

Transcript

00:00:00 **Narrator**

You're tuned into another edition of the break room, a weekly conversation about how the city of Saint Augustine works from the folks that do the work every day hosted by the City of Saint Augustine's communications director **Melissa Wissel**. The break room offers a closer look at the different city departments and provides updates on current and upcoming projects and events. And now your host.

00:00:21 **Melissa Wissel**

Thanks for tuning in. I'm **Melissa Wissel**. We're back in studio this week to follow up with **Christina Parrish Stone**, executive director of the St. John's Cultural Council.

00:00:28 **Melissa Wissel**

She is a member of the Public Art committee tasked with selecting and recommending an artist and their work for a public art installation at the May St. and San Marco intersection, affectionately referred to by US locals as the peanut Christina, welcome back.

00:00:44 **Christina Parrish Stone**

Thanks, Melissa. It's great to be here.

00:00:46 **Melissa Wissel**

So now we're going to have some artwork in the peanut.

00:00:49 **Christina Parrish Stone**

Yes, we are so excited and this most recent meeting was very exciting too that we had the opportunity to select our first.

00:00:58 **Christina Parrish Stone**

Public artist for Saint Augustine, we ended up choosing Ivan de Pania, who is a Florida native now living in Charlotte, NC. That's not why we selected him, but it's a great thing for the project because he does live closer to Saint Augustine than the other.

00:01:19 **Christina Parrish Stone**

Or it also makes it easier for him to come and visit. We had a lot of consensus among the panel. I think everyone agreed that all three artists were amazing talents. They did a great job.

00:01:32 **Christina Parrish Stone**

Researching the history of the area, incorporating elements of Saint Augustine's natural environment and in some cases more than others, the history of Saint Augustine, but everyone agreed that Ivan's proposals worked best for that sort of challenging location. He came up with some concepts that really will.

00:01:53 **Christina Parrish Stone**

Create something interesting that that peanut I I say it has a lot of noise already. You know people are traveling around it. There's a lot going on there. His design is very beautiful, and it is going to quiet the noise a little bit, but create something beautiful.

00:01:58 **Melissa Wissel**

Yep.

00:02:13 **Christina Parrish Stone**

Interesting that does reflect a lot of aspects of both the natural and historic.

00:02:20 **Christina Parrish Stone**

Environment of Saint Johns County.

00:02:22 **Melissa Wissel**

Do is there a? Is there a an example of what it is or is he now still in some type of a creative designing phase? Can I get can I go to the website and see it OK?

00:02:33 **Narrator**

So you consider the.

00:02:35 **Christina Parrish Stone**

Website and see his last proposals and on the website you'll see several different designs, one that is more.

00:02:46 **Christina Parrish Stone**

I I like to say it looks a little like Timucuan Indian mound, its overall shape and it has. It creates view corridors by incorporating what's called Oculus or oculi in the design and that is the one that he will be refining.

00:02:58

Right. OK.

00:03:03 **Melissa Wissel**

OK, so there.

00:03:04 **Christina Parrish Stone**

Will be another opportunity for him to come.

00:03:07 **Christina Parrish Stone**

And have some conversations with the public.

00:03:10 **Christina Parrish Stone**

He will be refining that design now that he has been selected, but but that is the design people should focus on. There is another design that was really fun and lovely that was sort of based on coral reefs and that is not the the design that was was selected.

00:03:27 **Melissa Wissel**

So not the coral reef one, but the other ones.

00:03:29 **Christina Parrish Stone**

Yeah.

00:03:29 **Melissa Wissel**

When you say Oculus, I'm picturing the circles basically. So as you drive through you're having a a.

00:03:32 **Christina Parrish Stone**

Yes, and.

00:03:36 **Melissa Wissel**

It's almost like a lens that's.

00:03:37 **Christina Parrish Stone**

Correct. And and he created them in a way that it highlights some of the interesting things around the circle. So if you are stopped at a particular traffic light, what you see as you gaze through the sculpture, he even included the carousel.

00:03:55 **Christina Parrish Stone**

So it's going to come back. So there's a place where you it it highlights the carousel and in other places it sort of highlights the road out to Villano Beach. It's it's going to be.

