



**UrbanArt Commission
Public Art Oversight Committee
Wednesday, May 8, 2019 – 1 pm**

PAOC attending: Anthony Lee, Ellen Daugherty, Juaness Keplinger, Coriana Close, Lisa Law

UAC staff: Lauren Kennedy, Shanette Parks, Brett Hanover

Observing: Sharon Petty

- I. Welcome
Kennedy calls the meeting to order and notes that Keplinger's previous request to review materials to approve in advance of the monthly meetings will be addressed moving forward with items shared along with the agenda and previous meeting minutes.

APPROVALS

- II. Approval of Minutes – April 2019
Kennedy calls for discussion and a motion to approve the April 2019 minutes. Lee asks for more information about the number of applicants to the South City invitational call with 5 out of 11 invited artists submitting materials Kennedy shares that there were time constraints for several invited artists and a couple of others felt that the call was not the right fit for them. Kennedy acknowledges that the South City wall presented UAC with some good lessons about how to issue invitational calls moving forward, including meeting with potential invitees before formally issuing the call. Kennedy also notes that as there was a tie for the finalists to submit proposals for South City, PAOC approved contingency funding to invite a fourth finalist for an additional \$1,500 honorarium.

Daugherty moves, Lee seconds. The minutes were unanimously approved with no changes.
- III. Cordova Library – finalist selection
Kennedy shares the three finalists for the Cordova Library sculpture call which was issued regionally to artists living in the tri-state area of Tennessee, Mississippi and Arkansas. Two of the three finalists are based in Tennessee including Tylur French with

Youngblood Studio, Laurie Brown (applying with Washington Glass Studio with whom she has collaborated previously), and Michael Warrick from Arkansas.

Kennedy and Parks introduce a discussion about moving finalists forward from the selection committee review of submissions to an RFQ. Kennedy asks to clarify if finalists selected by the selection committee require a formal approval by PAOC before letting finalists know the committee's decision. She notes that a formal approval from PAOC could possibly lengthen the timeframe in which UAC notifies finalists following the selection committee meeting depending on when the next PAOC meeting is set. Lee shares that prompt notification and follow up from UAC to finalists and other applicants is an important consideration. Close asks what would be the grounds for PAOC to not approve selected finalists. Kennedy responds that she has not witnessed PAOC reject finalists approved by the selection committee and supports the finalist decision being made by the selection committee as PAOC does not review all submissions; she also notes that the more important approval from PAOC is the selected proposal. PAOC agrees that finalists are approved by the selection committee and UAC will provide as an update to PAOC with no formal approval required.

Lee asks about RFQ v. RFP

IV. Heritage Landing – final acceptance

Kennedy shares that Douglas Kornfeld has installed his sculpture project for the Heritage Landing development. UAC is still waiting on maintenance recommendations to be submitted which are expected from Kornfeld before the end of the week. Lee notes that he anticipated the figures to feel larger based on the drawings; Kennedy notes that the project budget limited the scale of the sculptures as the artist felt it was important to have multiple figures.

Kennedy calls for a motion to approve final acceptance of the Heritage Landing project pending receipt of maintenance recommendations from artist. Lee moves, Close seconds. Final acceptance is unanimously approved.

Daugherty asks if there will be a dedication for the project now that it is complete. Kennedy responds that UAC is working with neighborhood leader Rebecca Hutchinson to plan the event and will share more with the committee.

V. Memphis Animal Services – schematic design

Parks shares the schematic design by Charlie Forrester for the Memphis Animal Services (MAS) mural. The selection committee is excited about the design and UAC has worked with MAS to invite people who have adopted through MAS to submit images of themselves with their pets, which Forrester will be incorporating into the final design. Some of the images used in the schematic design are still placeholders and will be clarified in the next round of drawings. Close asks to clarify if the artist will paint each image by hand or if the images will be printed and affixed to the wall; Parks responds that the images will be painted by hand. Parks also shares that there are some changes requested by the committee including having different animals represented in the outlined figures.

