



**UrbanArt Commission
Public Art Oversight Committee (PAOC)
Wednesday, September 9, 2020 – 1 pm**

ATTENDEES:

PAOC: Lisa Law
Eso Tolson
Juaness Keplinger
Nefertiti Orrin
Coriana Close

UAC: A.M. O'Malley Miller
Brett Hanover
Wendy Young
Shanette Parks

APPROVALS:

- I. August 2020 Minutes
 - A. Close motions for approval. Motion approved.
- II. Neighborhood Art Initiative 2.0
 - A. Parks reintroduces the Landmarks Programs as the Neighborhood Art Initiative 2.0, for the sake of consistency and to give a voice to neighborhood organizations through public art. Close asks about the differences going forward and Parks highlights one being the use of Percent for Art funding to continue the work of neighborhood residents organizing within their neighborhoods. A notable difference is using this program to begin conversations with residents prior to site/funding selection. Parks reviews the program's alignment with UAC's strategic plan goals. Orrin asks about transparency of program details (objectives, mission, etc.) with the community. Parks confirms that is the plan. Orrin highlights, from experience through Community Lift, the importance of educating residents on the connection of NAI 2.0 to Memphis 3.0. Miller notes that UAC has had internal conversations regarding the sensitivity of the matter and the possibility of it being an internal point of reference. Further discussion with the selection committee members will determine the final details of the program's framework. Parks - shares a new component to the process, per project budget/stipend for community



engagement. Exact amount (\$2500-\$3500) and specific timeframe to be determined. Close notes her appreciation for this aspect (and the overall initiative to involve residents thoughtfully and consistently) in the process and the likelihood of receiving more community buy-in but there could be issues finding space for the artwork (as the organization has seen in the past). Parks also notes that the initial application will be drafted along with the selection committee. Miller introduces the committee members with brief background. Orrin appreciates the diversity.

1. Parks asks for a motion to approve the selection committee and paoc approvals process - to launch the program.
 - a) Law motions. Close seconds. Motion approved.

III. Whitehaven Mural - Schematic Design

A. Parks presents the updated design by artists Amber George and Lawrence Matthews. Close asks for more insight on the symbolism included, particularly around “who are the 3 men represented in the top left panel. Parks shares that they reference the 15th amendment which is about voting but will get specifics on their identities from the artists. Law notes the style of ballet box references the time period. Close and Law suggest having clearer indication of the references to ‘voting’. Law suggests identifying the artists’ use of reference for the included images - helping to ensure proper consent and acknowledgement.

1. Parks asks for a motion to approve the schematic design, as is.
 - a) Close motions with a note to review the ballot, making it clearly identifiable, for final design. Orrin seconds. Motion approved.

IV. Cordova Library - Schematic Design

A. Parks shares French’s updated schematic design, including a mockup of the book titles and references. Which are all from engagement efforts with Cordova residents and library patrons across the area. Orrin asks about the visibility of the texts as it ascends into the shape of the shrubbery and how that will be legible. Parks notes the feature of being projected onto the building at night as well as the difference in-person experience versus digital design documents. Law concurs that scale will be a factor and the doorways are much larger than they appear, which means the letters will be much larger up-close. Also notes a concern about the edging treatment for the letters and to discourage climbing. Close agrees that it is a very engaging piece and extra precautions should be considered. She also asks about the structural design of the letters that appear suspended



from the top of the artwork. Parks notes the design details of a wiring system that gives the effect from a distance of the words hanging in air but upon closer view a series of strings will be visible. Tolson asks about the letters being projected backwards onto the building and it being a challenge for people to actually “read” the text from a distant range. Close asks if Youngblood Studio has endeavored in projection work in other projects. Parks is unaware. Close noted the lighting design appears to be insufficient for the desired results of crisp, legible projections. Suggests using directional light and looking at the light source. Law shares concerns about the material use for the top portion of the lettering - how it would interact with light, winds in the courtyard, etc.

1. Parks asks if the committee is comfortable approving schematic as is with their questions answered in the final design or wait to approve schematic once questions regarding structure of top letter connections, light source and projected design intentions are answered.
 - a) All agree to wait for answers before approving the schematic design documents.

V. Cossitt Library - Sculpture Text

A. Parks shares that the previous PAOC meeting there were questions regarding the origin of text and placement. Sharing the previous draft, showing the community input featured on the right and lyrics (mainly W.C. Handy) from the public domain library on the left. Both committees requested the text be intermingled to provide a consistency and more melodic flow of the text. The final draft notes this change of intertwining the text from both panels. Law notes the upper right wing has a grammar error. Tolson shares that the layout is a definite improvement from the original draft.

1. Parks shares that the selection committee is still reviewing the design but is still requesting a motion to approve the final draft of the text pending selection committee approval.
 - a) Law motions. Close seconds. The motion is approved.

UPDATES:

- I. L. E. Brown Park



- A. Parks shares the proposals from Suzy Hendrix and Arnold Thompson. Close asks if they are competing. Parks confirms and reminds the committee that they were the finalists from the South City project, in close proximity to this project. This was an opportunity to repurpose their proposed designs for the L.E. Brown project but with a significantly smaller budget. Close suggests the additional piece Hendrix designed for seating could be shifted to better see the stage.
- II. Other project updates
 - A. Parks - No updates on Lester Merriwether (paint touch ups still needed) or John Golightly. Whitehaven mural schematic submitted and approved. The sculpture schematic is still in development, specifically around the mentorship component. L.E. Brown selection committee to review and will ask PAOC for approval via email. JFK park sculpture installation planned for spring. Tobacco Brown's fabrication is complete; she's working to find a time to install. Progress photos shared for Joseph Boyd with DMP project at Raleigh Civic Center. UAC Team is thinking of ways to do a social-distanced dedication for Boyd's project as well as a wrap-up for the program as a whole. Terry Lynn will have final design documents for South City in the next 1-2 months. Yvonne Bobo plans to install at the Civic Center in September, once landscaping is completed.

Law shares that she may be absent from the October meeting because her (pregnancy) due date is around the same time.

Meeting adjourns.