



## CHATTANOOGA PUBLIC ART COMMISSION FEBRUARY 2021 | MINUTES

Thursday, February 18, 2021, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ZOOM Video Conference

**PRESENT:** Ellen Simak (Chair), John Brown, Charlotte Caldwell, Megan Ledbetter, Justin Mcbath, Rachel Reese, Lindsey Willke and Sara Tolbert

**ABSENT:** Vernisha Savoy (Vice Chair), Virginia Anne Sharber and Ric Morris

**STAFF:** Kat Wright, Public Art Director

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

### I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Approval of December 2020 & January 2021 Meeting Minutes

### II. REVIEW & DISCUSS

#### A. FY21 Potential Art in Capital Projects

1. Staff provided a review of current public art projects in progress or in planning.
2. Of particular note was movement with the Washington Hills Youth and Family Development (YFD) Center, which is expected to enter the design phase this coming fiscal year; and the new City satellite building which will function as an Early Learning Center. The Early Learning Center could be behind the Carver YFD Center or move to Chattanooga's west side which is undergoing a planning effort ("Westside Evolves") currently.
3. Staff reviewed a google map which depicts locations of PAC artwork and noted that the department is making strides in realizing art projects beyond the downtown footprint.
4. Staff reminded the Commission of the Budgeting For Outcomes (BFO) process timeline, and how Staff works with the City's capital planner to identify qualifying projects (above ground construction in parks, public service buildings, major transportation corridors and greenways) . Staff noted that the City's loss of revenue from the COVID-19 pandemic will be a consideration towards what degree capital projects may be funded.

5. Staff conveyed that the Art In Capital public art projects will likely not be determined until April, and the work plan will remain tentative pending Council's approval of the budget this June.
6. Staff provided an overview of 5 potential Art In Capital projects: St. Elmo Playground, Alton Park Connector, Trail Branding, Transit Stop Accessibility and Fire Station 15.
7. The Commission inquired if any of the projects were prioritized by Staff to integrate public art. Staff relayed that as of now, no priority exists. Some of that will depend on the extent each capital project is funded.
8. Staff mentioned that Alton Park Connector seems to be a viable Art In Capital project. St. Elmo Playground could be as well, but Staff is not sure with all of the other elements proposed in the overall park's design.
9. The Commission questioned Staff's capacity to handle all 5 of the proposed projects and suggested taking on two projects. Staff maintained that all 5 of the projects would likely not be viable, robust public art projects, but that they wanted to present an array of projects that demonstrate a good mix of possible projects.
10. Staff mentioned that several of the FY20 Art In Capital projects are delayed due to COVID-19, which may result in a backlog of projects to manage in FY22. As such, Staff will be particular about the number of new Art In Capital projects the department will take on in FY22.

#### B. CPAC Appointments

1. First commission meeting with new appointees will be this April 15.
2. At a minimum, the Mayor needed to appoint two practicing visual artists.
3. Chair Simak and Commissioner Tolbert will be rolling off, and Commissioners Caldwell and Willke will be renewing for a second term.
4. Staff provided an overview of new Commissioners rolling on: Visual Artist, John Petrey, Visual Artist Tim Goldsmith, Arts Administrator Miriam Manda of ArtsBuild and Aaron Cole, Architect, who is self-employed.
5. The Commission will be at full capacity with a maximum of 13 Commissioners.
6. The new Commissioners will be approved by City Council late this month and will have a virtual CPAC orientation in March.

#### C. "Composite Wing" Deterioration

1. We are awaiting to see if the City's fine arts insurance policy declares the work as a partial loss or total loss.
2. When the work was assessed in 2019, Eva Sanders Conwell noted that there was a wing missing. Staff feared that more wings were missing as most of the work is in shambles on the sidewalk currently; and any subsequent repairs would likely not result in resembling the original work.
3. Partial Loss: will pay the cost and expense of repair and/or restoration plus any depreciation in value, but not to exceed insured value.
4. Total Loss: total insured value of \$9,000 minus the deductible.
5. PAC was provided a grant from the Lyndhurst Foundation to purchase "Composite Wing" for \$5,850.00 in 2013. Less the \$5K deductible, we

have \$4,150.00 to work with for repairs. Expenses above that would have to come from PAC's maintenance fund.

6. Staff began discussing with Legal and Claims what deaccession may look like as the acquisition of the work in 2013 did not stipulate those terms.
7. Staff then had a new conservator to town, Lucinda Linderman, complete an assessment in which she noted that only one wing was missing; and after speaking with artist Jon Sherain, he said would donate a new wing if PAC would pay for shipping costs. As such, it does seem possible that the work can be restored at this juncture.
8. If the work is declared a total loss, PAC would receive \$4K and have to surrender the work, but could buy back at fair market value with the pay out.
9. Staff is also looking into whether doing the aforementioned will have any bearing on whether the work can then be reinsured as "Composite Wing"
10. Staff also conveyed that the City has started preventative maintenance for the collection.

