



**UrbanArt Commission  
Public Art Oversight Committee – Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, April 10, 2019 – 1 pm**

**ATTENDEES:**

**PAOC:** Ellen Daugherty  
Juaness Keplinger  
Mary Haizlip  
Phone: Lisa Law

**UAC:** Lauren Kennedy  
Brett Hanover  
Shanette Parks

**Observing:** Prince Chambliss (City of Memphis)

**MINUTES:**

I. Welcome

- A. Meeting is called to order.
- B. While awaiting quorum, Kennedy mentions follow-up re: new appointments-Patty Daigle (curator and art history professor at University of Memphis) who served on the Raleigh Springs Sculpture committee as prospective replacement for Anthony Lee (appointed by the Mayor). UAC will submit Daigle's information to the Mayor's office when Lee rolls off at the end of June. Kennedy is also working with Keplinger about replacing Earnestine Jenkins due to her teaching schedule (Council appointment). Keplinger mentions 2 other prospects: Lindsey Hedgepeth of Brooks Museum and Hazel Jackson (awaiting resumes). Kennedy has also reached out to BLDG Memphis and Community Lift about potential nominations through their networks that can potentially speak to broader neighborhood perspective for the committee.
- C. Once quorum is established, Kennedy calls for a motion to approve the March PAOC minutes. Haizlip notes that observing attendees should be noted in attendance on the minutes. Kennedy acknowledges that the March minutes can be amended to reflect this request and will continue for future minutes. Daugherty motions, Haizlip seconds. The March PAOC minutes are unanimously approved.

## Approvals:

### II. South City – Artist Selection

- A. Kennedy reminds all that the South City call was issued by invitation only in which 5 of the 11 invited artists applied; 4 were selected by the committee as finalists. Parks speaks to the South City presentations and shares a hardcopy of Terry Lynn's proposal with those present, who was selected by the committee to lead this commission. Kennedy shows the proposals from the other finalists (Arnold Thompson, Cat Peña and Suzy Hendrix) and shares digitally with Law. Kennedy speaks to the needs to refine Lynn's proposal along with all of the other proposals. Mairi Albertson specifically asked for the selected proposal to also consider with the Mississippi Blvd. underpass in further design revisions. Additional comments from the selection committee included potentially using text to provide greater connection and understanding for the viewers to the more abstract patterns and symbols used in Lynn's proposal that reference African prints and quilting traditions. Kennedy speaks to Lynn being well-equipped and excited about him getting the commission considering he's primarily a gallery based artist.
- B. PAOC considerations:
  - a. Hazlip likes Hendrix's design but feels Lynn's is very strong. She asks about Lynn's experience to deal with lighting in underpass. Kennedy assures them that UAC will provide support to the artist with that component, including helping to identify a lighting engineer to develop something for the underpass.
  - b. Daugherty supports the selection but encourages limiting the use of text to connect the symbolism used, avoiding being overly didactic. Hazlip agrees. Daugherty notes that Lynn could employ relief to allow for greater tactile interaction with the patterns relief-like.
  - c. Keplinger asks about the potential for glare/reflection from the material of the sculptures due to the highly polished metal finish in the proposal. Kennedy notes that this would be addressed in design refinement following contracting with Lynn.
- C. Kennedy asks for motion to approve Lynn as the selected artist for South City.
  - a. Hazlip motions, Law seconds. The selection is unanimously approved.

### III. Jesse Turner Park (Commissioned artist: John Golightly) – partial 100% fabrication payment

- A. Kennedy shares that she recently connected with Golightly after significant delays on the Jesse Turner project. She also mentions past delays in the project with having to make edits to the final design following new images being identified for the film strip sculptures. Golightly submitted images of significant paint failing on the sculptures that have delayed the installation of the project further, and the need to purchase new equipment in order to refinish each sculpture. The project budget has approximately \$20,000 remaining with \$15,000 allocated for 100% fabrication and \$5,000 upon final acceptance. Golightly is

requesting \$8,200 so that he can move other projects off the work table and complete the project by June 30th. Hazlip asks if Golightly is likely to request further payment or contingency funding before completing the work that remains. Kennedy does not anticipate this, but suggests that it might be possible due to the various circumstances that have impacted this process including the purchase of new equipment and subcontractors not completing work. Keplinger asks the total project budget; Kennedy shares that \$80,500 was originally allocated as a part of a program where each council district received funds for gateway sculptures. The committee agrees that the request is reasonable given the difficulties in finishing the sculptures and preparing for installation.

- a. Kennedy asks for a motion to approve the partial payment request. Keplinger moves, Hazlip seconds. The partial payment is unanimously approved.

