



“Dave Tunge of Tunge Aerials donated his entire collection of aerial photography to be sold to raise funds for RiverWalk,” Meylor said. “Of the 40 pieces 25 were sold (as of press time) and we hope to sell more in the next two weeks.”

In addition to the gallery sale, the group held a Celebrity Bartender Night at the 7 Beer & Wine Bar and had donation jars in several downtown businesses. They also had to solicit donations from local businesses.

“At one point we had to decide if we were going to do fundraising. We thought hard about whether it was a good time to go forward. At the time Yankton had the highest rate of unemployment in the state and we just really weren’t sure, but we decided that there really wasn’t ever going to be a good time so we just decided to move forward,” Scheve said.

The committee went forward hoping to bring in enough money to fund the sculptures this year but with a high level of sensitivity toward Yankton’s economic outlook.

“We had some people who said they loved the project and they would support it but that their number one goal was keeping their employees employed,” Scheve said. “We learned a lot about timing and being mindful of different business models and how each businesses’ fiscal year works.”

At press time, seven of the 10 sculptures were sponsored at the highest level and several businesses had pledged 3-year sponsorships for the project, Kolda said.

“We got a wonderful response and we’re happy that people are looking toward the future and able to support this and help it continue on,” Scheve said.

Scheve, who is also the director of the

Yankton Convention & Visitors Bureau, said she hopes the sculptures will help Yankton’s economy by pulling even more visitors into the downtown area and giving people even more reasons to spend time in the community.

“Another visitors site or attraction that pulls people into Yankton is a good thing,” Scheve said. “Yankton already is a pedestrian-friendly city with all our trails and the Meridian Bridge project coming up. I would give Yankton an ‘A’ for promoting a healthy lifestyle and promoting outdoor activities. Adding RiverWalk will make it an ‘A++.’”

Meylor, who is also the director of Yankton Area Arts, said she has been really impressed with the amount of interest the arts have in Yankton and says this project will just add to that atmosphere.

“The number of artists and talents in this community is amazing,” she said. “To have sculpture and artistry visible literally on the street corners will be a great addition to the city.”

The RiverWalk starts sculptures in Riverside Park and then leads pedestrians to the downtown area where more sculptures are displayed on granite slabs installed by local mason Scott Luken.

The RiverWalk group worked closely with the City of Yankton to pinpoint the best locations for the installations taking into account City ordinances, right-of-way and visibility.

“One of the sculptures depicts images of South Dakota and Nebraska so it seemed natural to place that close to the river so that the images of South Dakota were on the north and the images of Nebraska were on the south,” Scheve said. “We also picked a piece called

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**Facing Page:**

The Riverwalk committee members Michelle Kolda, Katie Hunhoff, Lisa Scheve, and Pam Meylor. Not pictured is Bridgit Kasch.

**Facing Page Left to Right:**

“Home” by Darwin Wolf  
 “6S.5L.C.A.P.” by Adam Weiss  
 “Fountain of Life” by Darwin Wolf

**Top Left:** “Seated Couple” by Rick Haugen

**Left Center:** “Otherworld Journey” by Lyle Parks

**Left:** “Shepherd” by Lee Leunig and Sheri Treeby

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