00:03:55 **Melissa Wissel**

OK. Ohh yeah.

00:04:07 **Christina Parrish Stone**

Cool. Really interesting. And we're all excited to see what.

00:04:08

OK.

00:04:09 **Melissa Wissel**

He comes up with and. So what's next? We you all have made this decision and now it becomes it's a recommendation and it'll go before the Commission just to get their stamp of approval.

00:04:19 **Christina Parrish Stone**

Approval. That's correct. So I think at the present time, the city attorney is probably working with Ivan to finish up his contract and move forward.

00:04:30 Christina Parrish Stone

I think there's hope that he'll be back in Saint Augustine soon to refine his work. And then on August 26th I've been asked to make a presentation to the City Commission just to go over the slides of what was presented, inform them about how the panel came to their conclusion, and present that recommendation.

00:04:50 Christina Parrish Stone

For them to approve.

00:04:52 Melissa Wissel

I don't see them having any dissension. I would imagine they're probably very pleased.

00:04:56 Christina Parrish Stone

I think so too. They take their job seriously. I'm sure they'll have questions, but I think we have good answers to any questions. They'll come up.

00:04:58 Melissa Wissel

Yeah, yeah.

00:05:00 Melissa Wissel

OK, well good.

00:05:02 Melissa Wissel

With. Well, thank you for serving. I know Vice Mayor Horvath, Roxanne, vice Mayor Roxanne Horvath.

00:05:08 Melissa Wissel

The chair or and she was pleased to have that to participate so.

00:05:14

Steve.

00:05:14 Christina Parrish Stone

She did a wonderful job. She did a great job pulling the committee together and I think she was really the driving force behind the whole process. So we appreciate her very much.

00:05:25 Melissa Wissel

Well, I think this will be something she can be very proud of as she.

00:05:29 Melissa Wissel

Wraps up her tenure as our as our representative. That's.

00:05:32 **Melissa Wissel**

Right. If you're just now tuning and you're listening to the break room. I'm **Melissa Wissel**, communications director for the city, and **Christina Parrish Stone** is with me. She is our executive director of the St. John's Cultural Council. You're a really busy over there. But I do want to switch gears to talk about some very fun and exciting activities that you and I have been working on in September. And that is our 100th anniversary.

00:05:54 **Melissa Wissel**

Celebration with.

00:05:56 **Melissa Wissel**

Recognizing our sister city relationship with Evelise, Spain Cultural Council has really stepped up to bring us kind of a headlining act. Tell us about that.

00:06:05 **Christina Parrish Stone**

Yes. So the county Tourist Development Council is supporting us as well to provide funding to bring Tay Hodor, one of the best known astorian folk groups.

00:06:16 **Christina Parrish Stone**

Along with some dance.

00:06:18 **Christina Parrish Stone**

All the way from Avilez to Saint Augustine, their first concert is going to be really fabulous at Lewis Auditorium on September 5th. That's a Thursday. At 7:00 PM, We're able to offer that free. But you do need to go to Eventbrite and make a a reservation and the links to that.

00:06:38 **Christina Parrish Stone**

Eventbrite side or on the Cultural Council's website.

00:06:40 **Christina Parrish Stone**

Right and all over social media, I think we've already had more than 300 tickets reserved and we're two months out or a month away. So do go on and reserve your tickets.

00:06:45 **Melissa Wissel**

I yeah.

00:06:49 **Melissa Wissel**

How many seats are you holding? I mean.

00:06:51 **Melissa Wissel**

Is there a limit?

00:06:53 **Christina Parrish Stone**

There are there are a limit people can reserve up to four tickets if they have a group and.

00:06:56 **Melissa Wissel**

And the.

00:06:59 **Christina Parrish Stone**

There are probably about 250 more seats available, so we're holding about 5500 ish. Yes, and there there are other seats that have been reserved for people that are involved in the celebrate.

00:07:08 **Melissa Wissel**

OK, OK.

00:07:12 **Christina Parrish Stone**

That is going to be the most comprehensive concert with the dancers, the full band. They will also be performing with sort of a scaled down version of the band on September 7th, 8:00 at Colonial Oak. That's going to be part of singing out loud, little different atmosphere. Then on Sunday they'll be at the Plaza at 2:00.

