



**UrbanArt Commission
Public Art Oversight Committee
Wednesday, September 8, 2021 – 1 pm**

Attending: Jana Travis, Nefertiti Orrin, Patricia Daigle, Coriana Close; UAC staff: Lauren Kennedy, Brett Hanover, Whitney Williams

- I. Kennedy calls the meeting to order and welcomes everyone to the meeting.

APPROVALS

- II. July 2021 Minutes
Kennedy calls for a motion to approve the July 2021 minutes, as there was not an August meeting. Travis moves, Daigle seconds. The minutes are unanimously approved with no changes.
- III. Email approval recap -- Kennedy then reviews approvals that were submitted over email in August including 100% fabrication & final acceptance for the Whitehaven mural by Lawrence Matthews and Amber Ahmad at Elvis Presley Blvd. and Brooks Rd., and 100% fabrication for rhiza A+D's sculpture at Cossitt Library. She notes that the Cossitt Library project should be installed by the end of the month.
- IV. South City - text -- Kennedy reminds the committee that the selection committee for the South City project had requested that some text be included on the sculptures that helped residents understand the artwork and possibly connect the project more directly to the location. UAC contracted with Kimberly Jacobs to develop this text based on narrative information shared by the artist Terry Lynn, and has been approved by the artist and selection committee. Orrin notes that she thinks the text reads well. Daigle agrees and asks if any more specificity could be added, particularly around the note about architectural influences. Kennedy responds that UAC had some trouble teasing out that information in greater detail that could be captured succinctly on a plaque, but more information can be made available on UAC's website for the project, including Lynn's family connections to the original Foote Homes development. Law asks how the text will be installed along with the sculptures, Kennedy responds that they are hoping it can be incorporated into the base of each sculpture. UAC is currently working through options with the artist. Daigle notes two grammatical errors that Kennedy takes note of and is reflected in the final text.

Kennedy calls for a motion to approve the text. Daigle moves to approve, Close seconds. The motion is approved.

- V. Cordova Library - Final design -- Young presents final design documents for the Cordova Library project by Youngblood Studio. Stamped engineering drawings are still in progress and should be available shortly as the engineer is still fine tuning some of the details for the structure. The engineers, A2H, are very confident that everything is doable within the scope of the design. Tylur French of Youngblood Studio has tested the proposed lighting in his studio and that it clearly projects at least 80 feet and is confident that it will have the desired effect of projecting the text of the structure onto the building. The text was identified through engaging library staff and users submitting book titles and authors. Young also reviews materials, maintenance recommendations, budget, and timeline submitted by Youngblood, noting potential installation before the end of the calendar year. Close asks if the shape and color have changed since the initial proposal, Young responds that the color has consistently been green and the shape has shifted due to structural and budgetary considerations. Kennedy adds that UAC doesn't typically submit final design documents without the stamped engineering drawings but this project has been delayed significantly due to major installations by Youngblood Studio at the convention center and airport. Law and Close note that the artist will need to clarify both the treatment to the edges of the sculpture, and the potential for small hands to be caught in the openings of the letters/able to be climbed. Close also asks about the possibility of trash getting caught up on the sculpture. Law also asks for more detail on the bench on the interior of the sculpture.

Kennedy concludes the discussion around this project by stating that it feels like more detail is needed for everyone to feel more comfortable moving forward, and asks if the committee would feel comfortable approving final design over email. The committee expresses their agreement with that plan.

- VI. Frayser Library - Artist selection -- Kennedy presents Amanda Nalley's design proposal for the new Frayser Library mural project, noting that the selection committee's decision to select her was unanimous and full of excitement. Nalley's design consists of series of symbols inspired by hieroglyphs, the Dewey decimal system and app thumbnail images. She also intends to work with neighborhood high school students by having a competition for students to submit additional symbols that she will incorporate in the final design. Daigle moves to approve the Frayser Library artist selection, Close seconds. The motion is approved.

UPDATES

- VII. Blight Out -- Kennedy shares that Kelsey Harrison, new sculpture professor at the University of Memphis, would like to submit a proposal to UAC and PAOC for Blight Out funds for a project she is working on with Carpenter Art Garden. Kennedy asks what the committee thinks about reviewing a proposal outside of an open call to artists, and notes that UAC is also working on another project idea with partners at Clean Memphis to create a series of storm drain murals throughout the city using Blight Out funds. Travis expresses some concern about reviewing an unsolicited proposal but is open to hearing other thoughts from the committee. Close notes that she is a mentor of Kelsey's and feels that it is a conflict of interest for her to participate in the conversation. Law shares that she would like to see the funds used rather than not and would be open to reviewing more about the proposal in the spirit of getting the funds out there. Close notes that a similar situation would be the funding that was approved for the Ida B. Wells memorial, and recommends that UAC explore opportunities for artists to submit project

ideas outside of a specific call to artists/site etc... Daigle asks for additional information on the project idea from Harrison; Kennedy notes that UAC can ask for additional information to support the discussion.

- VIII. Movable Collection - Hospitality Hub -- Kennedy shares plans for a new barrier-free women's shelter being built by the Hospitality Hub as well as a public plaza and amenities to support people experiencing homelessness. UAC is working with the Hub to see how we can support the inclusion of art in the project including through grants and sponsorships. Because the site of the new facilities is owned by the City of Memphis, UAC would like to recommend that some of the available Movable Collection funding be used to purchase artwork for the women's shelter following the trauma-informed design of the building. There is currently \$125,000 for new purchases available and UAC recommends spending a maximum of \$75,000 of those funds to support this project. The committee expresses their support for the project. Kennedy notes that UAC will help facilitate a loan agreement between the City of Memphis and Hospitality Hub further down the line.