

Raleigh Arts Commission
February 10, 2015
5:30 p.m., RMB 305

Present: Chanda Branch, Joe Cebina, Jason Craighead, Linda Dallas, Gene Davis, Laurent de Comarmond, Clyde Lundy (Chair), Nancy Novell (Vice-Chair), Sarah Powers, Joanne Sullivan

Absent: Andy Martin, Stan Williams

Staff: Jerry Bolas, Executive Director, Office of Raleigh Arts
Scott Payne, Assistant Director, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department
Sandi Sullivan, Administrative Assistant, Office of Raleigh Arts

Call to Order

Chair Lundy called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

Approval of January 13 Minutes

Chair Lundy asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from the January 13 meeting. Jason Craighead made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Laurent de Comarmond seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Discussion Items

Raleigh Arts Plan (RAP) Update

Jerry Bolas reported the following:

- The Steering Committee met on January 28 and discussed upcoming engagement events.
- David Plettner-Saunders, from CPG, convened four focus groups with leaders from our funded arts partners.
- There are nine mechanisms for input into the RAP. Four are geared toward data. They include the intercept, statistical and online community surveys. We have also purchased a market assessment for our 25 arts partners which includes workshops to help them interpret and utilize the data gathered. Five others are geared toward gathering ideas. They are: the interactive website (www.RaleighArtsPlan.com), Community Conversations, interviews with arts leaders, focus groups, and town hall community meetings March 9-11.
- Preliminary data has been gathered from the intercept surveys, most of which were conducted at festivals downtown. There were 528 respondents. There was a strong interest in family activities and co-worker maker spaces. The largest barrier to participation is a lack of information on available events.
- Call to Community Action was distributed and the calendar of upcoming events reviewed. Jerry asked everyone to take the online survey and asked that everyone attend at least one town meeting.
- Laurent de Comarmond, Nancy Novell, and Sarah Powers provided feedback on the Community Conversations they'd held and offered suggestions.
- We have been invited to set up a RAP table at NC Theatre on Saturday. There will be afternoon and evening shifts. Volunteers will receive free tickets to see *Billy Elliot*.
- Clyde Lundy will be reaching out to former commission chairs to attend a Community Conversation next week. All were invited to attend.

Action Items

March CORAC meeting

Jerry explained the City Council and City Manager have organized a new budget process and are holding a grant budget work session on April 2. We will have a small window after the Grants Committee finishes their work before we need to submit funding recommendations to City Council. Executive Committee recommends moving the next commission meeting to March 24. They have already moved the next Executive Committee meeting to March 17. Joanne Sullivan made a motion to move the next CORAC meeting to March 24. Gene Davis seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Artspace/Edison Apts. Mural Proposal

Gene Davis reported the following:

- Using the process created last year for citizen-initiated art on public property, two projects were presented to AEC committee for consideration.

- The first was a temporary mural project which would be installed on the blue construction containers at the Edison Apartments construction site across from Artspace. The developer, NRP Group, is funding the project. The murals would remain on the containers for the duration of the construction. AEC recommended approval of the project by the Commission. Nancy reminded everyone that the project going forward would be contingent upon DOT approval, as the road would need to be closed during installation. Sarah Powers made a motion for CORAC to accept and support the project. Linda Dallas seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Creative Crosswalks on Glenwood South

- The second citizen-initiated project would utilize crosswalks on Glenwood Avenue as a canvas for public art. The residents in the area would need to work with the COR and DOT on implementation of the project. The proposed timeline is in two phases with the final installation being completed by July 2016. AEC recommended approval of the project with the stipulation that once the designs are selected, the residents bring them to Kim Curry-Evans for presentation to the AEC Committee. Sarah Powers made a motion for CORAC to approve the project with the indicated stipulation. Jason Craighead seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Art Along Blount Street

- Sprint erected a cell tower many years ago without receiving proper approval from the city. They were fined \$15,000 and the money was set aside for a public art project in this historic district. The project is a collaboration between The Raleigh Historic Development Commission and CORAC. The goal for the project was for the art to pay homage to the rich history of the neighborhood. Nineteen artists submitted work for consideration and the selection committee chose ten designs. A handout with the designs selected was distributed. AEC voted to accept these ten pieces and recommend to CORAC for approval. Jason Craighead made a motion to approve the ten designs selected. Chanda Branch seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Linda Dallas abstained from the vote.

