



## CHATTANOOGA PUBLIC ART COMMISSION

Thursday, June 27, 2024, 1:00 - 3:00 PM

City Council Building | J.B. Collins Conference Room

### MINUTES

**PRESENT:** Timothy Goldsmith, Chair; Courtney Cochran; Dixon Stetler; Jonathan Dean; Sydney Smith; Valerie Smith; Matthew Stovall

**STAFF:** Carmen Davis, Senior Director, Office of Arts, Culture and Creative Economy; Elizabeth Carriger, Manager, Public Art Chattanooga; Austin Center, Collection Management Specialist; Harolda Bryson, City Attorney

- I. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 1:05 pm
  - A. **Introductions:** New Commissioner Sydney Smith introduces herself.
  - B. **Approval of April 2024 Minutes:** Motion made by Commissioner Cochran. Second by Commissioner Dean. Unanimous approval.

#### II. Policies and Procedures

##### A. Graffiti Abatement/Community Beautification:

- Elizabeth Carriger provides initiative background and an overview of the guidelines, which were created out of the desire for Parks & Outdoors to address graffiti by engaging community members to paint simple designs to cover graffiti covered areas.
- Because these projects did not originate from public art and do not follow our process; we wanted to create some guidelines around them to help ensure that they are not perceived as public art as well as to provide some execution guidance.
- Staff have agreed that the best path for these projects is for them to be presented to the department's internal design review committee that meets monthly. The Public Art Manager serves on that committee and will be briefed on initiatives and ensure that Commissioners are informed as well.

### III. Projects

A. **Updates:** Elizabeth shares the following project updates:

1. **Unearthing Boldness at Blue Goose Hollow:** Artist Rondell Crier is putting finishing touches on the work, and it is being dedicated this evening. The project was conceived to celebrate and honor Black history in Chattanooga by highlighting American Blues Singer and famed Chattanooga, Bessie Smith, as well as to commemorate her life in historic Blue Goose Hollow, a neighborhood that was erased by urban renewal. We plan on doing more programming around the work when the weather cools off.
2. **Lynnbrook Park:** The new park in the Oak Grove neighborhood is near completion and will likely be dedicated in late July. We are still working through our process of soliciting artists and are closer to resolution. Once that has been resolved, a call to artists will be released.

B. **New Projects:** Elizabeth shares information on the following new projects:

1. **CARTA Art on the Bus Project / Art in Motion:** The project will involve installing original artwork on the interior of a CARTA bus as part of the Art in Motion series of collaborations with CARTA. We are in the process of ironing out all the details of piloting the program.
2. **Baseball Stadium:** We have been engaged to be involved with the new stadium. Around \$94K of capital funds have been earmarked for Public Art. Due to the size of the project, we are working on identifying additional funding for a more robust project budget. I had an initial meeting with the Public Works project manager to discuss opportunity areas. Next month we will meet with Stakeholders from Sports Authority Board, Lookouts, Perimeter Properties (property owner), and New City Properties (Master Planner / Developer). They are planning to break ground in August and deliver in spring 2026.
3. **Walnut Street Bridge Closure/Veterans Bridge Activations:** Plans are underway for Walnut Street Bridge to close March 2025 for restoration. Public art was asked to be part of efforts to activate the expanded pedestrian walkway on Veterans Bridge. The artwork will be focused on activating plastic jersey barriers and will

potentially also include additional wayfinding elements.

#### IV. Collections Management

A. Updates: Austin Center shares the following updates:

1. *Dreamy*: The works were sandblasted and repainted with marine grade paint.
2. *Policeman's Memorial*: A bronze conservator restored the works. A portion of an area damaged by uric acid was painted.
3. *From Whence Cometh My Help?*: Austin repaired the broken wooden hat.
4. *Antique Truck*: Brick repaired by original mason who helped create the works.
5. *Storyteller Grouping*: A loose drum was reattached by Austin.
6. *The Scramble*: The lids of the elements have continued to have issues due to the way they were cast. New lid supports are being installed next month. The project was managed and is still owned by River City Company with the intent of eventually turning it over to the city. The landscaping is intended to be natural looking with native species. Education materials need to be created about this intent. Commissioner Stovall offered to review original plans and make sure that the plantings are still as intended.
7. *Volumes*: A working group met to discuss the future of the plaza with the fountain elements being deactivated. Interim solutions were discussed as well as the need for a long term vision for the site.
8. *The Passage - Stickball Players*: Due to rainwater run off, the metal elements are deteriorating. We are looking at plans to have the figures recut and reinstalled with a spacer between the metal and the wall. The artist who designed the works has passed, thus we have connected with two other original members of the artist team, Bill and Demos Glass. The hope is to have the work done by the Trail of Tears conference mid-October.
9. *The Main Terrain*: The path between the park and the Food City was created without our knowledge.
10. Donation to the Collection - H. Dan Jackson Sculptures: Duncan Restoration has provided quotes to repair the works to the donor for review

Commissioner Dean motioned to adjourn the meeting. Second by Commissioner Stetler. All in favor..