



CHATTANOOGA PUBLIC ART COMMISSION

Thursday, October 24, 2024, 1:00 - 3:00 PM

City Council Building | J.B. Collins Conference Room

MINUTES

PRESENT: Timothy Goldsmith, Chair; Ian-Alijah Bey; Nandini Makrandi; Ryan Kopet; Sydney Smith; Dixon Stetler; Matthew Stovall

GUESTS: Dawn Hjelseth, Vice President of Marketing & Communication, River City Company

STAFF: Elizabeth Carriger, Manager, Public Art Chattanooga; Harolda Bryson, City Attorney

- I. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 1:01 PM.
 - A. Introductions
 - B. Approval of August 22, 2024 Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Kopet. Second by Commissioner Bey. Unanimous approval.

II. Partnership Project - River City MLK Banner Design

- Dawn Hjelseth of River City Company presents the selected banner design for the MLK district by Derek Morgan. The banners serve as placemaking elements and highlight features of the area. New banners will be celebrated on November 21, 2024 at the Grateful event.

III. Policies & Procedures

A. Ordinance Update:

- Elizabeth Carriger reports that she has been continuing to work through the public art procurement process with City Attorney Harolda Bryson and Debbie Tally, Director of Purchasing. The issue is that we don't have the authority to run the solicitations process in a manner that aligns with best practices in the public art field. Artists for projects over \$50K must be

solicited through competitive sealed proposals and everything must run through purchasing including distributing the call.

- The solution that we have discussed is building language into the ordinance that would give us the authority and flexibility.

B. Guidelines: Guidelines that outline the art selection process and other processes are crucial, and we don't want to lose sight of them. Previous program administrators started the draft and Elizabeth is picking it back up.

IV. Projects

A. Project Updates:

1. Walnut Street Bridge Closure/Veterans Bridge Activations

- As shared in the August meeting, we engaged public art consultant Meridith McKinley of Via Partnership to provide project support and conduct an invitational competition with artists identified that can meet the aggressive timeline and have experience with similar projects. 15 artists were invited to submit applications and 7 applied. Artists who did not apply cited timeline issues.
- A kickoff meeting was held this morning to introduce the project to the selection committee. On Monday, October 28 the committee will be meeting again to select 1 to 3 artists to interview. Once the artist is selected, we will work quickly to get them under contract and here for a site visit. Dixon Stetler is serving on the selection committee as the CPAC representative.
- At the December meeting, we will have the artwork design proposal to share with you.

2. Stadium

- We have been able to expand the project budget with the addition of \$250K more to add to the original allocation of \$94K.
- Harolda Bryson adds that the bond agreement has been finalized.

3. One Westside

- A \$50 million HUD grant has been awarded to the redevelopment of the Westside community with \$850 allocated for public art. The initial grant application identified the James A. Henry School which will be a community hub and the Hwy 27 underpass as being the focus for public art.
- HUD came to Chattanooga for a site visit and meetings last month.
- An upcoming workshop for staff leads will provide more clarity on the timeline and flow of funds. A plan is due to HUD next year.

4. **Art in Motion - CARTA:** We have been waiting on the approval to utilize CaFÉ (Call for Entry) as an application management platform before launching the project. The approval process for CaFÉ has been completed. Once the contract has been executed, we will be able to use the platform for projects under \$50K.

5. **Lynnbrook Park:**

- The park was completed and dedicated at the end of this summer. For various reasons the public art process was delayed. Elizabeth visited the park with Parks Planner Blythe Bailey to discuss opportunity areas. Original opportunity areas identified have changed and are no longer good potential locations for public art. It is also a very activated park with a number of design elements. We don't want to force public art if there are other opportunities within the community. Elizabeth needs to do some additional research and come back to the Commission.

B. New Project:

1. **Bloomberg Asphalt Art Grant:** We are exploring applying for a transportation project on McCallie at UTC campus to create safer crosswalks. Application deadline January 2024.

V. Collections Management

A. Updates:

1. **Rhino Pull Toy:** Conservation work complete with repairs made to the copper skin and repainted. Worked with artist Ray Padron.
2. **Scatter & Star Light, Star Bright:** Austin is in the process of soliciting three painting quotes.
3. **Stickball Players at The Passage:** We are in the process of digitizing the figures so that they can be recut.
4. **Bronze Sculptures:** Cleaning will take place in November by Davis Restoration.
5. **Volumes / Library Plaza:** We engaged Elizabeth Ruffner to conduct an appraisal and assessment of *Volumes* as well as the remaining sculptural elements from the 1970s by Geoffrey Naylor. Meeting with the Library next week to discuss the future of the plaza - interim plan and five year plan.

VI. Outreach & Education

- A. **Mural Walking Tour w/ Hunter Museum:** Scheduled for November 2, 2024. Registration is full.

B. Sign Program: Developing a phased plan to replace public art signs starting with a prioritized list of 25 permanent outdoor works.

The meeting adjourned at 1:44 PM.

Next Meeting: December 12, 2024, 1:00 - 3:00 PM