### III. ITEMS FOR VOTE

#### A. CDOT's Crutchfield Asphalt Art Project

1. The Chattanooga Department of Transportation (CDOT), in partnership with Glass House Collective (GHC), was awarded a \$25,000 grant in 2020 from Bloomberg Philanthropies as a part of their Asphalt Art initiative, which is designed to help cities use art and design to improve street safety, revitalize public spaces, and engage communities.
2. GHC has enlisted Kevin Bate to paint the asphalt at Crutchfield Street, between Glass Street and Dodson Avenue, because of its central location to neighborhood assets like Hardy Elementary, the East Chattanooga Youth and Family Development Center, and the new Save A Lot grocery store. The grant funds will be used to create a welcoming atmosphere and bring attention to the new neighborhood grocery store.
3. The asphalt artwork design was developed through extensive community engagement in which residents could vote on the final design.
4. This will be a temporary exhibition for two years with the option to renew for a third year. Maintenance will be conducted by GHC with the CDOT assisting in traffic closures, etc.
5. PAC confirmed that the project is completely grant funded, and no City dollars will be allocated for the project.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS TO APPROVE the placement and artwork design as presented and proceed into a temporary exhibition contract with Glass House Collective.**

#### B. East Lake Asphalt Art Project

1. The Trust for Public Land (TPL) contracted ELLA Library to implement an engagement process to generate ideas for the concept of an asphalt art intervention from the community. TPL also contracted with Street Plans, a

planning organization that seeks to redesign public space to support use by pedestrians and people on bikes, to use the ideas from ELLA's engagement to create a tactical urbanism intervention that promotes these ideas in East Lake.

2. Street Plans prepared a concept for a set of murals installed on the asphalt surface of two street intersections near East Lake Park (34th Street and 36th Street intersections).
3. Staff presented designs and relayed that installation is slated for the last week of April with rain dates the week after.
4. This will also be another temporary exhibition contract for one year.
5. All of the project is funded by TPL.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS TO APPROVE** the placement and artwork design as presented and proceed into a temporary exhibition contract with Trust for Public Land.

C. The BLVD traffic control box program artwork selection

1. Staff reminded the Commission of the program and project timeline, which is modeled after River City Company's ArtSpark initiative.
2. Staff presented the seven traffic box locations via google street maps and the proposed artwork for that location with reasoning for such as per The BLVD, and one alternate design should the Commission prefer to place the alternate in one of the locations.
3. Chair Simak, who served on the artwork selection panel, shared that there were 35 submissions, but not all of the designs submitted fit the "Cultural Corridor" theme the community group requested.
4. Staff mentioned that a QR code would be placed on each box which would redirect to a website forthcoming with artist statements.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS TO APPROVE** the placement and artwork design as presented and proceed into a temporary exhibition contract with The BLVD.

#### IV. UPDATES

A. Mayoral Project: COVID-19 Remembrance Video

1. PAC's Creative Strategists and City Artist came together to envision possibilities for a visual tribute. From there, the City partnered with The Pop-up Project, Erika Dionne Roberts of Velvet Poetry and Mayor's Digital Specialist, J. Adams. They enlisted many local creatives to produce "Seat of Honor", which depicts a local frontline healthcare worker who has spent the last 10 months caring for people in the COVID ICU, leaving her shift and visiting a tribute that honors the lives lost in 2020 as an original poem is performed.
2. Staff shared how the video developed and then the corresponding video. Technical difficulties ensued, and so Staff shared the work via email after the meeting.

B. Avondale YFD Center Interior Mural Install

1. PAC shared photos of the Avondale YFD Center interior mural “Sax Dreams” by the Artist SEVEN, which was funded by YFD Admin.
2. The exterior mural will commence this March.
- C. “From Whence Cometh My Help” Refurbish & Reinstall
  1. Staff shared photos of the refurbished work in its location. Work was previously a public safety issue.
  2. Work was refurbished for a total of \$1,500.00
- D. Aquarium Plaza / 1st Street Steps
  1. Walk through of “The Scramble” will commence tomorrow.
  2. Artwork donation may be on the Commission agenda for April.
  3. PAC should be reinstalling “Winter” at Aquarium Plaza in mid March.
- E. Ed Johnson Memorial / “Radiance” delays
  1. “Radiance” artist team initially conveyed a two week delay, and now it appears as though the project will be delayed until mid-June completion.
  2. The delay will not impact traffic on Patten Parkway.
  3. Ed Johnson Memorial was intended to be installed next month to align with the commemoration of the lynching of Ed Johnson; however, as project team members have changed and separate contracts are needed with the Community Foundation, it has impacted the start time on site.
- F. MLK Underpass Activation
  1. Project has to be heavily coordinated with Norfolk Southern Railroad Company which has proven to be a challenge.
  2. The MLK Neighborhood Association and community at large would like lighting to be a part of the activation for safety.
  3. Three semifinalists were selected to participate in a concept design competition, but one had work visa issues and cannot participate so PAC will proceed with two female semifinalists in a concept design contract.
  4. Staff is working with CDOT to determine what may be permissible by Norfolk Southern before the concept design phase.
  5. Staff presented a tentative project timeline in which installation is projected by Spring 2022. Lyndhurst funding stipulates that the project must be completed prior to 2023.

## V. GRATITUDE

- A. Staff and Commission expressed gratitude to outgoing Chair Simak and Commissioner Tolbert.