

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING of the Old Capitol Quilters Guild Board Thursday, Monday, October 18, 2021 at 7pm via Zoom

We will be discussing options for the Guild show of members' work in 2022.

We currently have the sanctuary of the First United Methodist Church reserved for the first weekend in June 2022. However, in the face of uncertainty caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, we acknowledge that there may still be restricted access to public spaces by large groups at that time. Planning for the show takes several months, so we need to build in some flexibility in case we decide we need to postpone for another year. There is also an alternative proposal for displaying members' quilts in IC Public Works facility that is described below.

Overview of past shows

Normally we have held shows every three years, our last show was in 2017. We have postponed the shows scheduled for June of 2020 and June of 2021. The past three shows have been held in the sanctuary of the First United Methodist Church downtown in conjunction with the Arts Festival and Gallery Walk.



Although the show requires months of planning, the actual hanging of the quilts is very easy and quick. Quilts are draped over pews and hung from the balcony. The whole process takes only a few hours. The last show featured 350 quilts from about 50% of the members. The last show brought in new guild members and \$ 5,000 from silent auction and freewill donations (\$3,600 net after expenses).

Alternative Proposal from Juli Seydell Johnson

What: "Beauty & the Beast – A Unique Display of Textiles and Trucks"

How did this idea come to OCQG? OCQG member, Juli Seydell Johnson, started thinking about other possible locations for the quilt show when it was mentioned at the September meeting that the Quilt Show Committee was concerned that the prior location for the show might not be available due to on-going COVID concerns. Juli is the City of Iowa City Parks & Recreation Director and knew that the Public Works Department was considering an open house for their facility. Juli and Ron Knoche, Public Works Director both serve on the Iowa City Public Art Advisory Committee so Juli approached Ron with this unique idea for a partnership. Ron was intrigued and supportive.

Why:

OCQG – Host a COVID-friendly, indoor quilt show in a very unique environment. Other guilds have done outdoor shows, "airing of the quilts" from historic buildings and unique locations like Reiman Gardens in Ames. This would showcase the quilts in a very well lit, open space with industrial vibes and big trucks and equipment all around. The uniqueness comes from the contrast of the beautiful quilts and the very large, bland pieces of utility equipment.

City of Iowa City – This would be an Open House for the new Public Works Facility. A chance for the public to tour a building that is not generally open to the public while getting an up close look at equipment by the City (dump trucks, fire trucks, police vehicles, back-hoes, street sweepers, etc...). City departments would also have informational booths about City Services.

Together – OCQG and the City would benefit from the crowds that each part of this event will draw plus it is likely to receive regional and/or national press, recognition and publicity simply from the unique art show created by the quilts in this setting. **But it will take a lot of quilts to make a visual impact in the space.**



The Quilt Show committee met with Juli and PW Staff at the Public Works facility. There were a number of questions and concerns discussed at this meeting. The notes from the meeting follow. **Items in red are answers or additional information received since this meeting.**

Participants: Pam, Ehrhardt, Diedre Fleener, Juli Seydell Johnson, Janann Schiele, Meredith Sewell, Kristin Summerwill, Lauren Tiffany, Vicki Walch

Event would be held Saturday-Sunday, May 21-22, 2022. **(May 21-22, 2022 is the preferred date due to Ulowa Graduation on May 14.)**

OCQG Goals: Inform the community about the work of the Guild and its members, attract new members, secure income to support Guild's educational activities (speakers, workshops).

Pros to Using PW Facility

Space at PW building is free of charge

Covid-related restrictions on access to PW Bldg are less likely so we can more easily make long-term plans. Interior space is large, airy, and compatible with Covid precautions.

Novelty of the combined event with PW Department is likely to appeal to a broad range of attendees, especially families. Provides an opportunity to introduce the Guild and our work to a wider audience through a collaborative community event.

Relatively easy access to parking for volunteers and attendees **(The City will not allow games to be**



scheduled this weekend at the softball fields and the space for the event is all on one level accessible directly from outside – no stairs or elevators needed)

Displays could make it possible to view many quilts in their entirety instead of overlapping on pews.

Although we can't charge admission, we can hold a raffle if someone donates a quilt for it (haven't had a raffle quilt since 2016)

We can include a silent auction.

Parks and Rec can organize activities for kids outside the building. There will be a number of City departments with info booths, demonstrations and staff inside and outside of the building (it's HUGE)

Iowa City could assist with publicity and press coverage through Visitors Bureau, etc The Visitor's Bureau has already taken sample publicity photos (shown throughout this report). The Think Iowa City staff thought this was an amazing and unique idea that will draw many people to the show.

Great lighting

We have sheet plastic left over from Garden displays in 2019, skirt hangers and clips

Could ask for donations and provide tickets/chances to win shop donated door prize baskets

If thinking outside the box is seen as a good thing, this is the time to do it.

HOW WOULD THE QUILTS BE DISPLAYED? The promo photos show quilts displayed directly on equipment. There were a number of concerns express by guild members concerning doing this – cleanliness? damage to the quilts? Climbing on ladders and trucks? How to attach quilts to trucks?

- The event could have a combination of quilts on equipment (if approved by each quilt owner), quilts on racks or other more traditional displays, plus possibly hanging quilts from overhead grid work.
- The building and the vehicles would be cleaned by City staff. The City wants to show off the facility and the equipment, so it will be shiny and clean.
- Juli will arrange for City staff to assist with the hanging and removal of the quilts. No OCQG member will be allowed to climb on equipment or tall ladders.



Cons to Using PW Facility

- Will not benefit from connection to the Iowa City Art Walk held in proximity to Methodist Church at the same weekend as the OCQG show. This has boosted our visibility and attendance in previous years. The PW Buildings setting would benefit from the partnership with the City Services Open House happening at the same time. Juli checked in with Lisa Barnes from Summer of the Arts. She will welcome the quilt show back at any time in the future, but also agreed to help publicize the new date & venue. Summer of the Arts will also host an outdoor family movie in the Napoleon Softball complex that Saturday evening since there will not be any softball games.,
- While set-up in the Church takes just a 2-3 hours, set up in the PW Building will take ingenuity, extra supplies and equipment, and more volunteers along with substantial assistance from PW staff. Juli has commitments from the City to be able to have City staff members help with set-up throughout the day of set-up.
- We won't be able to start set up at PW Building until mid-afternoon on Friday. Juli has confirmed that set up could start Thursday evening or Friday morning and continue through the day on Friday, if needed.
- While the PW staff has committed to cleaning the facility thoroughly, there are still concerns about exposure of people and quilts to dust, dirt, and diesel fumes.
- Air conditioning / heating may not manage extremes well
- We will need sponsors and/or in kind contributions for supplies (plastic sheeting) and equipment (display racks, pipe & drape).
- Depending on display methods available, may need to have sleeves on quilts
- If we ask shops to donate door prizes in 2022 how soon would they be willing to do it again for a church-based show?

The idea of doing both events on a limited basis has been suggested. However with only a couple weeks separating the two dates, we feel it would not be possible to coordinate both successfully. It has also been suggested that the decision on how to proceed with plans for 2022 should be made by the entire guild membership.

The following are options that the board should consider at the meeting on Monday, October 18.

1. The decision should be up to the board alone.
2. The decision should be made by the entire membership.

If the board should decide that the decision should be made by the board alone:

1. Postpone show in church until June 2023 and do not participate in 2022 PW event.
2. Postpone show in church until June 2023 and participate in 2022 PW event.
3. Continue to plan for quilt show June 2022 and do not participate in the 2022 PW event.