



**UrbanArt Commission  
Public Art Oversight Committee  
Wednesday, April 13, 2022 – 1 pm**

Attending: Patty Daigle, Nefertiti Orrin, Coriana Close, Eso Tolson, Jana Travis, Lisa Law; UAC staff: Lauren Kennedy and Whitney Williams

I. Welcome

Kennedy begins the meeting with a welcome to the April monthly PAOC meeting.

**APPROVALS**

II. March 2022 minutes

Kennedy states that the committee received the minutes by email and asks if there are any questions or edits to the minutes. Law motions to approve the minutes and Close seconds. The motion is unanimously approved.

I. Artist selections - NAI Douglass, NAI Westwood, & Ed Rice CC

Kennedy states that the artist selections were sent over email for approval, but it appears there were some issues with opening links so Kennedy asks Williams to share the selected artists and proposals. Williams begins with Westwood sharing that it is a 60,000 project on two retaining walls by artist Tony Hawkins. Williams shares that the runner-up, Kiersten Williams, worked on the revitalization of the original mural and her proposal is a spin on keeping some of the original elements. Williams shares the third slide which is Carl Scott's design. Williams refers back to the first slide and states that UAC is looking for approval of the selected artist, Tony Hawkins, by the PAOC committee. Williams asks if there are any questions or thoughts and then if there is a motion to approve. Law states that her personal preference is for the second one, but that is not the point because the committee made the selection with their details. Law states that she does like the vibrant colors and asks if we know what he is doing it out of. Williams shares that he will likely use polytab for some of the lettering, but will work directly on the wall. Law states that there is a likelihood that it won't stay this bright. Law asks if anyone else has any questions. Daigle asks if this is for two separate locations. Williams shares that its the same location but two retaining walls off Raines and DoubleTree that are separated by a residential street. She states that these two walls have current murals that will be sandblasted off from the peeling and reminds the committee that we discussed this months ago and that it was confirmed with the original artist to have someone have a fresh wall to paint with their own work. Kennedy adds that she had not quite realized that he was covering every inch of the walls and we'll need to talk about budget and scaling back some because of the size. Kennedy says she was not assuming someone would paint the whole thing, but just so the committee is aware, we will have this

conversation. Williams shares that if you look closely or review the files that were sent, he did take into account the design style of Lindsey Bailey as a reference example for scale and the actual images are life size or larger than life and the logos are large, but rather than doing white behind the images he just chose color to where there could be some exposed wall but he chose to do colorful; a rainbow scale as the backdrop. Travis asks for clarity if PAOC is approving the budget and Williams shares that the budget was approved approximately six months ago and this approval is for the selected artist. Travis clarifies that she meant that this is approving what they want and if PAOC has any input on another piece and that this is what they want. Kennedy states that the only time that she has ever seen PAOC reject a selection committee selection was when one artist was referencing a nationally renowned artist too closely and it left questions about copyright. Kennedy adds that this was a particular community that had a lot more conversation around it and Travis states that she understood and that she just did not understand why we were reviewing the other artists. Kennedy states that it is just for transparency. Kennedy states that she hopes everyone got the email from her a few weeks ago with clarity around what our best steps forward are in terms of this process. Law motions to approve and Travis seconds. The motion is approved.

Williams moves on to share the second approval which is from four finalists in the Douglass community for the pool house mural with elements to potentially trickle over to the community center or basketball courts. She states that the images on the slide are the designs from the neighborhood's selected artists- Jamond and Eric. She shares that the three images on the left are what will wrap the pool house and in the middle image where you see orange with the kid doing a cannonball into the pool, that is the stained glass element that Eric will add to Jamond's design. She adds that there will be a little bit more stained glass added to the pool house and on the community center's back wall the left side will have mosaic stained glass doves. On the next slide, Williams shares Kiersten Williams's , the runner up's, design. Williams explains that the top image is showing the interior of the poolhouse, the middle image is the parking lot side and the bottom image is the exterior of the poolhouse or what is the entrance to the pool house.

