

**CITY OF RALEIGH ARTS COMMISSION**  
**December 9, 2014**  
**5:30 p.m., Room 305**

Present: Chanda Branch, Linda Dallas, Gene Davis, Laurent de Comarmond, Clyde Lundy, Nancy Novell, Joanne Sullivan and Stan Williams

Absent: Joe Cebina, Jason Craighead, Andy Martin and Sarah Powers

Staff: Sarah Corrin, Arts Grant Coordinator, Office of Raleigh Arts  
Kim Curry-Evans, Public Art Coordinator, Office of Raleigh Arts  
Belva Parker, Arts Program 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**

Vice Chair Nancy Novell called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

**Welcome and Introductions**

Vice Chair Novell recognized Rachel McKay, Raleigh Arts Plan Coordinator, and Melanie Allen, Local Arts Plan Coordinator for the Cultural Planning Group, and welcomed Neil Pressler, who was attending the meeting as part of a community government class.

**Committee & Board Reports**

**Advocacy & Communications**

Belva Parker reported that accolades are still coming in for the Medal of Arts awards. The new Piedmont Laureate has been selected and, pending receipt of the letter of agreement, will be announced in January. Gifts of Gold and Pieces of Gold will be held on March 3 and 4, and Commissioners are encouraged to attend the Gifts of Gold ceremony on March 3 at 4:30 p.m. The Sertoma Arts Center had a very successful open house and gallery event and preliminary logistical planning is underway for the forthcoming construction at the Pullen Arts Center.

Chair Clyde Lundy arrived.

**Approval of October 14 Minutes**

Chair Lundy invited review of the minutes of the October 14 meeting. Gene Davis moved and Chanda Branch seconded approval of the minutes, and the motion passed unanimously.

## Action Items

### **Art-On-The-Move 2015 Finalists**

Gene Davis, with assistance from Kim Curry-Evans, reviewed the project and handouts and reported the recommendation of the Art, Education and Collections Committee that the finalists be approved. It was noted that one of the buses would be wrapped with artwork created by artist Megan Bostic working with teenagers participating in the after-school program at Pullen Arts Center. Nancy Novell moved acceptance of the Art-On-The-Move finalists as presented, Stan Williams seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Proposed Acquisitions**

Gene Davis reported the recommendation of the Art, Education and Collections Committee that two works of art be acquired for the Municipal Art Collection from the recent Carolina Folkways exhibit at the Block Gallery:

Titus Brooks Heagins, *Untitled (Carolina Fall Gospel Classic, Red Budd Holy Church, Rocky Mount, NC)*, 2012, digital photograph.

Michael Schwalbe, *Silvia Heyden*, 2011, digital photograph.

Linda Dallas moved that the works be acquired, Joann Sullivan seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

## **Committee & Board Reports, cont.**

### **Executive Committee**

Chair Lundy noted that it was a shame to lose Block Gallery Coordinator Annah Lee and would open the topic of options for moving forward in the discussion period.

### **Art, Education and Collections Committee**

Gene Davis thanked former Block Gallery Coordinator Annah Lee for her hard work and for setting such a high bar for the level of exhibition programming. He noted that further discussion would follow.

Regarding the Citizen-Initiated Policy for Public Art on City Property, recently passed by City Council, he reported that the Committee is working on establishing simple, encouraging steps for the public to use when submitting projects for consideration.

### **Grants Committee**

Linda Dallas announced that there had been great workshops for grant applicants. There are some new faces in the crowd, repeats and interest in the innovation topic.

Community members for the grants panels have been secured (in addition to Commissioners Chanda Branch and Jason Craighead). They are scheduled to be approved by City Council on January 6: Linda Bamford, Julie Brakenbury, Alyson Colwell-Waber, Woody Dicus, Tony Granados, Sherri Holmes, Yvette Holmes and Tina Morris-Anderson.

### **Public Art & Design Board**

Laurent De Comarmond reported that Dallas artist Brad Goldberg was selected to work with the design team for integration of public art elements into the design for Moore Square. He'll begin working with the team in the New Year.

Artist Douwe Blumberg conducted a site visit with the design team for Fire Station 12 on Poole Road. It was a productive meeting for the artist, who is now busy working on developing concept designs for an exterior sculptural piece.

Finally, January and February will be busy for the PADB, with approvals on initial or final concept designs for public art at the Critical Public Safety Facility, Fire Station 12, the Southeast Raleigh Tennis Center, and Hillsborough Street.

### **Discussion Items**

#### **FY16 Budget**

Chair Lundy asked Scott Payne to give the budget update. Scott described the Budget Office's new policy of penalizing departments that leave money unspent at the end of the fiscal year. He reported that there would be a penalty to the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources general fund of \$284,000 that would require the help of all divisions to cover. He noted that Jerry had allocated funds to help offset the penalty from a reduction in office lease expenses, while the arts centers had also carved out some money to help offset the penalty. Per capita funding is not affected by this new policy, and the good news is that per capita funding for FY16 is projected to increase about \$40,000.

#### **Block Art Gallery**

Kim briefly discussed staff's challenges to continue existing programming in the Block Gallery as a result of Annah Lee's departure for another job. The challenging circumstances were noted by the chair and members. Staff reiterated that is not a case of the current staff being overworked – but that a full-time position/contractor is required for the amount of work necessary to maintain current levels of curatorial/educational duties for Block Gallery and the City of Raleigh. Gene Davis asked about existing agreements with artists scheduled to exhibit once the NAP exhibit closes January 16. Kim assured the Commission that there were no signed agreements in place and that she has drafted a preliminary transition plan (that Jerry reviewed with the Executive Committee) to hang items from the City's Municipal Art Collection for a short period of time. This will allow the Art, Education, and Exhibitions Committee to review the transition plan at their January meeting and discuss next steps regarding the short- and long-term vision for the

Block Gallery. Gene indicated he was not aware of the full extent of the transition and looks forward to hearing more and reporting back to the Commission on any update

**Raleigh Arts Plan**

Chair Lundy noted that Clymer Cease would conduct a Community Conversation with Commission and PADB members shortly. Clyde would summarize the conversation for report to CPG. It was also suggested that each Commissioners convene their own group for a Community Conversation.

Joanne Sullivan asked about how we were getting the word out about the plan. Belva Parker stated that we are working on collateral to drive participation to the Mind Mixer site and are looking at various ways to get the word out to Raleigh citizens about upcoming public events. Commissioners suggested a number of strategies. Belva noted she is meeting with a representative from the Indy in early January to review a new promising mobile application that might help differentiate our events from the crowd.

**Executive Director Report**

None.

**Public Comments**

None.

**New/Other Business**

None.

With the Commission/PADB Community Conversation about to begin, Joanne Sullivan moved that the Commission meeting be adjourned, Clyde Lundy seconded, the motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Submitted by Jerry Bolas