

Artwork selected to showcase local talent on downtown utility boxes

227Carissa Wigginton on Jun 18, 2018 at 11:37 a.m.





North Dakota Cloud Collage by Scott Seiler, one of the seven pieces of artwork selected to be displayed on the utility boxes downtown, pending one final vote. Special to the Forum 5 / 7

FARGO — Downtown Community Partnership and the Business Improvement District have selected the pieces of artwork that will be installed on the seven city-owned electrical boxes downtown, pending one final vote.

The art will be displayed on the sporadically placed utility boxes downtown, but most will be found on Broadway, DCP President Melissa Rademacher said. The goal is to have them wrapped and ready to enjoy by July 1, she added.

Earlier this year, a call was issued to local artists to submit artwork for possible placement on a city-owned utility box, Rademacher said.

The group received more than 80 pieces of artwork from about 22 artists in the area, she said. A jury of four people reviewed each submission and chose seven of them, she added.

Rademacher said she and her organization want to engage local artists as much as they can.

"We thought hey, what a great opportunity to showcase this local ability, and what a better way than to give these boxes some character and bring them to life," she said.

Rademacher also said she hopes this will catch on so they can work toward the bigger utility boxes.

"We hope this is just the beginning of bringing art into the community," she said.

The artwork will be wrapped on electrical boxes by Office Sign Co., a downtown business. The wraps are designed to be long-lasting and weatherproof, she said.

Rademacher said her organization aims to support locals and create a cool and unique experience for people of all ages when they are downtown.

Before the designs become official, the city's Arts & Culture Commission will have one more final vote on Wednesday, June 20, to verify that the images are appropriate for public display.