



**UrbanArt Commission
Public Art Oversight Committee (PAOC)
Wednesday, May 13, 2020 – 1 pm**

ATTENDEES:

PAOC: **Nefertiti Orrin
Ellen Daugherty
Patricia Daigle
Eso Tolson**

UAC: **Lauren Kennedy
Brett Hanover
Shanette Parks
Wendy Young**

APPROVALS:

- I. Kennedy welcomes everyone to the meeting and notes that there are not meeting minutes to approve from April as there was no meeting held. In March 2020, PAOC approved the following items over email: Terry Lynn’s schematic design for South City, final design and contingency request (\$X) for Desmond Lewis’ project at Dunbar Elementary, and contingency requests for Movable Collection to replace the Greely Myatt sculpture (\$4,800) lost at the Memphis Convention Center and project signage (\$1,200). In April 2020, PAOC approved the following items over email: 50% fabrication for Tobacco Brown’s project in Hickory Hill and confirming the existing selection committee for the Movable Collection for the second round of artwork purchases in response to COVID-19.
- II. Approval of Whitehaven Public Art Projects
 - A. Selected Artist - Sculpture (Thomas Davis YMCA)
 1. Young shares that the selection committee chose artist Lorenzo Scruggs, resident of the Whitehaven neighborhood and operates a fabrication studio for many local public art and various other projects in Whitehaven. Young notes this is his first time as lead artist on a public art project with UrbanArt Commission. The sculpture is described as 2 forms that resemble a “W”, displaying a peer to peer interaction representative of the impact of the YMCA in the community. One side is corten steel representing the



old Whitehaven and the other polished stainless steel side representing the new Whitehaven.

2. Kennedy adds the call to artists was national and one position was reserved for one local artist. However, the selection committee chose three local finalists. Kennedy also shares and Young confirms that the virtual community survey, prior to the finalists presentations, resulted in Scruggs as the selected artist by the residents of the Whitehaven zip codes.
3. Orrin asks Young to share more about the community engagement process and how much community input went into the initial design. Young responds that there is not much input at this point but Scruggs plans to deal with some community engagement through the mentorship aspect. The mentee will be someone, coming from a local education institution, who is interested in art fabrication and upon completion of the mentorship program possibly be hired at his studio. All of which is dependent upon COVID-19 and how exactly that will play out at this time. Orrin then asks if we expect any pushback from the community. Young agrees there could be more engagement going forward but also notes the community did see the initial design and responded positively to Scruggs'. Parks interjects that the survey was helpful in building awareness around the project as a whole. Also with the support of the councilmember there is expected to be more coverage. The virtual survey did receive 860 participants with 378 being from the neighborhood and 59% voting for Scruggs. Kennedy notes there is more time and opportunity to engage the residents of Whitehaven as UAC develops an engagement process in response to COVID-19. Kennedy also shares insight from a past town hall event with over 60 people that expressed interest reallocating money from a previous cancelled project at Plough Blvd. for a landmark project along Elvis Presley, Blvd. and spoke to the history of the neighborhood engaging experience.
4. Young shares background and proposals from the other two finalists, Nelson Smith and The Metal Museum.
5. Daigle asks about Scruggs' materials use and placement. Will the stainless steel be on one-side? Is the sculpture thick? Young shares the mock-up design image and says she thinks the design



will be 3-D rounded like with thickness, to make one side corten and the other polished.

- a) Daigle asked about why the rounded curves on the sculpture? Young responds it was just a creative element he discovered during design.
 6. Kennedy asks for a motion to approve Lorenzo Scruggs as the selected artist. Daugherty motions. Orrin seconds. All approved.
- B. Selected Artist - Whitehaven Mural (Corner of S. E. Brooks Rd. + Elvis Presley Blvd.)
1. Parks reminds the committee of the project location, budget (\$55,000) and details including that it was released as a local call to artists with a mentorship component with neighborhood high school student(s). The selected artist team is Amber George and Lawrence Matthews, who recently completed the District Mural Program (DMP) at the Orange Mound Community Center. Their design features an Black family at the center, with the fifteenth amendment highlighted as well as other institutions and the culture of Whitehaven.
 2. Parks shares the designs and some background on the other 2 finalists Kiersten Williams and Kris Keys.
 3. Kennedy notes that Matthews was the selected artist for DMP in 2018 and Amber assisted him on fabrication but this is the first project they have been commissioned as a team.
 4. Daugherty asks if she has to declare or if there is a conflict of interest, considering she has taught George. Kennedy denies that being the case and it applies for recusal only if there is relation.
 5. Kennedy asks for motion to approve Amber and Lawrence as the selected artist team for the mural project in Whitehaven.
 - a) Daigle motions. Tolson seconds. All approve.
 6. Young shows a slide of the survey numbers once more.
 - a) Orrin asks Parks for clarity on only 21% of residents selecting Amber and Lawrence while the overall committee chose them as the final artists. Parks confirms and notes the community's collective votes served as 1 vote on the selection committee. She also shares that all of the artists were either from Whitehaven or closely connected. Hence there was really positive feedback about every design from



the community, indicating a difficulty in choosing a finalist-which also rang true for the selection committee.

- b) Kennedy notes again this was our first time doing this type of preview of the design and involving the community in the selection process. It is something UAC plans to continue to utilize and develop.

III. General Project Updates

A. Movable Collection

1. Kennedy calls out what Hanover shared via email regarding the next Movable Collection which is particularly in response to supporting artists in the midst of COVID-19. There was a recent Zoom virtual info session and the call is live until June 2nd. Hanover will bring the finalists to the June PAOC meeting for approval. Kennedy notes the application and timeline was shortened to allow for a quicker response time.
2. Kennedy requests moving June's meeting to June 17th and allow for an additional 30 minutes to cover Movable selections and various end of fiscal year approvals.

- B. Parks shares a few updates on projects still moving forward but some artists having to wait longer than usual for materials. Kennedy asks about L.E. Brown RFP going out in June and Parks confirms. Kennedy also notes that in the June meeting we hope to have news on moving Joseph Boyd forward through to completion with the DMP project in Raleigh.

IV. City Budget

A. General Update

1. Kennedy shares that the City FY21 budget process has been delayed as they navigate significant losses from COVID-19, and in finding that the money received from federal stimulus programs has not been usable in the ways in which the City had planned. Kennedy describes how the process of funds are released from the City for UAC based on projects, resulting in budget line items carrying into multiple fiscal years. She was asked to provide additional information for City budget lines that are still carrying a balance, some of which have been delayed due to the pandemic, including: the Landmarks program funded in FY20 and Blight Out program which is from a previous fiscal year. Kennedy expresses uncertainty as to how project money will shift based on what



happens with the City budget. Asks for questions but there are none.

Meeting adjourns.