#### IV. Cossitt Library - Schematic Design

- A. Hazlip inquires about the library's involvement in the project. Kennedy confirms that Shamichael Hallman (Cossitt Library branch manager) serves on the selection committee and has been involved in the process.
- B. Kennedy highlights feedback from the selection committee during the review of rhiza's RFP re: scale, more developed renderings and detail, potential hazards of the edges of the bird's wings, use of text in the wings. UAC and the selection committee felt that the schematic design adequately addressed all of these initial concerns; including raising the edges of the bird's wings and adjusting the orientation of the sculpture.
  - a. Additional comments from the selection committee re: schematic design included making the book cover feel more contemporary like the bird figure popping out from the cover, possibly using a darker color for the bird; removing the music notes and figure playing guitar from the book cover, refining concept for the book cover.
    - i. UAC will explore the possibilities for engaging the downtown community in refining the content for the book cover when the artists come to Memphis later this year. Collaborative text could be an option.
    - ii. UAC will provide an additional draft of the book cover following the artists' visit with the selection committee and PAOC before presenting final design documents.
    - iii. Daugherty and Hazlip bring up some questions about the colors proposed in the schematic design, including incorporating any color schemes from the library façade. Kennedy notes that color choices are not yet final, and the façade will remain the neutral stone existing but that the color changing lighting between the fins of the building will be reinstalled in a more permanent way as part of the renovations.

- b. Schematic design includes additional elements to incorporate the sculpture into the landscape design through the addition of concrete pavers creating a foot path to the sculpture. Rhiza A + D is working closely with Groundswell who are leading the renovations for the library and design of the plaza in front of the library.
    - i. Law suggests having a solid path to the sculpture to support ADA accessibility.
  - c. Hazlip requests to see a detailed site plan; Kennedy responds a detailed site plan is not included at this time due to delays receiving site specifics from the project engineer. The selection committee also requested some adjustments to the orientation of the sculpture within the landscape plan, which will be included in a detailed site plan submitted for final design approval.
- C. Kennedy asks for a motion to approve. Law motions, Daugherty seconds. The schematic design documents are unanimously approved.

**Updates:**

V. Heritage Landing – site update

- A. Kennedy notes that there has been a location change for one of the two sites for this project. UAC learned of an existing easement for the original site at Lauderdale and Park on which the City will not allow any additional structures to be built. A secondary park has been identified to replace this site at Tate and Park, inside the development; the other original site at a pocket park at Cynthia and Vance will still be used. All sites were approved the City of Memphis through the Engineering Division.
- B. Artist Douglas Kornfeld is anticipating installation in mid-May. UAC is discussing hosting an event for residents of Heritage Landing during installation.

VI. Hickory Hill – site update

- A. Hanover shares that a site for Tobacco Brown’s Blight Out Project in Hickory Hill has been identified at Hickory Hill Rd. & Lichterman St. The site is highly visible to car traffic and near several blighted properties; UAC has obtained approval by the City.
  - a. Kennedy notes that this is a temporary project, but that it could be up for several years.
  - b. Hanover expects to have the schematic design from Brown before the next PAOC meeting.

VII. Open Calls

- A. Calls for artists for a sculpture project at Cordova Library and new purchases for the Movable Collection both close in the next month. Kennedy asks PAOC to share the opportunities with their networks. The UAC team has hosted information sessions to support artists through the application process and is available to answer questions.

- B. Kennedy shares that UAC is working intentionally to grow the pool of Memphis-based artists applying for public art commissions, particularly for sculpture projects. Reflecting on responses from the local call to sculptors for the Raleigh Town Center project has highlighted the need to identify more specific ways to encourage and support participation of Memphis-based artists who have not previously been awarded public art commissions. Possible strategies could include limiting eligibility criteria to artists who have not been commissioned by UAC in the past 5 years; exploring more opportunities for invitational calls or building apprenticeships for local artists into project budgets; creating a rubric for selection committees that weights local or emerging artists differently.
  - a. New strategies to support this effort will be discussed in greater detail around upcoming opportunities including the reallocation of project funds for a Whitehaven gateway. Other project funds to be reallocated are a sculpture project in District 6 (originally sited at Army & Navy Parks), for which L.E. Brown Park has been suggested as a new location; and a mural project in District 7 (originally sited at Frayser Library prior to the announcement of a new facility to be built). UAC will identify new locations for each of these projects and issue new calls to artists in FY20.
  - b. Daugherty questions the possibility of overly limiting calls and potential commissions; cites lack of experience building public sculpture for many artists in the city. Keplinger shares that she feels very strongly that the City's percent-for-art program should prioritize local artists.
    - i. Kennedy responds that it will be important for UAC to consider how opportunities are articulated and what kinds of support can be offered by the organization. The recent local call to artists for sculpture for Raleigh Town Center yielded more submissions than the prior opportunity, including 7 (out of 13) artists who had not previously applied to UAC. Only one submission, however, was from an artist of color, and the three finalists who were selected had all been commissioned multiple times by UAC or other organizations in the city.
  - c. Daugherty asks about a program for emerging sculptors like the District Mural Program (DMP) to build capacity for local artists. Kennedy shares that UAC is proposing a program to a local foundation this spring. A key difference between mural and sculpture training programs will be budget constraints.
  - d. Kennedy also shares that language for the recent Cordova Library RFQ was changed to say that experience on previous commissions was not a prerequisite for applying.
- C. Keplinger requests receiving project approvals and requests prior to monthly meetings to allow PAOC to review and consider in advance. Kennedy invites discussion on specific items that often require more detailed review. The committee discusses that approvals or requests for partial payments or special

consideration being shared in advance could streamline meetings. The UAC team will work to compile information for the upcoming PAOC meeting to be shared with the April minutes and May agenda.

Meeting adjourns.