



CHATTANOOGA PUBLIC ART COMMISSION JUNE 2022 | MINUTES

Thursday, June 23, 2022 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
JB Collins Conference Room

PRESENT: Rachel Waldrop (Chair), John Brown, Aaron Cole, Jonathan Dean, Tim Goldsmith, Tsega Tessema and Angie To

ABSENT: Charlotte Caldwell (Interim Vice Chair), Ian-Alijah Bey, Justin McBath, Virginia Anne Sharber, Anthony Wiley Jr. and Lindsey Willke

STAFF: Kat Wright, Public Art Director

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- A. Change to Agenda to begin meeting with "Updates"
- B. Self-introduction by all present to welcome new Commissioner Angie To
- C. Approval of April 2022 Meeting Minutes
- D. Reminder that Commission now fully staffed with 13, so must have 7 members present for a quorum to start meeting

III. UPDATES

A. Artist Work Grant Program

- 1. Stove Works "The Oracle of Connection" - \$10,000 AWG recipient.
- 2. As part of the project, Commissioner Cole discussed working with City to get permits; asked whether City has authority to require building permits for art projects.
- 3. Staff explained permitting requirements and costs through the City Land Development Office for permanent art installations, which take into consideration lifespan of art pieces, medium, etc.
- 4. This project went over budget, but additional funding was acquired by another funding source.

B. EPB 10th Street Mural Project Round 2

1. Round 1 was completed last year in which 100% of selected submissions were from minority and/or women artists.
2. Staff served on the artwork selection panel and advised on permitting/street closures, and enlisted police patrol during the two week installation. As multiple artists had varying working times, Staff and EPB had to work together to make sure security was available, as there is not sufficient property lighting or lighting in general in the area.
3. Anyone wishing to serve on the artwork selection panel for future rounds should let Staff know.
4. Project served as a great educational opportunity for local artists-many of whom had not had the opportunity to translate work into a larger scale and in consulting other City departments.

C. East Lake Public Art Projects

1. Staff reminded the Commission of the first public art project approved in April, which is an artistic intervention on the indoor basketball court at the East Lake Community Center.
2. The construction of the Community Center is slightly behind, delaying installation of the artistic elements. Staff projects installation in July with the Community Center opening afterwards.
3. The other public art project is interactive and functional artistic seating at East Lake Park. The artist team of WOWHAUS from California secured the commission.
4. Staff shared that WOWHAUS will be flying in on Saturday to conduct a community engagement event at East Lake Park from 5pm-8pm on Sunday.
5. Staff showed examples of publicity, which was also produced in Spanish as the East Lake community is predominantly Latinx.
6. Creative Strategist Jazmine LeBlanc of ELLA Library will also be in attendance, and will co-lead engagement activities on Monday at East Lake Elementary. They will then meet that afternoon with middle and high schoolers of East Lake Expression Engine.
7. Staff will then conduct a site visit at 2pm with City personnel also in attendance.
8. There are flooding issues in certain parts of the park which make other areas more amenable to the seating; additional soil testing may be required due to water quality considerations.

IV. ITEMS FOR VOTE

A. East Lake Asphalt Art-Temporary Exhibition Extension

1. Approved in February 2021 as a one year temporary exhibit with no funds set aside for maintenance.
2. There are currently two sites in the exhibition: Design 1 is at 34th Street and 13th Avenue, and Design 2 is at 36th Street and 13th Avenue -- the area is close to East Lake Park and East Lake Community Center.
3. Exhibition was proposed by the Trust for Public Land (TPL). TPL worked with ELLA Library to determine the design.
4. Asphalt art may be impacted by surface preparation . Longevity and traffic patterns must be taken into consideration. The designs could be touched up, but otherwise there are no issues.
5. Staff proposed an extension of the exhibition for another two years with funds set aside for maintenance as needed. Artwork is to be reviewed every six months to determine if maintenance is needed; and if so, will need to abide by city regulations (work zone, traffic control devices, etc.)
6. TPL will have ELLA Library and volunteers conduct touch up prior to July 23 through volunteer waivers.
7. This will require a vote as it is an amendment to the original contract to extend it for two additional years.
8. Discussion ensued.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS VOTE TO APPROVE the East Lake Asphalt Art for an additional two years with the stipulation that a maintenance provision be included in the amendment.

B. FY23 Art In Capital Projects Budget Allocations

1. The two percent (2%) Art in Capital (AIC) Budget policy is a calculation of all of the above-ground capital improvement projects which align with priority areas for public art inclusion. These areas include: public service buildings, parks, greenways and major transportation corridors.
2. Due to COVID-19, the City had a loss of revenue which resulted in about half of the number of capital projects funded compared to the previous year.
3. FY20 assigned the AIC allocation directly to the capital improvement construction budget. With the change in administration, funds are no longer allocated to the project but are pooled into a public art fund.