Williams shares that Kiersten did a similar design for the basketball goals and incorporated planting some plants to engage the neighborhood which does a plant exchange. Kennedy flips to the next slide where Williams shares Brandon Marshall's design. Williams shares that he did a lot of community engagement with wanting to share stories and using QR codes to get those stories. Williams shows that where there is yellow on his design that is showing where his collage-style mural would wrap the pool house and the same on the basketball goals. Williams adds that Brandon's community engagement piece is to frame all of the collages that are made throughout the process for the community center to have inside. Kennedy moves on to the next slide where Williams shares Toonky and Siphne's pool house and basketball goals design which also includes the front of the community center having a black history timeline. Williams shares that they were planning to engage the students and residents at the community center by asking them to help make the timeline more relevant to the history of the Douglass community. Williams asks for approval of Jamond and Eric as the selected artists for the \$50,000 project in Douglass. Close asks for clarification on the design as to which part will be mosaic and which part will be a mural. Williams references Jamond and Eric's work at the airport and shares that the middle image shows the idea for the stained glass by the orange coloring on the design. Kennedy shares her screen showcasing the artists' work at the airport which is the same mosaic/mural concept. Williams asks if Close can see the stained glass on the wall and states that this would be the same process for the pool house and back of the community center which also would be sealed well. Williams adds that Eric has done this work all across the nation and this will be the second time for Okdeh and Bullock to work together, but the first in a public space which is very exciting. Close shares her thanks for the clarification. Tolson adds that much like the first approval we have reviewed the other artists to simply see what everyone was getting. Williams confirms that she is seeking approval for the selection committee's selected artists, and here specifically, approval for Jamond and Eric as the Douglass Mural artists. Kennedy adds that UAC has been asked in the past to share all the artists to keep everyone in the loop of the

proposals. Kennedy asks for a motion to approve. Orrin motions and Tolson seconds. The motion is approved.

Williams moves to the Ed Rice Community Center Design Only Call and explains that like a previous UAC project at Planned Parenthood, this is a vinyl application on the walls and glass as the Ed Rice Community Center is a super modern and brand new building. She shares that the selected artist for this project is Danielle Sierra, a Frayser resident, and adds that while the slide show image is very small Williams wanted the committee to see the full concept. Williams explains that when you walk in the front doors on the actual wall there will be a mural that the selection committee will decide if it will be a hand painted mural or the vinyl application. She continues by explaining that the bottom three images are what will be on the glass that you can see from the outside of the building and standing in the hallway which will cover portions of the glass for the computer lab, flex space, dance studio and the entrance to the pool. She adds that all of the images will be representative of people in Frayser or actual images of Frayser residents and the flowers represent what Danielle has found in her own garden as well as what archimania has planned for around the community center. Williams states that Sierra knocked it out of the park and that there were discussions of other artists, but once the committee saw Danielle's work it was a unanimous decision with just loving everything she incorporated into this proposal. Kennedy shares the next slide and Williams states that another favorite was Sarai Payne and her incorporation of what life is like in Frayser in a positive and colorful manner. Kennedy moves to the next slide where Williams shares Robbi Burns's work and states that they had an incredible concept and put in a lot of work, but that the presentation just did not sit as well with the selection committee. She adds that everyone felt that the color choice was sort of a downer in comparison to everyone else being bright and vibrant, but that they worked really hard to engage with residents. Williams moves on to the fourth finalist, Olajide who the selection committee requested a fourth finalist position for as his work is super modern and abstract. Williams states that it is hard to see due to how she screenshot the images, but that he had a really cool concept. She shares that in the bottom right he had taken the original images that UAC has in the community center by the pool for over a decade now and created his own interpretation of the work, as well as above that image the tree represents the actual trees outside of the community center, and in the bottom left the squares represent the motherboard to the computer lab. She states that the ginkgo tree is represented in the top left for the dance studio and shows the motion of the dancers which is pretty cool. She wraps up by stating that those are the four artists and that UAC is seeking approval of Danielle Sierra as the selected artist. Tolson motions to approve and Daigle seconds. The motion is approved.

### III. Movable Collection - Hospitality Hub selection committee

Williams reminds PAOC that they have already approved the project and the budget and that she is speaking on behalf of Program Manager Brett Hanover to seek approval for the selection committee. Williams shares that this project is a part of the Movable Collection, but the selection committee that PAOC is approving today would be for this project alone which includes the bigger walls hosting larger scale sculptural features and in the 18 women's residential rooms UAC will acquire 9 pieces that will be printed and hung in each bedroom as a custom print. Williams adds that this is a really exciting project and built around trauma-informed design and responsive to the women that will be in these spaces. Kennedy moves to the next slide where Williams shares the selection committee's names and roles. She states that Ellen and Jarad would represent one collective vote and are from Dragonfly Collective; Dr. Jemison is from Methodist Healthcare; Liza and Nikki represent the Hospitality Hub and are the main contacts; Nubia represents UAC's artist voice and is someone who does incredible work around trauma-informed design so we would like her to be on the committee rather than submit for this as her work is really impactful, intense and jarring therefore able to guide artists; Pam McDonald is an artist; Ursula Madden has had a hand in this from the beginning, is a big fan of this project and represents the City. Williams states that when the Call to Artists is released there will also be a trauma-informed workshop for the artists to be able to look through and understand all aspects of this project. Williams states that today we are seeking approval for this selection committee.

