



## CHATTANOOGA PUBLIC ART COMMISSION DECEMBER 2020 | MINUTES

Thursday, December 10, 2020, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ZOOM Video Conference

**PRESENT:** Ellen Simak (Chair), Vernisha Savoy (Vice Chair), John Brown, Charlotte Caldwell, Megan Ledbetter, Ric Morris, Virginia Anne Sharber, Lindsey Willke and Sara Tolbert

**ABSENT:** Justin McBath and Rachel Reese

**STAFF:** Kat Wright (Interim Public Art Director)

**CITY ADVISORY:** Cate Irvin (CDOT) and Harolda Bryson (Legal)

### I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Approval of October & November 2020 Meeting Minutes
- B. Staff noted an agenda revision under "Review and Discussion". Agenda point for CPAC Bylaws Draft & Considerations will actually be a review and discussion of CPAC Guidelines as the Bylaws have already been solidified.

### II. ITEMS FOR VOTE

- A. "From Whence Cometh My Help" resiting
  1. Work is a locust wood sculpture by Charlie Brouwer of Willis, VA that was a part of the temporary Art on Main exhibit in 2011. The sculpture became part of the permanent collection in 2013.
  2. Staff explained that they were notified the week before Thanksgiving to the sculpture's instability. One anchor bolt is holding the bottom of the sculpture to its pad, but the design's foot has deteriorated so much since its installation that there is nothing to tighten the bolt to at this juncture.
  3. When the piece was assessed as part of the permanent outdoor assessment late in 2019, Eva Sander Conwell noted that the base had deteriorated, but did not state that it was an immediate conservation need.
  4. Main Street Meats, the business that sits behind the sculpture, is participating in Chattanooga Department of Transportation's (CDOT)

SPROUTS program to increase its outdoor seating capacity due to the interior capacity restrictions imposed by COVID-19.

5. Main Street Meats expressed concern to Staff that upcoming construction would make the work much more of a public safety issue.
6. Staff was able to quickly connect with Brouwer, who had previously provided Conwell a quote to refurbish the work in Virginia and reinstall sometime this February.
7. Staff noted that the COVID-19 pandemic challenged their ability to enact maintenance and conservation measures as intended this year, but that they will proceed with such work in the new year.
8. Staff relayed that with the piece gone, Main Street Meats wanted to see if the sculpture's pad could be moved 6 feet away from the business so that the sculpture would not encroach upon the new outdoor seating.
9. Staff confirmed that CDOT and Brouwer approved of this move so long as the pad's move is funded by Main Street Meats. Business will employ Matt Sears to complete this work at an expense of \$1,000.00.
10. Staff confirmed that Foundation approval would not be needed as the work has been resited since the temporary exhibition and becoming part of the PAC permanent collection. The Foundations funded the initial Art On Main Exhibition in 2011.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS TO APPROVE** resiting of the sculpture pad six feet over from its current location to be more so in front of Niedlov's Bakery.

B. "High Four" resiting

1. Staff reviewed that the dog sculpture has been in storage since June 2020 due to the forthcoming Ed Johnson Memorial and Walnut Plaza, which necessitated the piece's removal. CPAC deferred the option to resite the piece to the other side of the Walnut Street Bridge at that time.
2. While there is time to vote on "High Four's" relocation during the February CPAC meeting, Staff conveyed that storing "High Four" and "Winter" (of Daud Akhriev's "Four Seasons" due to the forthcoming "Scramble") is a monthly expense; necessitating examining its resiting today.
3. Staff presented two empty sculpture pads available for this purpose. Site 1 is a pad in the First Street Sculpture Garden with a 10' diameter. If the sculpture were sited in this location, it would be the location closest to the Walnut Street Bridge.
4. Site 2 is a pad within Renaissance Park near the pavilion with the green roof, which is quite large at 20' x 17'. Staff prefers to keep this pad open for a larger work, but presents this location as there was discussion last

Summer about relocating the work to the park as the location is dog friendly.

