



CHATTANOOGA PUBLIC ART COMMISSION DECEMBER 2023 | MINUTES

Thursday, December 21, 2023 / 1PM - 3PM
JB Collins Conference Room / City Council Building

PRESENT: Timothy Goldsmith (Chair), Angie To (Vice Chair), Jonathan Dean, Valerie Smith, Dixon Stetler, Matthew Stovall, Lindsey Willke

STAFF: Carmen Davis, Senior Director, Office of Arts, Culture and Creative Economy; Austin Center, Collection Management Specialist

CITY ADVISORY: Harolda Bryson (Legal)

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Approval of October 2023 Minutes (Commissioner Goldsmith)
- Motion was made by Commissioner Dean. Second by Commissioner Stetler. Unanimous approval.

II. REVIEW AND DISCUSS

- A. Project Updates (Carmen Davis)
- *Moonrise* (Marc Fornes) - The work has been completed, and the fence has been removed. It has officially been turned over to the Public Art Collection and added to the website. The work is easy to maintain in that it is constructed of numbered pieces. If a piece has an issue, it can be removed and replaced. It is located at the Wheland Foundry Trailhead entrance to the Riverpark, behind Crust Pizza on Broad Street. We are planning on having an opening event in the spring, most likely two events - one geared towards families and one towards adults.
 - Chattanooga Skate Park - The design has changed slightly. We

have decided to incorporate the artistic element within the design for the skatepark, possibly the top of the bathroom building. There is representation from the Commission on the panel, as well as City staff Austin Center and Blythe Bailey and project manager Katelyn Kirnie.

- MLK Underpass (Cecilia Lueza) - Movement has been made. We received feedback from City engineers and from Norfolk Southern. We are going to submit another technical plan to address concerns around the lights - currently they shoot up, and they want them to shoot down. We had to inform Norfolk Southern of the company that we plan to use to pressure wash, and they provided feedback. They did send us a bill for this as they consider it consulting work. Hoping to move forward when we get the final approval and have installation complete by the end of 2024. A new contract needs to be done with the artist because we are outside the scope of the original contract. We have also given her additional financial support.

III. REVIEW AND DISCUSS

A. Collection Updates (Austin Center)

- The focus has been on making sure that all the pieces have been cataloged. There are a number of gifts from sister cities that still need cataloging. All outdoor works have been cataloged, and maintenance reports have been created for works that might need maintenance in the future.
- The next step is creating a priority list and creating maintenance plans for those works.
- The spreadsheet is organized by insured value or purchase price. The top 25 works, seen as signature pieces, need to be put on a maintenance schedule or brought back up to artist specs.
- We need to make considerations such as balancing the cost of the work with the cost of getting it back to good condition. We also need to consider what it will look like when works are removed and make sure that there is some art remaining. For example, a number of pieces on Glass Street are in poor condition, and we need to consider what to deaccession and what to leave in place.
- *Volumes* at the Library may have issues with drainage. We have to get electricians and plumbers to assess to determine next steps.
- All bronze pieces have been assessed for conservation. Ed

Johnson Memorial does not need cleaning and waxing until 2025. *Policeman's Memorial* needs to be refurbished and will cost \$5,999. *Four Seasons* are in need of waxing and cleaning. A quote has been submitted to Purchasing, and we are waiting on approval. Waxing needs to be ideally done every one to two years.

- *Chattanooga Music Man* - Pedestal should be removed early January.
- Carmen Davis adds that we are going to continue to focus on maintenance for the next year as opposed to bringing on new projects, unless they are already underway. We want to get the collection to where it needs to be.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- A. Audit (Carmen Davis) - After a conversation with the legal department, the recommendation is to come back to the Commission with proposed changes.
- Public Art Work Plan - Auditor had this confused with the 2019 strategic plan. The last time a work plan was done was August 2022. We will get back into the cycle of annual work plans in August of next year.
 - Entrepreneurial Financial Structure - This is about the desire to offer consulting services to other entities for a fee. Recommending that this be removed from the ordinance, as we don't have the bandwidth or certifications to offer this type of service as of now.
 - Percentage Funds for Public Art and Maintenance - Auditor did not understand our budget or processes. We do have a separate fund for maintenance. There were no new projects that required us to go before the budget process and ask for a separate fund. This has been corrected.
 - Inventory - Meeting with Risk Management. We will need to figure out the fixed asset listing. The only list we keep is for insurance purposes.
 - Art Budget - Ordinance does not reflect current budget processes for the City. We need to acknowledge that this process can change from administration to administration.
 - Elections - We did not do this in February, which is required per the bylaws. We will have them in our next meeting in February.
 - Policies and Procedures - The new manager of public art will handle this after starting at the end of January.

- Credit Card Charges - Things were not coded correctly. This has been amended.
- B. Luminous Light Masts - An appraisal was done by Elizabeth Ruffner. She certified the piece at \$600,000. We have had conversations with finance, legal and risk management around next steps. If we sell the piece at auction, the funds can be dedicated to another piece that goes on the riverfront. Nothing has been solidified yet. The artist is not interested in buying the piece back. We met with CDRC (Chattanooga Downtown Redevelopment Corporation), part owners of the piece, to discuss the work. They had some light concerns, so we are having a light assessment done.
- C. Commissioner Terms - We have two commissioners (Cole and Willke) that have terms ending February of next year. We also have two commissioners (Tessema and Wiley) who have missed the maximum number of meetings. Therefore we potentially have four vacancies.
- D. Public Art Manager - Waiting for HR to notify the candidates not selected before announcing the name of the candidate, but I will share projects that this person was involved with in Arlington, DC and Chattanooga. New Manager will start January 26 and will be at the February meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 1:42 pm.