



**UrbanArt Commission  
Public Art Oversight Committee  
Wednesday, March 9, 2022 – 1 pm**

Attending: Patty Daigle, Davida Cruthird, Nefertiti Orrin, Coriana Close, Eso Tolson, Jana Travis; UAC staff: Wendy Young, Whitney Williams

I. Welcome

Williams begins the meeting with a welcome to the March monthly PAOC meeting.

**APPROVALS**

II. February 2022 minutes

Williams reminds the committee that the February 2022 minutes were emailed to the committee and shares that the audio link for these minutes was included to be very forward facing. With no questions, Daigle motions to approve the minutes and Close seconds. The minutes are unanimously approved. Daigle questions if the committee has quorum and Williams clarifies that there needs to be four members, which there are.

III. Review email approvals

- a. Cordova Library - Final Design
- b. FY23 Public Art Plan

Williams moves on to the next slide sharing that they are not looking for approval but as a reminder, UAC received email approval for the FY23 public art plan and thanks the committee and shares UAC's excitement, especially for Tylur French's Cordova Library project.

IV. NAI - Hickory Hill & Mallory Heights - project plans & \$65,000 (each neighborhood)

Williams moves to the next slide to share that she is looking for approval today for budgets and selection committees for the artistic enhancements of bus shelters in Mallory Heights and Hickory Hill. Williams shares that UAC is working in partnership with MATA and engaging with the neighborhood to ensure they are getting what they want; what they envision. Williams refers to the slideshow stating that the images on the bottom are examples of stock images from bus shelters around the country to reference ideas that we do not see in Memphis and the images on the top are examples of UAC projects in Memphis that are graphic designs and metal signage in the Medical District. Williams clarifies that in the MMDC example it is more specifically signage and UAC is looking to create more artistic features. Williams says that with MATA there is opportunity for art for social change as a couple of years ago in Hickory Hill when the MATA contracting changed from Lamar bus shelters were pulled out and replaced

with benches and the neighborhood has really pushed back and stand strong to voice that these benches are not sheltering people from the weather, so this is exciting to be working with MATA to bring in coverage again as well as bringing in updated and upgraded Tolar shelters. It is a \$65,000 budget for each neighborhood under the Neighborhood Art Initiative. Orrin questions the process going forward and how the community will be involved in the design of the bus shelter. Williams shares that in Mallory Heights, UAC is upping the selection committee with 8 voting members and 2 non voting members and our partner in the neighborhood is the Mallory Heights CDC. There will be one representative from the CDC, one UAC artist representative, another community stakeholder who is the Washington Manor Property Manager which is the Apartment complex that is surrounded by the bus shelters, and Scott Fox from MATA, one architect, one engineer and then also the Cash Saver's store manager as well as a long time Mallory Heights resident Ural Grant. Also there will be a representative from The City and Parks. UAC has hosted several community events in Mallory Heights so far like tabling outside of Cash Saver and in the apartment complex to hear where we wanted to go with this project. Based on the feedback from the neighborhood initially the residents wanted a mural but since this is City funded when we looked at where a mural could be we recognized that the community center is technically Riverview and it's more important for Mallory Heights to have something in their boundaries, so the second choice was a sculpture that could anchor the shopping center. Williams states that the committee represents entities in the neighborhood that have a voice for a lot more voices. Williams states that the most noticeable thing to her as the project manager for this Mallory Heights project is that this is a transient neighborhood and this project allows us to raise awareness around where residents are, "you are in Mallory Heights.. You are renting a house in a neighborhood called Mallory Heights". Williams also states that based on PAOC's feedback from the last meeting UAC will now implement a "community vote" from social media and out in the community that counts as one vote in the selection process. Orrin states that that sounds great. Williams shows the Hickory Hill selection committee which is very similar but in an effort to ensure there is community engagement there will be another non voting member included to raise awareness around this project from Agape since the community partner is Gestalt Schools this will allow additional networking and support in getting the word out on this project. Williams shares the committee list Orrin thanks Williams for sharing and Close adds a recommendation to remove the beer bottle sculpture as an example for the neighborhood. Close motions to approve but Daigle asks how many shelters will be installed and how many shelters will MATA be adding. Williams explains that the \$65,000 budget allows for 4 shelters in each neighborhood that are similar or the same in design by one artist in each neighborhood. Williams explains the style of the old shelters that MATA is updating, but did not have an actual number of how many are being replaced around the city. Daigle brings up how it is a shame that there are not more affordable ways to give shade and a seat to folks who are waiting. Williams shares the issues around not impeding on residents' property as the possible issue for why the shelters are a limited number. Williams reads Cruthird's comment from the chat box which states that this is a great project, thanks so much. Williams restates UAC's new norm of adding a community vote for all projects so that the neighborhood has a voice. Williams calls for budget and selection committee approvals; Close moves to approve, Orrin seconds. The motions are approved. Tolson adds that he agrees with Daigle and would like to see a slight variation in color or design. Williams adds that UAC is in support of that, but like Close stated at our last meeting the biggest focus is to ensure our budget matches the expectations of the artists and working to ensure UAC does not overpromise and underdeliver. Daigle asks if the artists will be building off the structure and is curious how the artists' work will physically occur. Tolson asks if its design only. Williams shares that Young is working to find out logistics of weight and adding on, but this will not be a new build; it is enhancements.

