



CHATTANOOGA PUBLIC ART COMMISSION DECEMBER 2019 | MINUTES

December 12, 2 - 4PM
@ City Council Conference Room

PRESENT: Ellen Simak (Chair), Vernisha Savoy, Ric Morris, Megan Ledbetter, Charlotte Caldwell, Lindsey Willke, and Shaun LaRose

ABSENT: Dionne Jenkins, Virginia Anne Sharber, John Henry, John Brown, Matthew Dutton

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

CITY ADVISORY STAFF: Harolda Bryson (Legal), Morgan McCormick (Parks & Rec), Eric Asboe (CDOT), Akosua Cook (Parks)

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

ITEMS FOR VOTE

I. **Adoption of CPAC Bylaws**

- A. Staff presented the final draft of CPAC bylaws with all requested edits incorporated, excluding those that conflict with the current Public Art Ordinance. The remaining edits will be reflected in revisions to the Public Art Ordinance followed by the adoption of revised bylaws. Staff clarified that bylaws only need CPAC vote to be revised and this can be done at any full meeting of the CPAC, while revisions to the Ordinance require the vote of City Council.

VOTE: Unanimous vote to approve the adoption of CPAC Bylaws.

III. **Woodmore Manor / Brainerd YFD Center Mural: Artist Selection**

- A. With the intent of recruiting more local artists to apply for this community muralist opportunity, staff conducted two artist information sessions and only advertised the call locally rather than nationally. The response to the call was extremely low, but one applicant was particularly strong, so a small selection panel was pulled together to determine if the call would be re-posted or if an award could be

made. The selection panel voted unanimously to award the project to Brandon Donahue.

- B. Staff shared Donahue's portfolio images for review.
- C. Donahue plans to conduct storytelling community workshops to inform the mural's design.
- D. The community may be able to participate in the execution of design elements via the mural cloth technique.
- E. Staff and Commission discussed the constraints to procuring artists through the RFP process and the need to pursue the adoption of Public Art Guidelines and Ordinance revisions to allow for alternate selection methods that allow for a broader spectrum of professional artists to be considered for commissions. The RFP process is a steep learning curve for local artists and may require more intensive training opportunities in collaboration with outside partners in the future.

VOTE: Unanimous vote to approve Brandon Donahue as the Muralist for the Brainerd YFD Center.

IV. East Lake Projects: Artist Scope & Selection Methods

- A. PAC staff convened the East Lake selection panel on December 6th to determine artist scope and selection methods for upcoming projects at the YFD Center and East Lake Park. The panel was informed by the community's public art preferences and vision identified by engagement activities conducted by ELLA Chattanooga in the East Lake neighborhood from March - June 2019 and then presented in the East Lake Creative Engagement Report.
- B. East Lake Park: The temporary artwork entitled "Los Trompos", by Mexican artists, Hector Esrawe and Ignacio Cadena resonated most strongly with the community due to its interactivity and functionality. The community also identified East Lake Park as the heart of their community, and where they would like to see the most impact made with public art.
- C. PAC staff and the selection panel recommend the following project scope for East Lake Park: Concept design and creation of interactive seating structures for East Lake Park. Seating should be designed to encourage relaxation, interaction and play. The artist should engage the community to incorporate design elements that are specific to the unique culture and identity of the East Lake neighborhood and is encouraged to consider sound and/or music as playful elements of the seating structures. Artist selection format will be RFP/Q and the budget for Artwork Creation, Installation & Site Prep Budget is **\$150,000**.
- D. Staff reviewed potential sites however, Open Spaces staff chimed in to note that upon completion of park renovations, the stretch of green space along 13th Street would be ideal to locate this functional/interactive seating. Exact siting of artworks will be determined by the artist in coordination with the community and City park staff.

- E. East Lake YFD Center: The example of an artist designed basketball court also strongly resonated with the Community. In order to maximize public art funds available for the YFD Center, City staff determined the new gym in the re-designed YFD center could incorporate an artist's design and leverage the existing construction budget.
- F. PAC staff and the selection panel recommend the following project scope for East Lake YFD Center: Specialist **in artistic Basketball Court design, with knowledge of standard court regulations and experience working with professional artists** for the concept design and creation of a unique work of art for East Lake YFD Center Basketball Court. Artwork should not interfere with visibility of court lines for players. The artist should engage the community to incorporate design elements that are specific to the **unique culture and identity of the East Lake neighborhood**. A direct selection method is recommended due to the highly specialized nature of the scope requirements. Artwork creation budget is \$15,000.

VOTE: Unanimous vote to approve East Lake project scopes and selection methods as presented.

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

I. Innovation District Artistic Plan by FutureForms

- A. Staff presented the final draft of the Innovation District (ID) Artistic Plan for CPAC to review in the coming weeks and offer any suggestions for final edits. It was noted that the title should be re-considered as the concepts presented within are not necessarily intended to be implemented in full by PAC, but are rather ideas to start conversation and collaboration with partners in the ID. A final version of the document will be shared at the next CPAC meeting with next steps.

UPDATES

I. City Artist Status Update

- A. Staff shared that the review process had narrowed candidates down to two finalists, which will necessitate in person interviews in January.

II. Creative Strategist Update

- A. The creative Strategist RFP was canceled and reissued due to an error in evaluation criteria that was not detected by Purchasing until the call was posted.

III. Collection Assessment

- A. Staff gave a brief overview of Eva Conwell's collection assessment, deliverables, and how documentation will be used once a PT Collection Specialist is hired. Conwell will present her findings and recommendations at February's Commission meeting.

IV. Vice Chair Elections

- A. Staff reminded the Commission that a Vice Chair will be elected at February's Commission meeting. The Vice Chair will eventually be nominated for the Chair position upon Ellen Simak stepping down from the role.

V. "Wreath of Honor" Dedication Photos

- A. Staff reviewed photo documentation of the monument and photos of the Dedication held in October.

VI. Upcoming Events

- A. Re: Pete Dedication, Thursday, December 19 at 5:30PM in Tatum Park.
- B. PAC Annual Report to City Council. Tuesday, January 14 at 4pm in the City Council Assembly Room.
- C. January Executive Committee Meeting, Thursday, January 16 at 10am at ArtsBuild.
- D. February CPAC Meeting, Thursday, February 20 at 2pm in the City Council conference room.