art Selection Advisory Committee

Donna Gardino, Chair
June Rogers
Mark Fejes
Amy Nordrum
Ron Inouye
Kelley Hegarty-Lammers
George Lounsbury
Julie Engfer
Sue Sprinkle
Carole-Ann Newcomer

This document was prepared under the direction of FMATS.

If you have any questions please contact:

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April 5, 2012

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FMATS Art Selection Advisory Committee Public Participation Plan

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Chapter I: Background and Purpose

Background

The Policy Committee of the Fairbanks Metropolitan Area Transportation System (FMATS) heard the community's concern about the enhancements that were proposed to for the newly created triangular space between Cushman Street and the extension of Barnette Street on the north side of the Chena River. This space is illustrated below in varying shades of green.



Figure 1

FMATS was tasked with forming a citizen committee to assist in determining the enhancements that are to be created in the right-of-way. It is called the FMATS Art Selection Advisory Committee (Committee). The Committee was formed to solicit ideas from the community and build on these ideas to commission a project that will enhance this special green space in downtown Fairbanks. We are citizen volunteers, residents just like you, from the Fairbanks Arts Association, The Pioneers of Alaska, The Downtown

Association, The Tanana Valley Historical Society, Festival Fairbanks, The Chena Riverfront Commission and local artists. We all care deeply about how our community is represented in this space and we want to make sure that your ideas are the foundation upon which these enhancements are created.

Our goal is to seek a concept that can engage and resonate with the entire community. This concept should reflect the sense of this place for Fairbanksans and for visitors to our town. This concept must provide for a project that we can all be proud of as it will be here for a long time.

This small green space is the historic center of downtown Fairbanks. It is a stone's throw from where the first trader unloaded the first riverboat. For over 100 years this place has been the beginning of the road north from downtown to the gold fields. In fact this green space was the interior's first transportation hub with river passengers and freight, rail road depot and road system all beginning and ending right at this place. It would be hard to find a place in Fairbanks that has seen more action. Today this small green space is the north entrance to downtown Fairbanks and its geographic focal point. It is the riverfront center of a vibrant multi-use neighborhood. It has a diverse dynamic with a bank and a church opposing a bar with our local newspaper mediating between them. This is surrounded by government offices to the west and regional Native corporation business headquarters to the east. Until recently it was the home of an iconic historic hardware store, a long list of restaurants, a tattoo parlor and a barber shop. This is truly a dynamic and romantic neighborhood, a fascinating mix of uses that will surely continue to grow and evolve.

The committee has a three part job:

- To gather ideas from all corners of our community about what Fairbanksans think belongs in this special spot.
- To listen carefully and then summarize these ideas in a Request for Proposals from professional artists asking them to submit design concepts for this space that will best express Fairbanksans' ideas.
- To select a preferred design and make a recommendation for selection to the FMATS Policy Committee.

Purpose of the Public Participation Plan

The purpose of this document is to set procedures that FMATS will use to engage residents of our region in this planning effort in a meaningful way. In doing this, FMATS will also comply with the important federal public involvement requirements embodied in the:

- Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA),
- Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21),
- Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), and
- Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice.

ISTEA and TEA-21 require a proactive public involvement process as an integral part of the transportation planning and project development process used by Metropolitan Planning

Organizations. SAFETEA-LU established additional requirements for proactive public participation.

In addition, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Order (DOT 5610.2) Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-income Populations established policies and procedures to use in complying with Executive Order (EO) 12898: Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations. EO 12898 requires “each federal agency shall make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies and activities on minority and low-income populations”.

Chapter II: Achieving Federal Public Involvement Goals

A summary of Federal requirements for MPOs’ public participation in transportation planning as presented in ISTEA, TEA-21, SAFETEA-LU and Executive Order 12898 is presented in this section as well as an outline of FMATS strategies designed to meet these federal requirements.

Goal 1: Provide timely information on the project to citizens, affected public agencies, representatives of transportation agencies, private providers of transportation, other interested parties and segments of the community affected by transportation plans, programs and projects.

FMATS Action Strategy: Include in FMATS’ Quarterly newsletter and a project newsletter to members of the public who have expressed a specific interest in the project.

FMATS Action Strategy: Local radio, television, and newspaper publication of meeting notices and agendas. Proactively engage the media to become active partners in the vetting process.

FMATS Action Strategy: Timely website updates including approved action items for the FMATS Art Selection Advisory Committee.

FMATS Action Strategy: Update FMATS email list to include those that have expressed an interest

FMATS Action Strategy: Develop a Facebook page and Twitter feed for the project.

FMATS Action Strategy: Keep the Fairbanks Daily News-miner in touch with the actions of the FMATS Art Selection Advisory Committee.

Goal 2: Provide reasonable public access to information used in the development of enhancement recommendations.

