

CITY OF RALEIGH ARTS COMMISSION
Tuesday, August 12, 2014
5:30 p.m., Room 303

Present: Chanda Branch, Laurent de Comarmond, Jason Craighead, Gene Davis, Linda Dallas, Clyde Lundy, Andy Martin, Joanne Sullivan and Stan Williams

Absent: Joe Cebina, Nancy Novell and Sarah Powers

Staff: Jerry Bolas, Executive Director, Office of Raleigh Arts
Scott Payne, Assistant Director, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department
Cassie Schumacher-Georgopoulos, Senior Planner, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department

Call to Order

Chair Clyde Lundy called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Lundy welcomed Cassie Schumacher-Georgopoulos, co-project manager of the Raleigh Arts Plan, to the meeting and invited Commissioners to introduce themselves.

Approval of July 8 Minutes

Chair Lundy invited review of the minutes of the July 8 meeting. Gene Davis moved and Jason Craighead seconded approval of the minutes as presented, and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion Items

Raleigh Arts Plan Update

Cassie Schumacher-Georgopoulos reported on progress identifying a steering committee. About 100 names have been submitted for a committee projected to comprise about 25 members. After staff completes a preliminary screening, Clyde Lundy, Clymer Cease and Sarah Powers will meet to draft a final list of nominees for City Council appointment on September 2. She also mentioned that there will be many ways for participation in the arts planning process, including one-on-one interviews, focus group discussions led by CPG, and Community Conversations organized by volunteers, so we expect to involve in one way or another all of those nominated for the steering committee.

Plans are developing for the first site visit of the Cultural Planning Group (CPG) on September 15 and 16. A joint meeting of the Arts Commission and Public Art and Design Board with CPG is scheduled for Monday, September 15, at 5:30 p.m.

A community survey is being developed to gather public input regarding types of activities that people participate in. An abbreviated version of the survey will be used as an intercept survey tool at various downtown venues during Raleigh's Main Event (e.g., African American Cultural Festival, SPARKcon, etc.) as well as at events beyond downtown.

During November public input will be gathered during a town-hall style “Festival of Ideas,” the dates of which are still being determined. As part of the public input process, volunteers (including Commissioners) will be asked to convene and host Community Conversations, informal gathering to explore topics of importance for the Arts Plan.

Jerry Bolas reported regarding plan communications that Cassie is developing an arts plan project page for the City’s website, CPG is managing a MindMixer public input site, and a logo for the plan that part of the current arts office logo family has been approved for use.

FY15 Budget

Jerry Bolas began by reviewing the Commissioners essential responsibility of budget review to provide advice, comment and recommendations regarding budget priorities. He continued by outlining the impact on the FY15 budget of implementation in FY14 of two changes to city policy, one prohibiting establishing purchase orders at the end of the fiscal year to fund service contracts in the following year, and the other minimizing carry-forward of unallocated funds. He noted on the budget summary previously emailed where the impact of these changes could be seen (a \$91,000 swing in three contract positions). He explained that another impact this year, which actually increases the bottom line, is the unprecedented decision by the Grants Committee to allocate funds for capacity building. These funds have been transferred from the grants account to the program account and should be considered restricted for the grants-related activities. No funds are allocated for Art on City Plaza because the next change will occur in FY16, though options are being explored now. No funds are allocated for a temporary public art project (allocated last year for the forthcoming IBMA project), though Jerry noted that shortly the Commissioners would review a proposal for a temporary public art project on the Blount Street Corridor that would be funded by a transfer of funds from the Raleigh Historic Development Commission. He also noted that the total number of public art projects continues to increase through the half-percent for art program. He also pointed out that no funds are allocated for contingency (the “Special Projects” line in the FY 14 budget).

During the discussion that followed Gene Davis reported his recommendation that if additional funds become available they be allocated for purchases for the Municipal Art Collection, since funds are reduced for this purpose in the FY15 budget, and it is important to support local artists through acquisitions of their work. Jerry explained that conservation of the Municipal Art Collection is now funded by the CIP Maintenance and Conservation Fund that is managed outside the per capita program budget. Commissioners expressed interest in learning what maintenance and conservation projects had been undertaken in FY14, and Jerry suggested that it be a discussion item at the next Commission meeting.

Purchase Considerations

Gene Davis presented the recommendation of the Art, Education and Collections Committee that two works be acquired for the Municipal Art Collection:

Becky Joye, *Spin-off*, 2014, Acrylic, pencil and thread on paper, \$1600.

Nora Phillips, *Naranja y Gris II*, 2013, Acrylic and thread on canvas, \$850.

