

Zimmerman Library Murals Planning Group

Goals and Membership

In the wake of national debate concerning the fate of Confederate and colonial monuments and public art, and in the wake of UNM campus discussion concerning the UNM official seal, UNM public art, and UNM building names, the Provost office believes it is time to find a way forward to address student, faculty, and staff concerns regarding the Zimmerman Library's Works Progress Administration (WPA) murals. The murals in question – “Three People's Murals” – were painted by Kenneth Adams in 1939 and are located in the Great Hall of the West Wing of the Zimmerman Library. The Zimmerman Library Murals Planning Group will consider issues of public art, space, race, and inclusion, with the ultimate goal of proposing a way to transform the West Wing mural space. We would like to see a proposal that is accountable to a problematic racial and colonial history on our campus, one sensitive to historical preservation and the historic register, and one that suggests new ways forward. The Anthropology Department and Maxwell Museum's recent work with the Hibben Center totem poll may be a useful starting point for discussion.

The specific goals for the planning group will be to help organize a Spring course offered by, Dr. Kymberly Pinder, Dean of Fine Arts, titled, “Community Arts Practice.” The course will be cross-listed widely. By the end of the course, student groups will propose interventions to transform the West Wing space to address issues of inclusion, space, and campus climate in general. The planning committee will contribute to the course, perhaps by offering a guest lecture, or perhaps by suggesting readings/topics. Our goal is to present the UNM Provost and President with a proposal by the end of Spring 2018.

The work of the planning committee will help establish a template for how our campus can approach future matters concerning race and space, in art and buildings, at UNM.

Committee members (in no order)

- Kymberly Pinder, Dean, Fine Arts
- Geraldine Forbes, Dean, Architecture and Planning
- Chris Wilson, Architecture and Planning
- Rebecca Schreiber, American Studies
- Michael Trujillo, American Studies
- Les Field, Anthropology
- Mark Emmons, Professor, Associate Dean of Public Services Library
- Ed Padilla, Head of Library Facilities
- Mel Ribas, Library Information Specialist 3,
- Samuel Sisneros, Archivist, Center for Southwest Research, University Library
- Suzanne Schadl, Associate Professor, Curator of Latin American Collections,
- Arif Khan, Director, UNM Art Museum
- Lloyd Lee, Native American Studies
- Jennifer Marley, Student leader, Kiva Club

- Kathy Powers, Political Science
- Lea McChesney, Director, Ortiz Center
- Kevin Brown, Indigenous Nations Library
- Felipe Gonzales, Sociology
- Virginia Scharff, History
- Lawrence Roybal, Interim VP for Equity and Inclusion
- Patrick Hogan, Acting Chair, Chair of the UNM Regent's Historic Preservation Committee
- Maxine Marks, Art History doctoral student
- Rodney Moises Gonzales, Community and Regional Planning (AMST PHD student)
- Trenton Ward, Student activist