



**UrbanArt Commission
Public Art Oversight Committee
Wednesday, May 10, 2023 – 1 pm**

In attendance: Davida Cruthird, Yvonne Jones, Nefertiti Orrin, Kate Roberts, Eso Tolso, Mario Walker; UAC Staff: Ricard Echols, Lauren Kennedy, Mallory Key, Kayla J. Smith, Travis Washington

APPROVALS

I. Email Approvals

Kennedy begins the meeting by recapping last month's approvals. The following items were approved over email as a quorum was not established at the April meeting: the March 2023 minutes, 50% fabrication for Lorenzo Scruggs' Whitehaven YMCA sculpture, the FY24 public art plan, 100% fabrication for Youngblood Studios' Cordova Library sculpture, schematic designs by Hope Hudson, Lisa Williamson, and Taropop for Hospitality Hub Movable Collection pieces, final design by Lawrence Matthews and Ahmad George for the Mallory Heights bus shelter artistic enhancements, and selection committees for new projects in South City, Gaisman Community Center, and Gooch Park. Kennedy adds that a direction commission for Jason Miller to create a new mural at Gaisman Community Center was approved as his original mural there was lost when the old building was torn down. \$10,000 from UAC contingency funding and \$10,000 from Parks have been allocated for this project. Additionally, a direct commission for Jamond Bullock to create a new mural at Gooch Park and the allocation of \$30,000 from maintenance overhaul funding for this project were also approved. She reminds PAOC that the old mural is in disrepair, the original artist is not interested in refreshing it, and Bullock recently completed a pool facility mural there. Kennedy asks if there are any questions before the team introduces new approvals.

II. Movable Collection - Hospitality Hub - Final Designs

Echols presents final designs for Hospitality Hub Movable Collection artwork. He begins with Taropop's modular piece for the dining room, showing their 3D rendering, installation plans, and color palette. Next, Echols presents Hope Hudson's quilt design for the family room detailing the nature-inspired elements, layering, colors, fabrics, and installation/maintenance plans. He adds that Lisa Williamson is engaged with Hub partners and still incorporating votes to inform her final design for the third piece that will be installed over the staircase. Kennedy adds that these two final designs have been

approved by their selection committee. Echols asks if there are any questions before seeking a motion to approve. Tolson moves, Cruthird seconds, and the motion is unanimously approved.

III. Accelerate - South City - Schematic Design

Washington explains that the artists have already received feedback from City Traffic Engineering and the selection committee on this design and are incorporating edits for the final design. He introduces the multiple elements of this project starting with the welcome signage by Suzy Hendrix featuring laser cut steel signage, exterior grade colored glass in a mosaic pattern, and concrete pillar bases which will be installed at the redesigned intersection of Mississippi and Lauderdale. He then presents three options that the selection committee will choose from for pillar tree sculptures that will create an arc at the entrance of the greenspace. Next, Washington introduces the asphalt design and underpass paint options for this project by Khara Woods. He shares some of the feedback already received from City Traffic Engineering on color choices and patterns and a breakdown of the artists' projected budget.

Kennedy clarifies that UAC is seeking approval for this schematic design as the edits will be applied to final design documents. She asks for any additional feedback from PAOC and reminds everyone that they are seeing this for the first time as PAOC previously approved a direct commission for Suzy Hendrix and Khara Woods to work on this project with the Division of Planning and Development based on an old proposal the team submitted for the South City project in which Terry Lynn was commissioned.

Walker asks if the welcome sign will be over a roadway. Washington confirms, and Walker recommends a sight plan to accompany the final design to locate the various elements. Kennedy and Washington agree. Walker then asks if the City or the artists will be applying the asphalt paint and voices concern about the longevity of the application. Washington informs that the City has contracted Montgomery Martin for the new asphalt, and the artists have contracted Anthony Lee, who has completed similar work, to paint the designs using a product specifically designed for street application with Woods on-site supervising. Kennedy adds that the application will be similar to what has been done on Manassas between Madison and Union. Walker agrees that application has been more successful compared to the compass that is completely faded at an intersection in Whitehaven. He reiterates his concern would be issues going forward with paint holding up, but Washington assures that the correct paint has been sourced. Lastly, Walker asks if this design will go before the downtown review board. Washington replies that it will not as final approval will come from the City Traffic Engineering Department. Kennedy thanks him for his questions and makes a note to send engineering drawings from the final design packet to Walker in advance for his review.