Kennedy adds the reminder that this new facility is being built on City property but it is being managed by the Hospitality Hub so UAC will eventually be setting up a loan agreement between the Hospitality Hub and the City for this artwork to be on display there because it will be owned by the City as a part of their Movable Collection. Kennedy asks for any questions or a motion to approve the committee. Close shares that she thinks this is wonderful and thinks in the future it would be wonderful to see art therapy activities rather than simply a therapeutic art display. Close encourages continued engagement and Travis adds that there is an art therapy program at CBU and if there is anything they can do to let them know. Kennedy says that UAC can definitely pass that information along to the partners on the project, but that it could not be funded through the CIP funds from the City, but that Jarad and Ellen and Kennedy have discussed other fundraising efforts and this is great to know about the program. Orrin raises the question of the racial diversity of the committee. Kennedy states that she is not familiar with Dr. Jemison or Liza Hubbard and that Nubia is a woman of color and so is Ursula Madden; Ellen, Jarad, Nikki and Pam are all white. Orrin asks how the women or people who are living within the Hospitality Hub have input in this process or if they will be able to have input into the selection of the work. Kennedy states that she is not sure what all has been discussed in that vein, but she thinks we can certainly talk more about that with the committee and the Hospitality Hub folks because her understanding is that this is meant to be transitional housing therefore it would be great to share information about the project but to keep in mind that there is transition within the space as well. Kennedy reminds the committee of the ownership from the City and suggests that UAC tease that out with the partners more and get back to PAOC. Orrin adds that this is not a very racially diverse committee and would like to see more input from the community being served into this process. Kennedy notes the request. Williams adds that from her conversation with Hanover and looking at the two Hospitality Hub representatives- the street outreach coordinator is directly working with the clients; she is the one who is out in the streets pursuing the women. Williams states she understands that that is not reflective of having someone who stays in the housing a part of the committee, but if anyone is advocating it would be this role who would know what the women want who she is around daily. Kennedy asks for other thoughts and shares her appreciation for Orrin sharing her thoughts and concerns. Kennedy asks if PAOC feels comfortable approving this committee as it stands or is there a change PAOC would like to see before approval or approval pending a change. Orrin states that she would like to see more racial diversity and asks how this committee was determined or decided. Kennedy says that it was determined by the Hospitality Hub and Dragon Fly who is their major partner for funding and building out the space so it was really put together with them. Both Pam and Ursula had already done a lot of work and volunteering around the creation of this space. Kennedy adds that Williams spoke to Nubia's work and her connection to trauma and that everyone else is really connected to the project. Williams states that she just did a google search and Dr. Jemison is a white woman and Mrs. Hubbard is a black woman and she does not know about Nikki Richey. Kennedy states that Richey is white. Orrin clarifies that there are three people of color and Kennedy agrees which means four votes from white people. Close brings up that in terms of the writing of the call that could be where the outreach coordinator becomes particularly important in terms of doing background research and while it asks a lot of that person it could be very helpful to have dialogue with the people they work with around keywords for the call in order to direct the artists towards something that will be useful in the space. Kennedy agrees and says that that will be something that will be helpful to tease out in the process of creating the call, but that the trauma informed design thinking already has a lot of research we will already be able to pull from to help guide what we put out and what is selected. Kennedy shares that there is definitely room for UAC to talk with the Hub about ways to engage with people coming in and out of the facility and what is going up and information about it as well as opportunities to invite some more input but we have not gotten to that point beyond our direct partners and it would be good to tease this out with the selection committee. Kennedy asks for any additional questions or comments or if there is a specific recommendation for us to follow up about approval. Kennedy states UAC is definitely taking the note about how to incorporate the input of the women using the facility. Daigle asks for confirmation on this being for works

