



CHATTANOOGA PUBLIC ART COMMISSION

April 2020 | MINUTES

Thursday, April 16, 2020, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Zoom Video Conference

PRESENT: Ellen Simak (Chair) Vernisha Savoy (Vice Chair), Charlotte Caldwell, Shaun LaRose, Megan Ledbetter, Justin McBath, Ric Morris, Rachel Reese, Sara Tolbert, Lindsey Willke

ABSENT: John Brown, John Henry, Virginia Anne Sharber

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

- I. Welcome and Call to Order: Ellen Simak
- II. Verbal Roll Call for virtual meeting requirement
- III. Approval of February / March 2020 minutes; passed
- IV. Staff notated a revision to the agenda by adding in review of FY20 -FY22 PAC Work Plan

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION:

I. **FY '20 - '22 PAC Work Plan**

- A. "Radiance" by FUTUREFORMS located at Patten Parkway: Project is a FY17 PAC allocation with additional private and CDOT funding. The work is a dramatic sculptural shade canopy currently in the implementation phase with a completion date of Fall 2020.
- B. "Moonrise" by Mark Fornes located at the Wheland Foundry Trailhead: Project up to now has been privately funded. Final design is currently pending, as PAC awaits more details concerning the landscape and lighting elements that are not within the artists' scope. Preliminary lighting estimates are \$20K, while landscape will likely be an additional \$60K. PAC has requested this additional funding (\$80K) as an allocation in the FY21 budget. Project completion: Summer 2021.
- C. Woodmore Manor Art In the Neighborhood Mural by Brandon Donahue located at the Brainerd Youth and Family Development (YFD) Center: Project is a FY16 PAC allocation with additional private funding. Donahue is currently designing an iconic mural for the unusual silo architectural feature at the Center. Creative Strategist Erika Roberts (poet) co-facilitated community engagement efforts to inspire the mural design. Project completion: July 2020.
- D. M.L.K. Art In the Neighborhood Underpass Activation: Project is a FY16 allocation with additional private funding. The RFP recently closed in mid-March and PAC will proceed with the selection panel process in the next few months. The M.L.K.

Neighborhood Association hopes to transform the space along the M.L.K. undepass into a safe destination and vibrant gateway. R.I.S.E. Chattanooga will serve as the project's creative strategist facilitating engagement efforts to inform project design. Project completion date: Summer 2021.

- E. East Lake Park Interactive Seating & Artful Basketball Court at East Lake YFD Center: Both projects are FY19 allocations with additional private funding, and are currently in the planning phase. East Lake Park project will be the next RFP issued. PAC is currently working with a specialist in artistic basketball court design for the concept design phase. ELLA Chattanooga will continue its role as Creative Strategist to ensure the community's input is accurately reflected in these projects.
- F. Lynnbrook Park Public Art Project located in the Oak Grove Neighborhood: Park is currently in the design phase. The Trust for Public Land funded initial community engagement led by Josiah Golson and team, Josiah has been assigned as Creative Strategist to continue his role in community engagement to specifically inform a public art project integrated with the new park's design.
- G. Chatttown Skatepark relocation off Amnicola Highway: Project is a FY20 allocation. As the current skatepark is in disrepair following heavy usage by the large skating community, plans are to relocate the park and add in a passive use space. Katie Hargrave will serve as Creative Strategist to support the implementation of artistic concepts in the park. PAC is suggesting an additional \$50K in the FY21 budget to supplement the FY20 allocation of \$49K to fully implement an impactful public art project for the large space.
- H. Washington Hills YFD Center Public Art Project: Project is a FY20 allocation and is currently pending. It is projected to be interior work or integrated into the renovation's construction. Pending Hamilton County transfer of property to City's ownership. A Creative Strategist is not yet assigned to this project.
- I. Woodmore Safe Routes to School located near Woodmore Elementary: Project is pending and a FY20 allocation to address safe pedestrian pathways from neighborhood homes to school. CDOT is currently reviewing appropriate asphalt applications; unfortunately, colorful crosswalks do not appear to be an option.
- J. East Chattanooga YFD / Head Start Early Learning Center Facility to be located in the Dalewood area: Project is in the planning phase and a FY20 allocation. Facility was originally slated as a satellite city services building outside of the downtown area, but the premise has now shifted to serve as a Head Start Early Learning facility where public art will be integrated into the building design. The artist team of 2CREATE (Anna Carll & Claire Vassort) will serve as the project's Creative Strategists to inform those elements.
- K. Mural at the Avondale YFD Center located on Wilcox Blvd: Project is a FY20 allocation, and is currently in the artist selection process through an RFP which elicited national and international response. Erika Roberts (poet) will serve as the project's Creative Strategist to co-facilitate community engagement to inspire the mural's design.
- L. Innovation District Artistic Concept Book developed by FUTUREFORMS: The book is a FY17 allocation currently pending launch. The book includes a number of conceptual project types and precedents for public and private entities to consider art interventions throughout the Innovation District.

