



## CHATTANOOGA PUBLIC ART COMMISSION AUGUST 2019 | MINUTES

Thursday, August 15 / 1:15-3:15PM  
@ City Council Conference Room

**PRESENT:** Ellen Simak (Chair), Virginia Anne Sharber, Dionne Jenkins, Matthew Dutton, Ric Morris, Vernisha Savoy, Megan Ledbetter, Charlotte Caldwell, Lindsey Willke, Shaun LaRose

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

**CITY ADVISORY STAFF:** Harolda Bryson (Legal), Brandon Sutton (CDOT), James Bergdoll (Parks)

- I. Welcome and Call to Order: Ellen Simak
- II. Motion made to approve minutes, passed.
- III. Mayor Berke in attendance: Mayor Berke visited with the Commission and articulated the importance of and his appreciation for the Commission's work.

### ITEMS FOR VOTE:

#### I. CPAC Meeting Time Change

- A. Proposed meeting time change from 1:15-3:15pm to 2:00-4:00pm to allow for City Legal Staff's consistent attendance at Commission meetings.

**VOTE: Unanimous vote to change Commission meetings to begin at 2:00pm on the 3rd Thursday of every other month.**

#### II. Art Spark Round 2-River City Company & EPB

**A. Project Overview:** River City Company is going to broaden the artful utility cabinet locations to the Southside and Northshore. EPB's version of Art Spark differs in that it selects five traffic cabinet designs from Hamilton County High School art students after they complete lesson plans facilitated by the Southeast Center for Education in the Arts. Project will produce 16 artful utility cabinets in total.

**B. Discussion:** CPAC discussed both River City and EPB cabinets only being located in the downtown footprint and whether it is CPAC's responsibility to ensure a more equitable distribution of high quality artwork on traffic cabinets. PAC staff was asked to come up with a proposal to address equity of distribution.

**VOTE to approve River City Company's Round 2-Art Spark: CPAC member Morris abstained from voting. Nine voted "yes" with the following stipulations:**

- Include PAC staff and a CPAC representative on your selection panel.
- Include PAC staff and a CPAC representative in assigning artwork locations.
- CPAC may be interested in funding additional traffic cabinet artworks by area artists. However, we would like to see them located beyond the downtown footprint to allow for a more equitable distribution of artful traffic cabinets throughout the City.
- CPAC would like River City Company to consider including additional cabinets and locations in their upcoming call to artists, please provide an estimate per traffic cabinet for providing these services.

**VOTE to approve EPB's Round 2-Art Spark: No vote needed as traffic cabinets are on EPB's property however, CPAC offered the following comments:**

- CPAC supports the proposed projects and locations.
- Continue to include PAC staff on selection panels and in locating artworks.
- Please be sure to label artwork as student artwork by including the student's name and the school they attend.
- CPAC requests EPB consider expanding the footprint of their program to areas beyond downtown to bring high quality student artworks to other areas, allowing for a more equitable distribution of artful traffic cabinets throughout the City.
- CPAC may be interested in funding additional traffic cabinet artworks by high school students. However, we would like to see them located beyond the downtown footprint to allow for a more equitable distribution of artful traffic cabinets throughout the City.
- CPAC would like EPB to consider including additional cabinets and locations in their upcoming student program, please provide an estimate per traffic cabinet for providing these services.

### **III. Life Energy II-Mark Making**

**A. Project Overview:** Life Energy's curriculum is based on circuitry as metaphor, symbolizing the high school student's role in challenging issues that they want to solve. These workshops are facilitated in Opportunity Zone schools to 150 students. They write a narrative and then execute a design where a selection panel will select 8 designs to go on traffic cabinet boxes, but generally on cabinets located outside of the downtown footprint.

