

CITY OF RALEIGH ARTS COMMISSION
Tuesday, June 10, 2014
5:30 p.m., Room 303

Present: Chanda Branch, Joe Cebina, Laurent de Comarmond, Gene Davis, Andy Martin, Nancy Novell and Sarah Powers

Absent: Joanne Casey, Jason Craighead, Linda Dallas, Clyde Lundy and Stan Williams

Staff: Jerry Bolas, Executive Director, Office of Raleigh Arts
Kim Curry-Evans, Public Art Coordinator, Office of Raleigh Arts
Rosemary Holland, Communications Coordinator, Office of Raleigh Arts
Scott Payne, Assistant Director, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department
Gillian Suss, Consulting Registrar, Office of Raleigh Arts

Call to Order

Vice Chair Nancy Novell called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions

Vice Chair Novell welcomed new Commissioner Chanda Branch and invited her to introduce herself to the group. Commissioners and staff then introduced themselves.

Revision to Agenda

No revisions to agenda noted.

Discussion Items

Raleigh Arts Plan Update

Jerry updated the Commissioners as follows: City Council is due to approve contract negotiations with the Cultural Planning Group (CPG) next week; a contract will be circulated for approval immediately, a process that may take up to a month or more. The Raleigh Arts Plan will officially launch (hopefully) in mid-July; the steering committee will be discussed at the July 8 CORAC meeting. Volunteers will be solicited to help with intercept surveys for events during September starting with the African-American Cultural Festival over Labor Day. CPG's first site visit is tentatively scheduled for August 19-20. In the meantime, Kim Curry-Evans, Sarah Corrin and Jerry Bolas will informally meet with the CPG team in Nashville at the Americans for the Arts Convention.

Municipal Art Collection Report

Consulting Registrar Gillian Suss reviewed her work over the past two years, including the number of objects inventoried, photographed, and entered into the database (about 550); the implementation of a numbering system that meets museum standards; and the continuing development of draft policies being discussed by the Art, Education and Collections Committee (e.g., numbering and acquisition policies). She reviewed special projects she has supported including the Q-Art Code project; a project in Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources to use GIS mapping to increase the accessibility of public art; and a series of audio tours by Arts Access for the sight impaired. She has also supported Block Gallery exhibitions with condition reports and

other help. Gillian reviewed works of art that have conserved over the past two years and showed images of Mike Roig working on *Glimpses of the Promised Land* at Chavis Park, Harry McDaniel working on *Red Bird* at Fletcher Park, and Adam Walls cleaning and painting *Toy Defense* at Pullen Park. She noted that a group of fragile pastels by Susan Toplikar have also been conserved.

Gillian then previewed the forthcoming on-line access to the Municipal Art Collection she has developed that is hosted by PastPerfect (the current provider of collection management software). She noted that the City's public art collection is first group of objects that will be accessible on-line, and she demonstrated various features including alphabetic and thematic searches and links back to the City's website. All Commissioners agreed this was a major step forward for providing accessibility to the City's Municipal Art Collection and applauded Suss for her accomplishments.

Raleigh Arts Advocacy Presentation

Jerry noted that the advocacy presentation has several uses: Commissioners and staff may use it to respond to requests from community groups. In the near term, it will be used to introduce Raleigh Arts to the Cultural Planning Group as they undertake initial research for the Raleigh Arts Plan and, subsequently, the presentation will be used to introduce various groups convened as part of the planning process.

Sarah Powers extemporaneously narrated the presentation and conveyed its exciting message. Particular slides that aroused enthusiasm included those depicting SPARKcon's street painting festival on Fayetteville Street ("Raleigh's Main Street"); the economic impact of non-profit arts documented by Americans for the Arts (\$143 million total spending; almost 6,000 jobs); the extraordinary success of Commission grants to organizations like PineCone (the Piedmont Council for Traditional Music), one of the prime movers bringing the IBMA conference to Raleigh; the popularity of projects like the *Before I Die...* wall; and the success of the relatively new Half-Percent for Art program as seen in the project at Wilder's Grove, which was substantially crowd-sourced for its construction.

Action Items

Bland Hoke's IBMA Public Art Final Design Concept

Kim Curry-Evans reviewed Hoke's design concept. Sarah Powers, who chaired the IBMA artist selection panel, noted that Hoke had pushed the preliminary design into a much more dynamic direction. Gene Davis, who participated along with Sarah in a conference call with Bland Hoke during the Art, Education and Collections Committee meeting, observed that the design now exceeded his expectations. There was agreement that Hoke's design, which utilizes some of the 504 banjo necks and 148 banjo pots he received from Deering Banjo in California, is now more sculptural. Kim noted that Hoke evolved the design address infrastructure for a stage, encourage social media, and structural integrity during a hurricane.

