

Raleigh Arts Commission (CORAC)

February 19, 2019

5:30 PM, RMB 305

Present: Chanda Branch (Chair), Natalie Bullock Brown (by phone), David Clegg, Jamie Dawson, Laurent de Comarmond, Moses T. Alexander Greene (Vice-Chair), Courtney Greer, Patty Williams, Shelley Winters (by phone)

Absent: Pam Hartley, Bain Jones

Staff: Kelly McChesney, Public Art Director
Scott Payne, Assistant Department Head, PRCR
Sarah Powers, Executive Director
Sandi Sullivan, Office Manager

Call to Order

Chanda called the meeting to order at 5:42 PM.

Jamie Dawson was welcomed to the Arts Commission.

Approval of December Minutes

Motion to approve minutes: David 2nd: Laurent Unanimous

Action Items

Citizen-Initiated Public Art Project: Sandra Wimbish Mural at Sassafras Playground

This tryptic style mural is being funded by an Awesome Foundation grant. The design reflects local flora and fauna. It would be located on the concrete bridge leading into the playground area. There is community awareness surrounding the project, buy in from PRCR staff, and community members of all abilities would be involved in the mural's installation. The project was unanimously approved by the AEC committee.

Motion to approve the project: Patty 2nd: Moses Unanimous.

Citizen-Initiated Public Art Project: Art in Bloom Trashcan Bouquets

This project was a huge success last year and NCMA wants to bring it back for a second installment to help promote their annual *Art in Bloom* exhibition. EW Fulcher from Bloomworks is the artist chosen for the project. One bouquet would be rolled out per day from March 11-15. The city would provide the trash cans and NCMA would provide the wraps for the cans. AEC unanimously voted to approve the project but asked that locations be diversified more throughout the city. The proposed locations are: Union Station, Brewery Bhavana, Morgan Street Food Hall, North Hills, and MLK Memorial Garden. *Art in Bloom* runs from March 21-24 at NCMA.

Motion to approve the project: David 2nd: Patty Unanimous.

Citizen-Initiated Public Art Project: PETA Elephant Sculpture

As part of an advocacy effort to increase community awareness surrounding the treatment of animals, PETA would like to place their sculpture, *Ella Phantzperil*, by Harry Bliss, on city property while the Universoul Circus is in town. They were flexible on location and proposed several potential sites. PETA would pay for transport and installation. AEC committee members expressed several concerns with the project:

- Is there additional signage involved?
- Would the sculpture be classified as a billboard?
- Will the sculpture be illuminated?
- How will the sculpture be maintained while it is installed?
- Will there be programming/protesting around the sculpture and would a protest permit be required?
- Exact location must be narrowed down.
- Would the sculpture be in the right of way?
- Might there be issues with Live Nation, the event promoter?

Kelly reported that PETA was open to suggestions regarding the location but would like to place the piece either near the State Capitol or near the event venue. It has been determined that due to the size and weight of the piece, assessment by a structural engineer will be required, as well as additional permits and proof of insurance. There is a plaque on the concrete base that names PETA and contains a description of the piece. Executive committee members expressed additional concerns:

- The shackle element carries an extremely negative connotation and shows a lack of sensitivity for the community in which PETA would like to place the sculpture.
- PETA needs to take ownership of the protest piece by using clear signage, so that there is no confusion about this being a city sanctioned project.
- The project is not truly initiated by citizens, but by a specific organization.
- Any additional programming would require a special permit.

It was determined that Nash Square would be the best location for the piece to be placed.

Motion to approve the PETA sculpture for placement in Nash Square if all designated conditions are met: David 2nd: Courtney Five voted in favor. 1 opposed. There were two abstentions. The motion carried.

Deaccession of Horizon Line

This light sculpture piece on City Plaza was severely damaged during a wind storm event in March 2018. One section was assessed and is damaged beyond repair, without salvageable parts. The remaining section of the sculpture would need to be rebuilt completely to ensure its stability. The piece has been difficult and costly to maintain and the cost for replacement would be excessive, meeting the public art policy criteria for deaccession. Facility and Operations would disassemble the piece and dispose of it. Staff recommends deaccession.

Motion for deaccession of *Horizon Line*: Moses 2nd: Laurent Unanimous.