- M. City Artist Program (Year 1): The inaugural City Artist began March 13, which was the same day the City issued stay at home orders due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The position is a part time position embedded within CDOT to incorporate the City Artist’s artistic vision and creative processes into CDOT project planning. PAC looks to get the City Artist more integrated into CDOT upon phasing back into in-office work. The City Artist program is funded through a FY15 re-allocation of Public Art Capital dollars and CDOT TEI Funds. Private funding supports an Artist Mentor for Year 1 and 2. The program will need \$25K to continue into the second year.
- N. Bessie Smith Cultural Marker & Interpretive Project: Project will give an in depth description of African American history at Blue Goose Hollow, which is Bessie Smith’s birthplace, as well as details regarding her home and what it may have looked like. Project is all privately funded with R.I.S.E. Chattanooga serving as Creative Strategist facilitating community engagement activities to inform the design.
- O. Art in the Neighborhood 2020 public art project at a location to be determined: Project will be realized through the Mayoral initiative “Neighborroots” with funding through the Neighborhood Reinvestment Fund. The timeline for this project is pending, as funds are currently being used to support small businesses in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- P. Ed Johnson Memorial located at the Walnut Street Bridge: Project lead is the Ed Johnson Memorial Committee with the City handling sitework in conjunction with Walnut Street Plaza. PAC will manage the installation of the artwork. The project is currently in the implementation phase through private and public funding; however, PAC has just learned that a \$50K contingency is needed.
- Q. “The Scramble” located at 1st Street: Project is moving into the implementation phase, funded privately, and with the City providing site work.

II. FY21 Proposed Public Art Capital Budget

- A. Last year, 2% of applicable capital projects’ budget were allocated to incorporating public art in above ground construction. However, as a result of a loss of revenue from the COVID-19 pandemic, PAC has been asked to consider a budget that will likely be cut in half from what it was last year.
- B. The budgeting process begins in January with departments submitting capital projects during the budgeting for outcomes (BFO) process. The BFO results team, City Capital Planner and PAC Director identify qualifying projects where public art could be implemented into the capital project. CPAC reviews potential projects in February, and then votes on a proposed Work Plan & Art in Capital budget in April. City Council approves Capital budget before July 1 after two readings.
- C. PAC has budgeted \$126,500 for project planning, administration and maintenance for year 2 of the City Artist program, Creative Strategist phase 2 services for Lynnbrook Park, Chattown Skatepark, East Chattanooga Head Start facility, and the Wheland Foundry Trailhead “Moonrise” project.
- D. Following this year’s collection assessment, PAC has approximately \$100K in conservation work in addition to signage needs. We plan to space these expenses over 5 years, with \$30K (\$20K conservation, \$10K signage) budgeted for FY21.