FMATS Action Strategy: Develop visually rich presentation formats that will allow lay members of the public to visualize the new enhancements. Present to various organizations such as schools, seniors, civic, military, business, non-profits, community and the like.

FMATS Action Strategy: Develop interactive public involvement tools that will allow the public to fully participate in planning open houses by assisting them to present their ideas in an easily understandable context. Consider visioning, focus groups, surveys and other interactive tools.

FMATS Action Strategy: Display information and conduct outreach at community events when appropriate and provide a mechanism for interaction and feedback.

FMATS Action Strategy: Post all information on the FMATS project website, including related action from the FMATS Technical Committee and the FMATS Policy Committee.

Goal 3: Consider the needs of those traditionally underserved by existing transportation systems, including, but not limited to low-income and minority households.

FMATS Action Strategy: Schedule public meetings weekdays at noon, or after 5:00 pm, in convenient locations with adequate free parking and public transportation access.

FMATS Action Strategy: Ensure that meeting locations are ADA accessible.

Goal 4: Hold public meetings at convenient and accessible locations and times.

FMATS Action Strategy: Schedule public meetings weekdays around noon, or after 5:00 pm, in convenient locations with adequate free parking and public transportation access.

FMATS Action Strategy: Ensure that meeting locations are ADA accessible.

Goal 5: Make public information available in electronically accessible formats and means, such as the World Wide Web.

FMATS Action Strategy: Establish a separate website address that is easily accessible to members of the public.

FMATS Action Strategy: Post key public information on collaborating agency and private sector websites.

FMATS Action Strategy: Consider development of a video to share the ideas with the public.

Goal 6: Demonstrate explicit consideration and response to public input received during the development of recommendations.

FMATS Action Strategy: Request that members of the public write down their comments with their names and contact information to allow for follow-up.

FMATS Action Strategy: Develop a Responsiveness Summary that lists all issues raised and where they are addressed in the plan. Post this summary on the project website and list its availability in the FMATS newsletter.

Goal 7: Ensure the public involvement of low-income and minority groups in decision making. (Executive Order 12898)

FMATS Action Strategy: Host public meetings in low income and/or minority neighborhoods and invite elected officials to attend to listen to area residents.

FMATS Action Strategy: Develop visualization tools that will allow those residents for whom English is a second language to understand the technical and geo-spatial aspects of new transportation proposals.

FMATS Action Strategy: Develop an email / phone list notification practice to ensure that underrepresented populations are aware of important public testimony opportunities on transportation issues. Incorporate the use of visualization tools in this event.

Chapter III: Description of Key Public Involvement Elements

Successfully achieving the federal goals for public participation in transportation planning will require timely implementation of the FMATS strategies outlined in the previous chapter of this plan. Many of the public involvement tools discussed in the previous chapter are self-explanatory, but some will benefit from the additional detail that is provided in this chapter.

Clearly, the Committee meetings are the primary elements that will assist the organization in meeting its federally mandated goals.

Public Involvement (PI) Element: The Committee

The Committee is responsible for recommending enhancements in the interstitial space between Cushman Street and the extension of Barnette Street. Scheduled meetings of the Art Selection Advisory Committee are typically held on Thursdays at Fairbanks City Hall. Two Public

Comment Periods are included as agenda items at each meeting. The following guidelines shall apply to public comment presented to the FMATS Art Selection Advisory Committee.

1. A sign-in sheet will be available prior to the meeting. Members of the public will be encouraged to sign in so that they may be able to receive notifications of future meetings.
2. Public comment will be allowed at every meeting and limited to three minutes to allow for all members of the public who are present to participate. Additional time allotted will be at the discretion of the FMATS Policy Committee Chairman.
3. Each member of the public will be encouraged to provide concise comments.
4. The opportunity for public comment at the FMATS Art Selection Advisory Committee is not intended nor should members of the public expect to initiate debate with the committee, an individual member or presenter, or members of the Committee in this limited time forum, given public expectations to address all issues which have been included in the public notice. Likewise, members of the public should not expect immediate responses to questions, concerns or comments provided; every effort will be made by FMATS staff to follow-up if necessary after the meeting.
5. It should be noted that items listed on the agenda may be voted on or action may be deferred, tabled or referred back to the committee for further consideration at the FMATS Art Selection Advisory Committee's discretion. The official FMATS Committee position on all matters will be adopted at the appropriate time by a majority of the members.
6. Those members of the public who would like to present written comments to the committee, but do not wish to address the committee may submit their comments in writing at any time prior to the committee meeting.
7. Policy Committee meeting notices will be published in the Fairbanks Daily Newsminer and broadcast on local radio. The City of Fairbanks, City of North Pole, the Fairbanks North Star Borough, FMATS and the State of Alaska will post meeting notices on their websites and utilize the State's Online Public Notice system for all meetings. The advertisement will include date, time, meeting place and anticipated agenda items.

