



## CHATTANOOGA PUBLIC ART COMMISSION APRIL 2022 | MINUTES

Wednesday, April 21, 2022 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM  
Veranda Room / City Hall

PRESENT: Rachel Reese (Chair), Ian Alijah Bey, John Brown, Charlotte Caldwell, Aaron Cole, Jonathan Dean, Timothy Goldsmith, Virginia Anne Sharber, Tsega Tessema and Anthony Wiley Jr.

ABSENT: Justin McBath and Lindsey Willke

STAFF: Kat Wright, Public Art Director

CITY ADVISORY: Harolda Bryson (Legal) and Morgan McCormick (Parks)

### I. CALL TO ORDER

### II. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- A. Welcome to four (4) newly appointed Commissioners
- B. Reminder of Ethics Pledge / Purpose of Commission
- C. Self-introduction by all present
- D. Legal will be scheduling "Robert Rules" training camp for Commissioners
- E. Approval of December 2021 Meeting Minutes

### III. ITEMS FOR VOTE

1. CPAC Vice Chair
  - A. Staff conveyed with the relocation of former CPAC Vice Chair, Miriam Manda, that this vacancy exists.
  - B. Staff reviewed the responsibilities, and asked if a Commissioner would like to serve in this position.
  - C. Commissioner Caldwell stated that she would be fine with serving as Vice Chair in an interim capacity.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS VOTE TO APPROVE Charlotte Caldwell approved as CPAC interim Vice Chair.**

2. "Moonrise" at Wheland Foundry Trailhead

- A. Staff provided project background which predates current staff's service with the City and included design concept changes, which were approved by the Artwork Selection Panel, but the final design was not approved by the Commission before permitting for the artwork footing.
- B. Staff discovered this oversight when the Artist team of THEVERYMANY requested additional private funding to combat supply chain shortages and inflation, which prompted a review to develop a revised contract amount.
- C. Staff apologized for the oversight and said a formal vote must be taken before the project proceeds into fabrication.
- D. Continued discussions regarding design specifications, funding from Foundation, etc.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS VOTE TO APPROVE FINAL DESIGN of "Moonrise" by THEVERYMANY**

### 3. Artistic Elements-Indoor Basketball Court at East Lake Community Center

- A. Staff provided an overview of the project, shared design precedents and regulatory elements of the indoor court.
- B. The court has additional side courts for basketball and game lines for volleyball.
- C. Artist Kelly Spell was commissioned for an artwork license for the artistic design elements, but will not be installing the elements on the court as there is already a contractor installing game lines, so it is much more cost efficient to add that to their scope
- D. Spell connected with the project's Creative Strategist, Jazmine LeBlanc of ELLA Library, to learn more about the history of East Lake, which inspired her concepts. As a quilter, her design aesthetic lends itself to creating elements for this medium as geometric elements tend to be the most successful.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS VOTE TO APPROVE FINAL DESIGN of "East Lake Tulip Gradation" by Kelly Spell.**

### 4. "Chestnut Street Gateway" Mural Deaccession

- A. Mural erected in December 2016 at 2001 Chestnut Street on private property near Finley Stadium. It was a \$24,999 project that did not require City Council approval for donation.
- B. Work has not been maintained due to the difficulty in mobilizing City staff to work on private property. Staff further maintained that a recent audit of the outdoor permanent public art collection revealed that there are other pieces owned by the City which are sited on private property.
- C. As the building is not lit at night, it has become a site for consistent graffiti tagging. Repairs were conducted by the non-local artist (Jared Bader) in 2019, but the mural was immediately tagged afterwards, as the property owner did not proceed with installing lighting on the property which may curtail vandalism.
- D. Staff has not repaired the mural since, and now the owner wants the mural removed.
- E. Staff has artwork donation documentation on file, but no other records of an easement or other documentation at this juncture to proceed.
- F. Donation agreement does give the City the ability to remove the mural at the property owner's request.

- G. Staff referenced the deaccession considerations for developing a deaccession policy, and noted that while a formal policy is not yet adopted; as the owner has asked for the mural to be removed, the Commission should take this opportunity to vote on its deaccession.
- H. Staff confirmed that Bader will be notified in advance of the removal.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS VOTE TO APPROVE DEACCESSIONING of "Chestnut Street Gateway Mural" by Jared Bader from the permanent public art collection.**