4. The Commission allocated FY22 funds to one new capital project, Fire Station 15 with a project budget of \$150,000. There will also be additional expenditures for a creative strategist to assist in design development and funds set aside for maintenance.
5. The maintenance set aside is generally 10% of the project budget. It has been important to build reserves for maintenance, because most previous projects did not have maintenance funds set aside.
6. The permanent outdoor collection is roughly valued at \$7.4 million dollars.
7. The addition of Collection Specialist Trevor Reese has helped with collection care. The 2019 collection assessment determined that approximately 55 of the 103 pieces need repair. However, the estimate of money needed for conservation did not include costs for removal or other expenses like equipment rental.
8. Capital Planning requested that Public Art put forth a capital project which would allow Staff funding to catch up on the backlog of conservation needs. Staff put forth a rough number of \$250,000.
9. This capital project was not approved as most FY23 capital projects will be dedicated to housing and transportation.
10. Staff presented two possible capital projects for AIC inclusion which will be multi-year projects: Alton Park Connector and Provence Park:
 - a. Provence Street Park is a TPL project to bring the area into compliance through park development. Provence Park was funded \$225K this year, in which TPL would like it if money could be allocated towards creative strategist work.
 - b. Alton Park Connector is also a TPL project with multiple phases for multiple purposes.
11. Staff shared that the FY23 AIC budget is \$200,000, which is the lowest amount since the City started funding public art through capital improvement projects.
12. Staff suggests allocating \$24,000 for creative strategist work for the two aforementioned projects.
13. Staff reminded the Commission that \$87,000 was allocated towards Lynnbrook Park in FY20 for a sculpture and markers. Given inflation costs, Staff suggests increasing the project budget to \$100,000, as the budget is all inclusive and should allow for site security, landscaping and lighting if desired, but the current budget is tight. The Commission discusses alternate amounts and recommends increasing the project budget to \$115,000.

14. Discussion ensued on increasing the amount for the Station 15 project, but it was decided against at this time.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS VOTE TO APPROVE ART IN CAPITAL PROJECTS FY23

ALLOCATIONS AS FOLLOWS:

- \$12,000 for creative strategist for Alton Park Connector
- \$12,000 for creative strategist for Province Park
- \$28,000 to supplement Lynnbrook Park to bring project budget to \$115,000
- \$148,000 remain undesignated to be used as needed over the course of FY23

V. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

A. "The Scramble" - Water Chamber Lids

1. All of the water chamber lids were refabricated to support an increase of 600 pounds static weight early this year.
2. As the water chambers were fabricated with sandstone, they are susceptible to cracking. The lips on the chamber lids are starting to crumble as well.
3. The design was approved and permitted for construction, but has had failures of the water chamber elements since it was installed in April 2021.
4. This project is located on CDRC property.
5. Donation agreement was approved by the City Council in November 2021, but has not been executed due to the repairs needed.
6. As the installation is not yet owned by the City, River City Company is financially responsible for the repairs.

B. Chestnut Street Mural Deaccession

1. The mural was located on private property, but was repeatedly tagged prompting the owner to want it removed from the property.
2. While the conservation report indicated that the mural was on parachute cloth, Staff and a conservator discovered that the mural was painted on Tyvek building installation when they attempted to steam the cloth off the brick wall as they would if it was painted on parachute cloth.
3. Tyvek is normally used as insulation in construction, and with it adhered to crumbling mortar and brick, it would not be wise to attempt to remove it.

4. Staff showed the property owner the condition of the brick and recommended that they try not to remove the tyvek, but simply paint over the mural.
5. The property owner agreed to this, and worked with the conservator to select a paint color. The conservator will go back in a few weeks and apply an anti-graffiti sealant to aid in protecting the wall.
6. Staff said that the agreement with the property owner to paint over the mural also releases the City from any liability should the building get tagged again, which may be likely due to the lack of lighting on the property.

C. Ed Johnson Memorial Bronze Repairs

1. A conservator performed spot patina onsite one of the main bronze sculptures due to the word "love" scratched into the surface.
2. Artist Jerome Meadows abandoned the bronze molds at a local warehouse, so Staff removed them and stored them elsewhere in case recasting one of the main sculptures is needed.
3. Staff is working with Meadows to develop a contract amendment to address maintenance and conservation. The amendment allows Meadows 14 days after notification to indicate whether he would like to be contracted separately to perform repairs.
4. If so, he would then have 60 days to complete the repairs. If a response is not given within 14 days, or he does not wish to conduct the repairs, the City will have the right use the molds and contract with a local fabricator to recast them accordingly.
5. Staff said that the molds will deteriorate over time, but that given this early vandalism, is a valuable resource to address repairs of this significant monument in a timely fashion.