



**UrbanArt Commission
Public Art Oversight Committee
Wednesday, March 10, 2021 – 1 pm**

In attendance PAOC: Nefertiti Orrin, Jana Travis, Davida Cruthird, Coriana Close, Eso Tolson,
UAC staff: Lauren Kennedy, Brett Hanover, Wendy Young, Shanette Parks and A.M.
O'Malley-Miller

- I. Welcome
Meeting is called to order. Kennedy begins the meeting by welcoming new PAOC member Davida Cruthird and introducing the other members of the committee.

APPROVALS

- II. February 2021 minutes
Kennedy calls for a motion to approve the February 2021 meeting minutes, noting email approval between meetings with changes to the Frayser Library selection committee. Close moves, Orrin seconds. The minutes are unanimously approved with no changes.
- III. Whitehaven mural - contingency & release of fabrication funds

Kennedy reminds PAOC that the committee has previously approved final design for a mural by Lawrence Matthews and Amber George at Elvis Presley and Brooks Rd., holding fabrication funds for an acceptable solution to the preparing the facade of the wall for the polytab mural application. Kennedy reports that a treatment to smooth the surface of the wall with a concrete skin has been proposed and approved by City Engineering, and UAC and the City will split the cost of the masonry work estimated at just over \$7,800. With this solution in place, UAC recommends allocating \$3,929.50 of available contingency funding (Kennedy notes that total available contingency funding is \$109,836) to support the masonry work and releasing fabrication payment to the artists to begin painting. Travis moves the recommendation from UAC, Orrin seconds. The motion is approved.
- IV. Movable Collection - Richard Lou
Hanover reports that the Movable Collection selection committee had previously approved purchasing work from Richard Lou up to \$4,000 with the last round of funding

for rotating galleries in library branches, and the UAC team had been working with Lou to identify an available piece. Hanover presents a series of four photos from Lou's *Headlines* series for a more permanent installation at the Benjamin L. Hooks Library at \$5,000 (a \$1,000 increase from the previous approval). He notes that there is still approximately \$7,000 still available from FY20 funding and additional funding allocated in FY21 yet to be spent; Kennedy adds that the \$5,000 request is consistent with the maximum range of purchases from previous rounds and Hanover shares that Lou has priced the series to support purchase for this collection. Orrin asks for more information about the installation of the series. Hanover responds that a more permanent installation will lend itself to didactic signage providing context and additional information about the series. Kennedy calls for a motion to approve. Close moves, Tolson seconds. The motion is approved.

V. Neighborhood Art Initiative - selections

Kennedy notes that the Neighborhood Art Initiative selections were not originally on the agenda for approval, but following a productive meeting with the selection committee the day before, she believes they are ready to present to PAOC. Parks shares that four neighborhoods were identified by the committee to explore public art projects collaboratively with neighborhood partners and leaders including the Hickory Hill neighborhood (lead partner: Gestalt Community Schools, with the hope that the Heal the Hood organization that also applied for Hickory Hill could be involved in the project development process), Mallory Heights (lead partner: Mallory Heights CDC), Westwood (lead partner: Uplift Westwood), and the Hollywood/Douglass neighborhood (lead partner: Time is Now Douglass CDC and include Ms. Aline's Community Garden). Parks notes that all of the applying partners are very open to working with UAC to identify a public art opportunity in their communities. She also reminds PAOC that an important goal of this program is to support the equitable distribution of public art projects throughout the city, and the selected neighborhoods do not have concentrations of public art like other neighborhoods in Memphis. The selection committee also recommended prioritizing the Speedway Terrace/North Crosstown and Summer Ave./38122 neighborhoods for the next round of funding.

Kennedy adds that working through the selections with the committee and reviewing submissions yielded a number of notes and recommendations to consider for future application opportunities, including: prioritizing specific neighborhoods based on where existing or in-progress public art projects are located, and the kinds of projects that can be supported through City CIP projects. She notes that the next steps for the selected neighborhoods will be to identify a specific site, budget and scope for a public art project through a collaborative discovery process. PAOC will approve the recommended budget allocations (based on conversations and scope from the discovery work) and selection committee prior to a call to artists being released. Tolson clarifies that PAOC will approve the selections and the proposed next steps; Kennedy confirms. Tolson moves to approve, Cruthird seconds. The motion is approved.

Orrin asks for clarity around the timeline for the NAI projects. Kennedy shares that the UAC team anticipates the discovery process to take approximately two to three months, and that UAC will likely begin the discovery process for two of the four selected neighborhoods in late spring due to limited internal capacity and hope that COVID vaccine distribution allows for more in-person gatherings over the summer. UAC would then begin the remaining two neighborhood processes once calls to artists have been developed with the first two.

VI. Other project updates

The UAC team reviews notes from other ongoing projects, including:

- Jesse Turner Park: Artists John Golightly's deadline of confirming an installation timeline for this sculptures for the park was March 2021. UAC has still not received that schedule and will be following up, with the hope that he can still fulfill his contract.
- L.E. Brown Park: Arnold Thompson is currently working on his schematic design documents, hopefully for presentation to PAOC in April. There may have to be a reduction in the scale of the project due to budget constraints.
- John F. Kennedy Park: Bruce Myers should be installing in May - June 2021.
- Dunbar Elementary: Desmond Lewis is installing the bench in front of the school today; UAC is still coordinating some issues with power lines above the sculpture site with various entities.
- South City: UAC still needs to follow up with text edits and installations for the plaques for the three sculptures. Terry Lynn is making progress with the fabrication and installation schedule, with the sculptures being installed separately between spring and summer as the three sites are ready.

Meeting adjourns.