



CHATTANOOGA PUBLIC ART COMMISSION
***Wednesday, January 22, 2025, 1:00 - 3:00 PM**
(Rescheduled Meeting from December 12, 2024)
City Council Building | J.B. Collins Conference Room

MINUTES

PRESENT: Courtney Cochran, Timothy Goldsmith, Jules Jackson, Ryan Kopet, Sydney Smith, Valerie Smith, Dixon Stetler, Angie To

GUESTS: D.W. Gram, Connie Roberts, Lisa Houser, AJ Azike

STAFF: Carmen Davis, Harolda Bryson, Austin Center

- I. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 1:06 on
 - A. Introductions - Welcome new Commissioner Jules Jackson
 - B. Approval of October 24, 2024 Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Dixon, Second by Commissioner To. Motion Approved.

II. Policies & Procedures

A. For Vote:

Temporary CPAC Public Comment Guidelines - Harolda Bryson shared that as Public Art Chattanooga continues to establish its policies and procedures, including for the conducting of business at the Public Art Commission meetings, we need to establish rules for public comments made at the Commission meetings..

The proposed rules shared with you last week are based on the rules used by City Council and are temporary until Public Art staff can finish working with legal to finalize a more detailed draft of public comment rules that we will be presenting to you all for vote and adoption in the near future.

Motion made by Commissioner Dixon, Second by Commissioner Cochran. Motion Approved.

B. Updates:

1. CPAC Ordinance

Draft revisions have been made to the ordinance to give PAC the authority to handle procurement processes. Giving the program the ability to do things in a

manner that aligns with best practices in the field for solicitations. Next steps are to go through internal review and vetting. We hope to bring the revisions to the CPAC at the next meeting or this spring.

III. Projects

A. *For Vote:*

Walnut Street Bridge Closure/Veterans Bridge Activations - Ebony Bolt Concept Design - Carmen Davis provided an overview of the Veterans Bridge Detour Public Art Activation, including project details, goals, and implementation plans. With the upcoming closure of the Walnut Street Bridge for renovations in March, the City is implementing a safe detour by converting a vehicular lane on Veterans Bridge into a protected pedestrian and cyclist pathway using physical barriers.

The Mayor's Office tasked the team with activating this detour through public art, focusing on the enhanced multi-use path across Veterans Bridge and its approach areas. The goals of this activation include creating an engaging experience for pedestrians and cyclists, improving connectivity between downtown and Northshore, providing wayfinding elements through text, symbols, and visual cues, encouraging visits to Northshore businesses, and incorporating elements of discovery to enhance the experience.

Given the tight timeline, the City collaborated with public art consultant Via Partnership to identify artists through an invitational competition. As a result, Ebony Bolt, a New York-based artist known for her vibrant, community-inspired prints and experience with transportation-focused activations, was selected. Ebony visited Chattanooga in December to engage with the community, meet local business owners, and gather inspiration for her design.

Her proposal features four distinct themes—**Shopping, Recreation, Nature, and the Arts District**—woven into a repeating black-and-white pattern that will be applied to the barriers using printed corrugated plastic with high-tack adhesive. Additionally, her design may be incorporated into pamphlets with crossword puzzles or scavenger hunts to further engage the public.

Next steps include implementing the design on the Veterans Bridge barriers and continuing coordination to ensure the project aligns with community and city goals.

Motion made by Commissioner Cochran, Second by Commissioner Dixon. Motion Approved.

Unearthing Boldness by Rondell Crier - Accepting into the Collection - Rondell Crier installed the sculpture last year. With the completion of final touches, it is ready to be accepted into the collection through a donation agreement with Bessie Smith Cultural Center.

The sculpture celebrates and honors 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.

Motion made by Commissioner Dixon, Second by Commissioner Cochran. Motion Approved.

B. Project Updates:

- **Walnut Street Bridge Closure/Veterans Bridge Activations**

Second phase elements coming for the Walnut Street Bridge Closure

Mural:

Along the retaining wall of the ramp that connects Vets Bridge to Riverfront Parkway. Hope to be a local call to artists.

Sculpture

A temporary sculpture for the sculpture pad at the downtown end of Walnut Street Bridge. Working with MSA - regional call to artists.

- **One Westside**

Final Proposal submitted to HUD for the Choice Neighborhoods Grant. Once approved, will enable funding to start flowing. Public Art slated for the James A Henry Building Community Hub - mural. Potential sculpture elements around the Hub. Activating the Hwy 27 underpass.

- **Art in Motion - CARTA**

Project to bring original art onto a CARTA bus in the spaces normally used for advertising. Hope to be a local call. Call to Artists is being reviewed by CARTA. We will be ready to release it with the approval of CAFE - Call for Entry - an application platform that we can use for projects under \$50K. Hoping to create a user-friendly experience, address low application rates, open artists up to other possibilities.

Hold training.

- **Potential New Project:**

TAC Placemaking Grant - City Stages - Grant to create asphalt art stages in five locations around the city.

IV. Collections Management

A. Updates:

1. Bronze Sculptures (*High Four, 4 Seasons, Casey Standing, Art Cats, Cherokee*) - Cleaned
2. *Black & White* - Repainted
3. *Scatter, Star Light, Star Bright, Geometry in a Box* - Upcoming
4. *Luminous Light Masts and Volumes / Library Plaza* - Ongoing

5. *The Scramble*

V. CPAC Business:

- A.** Carmen Davis - updated the Commission on Elizabeth Carriger's departure and there are plans to hire a replacement.
- B.** 2025 Meeting Dates - Notified CPAC that that commission will meet 04/24/2025, 06/26/2025, 08/28/2025, 10/23/2025 and 12/11/2025
- C.** Chair and Vice Chair Positions - staff made the commission aware that in the February 27, 2025 meeting the commission will elect both a Chair and Vice Chair.

VI. Public Comment

Meeting Adjourned: 1:45 pm

Motion made by Commissioner Dixon, Second by Commissioner To.