- E. PAC is requesting an additional \$50K for public art projects incorporated with the design and construction of Chattown Skatepark.
- F. In addition PAC is requesting \$150,000 to be allocated to an outside agency (TBD) for an Art in Capital Stimulus Fund* providing much needed work for artists during the COVID-19 pandemic.
*The fund has since been renamed the Artists' Work Grant Program.

III. Proposed Art in Capital Stimulus Fund

- A. The fund will provide support to individual artists, artist studios, and non-profit art organizations in realizing artworks for the public realm.
- B. Purchases related to creation, installation and documentation of work will infuse the local creative economy.
- C. PAC is requesting \$150K for this fund.

TOTAL PUBLIC ART CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST: \$356K

ITEMS FOR VOTE

I. FY20-22 Work Plan / FY21 Public Art Capital Budget

- A. Discussion ensued regarding the \$50K contingency needed for the Ed Johnson Memorial. Staff stated that the committee had budgeted for the artist's contingency, but not for the memorial's site construction contingency amount.
- B. Commission questioned why there was no general contingency line item in the Public Art Capital budget as per last year. Staff relayed that it was a stretch to include given the cut to this year's budget.
- C. Commission questioned the additional amount needed for Chattown Skatepark, as the project is still in the planning phase. Staff conveyed that the amount is a best guess estimate without a design in place.
- D. Commission discussed using the \$50K additional ask for the skatepark to instead ensure that Ed Johnson Memorial reaches completion.
- E. Staff mentioned that the Commission must stick to the budget allocations once they are approved by the City Council. PAC is unable to alter allocations after Council approval without going back to Council.
- F. The Commission asked clarifying questions regarding the Art in Capital Stimulus Fund. Grant amounts will vary depending on project size but will range from \$2,500-\$75,000. PAC will likely partner with an outside agency to administer funds ensuring flexibility and targeted support to local artists and non-profits. Fiscal agent is preferred not to be an agency that receives City funding for operational support. The Commission asked if funds could be awarded to performing artists. Staff relayed that if there were private dollars contributed to the stimulus package, perhaps. However, as the Fund currently consists of City Capital dollars, the artworks must have a useful life in the built environment. Fund will launch in late July if approved by the City Council.
- G. Commission recommends cutting project funding from Chattown Skatepark.
- H. Commission recommends that PAC provide contingency to the Ed Johnson Memorial up to a certain dollar amount and reimbursable if exceeding a certain dollar amount as availability of funds are determined by Staff.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS APPROVAL of allocating public art funds to provide Ed Johnson Memorial site construction contingency up to \$50,000.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS APPROVAL of FY21 Work Plan, no changes.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS APPROVED FY21 proposed Public Art budget with revisions to include: \$50,000 in contingency to the Ed Johnson Memorial and defer additional funding for public art in Chattown Skatepark to future years.



**CPAC SPECIAL MEETING:
REVIEW & VOTE ON WHELAND FOUNDRY TRAILHEAD
AND AVONDALE YFD MURAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

May 2020 | MINUTES

Thursday, May 21, 2020, 10am-11am

Zoom Video Conference

PRESENT: Ellen Simak (Chair), Vernisha Savoy (Vice Chair), John Brown, Shaun LaRose, Megan Ledbetter, Justin McBath, Ric Morris, Sara Tolbert, Lindsey Willke

ABSENT: Charlotte Caldwell, John Henry, Rachel Reese, Virginia Anne Sharber

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

- I. Welcome and Call to Order: Ellen Simak
- II. Verbal Roll Call for attendance purposes

