



**UrbanArt Commission
Public Art Oversight Committee
Wednesday, June 9, 2021 – 1 pm**

Attending: Jana Travis, Patricia Daigle, Eso Tolson, Lisa Law, David Cruthird, Nefertiti Orrin; UAC staff: Lauren Kennedy, Brett Hanover, Wendy Young

WELCOME

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

APPROVALS

- II. May 2021 Minutes -- Kennedy asks if everyone had a chance to review the minutes from the May meeting, and if there are any questions or notes. She calls for a motion to approve the May minutes; Travis moves, Daigle seconds. The minutes are unanimously approved with no changes.
- III. Whitehaven Mural -- Kennedy presents images from Lawrence Matthews and Amber Ahmad demonstrating that they have completed 50% of the painting for the Whitehaven mural. The selection committee has been enthusiastic about the progress and is looking forward to seeing the mural installed. She also notes that it may be possible that UAC asks for approval on the 100% benchmark over email depending on the artists' installation schedule.

Orrin moves to approve the 50% payment, Cruthird seconds. The motion is approved.

- IV. Contingency Request --
 - a. Hickory Hill Community Center - Paintings by Anne Davey were originally commissioned and installed at the pool facility at Ed Rice Community Center, but the new community center facility that is under construction cannot accommodate reinstallation of the paintings. UAC recommended that the paintings be moved to the Hickory Hill Community Center pool facility and requests contingency funds to support the installation. The paintings are very large and heavy and Young notes that installation requires two lifts to be onsite. Contractor Eric Berg prepared a quote for \$3,450 to install the paintings.

Kennedy asks for a motion to approve the contingency request. Tolson moves, Daigle seconds. The motion is approved.

- V. Frayser Park bridge project -- Kennedy reminds PAOC that residents from Frayser reached out to UAC to do a public art project on a wooden bridge in Frayser Park, and PAOC previously approved \$1,500 allocation from Blight Out funds to support the request. She also shares that after talking more with the residents involved, they were hopeful for a public art project that would engage Frayser youth. Kennedy let them know that the bridge is not really a great vehicle for a student engagement project both because of the size and available budget. UAC will help to try and connect another youth engagement opportunity outside of this particular project.

Also because of the size of the project and budget, UAC recommends directly commissioning an artist to come up with the design and execute which is allowable from the City of Memphis percent-for-art guidelines. Kennedy reached out to Khara Woods about the opportunity and she presents two options that Woods has prepared. Kennedy notes that the color story references the Memphis Grizzlies colors and would age well (rather than bold, bright colors that would fade more obviously). Daigle asks if there was enough funding available to paint the whole bridge and possibly repaint the stanchions/ traffic control devices on either end of the bridge. Kennedy responds that the budget is not large enough to paint the whole bridge and that it is the Parks Division's responsibility to repaint the stanchions; she also recommended Woods not paint the whole surface of the bridge so that the image didn't fade as obviously with foot traffic on the bridge. Law recommends a clear sealant be applied to both protect the artwork and help the bridge as a whole feel refreshed. Orrin asks if the residents have approved the design; Kennedy notes that because this is a slightly different process than UAC typically follows (as a direct commission), she wanted PAOC to approve Woods' involvement and the recommended approach. The next step pending approval will be to present the options from Woods to the residents for their approval and/or feedback. Daigle asks for clarification on the kind of paint Woods intends to use, Kennedy notes that UAC will confirm that before the painting would begin.

Tolson motions to approve UAC's recommendations for the Frayser bridge project, Law seconds. The motion is approved.

UPDATES

- VI. Jesse Turner Park -- Kennedy reports that she and Young recently drove to Somerville to try and get an update from John Golightly at his studio for the sculptures at Jesse Turner Park. Kennedy and Young were unable to locate Golightly's studio but received no response from repeated calls and texts, and knocking on the door at his house. After months of no response from Golightly, no work accomplished on site, and no contact made with the attempted studio visit, Kennedy has let Golightly know that if UAC does not hear back before the end of this week, the contract will be terminated. This is disappointing as the majority of project funds have been dispersed and the neighborhood has been expecting this public art project for a very long time. Kennedy shares that the UAC team will work on identifying possible funds to be allocated to support a new project for the park (perhaps from the Neighborhood Art Initiative funding) for approval at a future date. Law asks if there is any way to recover the funding that was dispersed, Kennedy responds that she doesn't believe there is a way to do so short of suing the artist which UAC does not recommend. Cruthird asks how to avoid this situation in the future; Kennedy shares that because of the complications of this project and one other, UAC worked with the City to add a Remedies clause to artist contracts that will deduct a certain amount of money from what is left to be paid for every day that the artist remains unresponsive to UAC or the City.

- VII. JFK Park -- Kennedy reports that Bruce Myers is on site to install his sculpture along the Wolf River Greenway at JFK Park. Young shares that the installation will take at least 6 weeks dependent on weather and the amount of rain we have had. Orrin asks for clarification on where the sculpture will be located. Kennedy responds that the sculpture is tucked pretty far back from the park entrance on the greenway, and that UAC will explore some wayfinding signage to the sculpture with Parks and the Wolf River Conservancy after installation is completed.
- VIII. Committee notes -- Kennedy shares that Coriana Close has let her know that she will be moving to Central America later this year and will be rolling off of PAOC. Shanette Parks will not be returning to UAC after her personal leave of absence, and UAC will be looking to hire a new program manager to fill that role. She also asks if the committee members have any thoughts on moving back to in person meetings or keep meeting virtually. The committee unanimously agrees to continue meeting virtually.
- IX. Other project updates --
- a. L.E. Brown Park: Tolson asks for an update about L.E. Brown Park; Young responds that following the recent schematic design approval, Arnold Thompson is in the process of identifying a structural engineer and will hopefully present final design materials in about two months.
 - b. Memphis 3.0!: Kennedy reports that through funding from the City's Office of Comprehensive Planning for a series of street banners and bus shelters, additional funding is available to support an additional mural and postcard project for Tony Hawkins in Whitehaven and Rachel Briggs in Raleigh respectively.
 - c. Cossitt Library: Construction schedule is delayed due to both materials and general timeline delays and a flooding issue at the library. Law notes that nearly every construction project is behind schedule at this point.
 - d. Cordova Library: Final design will follow Tylur French with Youngblood Studio wrapping up large-scale installations at the Memphis International Airport and at the I40 underpass.
 - e. Dunbar Elementary: Kennedy reports that she anticipates needing to support a contingency request for Desmond Lewis due to the rising price of steel, and that she is working to find a new location for the sculptures. A new multi-use development at the old Melrose High School has been suggested.

The meeting adjourns.

Upcoming (Zoom) Meeting Dates:

August 11, 2021 @ 1:00 PM