#### V. Other project updates

##### a. Welcome to Frayser - Lurlynn Franklin

Williams moves on to another project, but is not looking for approval. She shares that in Frayser UAC is currently working with the Ed Rice CC selection committee to add vinyl installations of the interior of the brand new building as well as working with Amanda Nalley on the exterior wall bound mural on the brand

new Frayser Library building. Some additional funding was freed up because a different project fell through so there is \$9,200 that has been allocated to Frayser with no project. Williams explains that one of the concepts brought forth during the call for the Ed Rice project was the acquisition of Lurlynn Franklin's street signs. Williams explains where Franklin's concept, budget and efforts came from and states that this is the ideal example of how community engagement occurs. Williams adds that the goal of these signs was to place these five signs around Frayser and they are currently in Frayser Connect's possession, but while Lurlynn owns the signs, there is no funding for the installation of them. UAC would like to propose to the Ed Rice Selection Committee to use part of the \$9,200 to pay for the installation of these signs for the Frayser community. UAC would be requesting that the Ed Rice committee serve as this new committee, too. Williams states that UAC does not plan to invest the full \$9,200 in this effort so the second phase would be discussing with the Ed Rice committee how to allocate the remaining funds on any other small projects. Close asks for clarification of if UAC would purchase the pieces and replicate materials. Williams shares that the slide text is showing what she and Williams discussed as Franklin's idea, but UAC wants to take this before the Ed Rice committee to see if this aligns with what Frayser wants. Daigle asks if what Franklin has presented are just options and Williams confirms. Daigle asks to clarify if these five pieces were already created and how this all originated. Williams explains the funding came from grants to fund the supplies and Franklin worked with over 700 Frayser residents with huge buy in. Again, Williams states the goal is to present the acquisition to the Ed Rice Committee and Young adds that Cruthird typed a question asking if any of these individuals are a part of the Frayser CDC. Williams says that pretty much all of the committee members are a part of the CDC and states the involvement of specific committee members. Daigle restates that what UAC is proposing is to propose to the selection committee the purchase. Williams says that it is not necessarily that UAC wants to purchase them, it is that it is asking the community what it will take to get these installed and compensate Lurlynn based on the signage living in private and/or public spaces. Williams states that UAC believes this a great opportunity to support an artist-led initiative in tandem with ensuring the neighborhood has a voice in this. Orrin adds that it appears that this work already belongs to the community and that Franklin wants it in the community. Williams agrees. Williams asks if the committee feels good about presenting this option to the Ed Rice Committee. Daigle asks if UAC will present all of these same options and Williams states that the expectation is that the committee will drive the conversation and expects their response to be yes we want it installed here. She adds that they will also discuss how remaining funds could be used. Orrin asks how Franklin will retain ownership in this process or if the city will own the art. Williams suggests Young add to her response, but states that it will depend on where the committee wants the works to live. If they are on city property it would look more like UAC acquiring it for the city collection, but if not there would be conversation around compensation if Lurlynn remains the owner. Williams asks if the committee feels this is a best practice and Close shares that she feels this makes sense and suggests bringing Franklin into the office to discuss best practices around community engagement. Orrin asks if this is the first time to do something like this. Williams and Young share that in their experience at UAC they do not know of another time and Williams adds that this is a part of UAC's strategic plan to continue to hold space for artists' ideas. Close suggests hiring Franklin as a consultant and reminds the committee of how UAC supported the Ida B. Wells sculpture. Close and Orrin share their support of moving forward with this.

