



**UrbanArt Commission
Public Art Oversight Committee
Wednesday, November 10, 2021 – 1 pm**

Attending: Patricia Daigle, Eso Tolson, Lisa Law, Coriana Close Nefertiti Orrin; UAC staff: Lauren Kennedy, Brett Hanover, Whitney Williams, Wendy Young

WELCOME

- I. Kennedy calls the meeting to order by welcoming everyone to the meeting.

APPROVALS

- II. October 2021 Minutes -- Kennedy reminds the committee that there are no October minutes because the meeting did not have quorum and thanks the committee for the items approved over email. Kennedy restates the approvals over email included the September meeting minutes, the Ed Rice Community Center selection committee, the Westwood selection committee, the Douglass selection committee, as well as the project plans for those neighborhood art initiative projects. Kennedy asks for questions and references that the committee asked to talk more in person on the proposal Kelsey Harrison sent over. Kennedy shares that time may be spent discussing this proposal during this meeting or it can be shared in the December meeting when there is more context to provide on the Blight Out spending.
- III. Arnold Thompson – L.E. Brown Park sculpture project– Young presents images of Thompson’s final design and states that she is seeking final design approval. Young shares that the northwest corner of the park has been selected as the site with trees and plants planted to protect the sculpture from car accidents. Young calls for questions and states that she sent the stamped engineering drawings over to Law to review and the drawings are available to share with anyone. Daigle questions the rationale for putting the sculpture so far in the corner and if it can be pulled out in the park at all. Young states that there are plans for L.E. Brown Park including a soccer field therefore the sculpture placement should not impede on any of Parks’ future plans. Daigle agrees. Hanover questions if there will be a sidewalk or anything to it. Young states that UAC is working through this with Parks. Kennedy states to Young that when Young is ready to ask for final approval, she will address Parks’ concerns towards the end of the

presentation. Young shares the poem text and allows a moment for the committee to read the poem. Daigle asks if it is a local poet and Young shares that it is. Orrin states that the poet is actually one of the Bruce 13 she believes; one of the students to integrate Bruce Elementary. Orrin then corrects herself stating that this is actually his wife writing the poem. Orrin questions how this poem was selected if it was a community process or how it worked. Young states that her understanding is that the artist selected the poem. Orrin shares that her organization does work in South City on neighborhood empowerment and community engagement and was wondering about the process. Young states that she was added onto this project from a previous project manager and offered to find out for certain. Kennedy states that in Thompson's proposal he included working with Fombi on his whole project. Kennedy says there was not a substantial community engagement effort around this project, but knows that Thompson shared the design with some people and a more concentrated effort around community engagement with the old Foote Homes site. Kennedy suggests UAC share the poem and the images with more people to ensure more people are aware of the project. Orrin mentioned Rebecca Hutchison being a contact person who is working with youth to engage them on the development of the park. Kennedy notes that Hutchison is a part of the selection committee. Daigle questions if the text is final and if there are one or two typos that she calls out for changes. Young takes accountability for the mistype and makes note to double check her translation of the poem. Young shares another slide of where the poem will be written in the spiral of the sculpture.

