



## CHATTANOOGA PUBLIC ART COMMISSION

### February 2019 | MINUTES

Thursday, February 21, 2019, 1:15PM - 3:15PM

@ City Council Conference Room

**PRESENT:** Ellen Simak (Chair), Matthew Dutton, Roger Halligan, Charlotte Caldwell, Dan Bowers, Dionne Jenkins, Lindsey Willke, Virginia Sharber

**STAFF:** Katelyn Kirnie (Director), Kat Wright (Program Coordinator), Justin Steinmann (Strategic Capital Planning Manager)

- I. Welcome and Call to Order: Ellen Simak
- II. Motion made to approve minutes, passed.

#### ITEMS FOR VOTE:

##### **A. Randy Walker | "RE: Pete" Tatum Park-Final Concept**

Staff presented "RE: Pete (or Regarding Pete)" for final concept design approval. The sculpture was developed after Walker conducted site visits in September and November 2018, culminating in a selection panel presentation via Skype on February 5. The piece is inspired by the strong connections that Highland Park residents share, which is embodied joyfully by an itinerant peacock, Pete, who has made Highland Park his home. "RE: Pete" celebrates color, pattern and connection by reinterpreting elements of a peacock into a work of interactive art as a focal point for Tatum Park. The original project budget was set at \$45,000; however, Walker did provide a lighting option with the design which will impact the budget for the fixtures and additional costs for running power to the site and fixture installation. The selection panel favored integrating lighting into the sculpture. The sculpture's geometry, central location and colors also suggest ways to further develop the surrounding park by re-painting picnic pavilion columns to match sculpture colors and integrating raised garden beds and concrete pavers, not included within the current budget. It was recommended by one Commission member to add the cost of replacement lights into the budget.

**Vote:** CPAC voted unanimously to approve the final concept design, "RE: Pete" with the lighting option.

## REVIEW & DISCUSSION:

### A. 2019 Public Art Strategic Plan

Staff confirmed that the 2019 Public Art Strategic Plan was accepted by City Council on February 12, 2019 in an 8-1 vote. Staff clarified terms of the resolution amendment that was added and adopted, “subject to certain conditions”. Essentially, this emphasizes that at this juncture, they are not adopting all policies within the plan and each policy will need to be individually advanced, including the proposed 2% for art budget. The Council’s concerns were primarily regarding the budget implications, and the dialogue during the Council presentation was for the most part, engaging and positive. Council will need to be kept abreast of projects in their respective districts, and advocacy will be a key component of CPAC’s role going forward.

### B. FY20 Capital Projects Overview

#### with Strategic Capital Planning Manager, Justin Steinmann

Staff introduced the Capital Planning Manager to review the city-wide budgeting Process and discuss how public art funds will be calculated and designated based on recommendations from the 2019 Public Art Strategic Plan. Public Art staff will be included on the Capital review team for the BFO process and identify potential projects that correlate with public art strategic plan priorities including Parks, Greenways, major transportation corridors and public service facilities. As some of the proposed capital projects will not be funded, we will not be able to determine the exact 2% amount available for public art until later in the budget process. Staff will present recommended projects and funding amounts at the April meeting for CPAC approval. The final public art budget will be included in the overall City Budget for Council approval in May.

PAC Staff worked with the Capital Planning Manager to narrow down the list of projects for consideration to approximately 30 from the initial 140 Capital Projects submitted. The Capital Planning Manager provided a brief overview of each project and CPAC asked questions and discussed the feasibility and impact of integrating public art. CPAC discussed interest in funding projects in areas that lack public art and suggested that the City’s public art dollars be focused on underserved areas rather than downtown. CPAC suggested PAC staff pursue partnerships and private funding to initiate important projects in downtown areas like the 3rd & 4th Street Corridor.

### C. New CPAC Appointments

Staff reviewed a short list of highly qualified potential appointments to the Chattanooga Public Art Commission (CPAC). Current CPAC members were asked to provide input by anonymously voting for their top three choices to fill the current vacancies. Appointments will be finalized by the Mayor and then confirmed by City Council in March.

## UPDATES:

### **A. ELLA Chattanooga + East Lake Public Art**

ELLA Chattanooga has been selected to lead creative engagement for the East Lake Public Art Project. Their contract should be finalized in the coming weeks. They are slated to host/produce six creative engagement activities and events in East Lake over the course of six months to create a collective vision and outline the scope for a future public art project in their neighborhood. The first engagement activity will be “Sound of Clean” which will include a series of neighborhood clean up days, culminating in a fabricated, found object, musical sculpture and performance.

### **B. City Artist Role**

Originally intended to be a contract consultant, the City Artist role is now a part time, temporary position with the City based on recommendations from the City’s HR and Purchasing departments. The position will be posted to PAC’s website and the City’s job’s page as soon as possible. The Footprint Foundation is generously funding the Mentorship component of the program which will allow the City Artist to be paired with an artist mentor who will both compliment and broaden their skill set.

## GRATITUDE:

Staff expressed gratitude to outgoing commission members, Dan Bowers, Heidi Hefferlin and Rondell Crier for their years of service to the City and Public Art Chattanooga.