#### VI. JFK Park - contingency request

Williams moves the conversation back to approvals and asks Young to take the lead. Young reminds the committee that they received an email with the full details and notes that \$71,000 was the original project budget with only about \$12,000 remaining. Young shares the overview of the scope and says we are developing more of a plaza than a sculpture as more realistically a tiny construction project. Young shares images of Myers's work from last spring and what is in storage. Young calls for questions from the email that was sent to PAOC. Young states that we do have the money in contingency to bring this project to completion. Close asks if this is stating that if the funds are held does it disappear or is there no pressure that the City would take the funds. Young states that the contingency funds are reserve

funds to keep in the chance of projects like this. Orrin asks about the actual construction of the plaza as she cannot remember the design. Young states that Myers and herself have been in talks with Wolf River Conservancy and they will be getting a trail that will meet up making this be a centerpiece for the park. Young shares where the money is headed with the main thing being Myers coming back across the country with a truck and trailer, concrete and rebar- the biggest budget line. Daigle asks for how much of the project has been completed and what is stored. Young shares that there is a vacant field with no site lines and nothing brought to grade. Myers had not started footprints and the foundation was being poured because of the sinkholes. The materials are in a storage unit and only Bruce knows how the pieces fit together. Young consulted with Tylur French and believes that only Myers could complete this project. Young states that UAC is open to new ideas. Daigle asks if all of this is coming out of UAC's contingency budget: the 42k. Young affirms and shows the slide with two options. Young shares that she has spoken with Myers on the two options and Myers wants to see this project through although he understands if there is an issue with seeing the project through. Daigle reminds the committee about having to move Greely's project in Audubon Park and questions if there is anything in anyone's insurance policies that would offset any costs. Young cannot speak to how we would negotiate and that Parks does not have the budget to support this project. Daigle is curious if there was a playground on this property and the sink hole had occurred would there have been insurance that could have been applied. Young believes that is not an option and Close adds that she understands he has worked on this for a really long time therefore UAC should support him as best as we can; however this is a plaza and just dumping it seems like a huge waste of time and would like to finish it out. She adds that if this was a mural she would say no, but in the scope of building expenses and how amazing this project is, she would like to see it continued. She would like to hear others' thoughts. Orrin adds that there is already revitalization happening and this a part of that revitalization therefore not doing this project could put additional things in jeopardy for UAC and agrees with what Close has stated too. Williams shares Cruthird's message from the chat box asking if land use is an option with City of Memphis (901) 636-6619 and says she has no idea about these things but with space challenges, unsure. Young states she is unsure if she can speak to that and is unsure also. Williams states that it is 2 minutes past the meeting's official close and asks if the committee wants to take a breath or feels confident in voting. Young does not have anything left to add Orrin asks the question to the group if anyone disagrees or if any additional questions are needing answered before a vote. Daigle would like to know how much is budgeted for contingency and then asks if this puts UAC in a tough situation or if it leaves room for funds for other projects in the future. Young shares that after July 1st another amount will be added to the contingency fund. She states the money is there and that it could go to other circumstances if needed. Williams adds assurance that FY23 funding becomes available in July and thus far the funds would be used for this project with it being filled back in soon. Tolson states that things like this pop up and this could be a reason to increase the contingency funding. He adds that this is tough but that the money is there and agrees with Close. Travis states that she agrees with Close from her experience with contract working and supply chain issues and labor that to not get this done only makes it worse. She thinks it is better to see this project through and believes the artist would, also. Travis adds that as someone who does budgeting as a chair it allows UAC an opportunity to use it and ask for more. Williams calls for a motion to approve. Close motions and Tolson seconds. The motion is unanimously approved. Daigle asks moving forward to be made aware of what safeguards are in place around land usage. Young states that during her time at UAC she sees it important to start doing site surveys. Daigle suggests contacting architects to see a best practice and Young asks for any recommendations.

## **UPDATES**

### **VII. Maintenance update**

Williams thanks the committee for their time and shares quick updates on additional projects. She states that Lorenzo is moving into the fabrication phase for the Whitehaven YMCA. We are in the final design phase for Cordova Library, LE Brown has fabrication beginning, Cossitt had a tree branch

damage so repair is needed, and Desmond's site at Orange Mound Park has been approved. Amanda Nalley is working on final design for Frayser Library, but construction has gone back to bidding.

The meeting is adjourned.

**Upcoming (Zoom) Meeting Dates:**

April 13, 2022 @ 1:00 PM

May 11, 2022 @ 1:00 PM

June 8, 2022 @ 1:00 PM