Kennedy asks for a motion to approve the schematic designs for South City. Orrin moves, Walker seconds, and the motion is approved.

UPDATES

- JFK Park

Kennedy updates PAOC that Bruce Myers is requesting additional contingency funding to complete the project at JFK Park this upcoming fall. She reminds everyone that PAOC previously approved a \$42,614 contingency after sinkholes were identified on-site during his first visit. Last year, he poured concrete for the meander seat wall and laid out forms in the ground for the raindrop pattern but left before completing the entire project due to weather and labor shortage. Kennedy emphasizes to PAOC that she has clearly communicated to the artist the need for a scaled back design that reflects the obstacles encountered thus far and significant cost savings. She presents the proposed revision which includes the removal of some elements for a more simplified, condensed design and shares that Myers plans to return to Memphis to complete the project in September or October of this year to avoid the intense summer heat. Kennedy lists the project budget of \$29,034, pointing out that \$13,787 remains in the original budget leaving \$15,247 as the additional contingency request. She adds that current contingency funds are more than enough to support the request before asking for questions or a motion to approve the edited design and contingency request.

Orrin asks how much money has already been invested in the project. Kennedy answers that \$71,000 was originally allocated in 2015, and Myers was commissioned in 2016. She offers that in hindsight the budget may not have been sufficient for a project of this scale, and there have been several obstacles, both within and beyond the artist's control, that have affected the project timeline and budget. Orrin then asks for more clarification about funds paid to the artist. Kennedy responds that of the original \$71,000, \$13,787 still remains and explains that the first contingency was applied towards equipment storage, materials, and labor as all work was lost due to issues with the site. Orrin voices difficulty visualizing the completed project and asks for Kennedy's overall opinion of its value and potential use. Kennedy candidly replies that she doesn't feel good about the lifespan of the project but thinks the design is beautiful and adds to the site. She wishes the location was more prominent as it is mostly accessible from the greenway rather than the park but is hopeful the education team at the Wolf River Conservancy will be able to execute their vision of activating the space as an outdoor classroom. Cruthird asks if any other projects have spanned eight years. Kennedy replies that it is rare but has happened a few times in the past, and Cruthird thanks her for sharing. Kennedy offers that PAOC has the option to deny the request before asking again for a motion to approve or a case to not approve. Tolson voices hesitancy to make a decision expressing difficulty in visualizing the design and determining the outcome. Kennedy suggests revisiting the request next month with more site images and when asked adds that her inclination would be to approve to finish the work as nearly \$100,000 has been invested and the largest components have already been installed. Orrin agrees and says a testimonial from Wolf River Conservancy may be helpful. Kennedy replies that she will reach out for programmatic plans. Roberts asks if the artist will only be returning once more, and Kennedy confirms saying she has been clear on the design revision and installation expectations. The conversation concludes with plans to revisit next month with more information.

- LE Brown Park

Kennedy and Washington provide a brief update about fabrication errors, the search for an appropriate vendor to provide the most cost effective solution, and the need for a future contingency request that will be presented at a later date.

- NAI - Douglass - 50% fabricated

Echols shares images of mosaic pieces and polytab murals that will be adhered at Douglass Community Center by the end of June. Kennedy informs PAOC that an email approval may be requested before the next meeting to provide the artists necessary funding for installation.

Other Project Updates

- Art & Environment - Carpenter Art Garden - sculpture park plans underway
- Ed Rice Community Center - adjustments to final design
- NAI - Westwood - painting in progress (phase 2)
- NAI - Hickory Hill - final design
- Whitehaven Art Club - mural site authorization
- Whitehaven YMCA - fabricating
- JFK Park- anticipated installation Fall 2023
- Cordova Library - final acceptance by end of May 2023
- Movable Collection
 - Installation - Cossitt, Raleigh Randolph, East Shelby, Crenshaw, Poplar White Station
 - Hospitality Hub- final designs
- Frayser Library- fabricating
- Frayser Signage - Determining locations (Rodney Baber Park, Frayser Library, North Frayser CDC, and two more TBD)
- LE Brown Park - fabricating
- Orange Mound Park - fabricating
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Kennedy asks for questions about project updates. She closes the meeting by thanking everyone for their participation and celebrates Kate Roberts for attending her first PAOC meeting!

[Upcoming \(Zoom\) Meeting Dates @ 1:00 PM:](#)

June 14, 2023
July 12, 2023
August 9, 2023
September 13, 2023
October 11, 2023
November 8, 2023
December 13, 2023