5. Staff did say a new smaller pad could be put down in that location, but wanted to see first if an existing pad could be repurposed.
6. The Commission noted that both locations did not allow for the work to be nestled in its location, as its former location provided.
7. The existing pads were seen as too large and overwhelming for this small piece. The Commission suggested somewhere on the perimeter of Renaissance Park.
8. The Commission maintained the need to get traffic up from Aquarium Plaza to the Arts District and requested to examine a location on 1st Street to site "High Four". Staff said they would review "The Scramble's" mock up for potential locations.

**DEFERRED TO VOTE** resiting of "High Four" to either proposed location.

## REVIEW & DISCUSS

### I. City Artist Path Forward & Year 2

- A. Staff reviewed the City Artist mentorship component in which PAC received Foundation funding of \$30,000 over two years for the mentorship.
- B. The mentor is to be a nationally-significant and established artist(s) with creative engagement expertise to mentor the City Artist (Jules Downum), fostering their artistic skills, building their artistic career, and strengthening their community engagement skills.
- C. Mentor program funds will be used for mentor honoraria, public events (may include demonstrations and/or workshops), and opportunities for the mentor to work with Downum.
- D. PAC received Foundation permission to use up to \$2,250 each year as a flexible stipend for the City Artist to provide support for unforeseen start-up costs which could include studio space, rent, initial project funding, technology purchases or other materials to support their creative practice.
- E. Downum intends to contract with Eric Booth for year 1 of the mentorship, and may possibly contract with Booth and others for year 2 of the mentorship, which is allowed per Foundation funding so long as she does not exceed the \$30K at PAC's disposal.
- F. Staff reviewed Booth's biography as teaching faculty at various universities and arts organizations and consultant for arts organizations, cities, states, community organizations, and businesses around the United States. He is widely referred to as one of the nation's most creative teachers and as "the father of the teaching artist profession".
- G. Staff mentioned that Downum will be working alongside Cate Irvin in CDOT with the SPROUTS program, and also researching how other nationwide City Artist programs are

pivoting due to the COVID-10 pandemic for best practices in going forward for the remainder of her first year as City Artist which concludes in March.

## **II. Artist Work Grant Program-Round 1**

- A. Staff said that 40 grant proposals were received for Round 1 (3 rounds anticipated).
- B. 27 proposals were received in the performance and exhibitions category funded by ArtsBuild. 13 public art proposals were received funded by PAC with Southeast Tennessee Development District as the fiscal agent.
- C. ArtsBuild looks to award \$42,500 this round of \$127,500 available. PAC looks to award \$56,540 of \$142,500 available.
- D. Most projects did request the maximum public art award amount available of \$75,000, which would have limited the program's ability to fund more than two public art projects, as well as limit the number of artists who could benefit from grant funding.
- E. The Artist Work Grant Committee decided that proposals could be funded at less than the amount requested. As such, the public art segment of the program looks to fund 3 projects this round.
- F. The Commissioners serving on the Committee echoed Staff's sentiments in that the proposals were impressive, and they appreciated the time Staff was extending to provide feedback on applications for consideration in subsequent rounds.
- G. Staff mentioned they would be meeting with ArtsBuild tomorrow to make slight revisions to the grant guidelines.

## **III. CPAC Guidelines Draft / Considerations**

- A. Bylaws were approved as of last December and attention turned to drafting PAC Guidelines; however, the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic slowed progress on this. Once the PAC Director resigned, and the search for a new Director began, efforts recently resumed to establish these Guidelines.
- B. The Guidelines were initially reviewed via google document by the PAC Executive Committee with comments and suggested revisions included throughout the document.
- C. Staff then met with the Executive Committee to discuss these comments and offer additional considerations in which Staff is now having conversations with applicable internal departments these guidelines will affect (Legal, Planning, Finance).
- D. Staff relayed that a final draft will be turned over for internal review before it can be adopted as the Bylaws were.
- E. Staff noted that they welcome additional Commissioner review to advance the Guidelines forward before internal review.