ITEMS FOR VOTE

I. Wheland Foundry Trailhead Revised Concept (“Moonrise”) & Budget

- A. Staff provided a brief project recap: The revised concept addresses concerns surrounding the sculpture’s raised structure and climbability, which changes the shape of the structure considerably. PAC asked artist Mark Fornes to consider lighting, landscaping and seating within his scope, but the budget does not accommodate for this inclusion. He will only be providing foundation for the installation in addition to the artwork. PAC gathered quotes for the City to take on the aforementioned expenses, of which options were approved by the project’s selection panel.
- B. Staff reviewed project budget line items and suggested lighting, landscaping and seating options by Fornes for a cohesive look. The sharp edges of landscaping as suggested by Fornes would be too difficult to maintain. Selection panel is requesting a more robust landscape plan rather than implementing sod, but a new landscape concept will need to be pursued. The Commission had previously approved \$80K for this expense, and will need to reserve at least \$25k in contingency for the Ed Johnson Memorial.

- C. Based on the options presented for lighting, landscaping and seating, firm estimates point to sufficient funding for both Ed Johnson Memorial's construction contingency, as well as the Wheland Foundry project site work. However, an additional \$50K was added to the PAC's budget request to ensure that sufficient funds would be available based on recommendation from the City's Capital Planner. The revised landscape design will be sourced through an on-call contract. The Selection Panel wanted to ensure that the City did have the funding for the entire package before presenting to the Commission for approval.
- D. The Commission questioned the quality of the final concept given the site options that had been removed and the additional expenses the City will incur.
- E. Staff explained while the Selection Panel was frustrated by the removal of site options, they did prefer the revised shape of the artwork as the original design was interpreted by community members to be somewhat of a scary structure, while this revised concept is more open and inviting.
- F. Foundation funding stipulates that the project moves forward now, or the money goes away due to the fact the funding was extended back in 2016.
- G. The Selection Panel concurred that the piece adds tremendous value for the public and brings a unique experience to the area.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS APPROVAL of the Wheland Foundry Trailhead Selection Panel's recommendations of the revised design and add on lighting, landscaping and seating options to be funded by Public Art Capital funds.

II. Avondale YFD Mural Artist Selection

- A. Artist selection panel review was conducted virtually this month. The panel reviewed 26 national and international applications. Local artist Eric Finley (The Artist SEVEN) was selected as the most qualified artist for the project.
- B. The project originally entailed an exterior mural on the outside of the YFD Center facing Wilcox Blvd with a budget of \$20K. Staff at the Avondale YFD Center was interested in an interior artwork and reached out to PAC to see if this additional scope could be included in our contract with SEVEN. YFD is contributing \$4,500.00 to the project budget, and SEVEN will do both the interior and exterior artworks as part of the mural services being provided. SEVEN's scope includes coordinating with Creative Strategist, Erika Roberts (poet) on community engagement sessions to inform the mural's design.
- C. SEVEN's contract will be presented to Council on June 2 provided that the Commission approves the Selection Panel's recommendation.
- D. Staff also conveyed that the artist is the first local artist to be commissioned for a large-scale mural through the City's RFP process.
- E. The Commission questioned whether local artists are weighed more heavily in the artist selection review process. Staff relayed that state law prevents discrimination based on geography. Followed by a discussion on how to encourage and partner to provide more information, resources and training to local and minority artists applying to RFPs.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS APPROVAL of Avondale YFD Mural Artist Selection of Eric Finley (The Artist SEVEN).

UPDATES:

I. Art in Capital Stimulus Fund

- A. Fund's name has been revised to "Artists' Work Grant Program".
- B. Southeast Tennessee Development District (SETDD) will likely serve as the fiscal agent for the Fund as they have aligned themselves with assisting government agencies with grant and loan programs as well as community development and historic preservation.
- C. SETDD will not charge administrative fees.
- D. ArtsBuild will also be a partner in the program, and the Lyndhurst Foundation will encourage a match of funds from private foundations to be held at Artsbuild.
- E. PAC's contribution to the fund will go to Council with the overall Capital budget for review.

II. FY21 Budget

- A. The FY21 budget has been revised to include an additional \$50K to ensure adequate contingency funds for the completion of the Ed Johnson Memorial.