Kim reviewed scenarios for the piece after IBMA, including repurposing the parts into a new piece the Earl Scruggs Center in Shelby, NC or at Deering Banjo in California, or storing the piece for reuse in Raleigh. The consensus was that Hoke should be asked to advance his design with an eye towards storage and reuse in Raleigh, while it was noted that this option does not preclude future repurposing elsewhere. Plans for lighting the piece are being developed more simply than originally proposed.

Gene moved that the final design be approved and that the artist be asked to design for future storage and reuse in Raleigh, Laurent de Comarmond seconded, and the motion passed.

Proposed Acquisitions

Sarah Powers reviewed the five proposed acquisitions for the Municipal Art Collection:

Joyce Watkins King, *Islands*, 2012, encaustic and paper on panel, 24" x 24"
Cindy Morefield, *Reservoir 8*, 2010, acrylic, charcoal, metal leaf on panel, 24" x 24"
Stacy Bloom Rexrode, *Untitled*, 2011, oil and decoupage on canvas, 30" x 38"
Ryan Cummings, *Raleigh Nocturne*, 2014, and *Our Downtown*, 2014, signed giclee prints, each 20" x 40"

Gene Davis moved acquisition of the five objects for the Municipal Art Collection, Sarah seconded, and the motion passed.

Election of Officers

Sarah Powers presented the slate developed by the Nominations Committee, which included Linda Dallas and Jason Craighead:

Chair: Clyde Lundy
Vice Chair: Nancy Novell.

Sarah moved election of the slate, Gene Davis seconded, and Chair Lundy and Vice Chair Novell were elected by acclamation.

Committee & Board Reports

Executive Committee

None.

Advocacy & Communications:

Andy Martin reported that Artspllosure was great fun, that the *Before I Die....* wall attracted lots of interaction, and thanked Commissioners for participating in the event.

Andy also reported that he had served on the artist selection panel for Fire Station 12 (near the Transit Center on Poole Road). The field of about 15 submissions was narrowed down to three finalists and one alternate, which Linda Noble, chair of the panel, will present to the Public Art and Design Board for approval.

Art, Education and Collections Committee

No report other than the items discussed above.

Grants Committee

Joe Cebina reported that City Council had received the recommended grant allocations, and Jerry reported that the City Council had passed the budget the previous day, so the allocations will be funded as recommended. Joe noted that grantees already have been notified of the Commission's preliminary recommendations. He reported that Sarah Corrin is working on the capacity building

program for grantees, and that the Grants Committee will meet in July after Linda Dallas returns from Prague.

Public Art & Design Board

Laurent de Comarmond reported that two outgoing board members were recognized at the May meeting, Carter Worthy and Rory Parnell. Kathleen Rieder and Laurent, who will serve as CORAC liaison, are the two new board members. David Dahlquist and Justin Platts, the artists selected for Hillsborough Street Phase 2, have met with the project team in Raleigh. Chris Fennell, project artist for Halifax Park, will be unable to complete his work in time for the June 25 dedication, though he is expected to complete the work later in the summer.

Executive Director Report

Jerry Bolas reported that Sharon Coleman-Bullock, administrative assistant, is out of the office indefinitely in accordance with the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA).

Jerry applauded the success of the recent Ignite Creativity Conference organized by Sarah Powers and her team at VAE. Among other activities, an Ignite panel discussion on Saturday included Kim Curry-Evans. The keynote address by Courtney Hammond and Beth Malone, co-founders of the Dashboard Co-op in Atlanta, was especially exciting and relevant. Dashboard is an experimental curatorial project that activates vacant properties with art exhibitions that stimulate reassessment of neighborhood assets and economic development.

Scott Payne reported that next week City Council will discuss a bond for the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources department to implement projects identified in the Park System Plan recently adopted by City Council. Council has already indicated an appetite for a bond that could include about \$92 million of projects. Most of the projects address deferred maintenance and renovations. Included among the proposed projects is \$6 million for renovations or new construction at the Pullen Arts Center. The decision as to which option to pursue would be based on a feasibility study undertaken if the project is funded by a bond issue.

Public Comments

None

New/Other Business

With no further business or discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm

Submitted by Jerry Bolas