## **IV. Upcoming CPAC Appointments**

- A. Staff reminded the Commission that the last meeting for Commissioners who will be rolling off will be this February with new Commissioners appointed by Mayor Berke at the end of February and attending their first meeting in April.

- B. New Commissioners will attend a virtual orientation in March.
- C. Staff reviewed the current slate of Commissioners, including Commissioner Caldwell and Commissioner Willke, who have the option to renew for another term of service and intend to do so.
- D. Chair Simak will be rolling off along with Commissioner Tolbert. Vice Chair Savoy will assume the Chair position.
- E. The Commission needs two practicing visual artists to join.
- F. Staff will advertise the Commission opportunity next week for approximately a month, and will review applications with the Executive Committee in January.

## UPDATES

### I. Avondale YFD Center Mural

- A. Avondale YFD Center exterior mural installation is delayed once more. It was hoped to begin installation on November 9 after the original start date of October 28.
- B. The delay is due to the outstanding wall prep as the existing MDF is compromised and there is a leak within the wall.
- C. Supplies to prep the wall were delayed, and the prep is estimated to be complete by December 17.
- D. The Artist SEVEN has missed the window to install the mural as he needs at least 5 consecutive days of temperatures over 50 degrees fahrenheit. PAC will aim to install in early March now.
- E. SEVEN may elect to proceed with the interior mural installation, but that will likely not happen until the new year.

### II. Ed Johnson Memorial

- A. Staff relayed that the site will be transferred from the City to the artist team on December 15. There will still be some minimal public works activity, however.
- B. The artist team will have a holiday break between December 23 and January 3.
- C. Not including the three main sculptural elements, all will be installed by the first of March. The bronzes will be installed the week after to allow to coincide with the anniversary of the lynching at the bridge on March 19.
- D. Staff has not determined what a dedication will look like as of yet due to the social distancing restrictions imposed by COVID-19.

### III. "Radiance" at Patten Parkway

- A. The work was intended to be installed by Summer of 2020; however, the COVID-19 pandemic has slowed progress on the sculpture as well as the overall CDOT completion of Patten Parkway.
- B. Artist team will not travel for installation, but instead will subcontract with Range Projects locally to assemble large pieces of the work that will be shipped.

- C. It will take approximately 10 days to ship the work for an onsite arrival the first week of February. Site cleanup is estimated by 2/23/21.

#### **IV. "Winter" Relocation**

- A. The contractor for Aquarium Plaza is behind, and PAC had hoped to take "Winter" out of storage and reinstall already.
- B. PAC has committed \$20,000 to this effort, but bids have been coming back higher, which may necessitate additional foundation funding.

#### **V. Budgeting for Outcomes (BFO) Process**

- A. PAC is starting the BFO process for FY22. Staff reviewed the process and timeline involved which will inform the PAC workplan.
- B. Staff did not submit a pre-submission offer as the City budget does not allow for an influx of new projects due to the loss of revenue imposed by COVID-19.
- C. Staff reminded the Commission of the 2% budget policy for public art in capital construction that PAC did not receive for the current fiscal year. It remains unknown if PAC will receive 2% for FY22.
- D. Staff will be submitting their initial operations offer by January 11. Final offers will be submitted by February 22.
- E. Staff was told not to expect funding for additional project management support or a part-time collections specialist as they have been requesting for two years now.
- F. Staff expressed concern about PAC's collection conservation backlog without additional staff support and will continue to propose it as part of their offer even if it will ultimately not be funded.
- G. Staff confirmed that the City Artist position will stay intact for one more year.
- H. Staff confirmed that Creative Strategists under contract within a capital project will continue to have funding for their services so long as the project is not cancelled.