Linda Dallas moved that the works be acquired for the Municipal Art Collection, Andy Martin seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Blount Street Corridor

Gene Davis reviewed the Blount Street Corridor temporary public art project (outlined in a document sent to Commissioners earlier in the day) and presented the recommendation of the Art, Education and Collections Committee that the Commissioners add the project to the FY15 work plan. The project dates to 2005, when Sprint erected an unauthorized cell phone tower and subsequently agreed to pay a penalty of \$15,000. The Raleigh Historic Development Commission (RHDC) took responsibility for using the funds for a project that would result in information panel(s) describing the East Raleigh-South Park neighborhood. More recently, the RHDC asked Kim Curry-Evans to develop a public art project with the funds. Similar in concept to the Art-on-the-Move CAT bus project, a call to artists will be used to request designs for banners that will be hung on Duke Energy utility poles between Davie Street and South Street (bookended by Estes Hall on the south end and Prince Hall at the north end). The artwork will celebrate the African-American history of the historic Blount Street Corridor. Gene noted that artists whose designs are selected will receive a \$750 honorarium, so that most of the funds will go to a dozen selected artists. The Central CAC has reviewed the project and is enthusiastic. Jason Craighead moved that the project be undertaken, Joanne Sullivan seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Committee & Board Reports

Executive Committee

Chair Lundy welcomed Linda Dallas as new chair of the Grants Committee and Gene Davis as new chair of the Art, Education and Collections Committee. He reported that Sarah Powers had agreed to chair the Raleigh Arts Plan Steering Committee, and that she, Clymer Cease and Clyde would be meeting next week to finalize a list of prospective steering committee members for submission to City Council. He also thanked Joanne Sullivan and Nancy Novell for agreeing to serve on the Park Bond Advocacy Committee.

Advocacy & Communications

Andy Martin reported that the call for applications for the 2015 Piedmont Laureate is out, with a deadline of September 19. The subject area is speculative fiction.

Preparation continues for the Medal of Arts ceremony on October 28th at 7 p.m. Belva Parker is finalizing the order of presentations next week and the technical requirements later in the month. Arts Flash profiles of winners will appear soon.

Plans are developing for the Fall Arts Fair at the Pullen Art Center on October 19. Eliza Kiser, center director, is coordinating the festival in conjunction with events on the same day presented by the Hillsborough Street Association.

Art, Education and Collections Committee

Gene Davis reported that Bland Hoke has received sponsorship from Cree for the lights in his IBMA artwork; we will acknowledge the sponsorship in our collateral materials and signage.

Gene continued by reporting that the AEC Committee has begun discussions on the future of Art on City Plaza by looking beyond the current model of renting sculptures towards a more

permanent solution, one that might result in more iconic art. Kim Curry-Evans will be developing some options and Gene encouraged the group to think creatively in considering solutions.

Grants Committee

Linda Dallas reported that the Grants Committee had met since the last Commission meeting to review last year's process and recommend changes. Changes fall into two categories, those recommended by the Internal Audit Department and changes recommended by the Grants Committee. Next month discussion will focus on requiring applicants to choose to apply in either the program category or the operating category. This change would reduce duplication of effort on the part of applicants as well as reducing the workload of the reviewers. A task force will review associated issues and report at the September Commission meeting.

Public Art & Design Board

Laurent de Comarmond reported regarding the Hillsborough Street project that David Dahlquist and Justin Platts were in town to present their concept designs to PADB. Their design features brick piers with imagery of the history of the neighborhood. The piers are labor-intensive and duplicate images and elements. The current budget would provide four piers at one roundabout – Brooks Street – but the PADB and artists would like to see piers at all three roundabouts, including Dixie Trail and Shepherd Street. The board approved the concept, but asked that the artists simplify the piers to enable location at all three roundabouts while staying within the current budget and consider if there may be some differentiation of imagery at each roundabout.

Laurent explained regarding Moore Square that it is a new, complicated project with a \$45,000 budget. Initially the idea was to use funds to hire an artist as a consultant only (excluding design and construction of the public art). One challenge is to insure that there is an adequate budget for the art: a half-percent for art is not adequate. Another challenge is coordinating the sequence of hiring and relationship between the architect and artist, perhaps by combining the RFQs. The draft RFQ presented at the PADB meeting and the artist selection panel roster were tabled so that staff could continue to work out issues towards the goal that we commission significant artwork for a high-profile site. Cassie Schumacher-Georgopoulos reported that staff had brainstormed after the PADB meeting to develop possible scenarios for moving forward to insure the quality of the public art at this flagship destination in downtown Raleigh. She also observed that City Council is paying particular attention to the implementation of the Moore Square Master Plan due not only to its high profile but also due to the current budget estimate of \$12.5 million.

Laurent reported that Chris Fennell was in town for nine days to install his artwork at the Halifax Park Community Center. It looks great and makes quite an impact. It is about 95% complete; fine-tuning will occur in the next couple of months. Once it is fully complete, the PADB will review it for final acceptance and recommendation to CORAC for inclusion in the Municipal Art Collection.

Executive Director Report

Jerry Bolas reported that the more than 500 applications had been received for the administrative assistant position posted in July.

He invited Scott Payne to update Commissioners regarding the Park Bond Advocacy Committee. Scott reported that last week City Council approved a list of 35 citizens for the Committee, including both Nancy Novell and Joanne Sullivan. These community volunteers will join with staff in making educational presentations to community groups. Staff will present facts about the

projects and projected tax increase of 1.72 cents, while volunteers will advocate for passage. A similar advocacy structure supported passage of the 2007 bond at 87 different meetings.

Public Comments

None

New/Other Business

With no further business or discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Submitted by Jerry Bolas