00:07:24 **Melissa Wissel**

Said out.

00:07:24 **Melissa Wissel**

That would be fun.

00:07:31 **Christina Parrish Stone**

Again, a smaller group, but that's going to be a.

00:07:35 **Christina Parrish Stone**

Great time to come and see them because a wonderful new avaline St. Festival is going to be happening at the same time and this is something that we're establishing and honor of the 100th anniversary, but we hope it will continue every year to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, we want Saint Augustine to be known around the world as the place in the United States where you need to come.

00:07:57 **Christina Parrish Stone**

And kick off Hispanic Heritage Month every year because we are the first Hispanic Spanish founded city in the United.

00:07:59 **Melissa Wissel**

Yeah.

00:08:02 **Narrator**

Yeah.

00:08:04 Christina Parrish Stone

States and the festival will be from 12:00 PM to 9:00 PM Sunday, September 8th. It's free to attend. We've got lots of musicians lined up. There's going to be dancers. There's going to be food and drink to purchase. You can visit the museums that have special exhibitions for this event and something else. We're very excited about the.

00:08:25 Christina Parrish Stone

Art Association has partnered with the Cultural Council to present a plan air painting event so visitors can watch.

00:08:32 Christina Parrish Stone

Artist painting on Avila St.

00:08:34 Melissa Wissel

Explain what a plain air is. I don't know if everybody knows what plein air and it's actually plan. Air. Yes. Planet plan. Air plain air.

00:08:36

So.

00:08:39 Christina Parrish Stone

That's I'm not doing the French pronunciation and we we probably we probably should be saying it in Spanish for this particular event, but it is an outdoor painting event where artists set up their easels and they usually fairly quickly paint what they're seeing, so they're going to be painting the activity on Aviles.

00:08:59 Christina Parrish Stone

The buildings on Aviles and what's?

00:09:03 Christina Parrish Stone

Especially exciting to me. We have a Saint Augustine artist, Martha Ferguson, who is with us in Aviles for the visit with the city delegation, an artist from Avilez is going to be in Saint Augustine in September, and Martha and that artist will both be painting at the event during the festival.

00:09:23 Christina Parrish Stone

And you'll have a chance to see some of the work they did in Aviles there and then later in the month, we're going to open an exhibition at the county administration building that will feature.

00:09:34 Christina Parrish Stone

Martha's work, Samuel the artist from Aviles and of his work will be there. And then all of the artists who participate in the paint out will also have their pieces there. People can come to that exhibition

and learn more about the history of the relationship between the two cities, and C paintings done both in Aviles, Spain and.

00:09:54 Christina Parrish Stone

On Evelyn St. in Saint Augustine. So that'll be a neat way to wrap up the sister City celebration. It's.

00:09:55 Melissa Wissel

Three straight, yes, yes.

00:10:02 Melissa Wissel

You guys have really, I have to commend you, thank you, applaud.

00:10:07 Melissa Wissel

Your enthusiasm for really giving a whole new level to what this first started to look like for us and for me as as putting this together for the city, we've we've had very historically an institutional governmental relationship and we go and we exchange.

00:10:29 Melissa Wissel

Gifts. And we have this shared.

00:10:30 Melissa Wissel

Experience. But the goal this year, with it being the 100th, was really to kind of go back and look at what was that original intent and that original intent was culture, sport, economic development, trade, tourism, all of those things that we do. And I'm so excited about.

00:10:51 Melissa Wissel

This this twist that the Cultural Council and you have been able to bring to us, and Payson and the group down at at Aviles St. one thing that we forgot to mention, I'll mention two at 10:00 AM.

00:11:06 Melissa Wissel

The street will technically be closed at that time, but we are designing a marker that will explain this 100th anniversary. And so we're going to unveil and this marker, but you're familiar with the mosaic that's down there.

00:11:23 Christina Parrish Stone

Yes. So art has always.

00:11:25 Christina Parrish Stone

Been a part of this relationship.

00:11:27 Christina Parrish Stone

A lot of the gifts back and forth between the cities have been pieces of art, and there is a beautiful ceramic mosaic that features lots of images of Pedro Menendez from Aviles, our founder, and it is at the entrance to Aviles Street.