#### **V. Other Updates**

- A. Staff reminded the Commission that the Bessie Smith and Blue Goose Hollow Artistic Marker Preliminary Design presentation is scheduled for December 15. 45 people have registered to attend.
- B. The final preliminary design will be presented to the artwork selection panel the week of January 11.

#### **VI. Commission Participation in Director Search**

- A. Chair Simak brought Commission concerns regarding the lack of Commission inclusion in the hiring process for a new Public Art Director to the floor.
- B. Commissioner Caldwell expressed her concern with Commissioners not being able to review applications for the position in which the Commission will be working closely with this individual going forward.

- C. Commissioner Caldwell requested that as CPAC looks to establish Guidelines that the Commission meet with Legal to examine what kind of influence the Commission can exert over hiring in the future and noted the precedent established by the Chattanooga Public Library Board.
- D. Commissioner Ledbetter expressed similar feelings, but stated she presumed it was because more than one Commissioner in attendance would constitute an open meeting in which Legal affirmed.
- E. Staff expressed the complexities of the hiring process, and further conveyed as a candidate in the Director search, that it has been difficult to discern their status in the hiring process.
- F. Chair Simak confirmed that the hire is a City hire with Human Resource oversight to protect the privacy of those that have applied for the position.
- G. Chair Simak added that when candidates were in the interview process and had questions as it relates to PAC policy and procedure, City personnel were limited in their knowledge as to what to convey affirming the need for more of a Commission presence in the hiring process.
- H. Legal conveyed that there is an opportunity to examine internally how involved the Commission can be in the hiring of staff, but it will necessitate an amendment to the ordinance to allow the Commission the authority to be involved in the process.
- I. Commissioner Brown proposed creating an opportunity for a candidate to meet with a Commissioner one at a time in which Legal affirmed that is a possibility.



**CPAC SPECIAL MEETING:  
JANUARY 2021 | MINUTES**

Thursday, January 14, 2021, 10am-11am  
ZOOM Video Conference

**PRESENT:** Ellen Simak (Chair), Vernisha Savoy (Vice Chair), John Brown, Charlotte Caldwell, Megan Ledbetter, Ric Morris, Sara Tolbert

**ABSENT:** Justin McBath, Rachel Reese, Virginia Anne Sharber and Lindsey Willke

**STAFF:** Kat Wright (Public Art Director)

**CITY ADVISORY:** Cate Irvin (CDOT), and Harolda Bryson (Legal)

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. ITEMS FOR VOTE**

**A. Martin Amphitheater Mural Project (Artist Work Grant Recipient-AWG)**

1. Staff provided an overview of the AWG public art guidelines and funding structure:
  - a) a permanent public art project on public property must go through the same review process as all other proposals to PAC.
  - b) the work must be completed within a year of receiving funds and if the grant award is over \$10K, the project will receive their funding in three installments and must budget the project appropriately to receive funds in 40% / 50% /10% increments.
  - c) grant awards of less than \$10K will be funded in 75% / 25% increments.
2. Project was proposed by nonprofit SoundCorps partnering with the Artist SEVEN. Proposal was the third highest scoring public art proposal.
3. Staff reviewed project specifics in that it is a mural on one side of the bridge abutment for a total of 564 square feet, as well as the timeline and budget.
4. Staff conveyed that community engagement will be conducted to inform the mural design to include the homeless population residing in the location, which will require coordination with the City's Homeless Services Division.