that will be a part of the Movable Collection and not murals. Kennedy says that we are talking about commissioned based works a part of Movable that could potentially live somewhere else. Kennedy suggests thinking about it as a long term loan. Williams states that the murals are on canvases and the same thing with the sculptural elements and the prints would be framed in each room. Kennedy asks how the group is feeling and Law shares she would approve. Kennedy asks Orrin how she would feel with moving forward knowing a little more about the racial diversity of the group. Orrin states that she does not understand why there is not more racial diversity on the committee to reflect a city where people experiencing homelessness or transient-ness are statistically more likely to be people of color. She adds that she does not know why we could not find a more racially diverse group to help make the decisions about public art going into these spaces. Orrin states she would like to see an effort to see a more racially diverse group or one that represents the community or who are in this work, a part of this work, or even experiencing homelessness. Orrin states that we could probably have more diversity on this committee so she would probably vote a no for this committee. Kennedy follows up with that these individuals are coming to us through the partners that are already engaged around the facility fso she hesitates to remove people but could we look to approval with the addition to a women of color who has used services at The Hub or deeply engaged with the women of the Hub on a day to day context. Orrin shares that she would be good with that and Kennedy asks how the group feels about going ahead and approving this with letting PAOC approve the additional person over email. Law states that that works well and asks if there is ever an issue with the number of votes on a committee. Kennedy says that it is not really ever an issue because we do not usually end up in a deadlock situation, but we could add two people if needed. Law states she is fine with one if it has not created issues in the past and Kennedy says it ultimately comes back to PAOC which could act as a tiebreaker if needed. Law motions to approve with the amendment of an additional member. Daigle adds that she agrees with Orrin and adds that more importantly than the racial diversity she would like to see someone with a direct connection to the Hub's experiences because some of the issues being discussed will be sensitive and it would be good to have someone present to ensure the women of the Hub do not feel talked at. Kennedy states that she feels it to be very important to continue conversation with Liza Hubbard in particular around what opportunities or touch points are available to ask for feedback. Kennedy states her appreciation for everyone sharing their thoughts and for Orrin sharing her concerns. Kennedy states that she has Law on the record for approval with the amendment and a second from Daigle. Kennedy motions for all in favor and it is approved. Orrin adds in the chat box that Brittney Thornton could be a good advocate or resource.

#### IV. Art & Environment - Hollywood & Vollintine project plans

Williams reminds the committee that \$250,000 was allocated to what was formerly referred to as "Blight Out", now known as "Art and Environment" and shares as a reminder that we are partnering with Carpenter Art Garden and waiting on city approval for the storm drains project. Williams states that UAC has received a couple of inquiries around this same project and feels it is a great way for UAC to come alongside a neighborhood group that is already doing work while using art to beautify an area that they have been working on for a while. She shares that Mr. Sam Ballard is the President of the Palmershire Park Neighborhood Association and this is a retaining wall on one of the corners of Vollintine and Hollywood with the Palmershire neighborhood being at the top of the ramp. She states that Mr. Ballard has already invested \$1,000 of his own money and has received funding through Memphis City Beautiful to add flowers and fix the retaining wall where folks were dumping trash and tires. On top of working with Mr. Ballard, Coronda Ewing contacted Williams back in November as her grandmother's house is in the cove facing the retaining wall and represents the Hollywood neighborhood. Williams shares that UAC is seeking approval from the City as to if this wall is conducive for a mural and today looking for approval from PAOC for a \$30,000 budget for the mural once the city approves to then create the selection committee. Kennedy calls for questions or a motion to approve. Close approves and Daigle seconds adding the question of if this funding requires an environmental focus because the bus shelters from a previous discussion are a part of this same funding. Williams

clarifies that the bus shelters are a part of Neighborhood Art Initiative and Kennedy adds that the title “Art and Environment” calls for a much broader and looser requirement than the term “Blight Out” and that UAC feels good about this being responsive to neighborhood needs and requests. Daigle asks if it has the same purpose of beautification and Williams states that that is accurate and this funding has a bit more freedom because an artist could submit an idea versus responding to just resident needs. Williams adds that while this one is mural, it is the removing the blight of a horrible graffitied wall alongside a neighborhood that has worked to reduce litter, place trash cans, add flowers and fix the retaining wall. Daigle seconds and Kennedy calls for all in favor. The motion is unanimously approved.