**B. Discussion:** CPAC continued discussion about the need to have professional artworks located beyond downtown. PAC staff needs to coordinate a collaborative effort to ensure the equitable placement of artworks between the various exhibitions (River City, EPB and Mark Making). It was suggested that PAC commission a few extra boxes using capital funds to help broaden the locations of high quality artworks on traffic cabinets. Again, PAC staff was asked to come up with a proposal to address equity of distribution.

**No vote taken. PAC staff provided the following suggestions for a revised proposal:**

- CPAC would like to ensure a diversity of artworks throughout Chattanooga. It is suggested to change the theme or include additional themes in this year's program to result in a more diverse selection of artworks and more creativity from students.
- The circuitry theme produced interesting abstract compositions of colors, shapes and lines but did not allow for a wide variety of expressions from students.
- PAC Staff suggests each artist facilitator choose a different theme and also create their own artwork and explain their creative process to inspire students' thinking and creativity.
- CPAC may be interested in funding additional traffic cabinet artworks by Mark Making's artist facilitators in order to see them located alongside the student artwork and to encourage more works by local artists located throughout the City.
- CPAC would like Mark Making to consider including additional cabinet wraps by their artist facilitators in the upcoming program, and provide an estimate per traffic cabinet for providing these services.

**IV. 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. PAC will provide marketing and labels for the exhibition. The Commission reviewed slides of artists and artworks selected for the exhibition. Staff also presented information regarding the siting of a Verina Baxter piece previously donated to the City by Baxter's family and recently restored by Isaac Duncan III. The proposed location is in Renaissance Park on the Riverwalk on an existing pad.

**VOTE: Unanimous vote to approve the artworks and siting Verina Baxter's work in tandem with the Women in Sculpture exhibition.**

**REVIEW AND DISCUSSION:**

**I. Policy Revisions**

- A. Policy revisions will be going to Harolda Bryson with City Legal. Policy and equity subcommittees will merge to review and define CPAC Bylaws, PAC guidelines and Ordinance revisions. Once guidelines are established, the ordinance revisions can move forward.

**II. Upcoming Opportunities**

- A. MLK Underpass project is moving forward. This project will be a design competition to transform the area beneath the underpass with sound and lighting. A Cultural Strategist will be incorporated to inform the engagement and concept design process. Fabrication is slated to begin June 2020, with a target opening of 2021.
- B. The work of Creative Strategists has been further refined based on learnings with ELLA Library in East Lake. Creative Strategists will co-lead the engagement

process with PAC staff to inform future public art projects. Potential projects include MLK Corridor projects, Lynbrook Park, Washington Hills YFD Center, Chattown Skate Park and East Chattanooga Satellite City Services building. Staff also reviewed two other opportunities: City Artist (part time position with CDOT) and Community Muralists (RFP)

- C. Artist Services subcommittee encouraged reverse pitch sessions to showcase the aforementioned artist opportunities. These sessions will be held at the Chattanooga Library and the Brainerd YFD Center on September 25 and 26.
- D. Placemaking Week is coming to Chattanooga. PAC will be conducting a mobile workshop and tour of Chattanooga's Riverfront, highlighting The Passage on September 30.

#### UPDATES:

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

- A. Dedication will be Saturday, October 19 at the Tennessee Riverpark at 5pm. Digital invites will go out shortly to RSVP.

##### II. **Wheland Trailhead**

- A. *The Good Use of Slowness* by Mark Fornes contract will be on City Council's Agenda on August 20. Staff showed examples of Fornes' past work. He was selected out of three concepts. The artist delayed entering into a contract until a geo technical survey was complete and showed that the site was suitable for a standard sculpture pad.

##### III. ***The Scramble: 1st Street Project***

- A. River City Company intends to donate the artwork. The City will be overseeing site work and is currently receiving bids. The Artist has revised the design and had to value engineer due to high construction costs.
- B. Revisions were presented to CPAC. The project will lose the climbing wall, but the water element will remain.

