



## CHATTANOOGA PUBLIC ART COMMISSION

### February 2020 | MINUTES

Thursday, February 20, 2020 / 2PM-4PM

@ City Council Conference Room

**PRESENT:** Ellen Simak (Chair), John Brown, Charlotte Caldwell, Megan Ledbetter, Virginia Anne Sharber

**ABSENT:** Matthew Dutton, John Henry, Dionne Jenkins, Shaun LaRose, Ric Morris, Vernisha Savoy, Lindsey Willke

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

**CITY ADVISORY STAFF:** Eric Asboe (CDOT), Morgan McCormick (Parks & Rec)

- I. Welcome and Call to Order: Ellen Simak
- II. Could not approve minutes from December 2019 as there was not a quorum present

### SPECIAL PRESENTATION

#### I. **Collection Assessment Report: Eva Sander Conwell**

- A. Conwell was selected via RFP to conduct a collection assessment of the City's 105 permanent outdoor public artworks. A full assessment had never been done before. Her work was completed in late 2019. She noted that the City's permanent outdoor collection is larger than the city of Atlanta, Georgia's (100 pieces) and that Chattanooga's often expressed their appreciation for the public artworks she was addressing throughout her process.
- B. She assessed the current condition of each piece, took photography of its current state, contacted each artist and fabricator for documentation and confirmation of how they intended each work to age or their "maintenance intent".
- C. She generated a variety of reports from this information to include: fabrication report, condition report and conservation requirements, as well as maintenance instructions. She made additional recommendations on which pieces should be treated immediately to avoid major conservation costly efforts down the road, and recommendations for those works PAC may want to consider decommissioning due to the high cost of repair or frequency of such repairs.
- D. Conwell consulted with PAC throughout the process to ensure her documentation matched designations within "Artwork Archive", PAC's artwork inventory management software.

- E. Approximately 55 artworks need immediate repairs at an estimated \$90K - \$100K cost based on 2019 pricing. Current routine maintenance needs would take approximately 700 hours annually to complete. Additional costs result from repainting sculptures and larger repairs due to accidental damage or vandalism. Conwell noted that her assessment also included each work's signage, but that a large portion of the collection (70 public art projects) were without any signage at all. She suggests introducing a new signage program and investing in more durable signage.
- F. She also reminded the Commission to consider materials and how the work will be sited when reviewing artwork proposals in the future, as both have a significant impact on how a piece will weather and deteriorate; for instance, we know that powder-coating does not perform well over time in Chattanooga's climate.
- G. Moving forward, she recommends regular maintenance begin for many sculptures, though some will need conservation first before regular maintenance; and consulting with a conservator prior to accepting a design to ensure the most suitable materials are used providing for lower overall costs of maintenance over time.
- H. Staff mentioned that there is currently approximately \$40K available in the Public Art Maintenance fund to address preventative care. Larger repairs will need to be addressed in PAC's capital budget request.

## II. ITEMS FOR VOTE

- A. Staff relayed that without a quorum present, we would not be able to vote on matters indicated in the agenda. Staff stressed the importance of meeting attendance as a result.
- B. Voting could not take place via email due to public meeting requirements, so the upcoming March 3 policy meeting will be a required Commission meeting to reach a quorum and advance agenda items.
- C. The Commission asked Staff to look into whether a vote by proxy was acceptable going forward.

## REVIEW AND DISCUSSION:

### I. PAC Programs Review

- A. Staff provided a brief review of how current and future projects fall into unique programs with different objectives and outcomes based on the 2019 strategic plan recommendations. The diversity of our programming allows us to present different project types and artforms to address issues of access and equity without sacrificing the quality of work PAC has always been committed to. Programs are now listed on PAC's website:  
<https://publicartchattanooga.com/publicart/programs/>
- B. Staff highlighted the newest addition to PAC programming: "City Creators" which provides a number of opportunities for artists to collaborate with city government and apply their artistic practice to civic and community-focused projects. The program aims to inspire creative thinking and generate authentic interactions with the community, transforming city government's projects and systems in response to the needs of Chattanooga. The program features Creative Strategists, whose community art making activities inform larger public

art in capital projects; and Artist in Residencies such as City Artist, a part time position embedded within CDOT.

- C. Staff reviewed the profiles of the 2020 Creative Strategists and their assignments.

## **II. Avondale YFD Mural Selection Panel**

- A. The RFP for the project has closed. Staff reviewed the community members and city staff advisory personnel selected to serve on the Avondale YFD Mural Selection Panel. Selection will likely be conducted next month.