Private Donation for Greenway Project

Merge Capital, the developers who are working on the property directly across from Dix Park, are interested in partnering with the city on a greenway tunnel project for the tunnel that runs under McDowell Street leading into the park. They are offering a \$10K donation to help fund the project.

Motion to approve the donation and partnership: David 2nd: Patty Unanimous.

Artist Selection: Dix Park Performance Artist Project

The selection panel met and reviewed 66 proposals. Representing Dorothea Dix Park: Anne Franklin (Legacy Committee Member), Dan Gotlieb (NCMA), Carly Jones (artist, NCAC). Representing CORAC/PADB/Arts Community: Laurent de Comarmond (CORAC, PADB) and Saba Taj (Artist). Sixteen Finalists and eleven alternates were chosen based on overall scores. A list of these artists and descriptions of the proposed projects was distributed. This event will take place in conjunction with the Dix Park Master Plan celebration and will be featured in multiple locations throughout the park.

Motion to approve the slate of finalists and alternates: Laurent 2nd: Moses Unanimous.

Duke Energy Center Public Art

Summitt Hospitality has agreed to contribute an additional \$10K to the Brian Brush public art piece at the Duke Energy Center for the Performing Arts, for a total donation of \$60K.

Motion to approve the donation: Patty 2nd: Jamie Unanimous.
We will bring a budget amendment to City Council for a vote.

Discussion Items

April First Friday State of the City Event at Union Station

Raleigh Arts is partnering with the Downtown Raleigh Alliance for this event. The Mayor will give an address. It is an excellent opportunity to activate the space and the plaza by featuring musical and dance performances by local artists. AEC will take the lead on the project coordination. Courtney and Jamie volunteered to assist as well.

Gifts of Gold Student Art Exhibition

Mark your calendars! The student art exhibition opens March 5 at 4 PM. Pieces of Gold, the performance showcase, will be held the following evening, March 6 and the artwork will remain on display as well. Be on the lookout for an email about tickets.

Creative Vitality Index Report

The numbers are in and were presented at the State of the Arts a few weeks ago. The non-profit industry is growing, and NC is above the national average. This data examines the whole state, not just the city of Raleigh. Sarah and the budget office are examining the raw data. Sarah provided a snapshot of the economic impact of the arts in Raleigh.

Committee/Board Reports

Art, Education & Collections: No additional report.

Grants Committee: Shelley

Grant interviews are ongoing for two more weeks, Mondays at Chavis Community Center beginning at 4:00 PM. The scoring meeting for program support applicants was held on Thursday. Shelley reviewed the list of panel members and highlighted their areas of expertise.

Raleigh is still in contention to host the LEAD Conference. Kennedy Center Staff appreciated the letters of support and will conduct a site visit February 27-28.

The Arts Learning Luncheon, "Talent+Time=Treasure" will be held March 21 from 12:00-1:30 and will highlight what arts volunteers bring to the table.

Public Art & Design Board: Laurent

- Remaining money from the 2014 parks bond was allocated to a general greenway and parks fund. This will allow flexibility of use and create a public art contingency fund.
- The new concept design for Biltmore Hills was approved with some additional feedback for the artist.
- Kathleen Rieder will represent PADB on the Oberlin Village artist selection panel. The call for artists closed on February 4. Sixty-one submissions were received.
- Friends of Oberlin Village received a Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation grant and proposed a communal swing area/bus shelter project which was reviewed by the Board. That project has now been moved to private property.
- There was a lengthy discussion about Fire Station 22 and potential locations for public art.

Union Station Task Force: Sarah for Bain

City Council approved the contract for the canopy today. They had some questions about signage and functionality. The first half of the estate donation has been received.

PRGAB: Scott

The Dorothea Dix Master Plan was unanimously approved by Council today. Approximately 65,000 people took part in the planning process.

Executive Committee: Chanda

Remember the adjustment to the date for the March Commission meeting. To accommodate the grants calendar, the meeting will be moved to March 26.

Executive Director Report: Sarah

The bid process for the new Pullen Arts Center has begun again. The call is active, and bids open on March 21st.

Public Comments: None

New/Other Business: None

Adjournment

Motion: Moses Second: Jamie

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Submitted by Sandi Sullivan