



**UrbanArt Commission
Public Art Oversight Committee
Wednesday, March 20, 2019 – 1 pm**

ATTENDEES:

PAOC: Ellen Daugherty
Juaness Keplinger
Mary Haizlip
Coriana Close

UAC: Lauren Kennedy
Brett Hanover
Shanette Parks

MINUTES:

- I. Welcome
 - a. Meeting is called to order.

- II. Reallocation site updates: Kennedy shares that UAC will explore reallocating the Army & Navy Parks project to L.E. Brown Park, as part of the South City redevelopment plans. Both the Housing and Community Development and Parks Divisions will be included in any future conversations. A new City-owned site in Frayser will be identified for the previously allocated Frayser Library project; and UAC is in conversation with the Library Services Division about funding a separate sculpture project for the new library facility in Frayser in the FY21 public art plan. Kennedy notes that the proposed site at Whitehaven Plaza for the Whitehaven gateway sculpture project is not viable as it is in a different City Council district. Councilmember Patrice Robinson has connected UAC to the Whitehaven YMCA as a potential new site, which the team will explore. Ownership of the YMCA site is not determined, but due to the issues UAC has encountered around siting this project, UAC may seek an easement on private property for use of City funds. Resident input in all reallocations will be sought by UAC.

APPROVALS

- III. Approvals

- a. With quorum established, Kennedy calls for a motion to approve the February 2019 PAOC minutes. Haizlip motions, Daugherty seconds. The minutes are unanimously approved with no changes.
- b. UAC presents the finalists' proposals for the Memphis Animal Services mural. Charlie Forrester was selected by the selection committee for an interior mural behind the visitor's desk. The committee was very receptive to Forrester's dynamic image with the narrative images of animals in their adoptive home environments. The other two finalists were Quantavious Worship and Samantha Sherry. Haizlip asks if the artist will include any other animals in the mural, Kennedy responds that specific breeds from the shelter including pit bulls will be used in place of some of the placeholder images represented in the proposal. Close notes that the artist should consider the diversity of families represented in the narrative images, both race, family dynamics etc... which is a comment echoed by the selection committee. Keplinger asks if any of the artists have been commissioned by UAC previously, Kennedy responds that UAC has commissioned Forrester previously on two privately funded projects, neither Sherry nor Worship have been commissioned by UAC in the past. With no significant concerns, Kennedy calls for a motion to approve the selection. Haizlip motions, Daugherty seconds. The selection is unanimously approved.
- c. UAC presents the finalists' proposals for the Raleigh Town Center sculpture. Yvonne Bobo was selected by the selection committee for the sculptures along the walking trail at the new development. The proposal consists of an archway with two smaller scale companion pieces that will live elsewhere on the trail. All three sculptural components using dichroic glass to reference water and the history of the former natural springs in Raleigh. Mark Nowell and Ben Butler were the other two finalists. Haizlip notes that Bobo's proposal is very similar to her other public art projects in the city, which Kennedy notes was a comment also from the selection committee. Close asks about potential maintenance issues with the use of dichroic glass, Kennedy responds that the elements closer to the ground would be pure steel and the glass would start above reach of potential vandalism. Bobo also shared a project in Denver, CO that uses a dichroic film that has not had UV issues since its installation 7-8 years ago. Daugherty asks if the project will be installed at ground level or elevated, Kennedy responds that it would be flush to the ground. Keplinger asks if Bobo has been commissioned by UAC previously, and Kennedy notes that she has been commissioned a number of times by UAC in the past. Daugherty notes that it should be a priority for UAC to find new artists for sculpture commissions, and Kennedy shares that UAC will explore options for future calls noting that artists commissioned in the previous five years will not be eligible to apply. Haizlip motions, Close seconds. The selection is unanimously approved.
- d. UAC shares the schematic designs for the District Mural Program. The designs have been shared with the Parks Division as well as the selection committee before presenting to PAOC. Larry Walker, Darlene Newman and Joseph Boyd will be asked to submit a second design draft before submitting their final designs for approval.
 - i. Danielle Sierra's design for Bickford Community Center will include more detail on the proposed figures, as well as a paired down background for the central tier. PAOC asks her to consider a range of ages in the people

depicted and how the use of polka dots in the background will age in the future.