PI Element: Visualization Techniques

Often members of the public that have no engineering or city planning background complain that it is very difficult to understand how the transportation concepts depicted in an

engineering drawing will actually look on the ground; so they are not able to participate in a meaningful way in the transportation planning process.

The 2000 Census determined that there are 6,000 people in the populated areas of the Fairbanks North Star Borough who do not speak English at home. Many of the policy makers (Athabaskan elders) in this sector do not speak any English at all. For this sector, visualization techniques may not only be helpful, but the only way of engaging them in the transportation planning process in a meaningful way.

For these reasons and more, to the extent that budget and skill levels allow, visualization techniques will be employed as much as possible when enhancement concepts are proposed in the FMATS planning process. Two-, three- and four-dimensional visualization techniques will be considered as well as real time simulations when necessary and affordable. The delivery method will be just as important in terms of making these visuals accessible to the public. All of the following techniques will be carefully considered (with or without audio narration) when planning for accessible delivery of simulations:

- printed copy
- digital files for slide presentation
- video
- compact disc (CD or DVD)
- simulation accessed through the internet
- a combination of these media.

PI Element: Measure of Effectiveness

Measures of Effectiveness (MOE) techniques will be practiced continually by the FMATS staff. A portion of FMATS staff meetings are dedicated to discussions of recent interactions with the public on any FMATS related planning topic. These discussions then lead to staff insight as to the general direction of topical transportation planning issues. This qualitative method has proven to be an effective method to increase staff understanding of local planning issues. The following table details potential methods to gather evaluation data along with guidelines for monitoring the data. It is a self-assessment matrix for to guide FMATS in the collection and monitoring of evaluation data. Improvements to this PIP will be made based on this self-assessment with the goal of increasing public awareness and to improve on the quality and quantity of information provided to the public.

This evaluation of outreach efforts strives to identify what is being done right and where improvements need to be made. It includes monitoring and review of the Plan with staff after all public participation events. This includes an assessment of local newspaper coverage and reporting accuracy. Evaluation and assessment of communication from all FMATS Policy and Technical Committee members will also be used to evaluate participation effectiveness and how members perceive their role in the decision making process.

| Methods for Collecting Evaluation Data | Measures of Effectiveness (MOE) |
|--|---|
| <p>Evaluation/Comment Form</p> <p>Verbal Comments from Meetings, Workshops or Forums</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Number of FMATS Public Meetings • Number of Attendees • Total number of Forms Turned In • Nature of Comments and Remarks • Community Groups Represented |
| <p>Telephone Comments</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Calls Received per Quarter • Nature of Calls • Number of positive/negative calls received • Type of Follow-up required • Time spent on Follow-up/Handle request |
| <p>Citizen Letters</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Letters Received per Quarter • Number of positive/negative Letters received • Translation of letters from citizens who have limited English Proficiency • Nature of Letters • Type of Follow-Up Required • Time Spent to Follow –Up/Handle request |
| <p>FMATS Website</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total number of hits per Month • Number and Nature of Comments received • Type of group representation • Type of Follow-up Required • Time Spent on Follow-up/Handle request • Total number of posts on Facebook |
| <p>E-Mail Comments</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Comment Messages per month • Number and Nature of Messages received • Type of Follow-up required • Time Spent on Follow-Up/Handle request |

Appendix A: Index of FHWA Public Involvement Techniques

Published in the FHWA guiding document “Transportation Planning Capacity Building” available at www.planning.dot.gov/PublicInvolvement/pi_documents/toc-foreword.asp

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DRAFT

Appendix B: How to Engage Low-Literacy and Limited-English-Proficiency Populations in Transportation Decision-making : Useful Websites

- [Administration on Aging](#)
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- [Black churches](#)
- [Black press](#)
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- [Gebbie Press](#)
- [Hispanic Yearbook](#)
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- [National Congress of American Indians](#)
- [People of Color Environmental Groups](#)
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- [U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service](#)
- [U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Stamp program](#)
- [U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service](#)
- [U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics](#)
- [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Map Your Community](#)
- [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Subsidized Apartments](#)
- [Shepherd's Centers](#)
- [SHG Resources](#) (newspapers)
- [SHG Resources](#) (radio stations)
- [SHG Resources](#) (television stations)
- [The State of Literacy in America \(2008\)](#)
- [Volusia County MPO's "Strings and Ribbons"](#)

Fairbanks Metropolitan Area Transportation System

DOT&PF > Northern Region > Planning > Fairbanks Metropolitan Area Transportation System >

Art Committee Suggestion Form

Your Name:

Your Email:

We would like you to answer the following questions and send us your responses! Please limit your responses to less than 10 words for each answer.

How would you describe Fairbanks' unique physical characteristics?

Why do you live in Fairbanks and what keeps you here?

How is the past and present Chena River significant to Fairbanks?

What could this space mean to Fairbanks?

How would you describe what is unique about the people of Fairbanks?

What would you like to see represented in this space?

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