#### V. Welcome to Frayser - Franklin acquisition

Williams begins by reminding PAOC about the allocation of the additional funding in Frayser of \$9,200 through the selection committee’s approval of the acquisition of Lurlynn Franklin’s five pieces. Williams states that the committee is all for it and so excited. Williams states that UAC believes the best practice would be to acquire these pieces as a part of the City’s collection for \$7,500 and use the leftover funding for the actual installation with the neighborhood having the say in where the five locations are with them being on city property with the potential of creating a long term lease similar to the Hospitality Hub. Williams does not feel a lease will be necessary with the likelihood that the residents will easily produce five city sites for the locations from their long list that was already developed through community engagement with Franklin. Kennedy proceeds to the next slide where Williams shares about the conversation where the selection committee identified the follow up project as creating a long-lasting, sustainable plaque or memorial piece to go in the Frayser Memorial Garden. Williams shares that the current sign was erected in 2007 through the Frayser Interfaith Association and the wood is rotting so this would be an opportunity to memorialize and be low maintenance. Williams adds that once we determine Franklin’s budget plus an additional \$1,200-1,500 from a project that was not completed in the park, we feel as though all of these projects will come together with the first focus being the installation of Lurlynn Franklin’s pieces. Williams references the praises of Franklin’s efforts around community engagement by PAOC and states that it was validating to feel the same thing from the selection committee. Kennedy clarifies that UAC is looking for PAOC to approve the cost of the \$7,500 to acquire the signage out of the \$9,200. Kennedy asks for a motion to approve, Law moves, Travis seconds and the motion is approved. Close asks for clarity around the cemetery project and Kennedy explains that this would be the suggest next project if there is additional funding.

#### VI. Contingency requests

##### a. Dunbar Elementary relocation > Orange Mound Park: \$20,000

Kennedy reminds the committee that Desmond Lewis has been waiting to receive a location from the City for his three Dunbar ES sculptures with the silhouettes. Kennedy references the image of Orange Mound Park where an x lives to show where the sculptures will live. Kennedy shares that there will be a splash pad added and also an existing basketball court and playground around the sculptures. Kennedy states that since Lewis was originally contracted back in 2016-2017 a lot has changed in the world, certainly the cost of materials, and while there is \$16,900 remaining in the budget, Lewis has followed up with his vendors and believes closer to \$22,000 is the budget. UAC is making a contingency request for up to \$7,500 just to make sure he has what he needs with it likely costing closer to \$5,000. Kennedy adds that part of the wiggle room is that Parks may be paying for part of the concrete slab. Kennedy calls for questions and shares that it was mentioned before that this was a possibility in needing contingency funding. Law states that with the reality of how much everything has gone up, this request sounds ridiculously reasonable. Kennedy agrees and states she expected it to be a much higher request. Law motions to approve, Travis seconds and the motion is approved.

##### b. Cossitt Library lighting: \$180

Kennedy states that she is aware that some contingency funding was already approved for Cossitt Library, but there was an issue with the lighting vendor/contractor. The artists were intending to do it themselves, but the landscaping was not complete before they left town so someone else locally needed to do it. Kennedy states that there have been some mistakes that need to be cleaned up and currently the contractor is looking to be reimbursed \$180 by UAC because of the mix up on the vendor side of things. Kennedy is requesting an up to \$500 contingency approval to get the lighting working with the expectation to spend less, but just in case in fixing this we incur more. Law asks what exactly occurred and if we need to order new fixtures or if the same fixtures will be used. Kennedy says that it is not needed to order new fixtures and the placement needed to be a few inches from the concrete pad where they ended up cutting into it when they should not have had to do that so the \$180 right now is for the additional concrete work. The fixtures are fine and in the proper location. Close motions to approve the payment, Orrin seconds and the motion is approved. Kennedy states that she will update PAOC on the actual amounts spent.

## **UPDATES**

### **VII. Other project updates**

Kennedy shares that the South City installation is complete with all three sculptures in and the concrete poured so all that is remaining is the plaques which the wording has already been approved, but here today to show the visual. Kennedy references the image to show how the wording will be etched into it and covered in the same patina that is on all three sculptures so the coloration matches the plaque and the sculptures and will be permanently attached to the concrete base with epoxy. Kennedy says that she wanted to make sure PAOC knew what it looked like because we have been waiting on this detail for a really long time and we did not want anyone to have any concerns. Kennedy adds that she believes that this is a very nice layout and went to the site recently with Terry Lynn to talk through it and that after this is completed by hopefully early May then we will be looking for 100% fabrication and final approval from PAOC. Kennedy calls for any questions. Orrin states that it sounds good. Kennedy ends by noting that the additional updates will wait and the meeting is adjourned.

### **Upcoming (Zoom) Meeting Dates:**

May 11, 2022 @ 1:00 PM  
June 8, 2022 @ 1:00 PM  
July 13, 2022 @ 1:00 PM  
August 10, 2022 @ 1:00 PM  
September 14, 2022 @ 1:00 PM  
October 12, 2022 @ 1:00 PM  
November 9, 2022 @ 1:00 PM  
December 14, 2022 @ 1:00 PM