5. Initial designs will be on display onsite for feedback via online form.
6. Project will be donated to the City's permanent public art collection upon completion and Staff has set aside the 10% maintenance line item to ensure the mural's long term care. Donation likely to occur this September / October 2021.
7. The proposal also includes a litter clean up activity and the Commission asked that the homeless population not be displaced during any activity of the project.
8. Staff relayed that as the mural is smaller there may be an opportunity to have less equipment onsite. Staff will recommend an expedited installation and utilizing equipment that will be less intrusive to the existing environment.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS TO APPROVE the Martin Amphitheatre Mural Project as presented provided that SoundCorps works with the City's Homeless Services division to strategize on engagement activities to the homeless population residing within the amphitheater to inform the mural's design. This engagement is paramount to all other engagement activities. The project should not displace the homeless population at that site.**

B. "High Four" Relocation

1. Staff and a few Commissioners visited the "The Scramble" at the 1st Street Steps shortly before Christmas to explore possible opportunities to site the small sculpture, but there did not appear to be an appropriate place there.
2. The group walked over to the Walnut Plaza to determine if other locations to site "High Four" exist there.
3. One location was a crevice on the right side of the Holmberg Bridge, but Staff shared they later learned that area will have patio tables, seating and bike racks installed at a later date.
4. The other location is on the other side of the Holmberg Bridge near the wheelchair ramp leading up to the Hunter Museum of American Art. This site is 59.6 feet away from "High Four's" original location.
5. Staff mentioned due to ongoing construction at Walnut Plaza that there is an opportunity for the contractor to pour the sculpture pad saving PAC some costs.
6. However, Staff shared concerns from the public that the proposed location is still much too close to the Ed Johnson Memorial. It was noted that the whole area was more a memorial plaza in which having a dog bronze within it would not be appropriate due to the symbolism of a dog near a Memorial commemorating a lynching.
7. Discussion ensued in which several Commissioners agreed that it would

be disrespectful and insensitive.

8. The Commission explored the possibility of moving the work on the other end of the Walnut Street Bridge in the Northshore.
9. However, CDOT mentioned that trucks need to access the bridge quite often and they fear the sculpture would be damaged.
10. It was agreed that a location within Renaissance Park would be the most suitable location and that the Commission would vote on that instead of the proposed relocation to Walnut Street Plaza.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS for staff to proceed with researching potential locations within Renaissance Park and obtain pricing to propose at a future Commission Meeting.**

### III. UPDATES

#### A. “Composite Wing” Deterioration

1. Staff shared that they were alerted before Christmas that the work was damaged with most of the components on the ground.
2. Staff reviewed “Composite Wing” details in that it was originally part of the 2011 Art On Main exhibition and later became part of the permanent collection in 2013.
3. When it was assessed in 2019, the work was noted as having quite a bit of rust on it, though it was determined it was superficial.
4. Staff maintains that ongoing construction in that area may be the cause of the damage, or simply that it has not had any preventative maintenance since its siting while its been exposed to the elements.
5. Staff noted that one of the wings was already missing and now they fear that other components may be missing from the work.
6. Staff spoke with the artist who was fine with someone locally repairing the piece, but recognizing that the original design may not be obtainable is questioning if the work should be decommissioned.
7. Staff said that they are working with Legal and Insurance to determine next steps and will look to present options at February’s meeting.
8. Staff mentioned that deaccession policy and procedure within the PAC Guidelines need to be further developed.
9. It is currently protected by barricades and tape to mitigate public safety concerns.

#### B. Avondale YFD Center Interior Mural

1. The Artist SEVEN is beginning the installation of the interior mural today. It is expected to be complete in a week.

#### C. The BLVD Traffic Cabinet Selection Panel

1. Staff requested a Commissioner serve on the selection panel scheduled for January 20. Chair Simak said she would participate.

D. Mayoral Project: COVID-19 Remembrance Video

1. Staff relayed that due to the rising number of deaths from COVID-19, the Mayor's Office reached out to PAC and the department's City Creators to brainstorm on what may be an appropriate way to acknowledge the loss of loved ones through a public art project.
2. However, due to the short time period to implement said public art project, the City Creators suggested a short 1 to 2 minute remembrance video instead.
3. The video will live online on a dedicated City Memorial page where the public may leave tributes about those they've lost.
4. Staff provided an overview of the video treatment and said they conducted video shooting yesterday and hope to present the piece in conjunction with President-Elect Biden's National Day of Remembrance on January 19th.