## **III. FY21 Potential Art in Capital Projects**

- A. Staff reviewed the Art in Capital planning process and its alignment with the City's overall BFO process and City Council approval. Priority project consideration extends to public service buildings, parks, greenways and major transportation corridors.
- B. PAC does not yet have a firm grasp on our art in capital calculation for FY21. Last year, it was approximately 2% of the overall above ground capital construction budget and art in capital allocations were made to five different capital projects as well as various public art project maintenance and administrative needs.
- C. Staff reviewed FY21 capital projects in consideration for the art in capital allocation, as well as additional public art project funding needs for discussion.

## **UPDATES:**

- I. Jules Downum has been selected through City standard HR procedures for the inaugural part-time position of City Artist. Her start date is March 13. Staff reviewed her bio.
- II. Staff relayed details related to this year's ARTBURST campaign, which is supported in kind by the Chattanooga Tourism Company (formerly known as the Chattanooga Convention & Visitors Bureau). Staff expressed gratitude to CTC for this increased campaign visibility through digital ads, event blogs, and other social media assets.
- III. Staff reminded the Commission of upcoming dates:
  - A. CPAC Policy Lunch & Meeting: Tuesday, March 3 at noon / 5th Fl. -Edney Bldg.
  - B. New CPAC Appointments: Tuesday, March 3 at 4pm / City Council Assembly Rm.
  - C. CPAC Field Trip: Friday, March 6 at 2:30pm / meet at City Hall
  - D. ID Artistic Concept Book Meeting: Monday, March 30 at noon / 5th Fl.-Edney Bldg.



## SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CHATTANOOGA PUBLIC ART COMMISSION TO REACH QUORUM ON FEBRUARY AGENDA ITEMS

### March 2020 | MINUTES

Tuesday, March 3, 2020 / 2PM-4PM  
@ Edney Innovation Building, 4th Floor

**PRESENT:** Ellen Simak (Chair), Vernisha Savoy, John Brown, Charlotte Caldwell, Megan Ledbetter, Lindsey Willke

**ABSENT:** Virginia Anne Sharber, Ricardo Morris, Shaun Larose, John Henry

**Recent Expired Terms as of 2/29/2020:** Matthew Dutton, Dionne Jenkins

- I. Welcome and Call to Order: Ellen Simak
- II. Approval of December 2019 minutes; passed

### III. ITEMS FOR VOTE

- A. CPAC Vice Chair Election:** Staff welcomed Vernisha Savoy as the first Vice Chair of the Commission. Savoy currently serves on the Executive Committee where her knowledge of compliance is of benefit to CPAC operations.
- B. Changes to Bylaws-Voting Procedures:** Bylaws were amended to exclude the option of casting votes via email. Staff will explore the option of voting for proxy to constitute a quorum.
- C. Creative Strategist Project Assignment:** Staff reviewed 2020 Creative Strategist roster and project assignments for vote.
  1. 2CREATE, artist team of Anna Carll and Claire Vassort, are assigned to East Chattanooga City Services Satellite Building; however, the project is currently delayed due to the City's need to purchase property. 2CREATE intends to work with an East Chattanooga community member to effectively engage the community in this area.
  2. Poet Erika Roberts is assigned to the Brainerd YFD Center Mural and the Avondale YFD Center Mural. Her scope of work is slightly different from the full Creative Strategist scope as the public art projects are already defined, so her work will inform the mural artists' design phase with engagement activities. She will serve on the artist selection panel and serve as a liaison between the selected artist and the community.
  3. Josiah Golson is assigned to the Lynnbrook Park project, extending his work in the Oak Hills community and building on his previous creative placemaking work with the Trust for Public Land.
  4. Katie Hargrave is assigned to Chatt-Town Skate Park.

5. R.I.S.E. Chattanooga is assigned to the MLK Corridor public art projects. They are interested in working with other African American artists to ensure the rich culture of MLK Blvd is preserved with the future public art projects.
6. Mississippi based, Significant Developments led by principal artist, Daniel Johnson performs problem-solving and engagement strategy through creative play. Though not local, they are doing similar work in Jackson, MS. They are not yet assigned a project, but PAC hopes that other departments will utilize their skills in the coming year.
7. ELLA Chattanooga is assigned to East Lake projects to continue their community engagement with a second phase as a liaison between the community and the selected artists through the implementation phase of planned public art projects.

**D. Avondale YFD Mural Selection Panel: Reviewed again for vote.**

- E. ArtSpark Round 2 Traffic Cabinet Box Selection & Locations:** Staff presented River City's selection panel's recommendations for Round 2 of the ArtSpark exhibition. Staff presented images of the 20 ArtSpark finalist designs and 3 alternate designs along with the proposed cabinet locations.

**VOTE: Unanimous vote to Approve Items A-D.**

**VOTE: Item E: 18 of 20 designs were unanimously approved by the Commission. The Commission did not approve two of the designs and two alternate designs were approved as replacements. Two locations were not approved as appropriate for the selected designs and alternate locations were requested.**