Young reshapes the dimensions and elements such as height and final budget and states that one of the many reasons she is seeking approval today is that steel prices are back down, and she would like to get Thompson the funds to get the materials ordered. Young calls for questions. Close asks for Young to share about the surface being used for the sculpture as well as the durability next to a soccer field. Young shares the recommended maintenance for the sculpture regarding the materials being used like the powder coated surfaces that can be removed and reattached if needed. Young is confident that a soccer ball will not hurt the stainless steel and the remainder of the sculpture will be tile and is as maintenance friendly as possible with a non-slip surface to be added. Young adds there will be a battery powered led lighting system that Thompson will leave with Young along with maintenance instructions and additional batteries. Close asks where the powder coated surfaces are regarding the stainless-steel surfaces. Young shows on the slideshow where the different surfaces will be. Daigle asks for clarification on how the base will be tiled and if the poem is to be printed on these tiles in the spiral. Young's understanding is that the poem will be stamped into the tiles. Daigle asks if the relief on the tiles will collect dirt/debris and Young adds that these will be low relief. Hanover shares that it could be similar to the piece outside at the Central library. Law advises to not grout at all and an epoxy or resin would be best. Young notes Law's feedback on the grout and shares the fabrication timeline. Law shares that if materials have not been ordered Palmer will not be receiving materials by December. Young agrees and states that the timeline's goal is for installation to be completed by this time next year. Kennedy notes Parks involvement and their request for an ADA walkway to be poured. Kennedy shares that this has never been a part of the project budget and is trying to navigate this conversation with Parks. Kennedy recommends that the committee approve the final design noting that there are comments from Parks that should be worked in including a slight slope from the sculpture base for drainage and 4,000 PSI for the concrete rather than 3,500 and other details to pass along to the artist. Kennedy suggests holding the fabrication funds until all details have been worked through with Parks in case anything changes with the fabrication process. Law gives one note that a head height disclaimer must be included as a way for a person who is visually impaired can feel with their cane that they are approaching the sculpture. Law asks Young to refer to the slide on the sculpture heights

and shares that where it curves in is where you need a head clearance with a textural change to make known that there is something there that potentially could be a hazard for a person who is visually impaired. Hanover asks if the other option would be to add to the bottom so that the curve is higher. Law agrees. Young calls for a motion to approve the final design. Close moves to approve the design with the contingency that there are a couple of issues needing to be worked out in regard to compliance. Tolson seconds. The motion is approved.

- IV. Damaged Sculpture: “Sun Pitchers” - Flying Carpet Creative—Winridge Park in Hickory Hill—Young shares an image of the completed sculpture and then a slide of images of some sort of impact to the sculptures. Young found car parts around the sculpture, but no skid marks or other remnants. Young is relieved there is only one piece damaged, and she spoke to the artist who recommends just taking it down. The artist requests shipping it back in lieu of repair and Young also contacted the Metal Museum. She shares the quotes for around \$24,000 for full restoration versus just taking it down and using concrete to fill the hole with \$5,000 to ship it back. Kennedy shares that the artist does not feel like it impacts the whole project to remove one less piece because the cost will be so significant to repair by hand. Hanover asks to review the \$24,000 quote again. Young breaks down the Metal Museum’s quote and Kennedy elaborates on their expenses including moving it. Young reiterates that taking it down would be about half of the cost. Daigle asks what the date of the project was and to refer back to the slide with the full image. The committee refers in detail which piece is in question. Orrin, Tolson and Daigle express that they agree with the artist to take it down. Orrin shares that she would love to know what really happened and Young expresses that there are scuff marks that will be buffed out on the others providing the assumption that it was hit by a car. Close reminds the group that they had been concerned the wind may blow it over, not ever considering a car. Close agrees enough is there that taking the damaged piece out will not affect the sculpture. Hanover asks who will cover the costs of shipping it back to the artist and Kennedy shares she will discuss this with the City but assumes the contract will place the costs on the artists. Kennedy shares an artist’s first right of refusal and shares that she believes they may have to buy it back and may need to talk to City Legal. Close asks if this was something where we knew who it was would it fall on their car insurance. Kennedy states that City Legal would have to take that on. Law suggests taking the top off to utilize for a sculpture class or a teaching moment before it is shipped back. Young states that the artist would like it to be shipped back for a similar reason. Kennedy says this is the first time something has occurred like this and needs to cover the basis with the motion to approve this plan for removal. Kennedy motions for approval. Tolson moves to approve the plan and Law seconds the motion. The motion is approved.

UPDATES

- V. Kennedy shares that Blight Out will be reviewed in a more comprehensive way at December’s meeting. Additionally, she shares that Kate Roberts’s nomination to join PAOC has been submitted, but UAC has not received approval from the City. Kennedy calls for questions. Close asks about Kennedy’s wallpaper in her home and no other questions are stated.

The meeting is adjourned.

Upcoming (Zoom) Meeting Dates:

December 8, 2021 @ 1:00 PM