- ii. Darlene Newman's proposal will be scaled down both due to budget considerations and future additional building signage that Parks will look to create. The use of I AM A MAN imagery may change due to over saturation. In general, Newman will need to pair down the amount of detail and imagery to make the mural more legible for viewers. Color will be added to the second draft for review.
- iii. Lindsey Bailey's design for May Soccer Complex does a good job of covering multiple walls while staying mindful of the budget. One note for Bailey is to remove the text including nearby Ridgeway Middle so that other teams are comfortable using the soccer field.
- iv. Lawrence Matthews' original mural site at the Orange Mound Community Center was a wall behind the facility facing the park, but significant feedback was received from the users of the facility that inside the basketball court was a more desirable location. Matthews' imagery of intergenerational people in the neighborhood was received well. Daugherty asks if a photo release is needed for using images of people in the neighborhood, Kennedy responds that the District Mural Program artists have a photo release form to use for these instances. Keplinger asks how the artist will identify who they portray from the neighborhood. Kennedy responds that people actively using the facility will be included, as well as other prominent members of the community. Who is depicted will be part of ongoing engagement work before final designs are submitted. Kennedy shares that other notes for Matthews include the use of Melrose High School colors where appropriate and potentially pairing down on the number of portraits.
- v. Carl Scott's design for Whitehaven Community Center will also involve users of the facility, and his use of different frames around each figure is strong. Daugherty notes that the artist could consider more dynamic poses or movement from the figures represented.
- vi. Joseph Boyd's design for the retaining wall at Raleigh Town Center will frame one of the two entrances to the new development along Scheibler Rd. There were a number of questions from the selection committee on different elements of the design including the inclusion of the state of North Carolina and the images of a woman swimming, given that there is not swimming available at the development. Close recommends Boyd being more specific to Raleigh, Daugherty notes that the design should be more cohesive.
- vii. Larry Walker's design for Mitchell Community Center centers around a honeycomb design honoring significant members of the community, paving the way for youth to excel. Daugherty notes that Walker should seriously consider less portraits involved to make the image more legible for viewers. The use of buildings and school mascots may not add to the overall design of the mural. Kennedy notes that the surface of the community center presents significant issues to painting on the brick or adhering polytab. UAC will explore a frame to be installed and polytab adhered to metal sheets on the exterior of the building, which was a recommendation from Parks. UAC will present the installation plans to PAOC at a later for potential contingency funding.

Keplinger asks for additional information about the engagement process for each artist. UAC will compile that information to share with PAOC at a

future meeting, but all artists have sought input from users of their respective sites and residents to inform their schematic designs. Following discussion, Close motions to approve the schematic designs, Haizlip seconds. The designs are approved unanimously, pending second drafts for Larry Walker, Darlene Newman and Joseph Boyd.

- e. Kennedy presents the FY20 Public Art Plan including \$253,000 for neighborhood landmarks projects throughout the city, an additional \$50,000 for more purchase for the Movable Collection, \$25,000 in contingency funding and \$72,000 for UAC's project management fee. Haizlip asks if \$25,000 is adequate for contingency, Kennedy responds that UAC could possibly allocate additional funding from the Movable Collection or landmarks projects. Close asks if additional money in future fiscal years will be allocated to the Movable Collection due to concerns about the size of the FY20 allocation. Kennedy shares that the \$50,000 will be added to the \$65,000 allocation from FY19, and UAC will look to continue supporting this program and rotating the collection in future years. Daugherty motions, Close seconds. The motion to approve the FY20 public art plan is unanimously approved.

- f. Kennedy shares the need to deaccession two projects from the City of Memphis' public art collection including Tall Tales by Brooke Foy at the Cordova Library and Memphis Animal Services mural by Mark and Megan Davey. Foy's project at Cordova Library is structurally compromised and cannot be adequately repaired; Memphis Animals Services has requested a new mural that more accurately reflects the activities that happen at the facility. Haizlip asks what the guidelines for the City's program are for deaccessioning, and if there is money allocated to support their removal. Kennedy responds that the guidelines include structural damage or change of context for the art, additional funds should not be needed for the mural but UAC will look to use maintenance funds to support the removal of the project at Cordova Library. UAC will issue deaccession letters to both artists. Keplinger asks if the artists have been consulted, Kennedy responds that UAC has been in conversation with both artists who have been very understanding and gracious about the issues. Haizlip motions, Keplinger seconds. The motion is unanimously approved. Daugherty recommends taking photographs of the current state of each project.

UPDATES

- IV. Close asks about the progress for Lester Merriweather's mural along the Wolf River Greenway. Kennedy notes that UAC is actively trying to identify a timeline for installation but the artist is unresponsive. UAC will aim to actually handle the installation directly following touching base with Merriweather.
- V. Kennedy requests that the June 2019 meeting be pushed back to allow for additional approvals to be met. With no concerns from present PAOC members, UAC will confirm the other committee members' availability.
- VI. Both Dr. Earnestine Jenkins and Anthony Lee will be rolling off of PAOC later this year. UAC will coordinate with Keplinger, the Mayor's Office and City Council to identify replacements and move new appointments forward.