Chris Fennell's *Hoops Playing Hoops*

- The sculpture is complete and has been approved by both PADB and AEC. It is recommended for acceptance into the Municipal Art Collection (MAC) by CORAC. Linda Dallas made a motion to accept the piece into MAC. Joanne Sullivan seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Committee/Board Reports

Executive Committee

Chair Lundy reported that each member will hold at least one Community Conversation for the RAP. Grants interviews are ongoing. Please attend. Gifts of Gold (GOG) is coming up on 3/3 and Pieces of Gold (POG) is on 3/4. Please send your RSVP to Belva Parker.

Advocacy & Communications

Jerry reported for Andy Martin that members of the Committee have divided the list of Commissioners and will be making phone calls to remind Commissioners to host 1-2 Community Conversations each. Andy will be holding his Community Conversation at Deep South next week. Please contact Belva ASAP to RSVP for GOG and POG. The new Piedmont Laureate, James Maxey, is off to a great start. The arts centers are holding their Community Conversations in February. The Pullen Art for Fun Camp is filling up quickly. Nancy added that she and Gene juried the artwork for Gifts of Gold and a first grader won best in show.

Art, Education & Collections

Gene thanked Jerry, Scott, and Kim for keeping Block Gallery going in the absence of a coordinator. He indicated the new contractor will play a dual role, coordinating Block Gallery and assisting Kim on other projects. Joanne asked where we are in the hiring process. Jerry reported that interviews have concluded and a candidate has been selected. He shared her qualifications and indicated he hoped to have her on board by March, pending completion of the contract process.

Grants Committee

Linda pointed out the grant interview schedule, which was distributed in the agenda packets, and invited everyone to come and observe the process. She also provided an update on Capacity Building. On 01/28, David Plettner Saunders led four focus groups with our arts partners. They included the following groups: Executive Directors, Board Directors, Art Directors, and Education Directors. No Commissioners or staff were present in order to encourage open dialogue. The sessions were well attended and feedback indicated participants felt it was a positive experience. Information collected will feed back into the RAP

and an anonymous summary report will be given to the Committee for review. Linda thanked Sarah Corrin for her work in coordinating the focus groups. There are two other Capacity Building initiatives that have not yet been voted upon by the Committee. The participant statistics workshop would aid our arts partners with gathering and utilizing statistics. ADA website evaluations by a consultant would provide individual feedback to arts partners regarding accessibility on their websites. It would also include an accessibility workshop geared specifically toward websites. The Committee plans to present these ideas to CORAC for approval in March.

Public Art & Design Board

Laurent de Comarmond reported that the Board watched a video that showed *Hoops Playing Hoops* in action, and voted to recommend the piece for acceptance into the MAC. Artist, Douwe Bloomberg, presented his preliminary design for the sculpture at Fire Station 12. It is abstract, designed to represent a fire helmet. The concept was approved by the Board and Douwe is developing final designs. Laurent commended the firemen for making a bold choice. Hillsborough Street Phase II is moving forward. The public art component will be a series of piers at each of the three new roundabouts, two at each site. On February 25 the artists will be holding two public engagement meetings asking the community for images and input for themes/content on the piers. The Board discussed Market Exchange Plaza and Block II. Artists David McConnell and Matt McConnell are moving forward with designs for planters and railings in the plaza and the Block II video projector. Completion is scheduled for the end of this summer. Jason asked if First Citizens will have input into content for the video projections on their wall. Jerry clarified they are not involved in the selection of the projections; however there is a process in place should they object to any content.

Executive Director Report

None.

Public Comments

Nick Pironio asked if the videos in Block II would be singular or rotating. Jerry clarified that a call for artists will go out and multiple videos will be rotated.

New/Other Business

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Submitted by Sandi Sullivan