#### IV. REVIEW AND DISCUSS

- 1. Parks Outreach / Art Activations
  - A. Staff informed the Commission of a new Administrator for Parks and Outdoors, Scott Martin. The Department will soon be conducting outreach to inform its new Parks and Outdoor plan.
  - B. As part of the engagement, Parks will be activating some Parks structures with a garden motif, and the flowers will be children's handprints.
  - C. Current confirmed locations - East Lake Park restrooms and Jefferson Heights pavilion.
  - D. Staff conveyed to the Commission that these activations are not considered public art projects which CPAC has jurisdiction over, but that Staff wanted CPAC to know that these activations are occurring in case they receive any questions.
- 2. "The Scramble" Water Chamber Lids / Pending Donation
  - A. Concern about safety, especially with children interacting with the installation as it is not designed with playground specifications like fall zones.
  - B. Staff reminded CPAC that one of the water chamber lids were cracked at the time of the artwork's dedication by River City Company (RCC) in 2021 prompting a redesign of all the tops to handle more weight. However, the tops must be light enough for Parks Maintenance to remove trash and maintain lighting as needed, but not be stolen by others either.
  - C. PAC worked with RCC to develop the Artist Call, but RCC led the implementation of the installation and was supported by the City with site work.
  - D. Due to the early failure of the lid, both Public Art and Office of City Attorney felt it necessary for RCC to share in liability insurance for a period of two years, and the donation was presented to Council that way and approved for donation in November 2021.
  - E. However, RCC notified the City that they would not be able to insure the piece, which stalled the donation process and the donation agreement was not executed.
  - F. The Artist's studio, Michael Singer Studio, agreed to insure the work instead.
  - G. However, additional damages were found on the Water Chamber elements in February 2022, which has prompted Staff to consult with City Engineering and a third party conservator on what repairs are needed to ensure the long-term health of the installation. Staff discussed some possible repairs, but that a formal assessment would be delivered.
  - H. Staff conveyed that while the piece is included on the Public Arts insurance rider, she has since learned that the artwork is sited on property owned by the Chattanooga Downtown Redevelopment Corporation.

I. Discussion ensued as to whether or not CPAC has to accept this donation; responsibility for maintenance of the piece etc. in which Staff said she will be addressing those issues internally, but this is the information she has at the moment.

3. MLK Underpass Activation - Plans Response Update

A. Staff informed the Commission that painting of the vinyl panels on the overpass still appears possible; as is lighting, but Norfolk Southern Railroad Company is extremely particular about this component in their right of way.

B. Discussions ensued regarding lighting and engineering requirements.

C. Staff conveyed that much of this detail cannot be supplied by the artist team of Cecilia Lueza art projects, and she will be looking at securing expertise in house or contracting out.

4. Artist Work Grant Termination: CHI Memorial Foundation

A. CHI Memorial Foundation was a Round 1 grant recipient who proposed a healing garden labyrinth within their oncology garden via a hardscape mural design and screens welded to the roof's surface, which would create different patterns reflecting onto the hardscape's mural.

B. As CHI Memorial Foundation would only have one year to complete such an ambitious project, Staff was careful to consult with them on project particulars before the grant committee's deliberation.

C. As the project was going to include patient and staff participation in the design process in the COVID-19 climate, adjustments were made to project scale and timeline to mitigate COVID-19 risk, and the Committee proceeded to award them \$23,500 payable through three installments.

D. Upon receiving the mid-project status report, it appeared that they spent 6 months confirming that the project could not be realized as proposed from a structural perspective; and that the community engagement to inform the design components had not yet begun.

E. It was at the juncture that Staff reached out to the Committee and the grant program's fiscal agent, Southeast Tennessee Development District (SETDD), to inform them of the lack of progress and determine how to proceed.

F. It was decided that although the grant's Letter of Understanding (LOU) did stipulate for the Foundation to return their initial payment until progress had been made (or for PAC to terminate the agreement altogether), the Committee and SETDD unanimously opted to hold the Foundation's 2nd installment payment, and have Staff generate a new LOU which would have remaining payments processed at the project's completion within the year period pending receipt of an evaluation report at that time.

G. The New LOU had a deadline for project completion and receipt of the report. Upon receipt of the evaluation report in March 2022, it was discovered that the project was not yet complete and would not likely be complete until May or June. The Foundation also continued to make adjustments to the project's scope without notifying the Staff or the Committee.

I. Based on this information, both the Committee and SETDD determined that it was in the program's best interest to terminate the LOU. The Foundation informed Staff that they would complete the project at their own expense.

## IV. UPDATES

1. Staffing: Part-time Collections Specialist, Trevor Reese, has been hired. Staff provided an overview of his qualifications. He is budgeted to work up to 29 hours a week.
2. Staffing: Public Art Coordinator-Staff appealed the salary from last year's salary study, and just learned that the position received an increase. Staff may decide to continue on in reclassifying the position to Manager.
3. Capital Project budgeting: Staff relayed that FY22 project budget was put in one general fund rather than assigned to specific capital projects.
4. Capital Project budgeting: Staff was encouraged by Capital Planning to submit a capital project request for public art conservation to aid in addressing the backlog of conservation and maintenance the outdoor collection has.
5. Capital Project budgeting: Staff conveyed that the new Administration has a different budgeting process and timeline than the last, which impacts CPAC's knowledge of which projects may be viable for public art inclusion by this time.
6. Temporary Exhibition: "Impulse" at the Chattanooga Green concluded. Did fantastic in terms of reception (goal of 25,000 people attending; 33,000 attended). Generated over 100K in revenue for local vendors and was very well received.
7. CPAC Meetings: Staff will confirm availability and email whether subsequent meetings be the third Wednesday or fourth Thursday of every other month.