Daugherty asks that Forrester consider scale and legibility of the submitted photos in insets of each animal. Lee suggests a different font be considered and that a sans serif font type would be more consistent with the rest of the design; he also asks if the text is necessary. Kennedy and Parks note that the inclusion of text was a request from the selection committee and MAS staff, but that the font style will change in the final design.

Kennedy asks if PAOC has any feedback on the use of perspective added from the initial proposal; the committee notes that there is a lot of visual information in the mural currently and that the artist could consider simplifying the layout. Daugherty asks how the artist has considered the fact that the desk is actively in use and how the vibrant design will impact the space. PAOC requests that the artist submit color samples with final design.

The selection committee is currently reviewing the schematic design and will submit approval before the end of the week. Kennedy asks for approval of Forrester's schematic design pending selection committee approval. Law moves, Daugherty seconds. Schematic design is unanimously approved by both PAOC and selection committee.

- VI. Movable Collection – library installation plan & initial costs
Hanover presents plans to install rotating exhibition spaces in the four selected libraries for new Movable Collection purchases including Levi, North, South and Frayser branches. Work acquired by the City of Memphis will be installed in these four branches, rotating over the next year between them, in addition to artist talks and other engagement opportunities at each branch. The installation system recommended by UAC has recently been installed at the Benjamin L. Hooks Library and the staff has been pleased with the flexibility and use of the system. The system also includes attachments for lighting the work appropriately. PAOC provide recommendations and thoughts on placement of each of the rotating exhibition spaces, including painting an appropriate background color for each space. Keplinger asks if all of the purchases will be works to be hung on the wall. Hanover responds that selection of the new purchases is still underway and that some sculpture has been submitted. Kennedy notes that all purchases will be submitted to PAOC for approval and that some installation expenses could be used to purchase pedestals for the inclusion of any sculpture to be purchased. Close notes that work displayed on pedestals may require a vitrine on top of them to protect them. Law adds that models for public art projects could also be displayed in these galleries and through the use of pedestals.

Kennedy requests approval for installation costs up to \$5,000; any funds needed beyond this amount will be brought to PAOC for additional approval. Law moves, Keplinger seconds. The \$5,000 installation budget is unanimously approved.

- VII. District Mural Program – Lindsey Bailey – final design; Larry Walker – contingency request
Parks and Kennedy present Bailey's final design for the May Soccer Complex as part of the District Mural Program. There was limited feedback and changes requested by PAOC and the selection committee following the schematic design as everyone felt very positively about the design. Bailey has also shared the design with users of the facility by attending soccer games over the last several weeks and received more positive feedback. Lee recommends Bailey use pre-primed polytab instead of painting directly on building as a time saving measure and to allow for her to better work the detail of the design; he also recommends changing the orientation of soccer goal and incorporating the sense of movement visible in the rest of the design. Kennedy notes that the use of polytab may impact her budget but will discuss in greater detail with her and report back to PAOC. PAOC agrees that they would like to see these changes incorporated before approving Bailey's final design.

Kennedy shares information about the proposed method of producing the Larry Walker's mural at Mitchell Community Center recommended by the Parks Division. Given the texture of the bricks on the wall does not support painting directly on the wall

or applying polytab to the surface. Parks has recommended building a metal frame on which the mural could be installed using polytab. UAC has engaged Nickson General Contractors to provide a quote on the design and construction of the frame. The estimate from Nickson is approximately \$3,000 and UAC requests contingency funds, either through general percent-for-art funds or from contingency for the District Mural Program, of up to \$5,000 to build the frame. Law asks to clarify that Parks will review the design of the frame and notes concerns about potential water seeping into the places where the frame meets the wall. She also asks if there are any concerns about a metal frame and the risk of it retaining heat in the Memphis summer. Kennedy responds that Parks will review the design and she will bring these concerns up with them upon submitting the drawings. Lee recommends that Walker consider wrapping the image around the side of the frame to be more visually consistent, and floating the frame 30" above ground to prevent any staining on the bottom of the mural.

Keplinger moves to approve the \$5,000 request for contingency funds for Mitchell Community Center, Lee seconds. The motion is unanimously approved.

