



**UrbanArt Commission
Public Art Oversight Committee
1:00 PM Wednesday, March 14, 2018**

ATTENDEES:

PAOC:

Coriana Close
Ellen Daugherty

UAC:

Emily Rooker
Kerri Malone

MINUTES:

- I. Welcome
 - a. Meeting is called to order. Rooker states that quorum has not been reached, so no formal approvals will be done in person.
- II. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Rooker notes that December minutes were never formally approved and that minutes would need to be approved via email.¹
- III. Project Update Sheet
 - a. Rooker informs group that PAOC will not convene in April due to extensive UAC staff travel both for the PolicyLink Equity Summit and District Mural Program training.
 - b. Rooker mentions that PAOC members have requested general project updates for Percent-for-Art projects regardless of any benchmarks requiring approval, so each meeting will now begin with an overview of the Project Update Sheet.
 - c. Malone provides update on Gateways – District 2 Project (artist: Lester Merriweather). Most recent benchmark is 50% complete, no progress since last PAOC meeting.
 - d. Rooker provides update on Gateways – District 5 Project (artist: Greely Myatt). Final acceptance for the project is on hold until solar panels are installed. Close mentions she may have a solar contact for Myatt, and will follow up with him individually.
 - e. Malone provides update on Gateways – District 3 Project (artist: Flying Carpet). Project is still set for installation in May or June.
 - f. Malone provides update on Gateways – District 4 Project (artist: John Golightly). Malone says the goal is for project to wrap by the end of 2018. Golightly is in the process of incorporating further images into his design and UAC is waiting for updated sketches.
 - g. Rooker provides update on Heritage Landing Project (artist: Douglas Kornfeld). Artist is still in the process of getting engineer approval on final design documents. Close asks for details of the project

¹ Approval of the December 2017 PAOC minutes was received via email following the March 2018 convening of PAOC.

location for the Heritage Landing project. Project will be located at the Clearborn Point apartments, near the front entrance. Close asks how long the project has been ongoing, Rooker mentions Kornfeld was selected shortly before she joined the UAC team in April 2017. Rooker clarifies that final design tends to take a while due to extensive engineering drawings and final budgets.

- h. Rooker provides update on Army/Navy Park Project (artist: Krivanek + Breau). Due to complications with land acquisition in the parks department, the schematic design rendered by artist team will not be able to move forward. Krivanek + Breau have requested a deferral of their contract, which will need to be approved by the selection committee. UAC will propose to the selection committee that the funding from Army/Navy Park be reallocated to another site in the District, and that any future project for the Parks would come from another budget cycle.
- i. Rooker provides update on JFK Project (artist: Bruce Myers). Rooker says Myers is in the process of having final design documents approve, and expects that benchmark to be completed in Summer 2018.
- j. Malone provides update on Cossitt Library Project and Dunbar Elementary Project. Selection committees for both projects reviewed finalist proposals and determined selected artist. The Cossitt Library selection committee chose Eli Gould, and the Dunbar Elementary selection committee chose Desmond Lewis.
- k. Rooker informs PAOC of a meeting between UAC Staff (Malone, Rooker) and the North Hollywood Blight-Out Artist (Rudy King). The purpose of the meeting was to plan a path forward from the engagement phase of the project to the design phase. Rooker mentions UAC is not able to write a contract for Blight-Out artists until a design and budget are proposed. Malone says Hickory Hill Blight-Out Artist Tobacco Brown is back in Memphis, and still on board for the program. Malone mentions there will be three community workshops in May 2018, and that shortly following that Brown will begin creating her designs. Malone notes that UAC is preparing to re-launch Blight-Out in other districts later in the year, and that UAC is in the process of identifying neighborhood leaders and forming a selection committee for Blight-Out.
- l. Rooker provides update on District Mural Program, noting that UAC is still in the middle of the interview process. Rooker says that there are 21 candidates for the interview stage and that interviews will wrap March 23rd. Rooker also notes that in order to inform selected artists by March 31st, PAOC approval will need to occur via email. Rooker mentions the training trip to Philadelphia will take place April 18-20, so approvals of artists cannot wait until the May PAOC convening.²

IV. Other Updates

- a. Malone mentions we are seeking a replacement selection committee member for the Cossitt Library project. Malone says replacement committee member will likely be brought in after the selection process has fully wrapped.
- b. Rooker gives an update about a Town Hall meeting in Whitehaven alongside Councilwoman Robinson, of which the goal was to begin a conversation with residents about the reallocation of funds from the Plough Blvd Project. (artist: Electroland). Rooker mentions that UAC was able to have conversations with lots of residents regarding different types of artworks, as well as where art might be placed. Residents seemed most interested in sculpture projects, particularly on Elvis Presley Boulevard. Daugherty asked how many people were in attendance, Rooker estimates between 40 and 50 individuals.

V. FY19 Public Art Plan Recommendations

- a. Malone gives an overview of the FY2019 Public Art Recommendations compiled by UrbanArt Commission. UAC is requesting \$104,000 to continue and expand the Blight-Out Program in other districts; \$100,000 for a project at Cordova Library, which includes de-accessioning a project on the site that is structurally compromised; \$68,000 to bring back the Direct Purchase Program, a process that allows for gallery artwork to be purchased and hung in municipal buildings.³

² The seven artists for District Mural Program were selected after the conclusion of this PAOC convening, and were approved via email.

³ The FY19 Public Art plan was approved by the Public Art Oversight Committee via email.

- i. Malone mentions that the inventory process for the Direct Purchase Program will take place over the summer, managed by a Rhodes intern, before UAC re-launches the program and begins purchasing new works. Close asks if the program will be an invitational program, and Malone mentions the major structural elements of the program have not yet been finalized. Rooker notes that following the completion of an existing artwork inventory, UAC will come back to PAOC to discuss in greater detail the format of the program. Daugherty mentions her participation in the last iteration of the Direct Purchase Program, and notes a deeper clarity on selection criteria would have been helpful. She also notes works were selected through photographs instead of in-person evaluation of the work. Daugherty says she is available for further feedback on the past iteration of the Direct Purchase Program. Close recommended the Juvenile Justice Center for some of the purchased artworks.⁴

APPROVAL ITEMS:

- VI. Dunbar Elementary Selected Artist: Desmond Lewis
 - a. Malone provides an overview of Lewis' proposal for the Dunbar Elementary project, which includes a bench design with student handprints pressed into the bench. Lewis' hope is that students will return as they get older and find their handprint in the bench. There will also be a sculptural element to the project of neighborhood residents' silhouettes. Malone also mentions Lewis' interest in utilizing residents in his process, as well as paying them for labor throughout the process.
- VII. Cossitt Library Selected Artist: Eli Gould
 - a. Malone presents models and renderings from Gould's proposal. Daugherty mentions the work looks exceedingly similar to the work of artist Naum Gabo. After some discussion, Close and Daugherty agree they do not feel comfortable approving Gould's proposal, and move to a deeper discussion with the other members of Public Art Oversight Committee. In an email thread, the committee determined they could not approve Gould's proposal.⁵
- VIII. Adjourn

⁴ Please note that "Direct Purchase Program" and "Moveable Collection" are used interchangeably and refer to the same program.

⁵ See supplemental documents for emails regarding approved items and further discussion of Gould's proposal.