



## CHATTANOOGA PUBLIC ART COMMISSION

### JUNE 2019 | MINUTES

Thursday, June 20 / 1:15-3:15PM

@ City Council Conference Room

**PRESENT:** Ellen Simak (Chair), Dionne Jenkins, Matthew Dutton, Roger Halligan, John Brown, Vernisha Savoy, Megan Ledbetter, Lindsey Willke

**PAC STAFF:** Katelyn Kirnie (Director), Kat Wright (Program Coordinator), Zoe Shields (Intern)

**CITY ADVISORY STAFF:** Harolda Bryson (Legal), Eric Asboe (CDOT)

- I. Welcome and Call to Order: Ellen Simak
- II. Motion made to approve minutes, passed.

#### ITEMS FOR VOTE:

- I. **Avondale Youth and Family Development Center (YFD) Mural**
  - A. **Project Overview:** Construction on the Avondale YFD Center is nearly complete. The community was engaged in the design process, and a mural was discussed, supported by the community and included in the final design. However, the public art division was not made aware of the need to plan for a mural until now. YFD and Public Works departments would like the Commission to consider funding a mural, involving the community in the mural design process through engagement. This is a new potential project, not currently on the annual work plan. All potential projects must be formally proposed to the Commission in order to receive full consideration.
  - B. **Considerations:** Public Works has agreed to handle wall prep to accommodate a mural cloth application. Estimated cost for the mural is likely \$13K, based on \$30 per square foot. It was suggested that YFD could lead the engagement process as they are already embedded in the community; and have both relationships and physical space. Commission would need to approve adding the project to the work plan, and either allocate contingency funds to the mural, or pursue grant funding. Capital allocations for this project would roll over to the next fiscal year. The YFD Center is set to open in a couple of weeks, though there is no need to expedite the mural process. PAC would be responsible for pulling together a selection panel with representation from the neighborhood. Staff suggested instead of issuing a typical Call for Artists, PAC could issue a Blanket Contract for

Muralists. A blanket contract would qualify a number of community muralists for upcoming mural projects providing a more time effective process.

**VOTE: Unanimous vote to add the project to PAC work plan with the stipulation that YFD support and oversee the community engagement process.**

## **II. PM Services for Ed Johnson Project**

- A. **Project Overview:** The \$1M fundraising effort for the Ed Johnson Memorial is complete. As the project committee is not a formal entity, the Community Foundation is the project's fiscal agent. The Community Foundation is not comfortable overseeing landscaping or artwork installation as it is beyond their expertise, so the project committee is looking for a partner entity to manage the project's install; as such, they have approached PAC. Public Works engineering has agreed to take on the project's civil engineering and site work requirements in tandem with Walnut Plaza construction with funding provided by the Community Foundation.
- B. **Considerations:** Due to City procurement policy, PAC would not be able to contract directly with the artist, because PAC did not initiate the solicitation. PAC's strategic plan recommends that we have a fee for oversight and project management services. PAC will need to make a policy revision to include these services, what they entail, and the fees associated with them.

**VOTE: Unanimous vote to provide project management services for the Ed Johnson Memorial upon development of the fees for services policy and Council approval.**

## **III. Mid-South Sculpture Alliance (MSA) *Women in Sculpture* Exhibition**

- A. **Project Overview:** MSA received a grant from the Lyndhurst Foundation. Five women will be featured in the exhibition, and MSA will oversee installation and coordination. MSA is hoping to align this with their Confab conference in October by including some programming with the exhibition.
- B. **Considerations:** It has been requested for PAC to provide marketing and labels for the exhibition. Sculptures sites are prominent spots downtown and along the Riverfront, which are currently vacant with pads and need to be filled. A second approval from the Commission will be needed after the artworks have been accepted into the exhibition.

**VOTE: Unanimous vote to approve the exhibition in concept and the partnership with MSA.**

## **REVIEW AND DISCUSSION:**

### **I. Sub-committee Work**

- A. **Policy** subcommittee will be meeting to move forward. It was mentioned that the work of Policy and the Equity subcommittee should be interfacing.
- B. **Artist Services** subcommittee consists of 16 individuals. Initial interest is focused on assembling an artist registry.
  - 1. Shaun LaRose (Chair) has submitted a proposal for International Placemaking Week in October, and has been speaking to restaurateurs

The Monen's regarding a potential mural project during that time, as well as other local businesses.

- C. **Airport** subcommittee met with Airport CEO who offered recommendations of individuals who should also serve on the subcommittee.

## **II. Neighboroots Program**

- A. Tyler Yount from the Mayor's office introduced the new Neighboroots Program. This Mayor's Office program will fund Art in Neighborhoods projects. Program funds are from the Neighborhood Reinvestment Fund, which are capital funds funneled into neighborhoods to support community interest projects. A portion of these funds are set aside for neighborhood public art projects. The goal of the program is to recognize and honor the history behind various Chattanooga neighborhoods. There are three different projects types designed to recognize this history, and the projects must occur outside of the Downtown core.
  - 1. Public Art: Art in the Neighborhood
    - a) In partnership with PAC.
  - 2. Performing Arts Grants
    - a) ArtsBuild will be a partner in distributing funding. The amount is still TBD; a sub-committee will be formed.
  - 3. Historical Markers
    - a) Subcommittee will include historian to draft historical marker copy.

The program will launch at the end of next month. Open to all to apply. All applications will come through the Neighboroots Steering Committee. Public Art projects will proceed through the usual review process. Application format is simple, and will involve some interviews to further define parameters. Application will be available both in hard copy and online. Application will be open one month.

## **UPDATES:**

### **I. *Wreath of Honor* Dedication**

- A. Budget: \$75K left to raise. Submitting a proposal to EPB for in-kind lighting, which would have a significant impact on the amount left to raise. All proceeds from the Erlanger's Heroes Run will go to the project. PAC will promote the event. It will be necessary to look into other potential grant opportunities.

### **II. City Artist Position**

- A. An email was sent out to the selection committee and finalist candidates informing them that the community impact area was going to move away from the Southside Gardens area. During the interview process, candidates expressed concerns about how much they could necessarily impact changes in the community due to project timelines. It also became clear to PAC staff that the program outcomes needed to be scaled back, and allow time for the artist's creative process to inform projects. It is also important to consider what can reasonably be achieved in a year. CDOT will examine projects and systems to provide multiple project options, so that the city artist can decide where they'd like to apply their skill set and creative talent. Current applicants will still be

considered and shouldn't need to re-apply, but will be given the option to do so. The application will reopen in early August.

**III. ELLA Chattanooga**

- A. Community engagement efforts to inform projects within the East Lake community are making great progress. They will submit a final report with recommendations from the community as to what their goals are for public art in the area.

**IV. Collection Assessment**

- A. Conservation groups from around the country applied, with the contract going to local conservator Eva Conwell. She will examine all 94 outdoor pieces beginning this September and provide conservation recommendations and a preventative maintenance manual.

**V. Selection Panels**

- A. CPAC members were asked to sign up to serve on a selection panel. A sheet was shared for CPAC members to suggest other individuals who may be interested in serving on a panel.