VIII. JFK Park – 50% fabricated

Kennedy presents photos from Bruce Myers for his 50% fabricated benchmark for his sculpture at JFK Park. Myers has constructed all of the shapes and forms that will be used to create the concrete seating wall on site, as well as the shapes that will be installed in the pavement around the project. Now that the forms are created and the calculations complete, Myers is continuing to roll steel based on the wooden form he has built. Kennedy notes that Myers has made significant progress and the selection committee approved the 50% benchmark as well.

Daugherty moves, Close seconds. The 50% fabrication benchmark is unanimously approved.

Kennedy also shares that because so much of the installation for this project will happen on site, UAC will likely seek to break Myers' 100% fabrication benchmark be split into two payments to better support the installation process. UAC recommends that once the frame is in place for the concrete to be poured that the first installment of this benchmark be issued, and the second issued after the concrete is poured. PAOC agrees with this recommendation.

IX. Blight Out – Hickory Hill – Tobacco Brown – budget amendment

Kennedy requests an additional \$1,000 for Tobacco Brown's temporary sculpture project in Hickory Hill through the Blight Out program due to the cost of the artist's insurance. The artist contract would be amended to note the additional funds provided.

Keplinger moves, Law seconds. Budget amendment is unanimously approved.

UPDATES

X. District Mural Program – Newman, Boyd and Walker design drafts

Parks and Kennedy present updated designs for Larry Walker at Mitchell Community Center, Darlene Newman at Marion Hale Community Center and Joseph Boyd at Raleigh Town Center for the District Mural Program. All three artists were asked to submit second drafts of the schematic design as part of the approval of that benchmark before PAOC reviews final design due to concerns and feedback about their initial designs.

Walker – Mitchell Community Center

Kennedy notes that while PAOC was not sure that the images of the buildings contributed to the overall design, but residents from the Walker Homes neighborhood felt very strongly about the use of these schools in the image as prominent landmarks for the neighborhood. Daugherty asks if the scale of the buildings is true to life as one appears smaller than the other; she suggests that the smaller building be made larger to make more sense next to the other building. Lee notes that in increasing the scale of the second building, he would like to see Walker leave some of the open space to maintain some of the openness of the design. Lee also asks about the green line at the bottom of the design, Law notes that it seems it is intended to ground the buildings above them. Lee suggests removing the green line and grounding the image another way. Law shares that the artist should consider using a “site/architecture white” rather than a true white in painting the design due to glare. Keplinger notes that the artist should confirm the spelling of the names listed in the design as she noted several typos. PAOC also recommends that the silhouettes of youth should overlap on top of the white lines in honeycomb shape like the other images of youth depicted. PAOC supports Walker’s design moving forward to final design.

Darlene Newman - Marion Hale Community Center

Newman submitted revised black and white drawings for her mural and will be following up with a color image soon. Kennedy notes that UAC has already provided feedback on different text for the sign noting the 1968 sanitation workers who lived in the area. Close asks to clarify if the original design was larger and Kennedy responds that it has been reduced from including four walls to two walls. Close asks that the artist provide more detail on the crowd behind the majorette figure. PAOC supports Newman’s design moving forward to final design.

Joseph Boyd - Raleigh Town Center

Kennedy shares that UAC is still working with Boyd to refine certain elements of the design. Close notes that there are number of different design elements that could be made more cohesive. The blue used to indicate water could be used more consistently throughout. Lee asks about the visibility of the wall as it is currently situated along the back entrance which is not highly used; Kennedy notes that the artist has heard similar concerns from Raleigh residents and UAC will follow up with the architects about addressing these concerns. Lee also recommends that Boyd use a color other than black for the silhouettes depicted such as a dark blue. PAOC requests that the artist submit images with final design indicating how they would be painted rather than showing photoshopped or digital images, which may also help tie the different elements together more clearly.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

June 26, 2019 @ 1:00 PM (UAC asks PAOC members to allow for 1.5 hour meeting)

July 10, 2019 @ 1:00 PM

August 14, 2019 @ 1:00 PM