00:11:44 **Christina Parrish Stone**

We'll be doing a little cleanup on the marker or the the mural itself and the marker will be located close to that, so folks should come out and see that dedication of the marker and take the opportunity to see the mosaic mural that's there as well.

00:11:47 **Melissa Wissel**

Yeah.

00:11:57 **Melissa Wissel**

Mosaic and and when you walk by the mosaic, it's this beautiful like you said mural and you kind of walk by and like, oh wonder what that is. And we had a marker with it. It originally was placed at Government House back in 2002 when it was gifted to us. But when we moved it relocated it to Abilene.

00:12:17 **Melissa Wissel**

We didn't put a marker next to it, so we're going to rededicate the mosaic and unveil the new marker for the 100th and I'm glad you brought up the sprucing up because I also want to give a shout out to our streets and grounds, our facilities, folks, General Services, public works, we've really.

00:12:37 **Melissa Wissel**

Getting out our our toothbrushes and spit shining down there, we're going to clean up the.

00:12:43 **Melissa Wissel**

Church, which is there at the entrance to Evalee Street, the planters, the sidewalk cleaning up the the the woodwork around the mosaic. So I think folks will be very pleased and pleasantly surprised.

00:12:56 **Christina Parrish Stone**

Well, it's such an important place in the city. Oldest platted St. in America and it's somewhere everybody should come out on September 8th.

00:13:03 **Christina Parrish Stone**

You see the marker? See the festivities. The merchants are decorating the entire St. and have lots of activities happen.

00:13:10 **Christina Parrish Stone**

And I want to commend you for all the work you've done to elevate this event, and mayor Nancy Sykes Kline, who I think it was her vision to really expand the delegation this year to include representatives of the business community, of the cultural community, that's been part of the goal of the relationship all along. And she's done a great job.

00:13:12 **Melissa Wissel**

Our.

00:13:30 **Christina Parrish Stone**

Of elevating the mission.

00:13:32 **Melissa Wissel**

All of that well and.

00:13:34 **Melissa Wissel**

Since we're here, we're kind of gushing all over everyone. I do want to give a shout out to Flagler College.

00:13:39 **Melissa Wissel**

They're hosting the concert at Lewis Auditorium in support of this as well, and I know that the college is working on also making a connection with the University of Oviedo, which is a university there right in Asturias in Oviedo, which is the region.

00:14:00 **Melissa Wissel**

There where Aviles is so it it really is incorporating like you say, all of these aspects and relationships potential. So Flagler College also shout out to Flagler College and we are including the diocese as.

00:14:13 **Melissa Wissel**

Well, so who else we forget? Yes. Yes. Red Wings in the sister city. Yes. Yeah.

00:14:14 **Christina Parrish Stone**

And one more shot, one more shout out of the Sister Cities Association of Saint Augustine. Our former Mayor, Len Weeks, who has been a big supporter of taking students to Aviles and hosting students from Aviles here they have been a big part.

00:14:34 **Christina Parrish Stone**

Of organizing the concerts, especially and other activities.

00:14:35 **Melissa Wissel**

Yeah, with that and which? Yeah, without them leaving? Yeah. Without Sister Cities association. Saint Augustine. Sister Cities association. Really. None of this would be happening.

00:14:44 **Melissa Wissel**

As well, so lots of thanks. Use lots of support to our community, come out and see us the weekend of Founders Day. There'll be festivities at the mission and at a fountain of youth. So, look forward on the website. Look for the news release and we've run out of time.

00:15:01 **Christina Parrish Stone**

Well, thanks for.

00:15:01 **Christina Parrish Stone**

Having me, I look forward to the.

00:15:03 **Christina Parrish Stone**

Next time.

00:15:03 **Melissa Wissel**

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00:15:20 **Melissa Wissel**

Thanks for tuning in.

00:15:22 **Narrator**

You've been listening to the break room, the weekly program addressing projects and programs offered by the City of Saint Augustine. Join us each week as the city's communications director, **Melissa Wissel** has in-depth conversations with the people who make our town work to meet the needs of our community. See you at this time next week for another edition of the breakthrough.