##### IV. **ELLA Chattanooga**

- A. Staff provided an updated and presented the concepts that resonated with the East Lake community during ELLA's engagement activities. Residents responded most positively to the Los Trompos example of playful seating and shade structures and generally to art that is functional and interactive. Suggestions were also included for the East Lake YFD Center and the 36th Street connector project to include an intersection mural within the Trust for Public Land's scope for tactical urbanism within 36th Street.

#### POST MEETING BUSINESS:

**August 30, 2019:** Revisions and Proposals were sent via email for CPAC review

##### **1. Mark Making Traffic Cabinet Revised Proposal**

Mark Making will need to maintain their current concept, which is a curriculum based on circuitry as a metaphor, symbolizing the student's active role in producing a community impact. This has already been accepted by teachers of partnering schools and funders. They are partial to the multi-disciplinary and integrated art curriculum approach. However, they believe they

can produce a wider variety of artworks for cabinets by giving participants more visual options when responding to the question "what can I do to impact my neighborhood? They can use descriptive figuration, symbols, words or a combination of these to illustrate the problem, suggest a course of action, the result of the action or some aspect of their impact on the solution. CPAC will continue to be included in selecting and locating student artworks and artworks will be labeled as student work.

## **2. PAC Staff Proposal to fund additional boxes**

To address the disparity of where professional artwork boxes are located throughout the city, PAC staff suggests contracting with River City Co. to provide services for including additional boxes in their existing program and call to artists. They have agreed to locate these boxes in neighborhoods beyond the downtown footprint and have provided the lowest cost to do so (see below). They also already have program administration in place and source professional artists through a competitive process which aligns with PAC's best practices. PAC staff suggests funding 3 additional boxes at \$5,250 utilizing FY20 Public Art Capital contingency funds (\$42,100 remaining). The Lyndhurst Foundation is interested in helping address our concerns and bring professional artworks to neighborhoods through their funding of River City's program and will consider a match to our funds which would include an additional \$5,250 in their grant to River City Co. This would result in a total of **6 additional professional artwork boxes located in neighborhoods throughout the City**. CPAC will continue to be included in selecting and locating the artworks.

Estimates from 3 applicants on wrapping additional boxes through their current program:

River City Company: \$1750 per cabinet

EPB: \$2,500 per cabinet

Mark Making: \$1760 per cabinet

### **VOTE:**

Ellen Simak: 1. Yes 2. Yes

John Brown 1. Yes 2. Yes

Matthew Dutton 1. Yes 2. Yes

Vernisha Savoy 1. Yes 2. Yes

Shaun LaRose 1. Yes 2. Yes

Megan Ledbetter 1. Yes 2. Yes

Lindsey Willke: 1. Yes 2. Yes

Ricardo Morris: 1. Yes 2. Yes

Charlotte Caldwell: 1. Yes 2. Yes

John Henry: Abstain

Virginia Anne Sharber: Abstain

Dionne Jenkins: Abstain

### **September 19, 2019: CPAC Executive and Policy Committee Meeting**

1. **MSA Women in Sculpture Exhibition Proposal:** An opportunity was presented by MSA to partner with PAC to include an additional artwork in the Women in Sculpture Exhibition by the exhibition's Juror, Chakaia Booker. A photograph of the piece, "Renegade" and a site map were presented. The cost to include the artwork in the exhibition would be \$5,000 per year. Phillips

Park is the proposed location for the artwork. Based on the current (5) female artists in the exhibition, including the artwork by Booker, a renowned african american, female artist, would ensure a more diverse exhibition. Currently the artists are all white females.

**VOTE:** Based on CPAC's goal to ensure a diversity of artworks by a diversity of artists in Chattanooga's public spaces and the opportunity to provide access to such a high caliber artist and artwork, those in attendance and representing a quorum of the Commission, voted unanimously to partner with MSA to include the additional artwork at Phillips Park.

Ellen Simak: Yes

John Brown: Yes

Matthew Dutton: Yes

Shaun LaRose: Yes

Ricardo Morris: Yes

Megan Ledbetter: Yes