



**UrbanArt Commission  
Public Art Oversight Committee  
Wednesday, May 11, 2022 – 1 pm**

In attendance: Nefertiti Orrin, Patty Daigle, Lisa Law, Eso Tolson, and Yvonne Jones (non-voting);  
UAC staff: Lauren Kennedy, Whitney Williams, Wendy Young, Brett Hanover, Richard Echols and  
Travis Washington

I. Welcome

Kennedy welcomes the committee and shares that there are only two approval items.

**APPROVALS**

II. April 2022 minutes

Kennedy shares that the minutes were sent via email and asks that if there are no questions or amendments for a motion to approve. Orrin moves, Tolson seconds. The minutes are unanimously approved with no changes.

III. Frayser Library - schematic design

Kennedy turns the floor over to Young who states that UAC is seeking approval for Amanda Nalley and the Frayser Library. Young shares an image of the overall piece for the exterior wall and states that from what she understands they have not broken ground which leaves Nalley chomping at the bit waiting to begin. Young reminds the committee that the little icons represent facts about the area and that there will be a little booklet to explain the concept and the meanings of each icon. Young shares that Nalley worked with high school students in a design competition as her community engagement to select three students' work to be featured on the wall. Young asks for Williams to share that process and Williams adds that the three students will refine their work with Nalley and each one will have their own glyph. Williams shares that their art teacher presented their \$300 checks and an award during their pep rally- arts for the win with athletics! Daigle asks what school the students attended and what grades. Williams shares that they are from Trezevant High School. Young adds that Nalley's concept is a 3d platform for everyone to learn about their neighborhood. Kennedy asks if we have all of the glyphs to show and Young states that they are all evident in the first slide but that they will be refined and each individual glyph present in the pamphlet. Young proceeds to share the preliminary budget and calls for questions. Law refers back to the booklet being created for explanations of the glyphs and asks if this will be a pamphlet handy next to the installation. Young asks Williams to speak to this question and Williams references the exterior image on the slide. She shares that when you review the design it has a large reference to the dewey decimal system and a chart that accompanies it in regards to historic Frayser spaces and places and the year they were

incorporated. Williams shares that when kids walk up for field trips teachers can set up reviewing the mural like a scavenger hunt. Williams also draws attention to the three designated spots on the graphic that say "high school competition" where the students' glyphs will be installed. Williams calls the project interactive and states that she does not believe that the accompanying information has been formalized as a booklet, but that there will be a handout to circulate throughout the neighborhood to explain this is not simply a graphic to look at; it is very interactive. Kennedy asks if a pamphlet would live inside the library and Williams says that some form would. Daigle asks if the pamphlet, design and printing are budgeted within this budget or if it is something the library will provide. Young believes it will be produced within Nalley's budget and Kennedy adds that UAC would be happy to take on the printing expense from within UAC's operating budget. Kennedy states that Nalley is doing so much within the design that that would be laid out in the design budget. Daigle acknowledges that Nalley will design it and Kennedy agrees. Daigle asks to go back to the slide with the glyphs and asks about the emblems that look like two bookcases stacked on each other. She states that she is curious as to why it repeats and if there will be some sort of key. Williams adds that the other piece of community engagement is that residents voted on three of their favorite icons to be incorporated, which Williams calls out in the slide to clarify that more than high schoolers were involved in deciding what icons will be in the design. Orrin asks if the booklet is something that people will take with them or if there is a number of booklets that are accessible for people to grab and use while engaging with the piece and but also take home with them. Young says that this will be discussed during the final design, but from conversations with Nalley, Young envisioned that there would be a permanent copy at the library accompanied by copies people could take with them. Williams states that booklet may be a strong word and that her understanding is that this is more like a flyer so that when an elementary child or a grandmother walks up to this wall they are able to review the coding and see that the raccoon is the tennessee state animal or the chart of coding. Orrin clarifies that this would be a physical thing to live in patrons' hands and Williams agrees and adds that also there will be a qr code to live on Nalley's website. Orrin restates that that is what her question was really about and the amount of paper to be utilized over the life of this art and if there was a way to make it more digital. Williams shares that she knows there will be a qr code on the exterior that you can scan and take you to Nalley's beautiful website which is already live and explains how she got to these specific symbols and her community engagement process. Williams adds that for individuals that may not be tech savvy, there will be a hard copy that lives inside the library. Daigle asks if there will be any exterior signage or texts and Williams shares that there will be an exterior plaque. Daigle asks if it will get into how to decipher the glyphs and Williams shares that to her knowledge that is what will be included on the qr code on the exterior. Daigle asks for a reminder if these glyphs are slightly three dimensional. Young shares a slide showing a rendering of the glyph and adds that it is a big wall at 31feet long and 9 feet tall and the overall depth at about four inches created as high relief, three dimensional. Daigle states her curiosity in how far they will be off the ground and says she is concerned about them breaking and if people knock into them. She asks if they are fairly sturdy and Young adds that Nalley's experience at YoungBlood Studio leaves her confident that they will be installed properly to not easily come down. Daigle restates that she is concerned about a wing or small part coming down and Young adds that she has seen some of Nalley's CNC cuts and there is not a lot of undercut; they are blocked out in such a way that they are three dimensional without having a lot sticking off of them. Kennedy adds that it is more relief and Young agrees and adds that it has wedges under it so that it is not simply a wing sticking out, it has a wedge underneath so you could not climb on it. Daigle shares her thanks and Kennedy asks if anyone else has anything to add. Law wants to make note that with the insulated foam the prices are going up and she is unaware of how much contingency was built around inflation, but it is getting expensive fairly quickly with lots of storage. Law recommends getting in order early might be necessary. Kennedy shares that UAC was discussing this timeline yesterday and the big hold up is that they have not broken ground for the library building and at this point Nalley is running ahead of the construction of the actual facility therefore while it is a really healthy budget, it is far enough away to start actual fabrication. Kennedy states that since

we do not know what will happen in regards to material costs we do not want to be in a place where she begins fabricating and there are additional costs around storing the work. Kennedy states that she understands what Law is stating and that Nalley is aware of costs changing, but at this point UAC does not want to store a sculpture for a year so we are trying to balance a timeline with when things will actually get started at the library. Law adds that the library itself will probably run into the same issues so you do not really want to start until then because of all of the variables. Law restates that the inflation of the foam is questionable and Kennedy adds that UAC will pass that info on, but it would take a special request to approve funds before the final design. Kennedy calls out the question that Tolson shared in the chat and states that this is not an actual mosaic; they are small pieces that are hung on the wall to form a giant grid. Young agrees and adds that it is kind of like a sculptural mosaic because there will be multiples of them. Tolson gives a thumbs up in agreement in the zoom chat box. Kennedy asks if there are any additional questions and states that Nalley has been extremely thorough in her proposal through now and if the building were ready she believes Nalley could install it by the end of the summer. Kennedy adds that UAC has no concerns about Nalley moving forward on our end and a friendly reminder that there is one more round of approval which is the final design before the major money is released. Kennedy restates that this is a request to approve Amanda Nalley's schematic design. Daigle states that she has always really liked this project; that it is visually strong and that she has always really liked how well she engaged the community. Daigle motions to approve and adds that she is a little unclear on all the dewey decimal system coding and how it matches up and knows Nalley will be very thoughtful in how that all will be communicated, but wants to make sure that that part is really clear for the public. Kennedy states we will definitely clarify that in the final design. Daigle moves, Tolson seconds. Schematic design is approved.

## **UPDATES**

### **IV. Whitehaven Community Center**

Williams shares an image of Tony Hawkins's completed mural at the Whitehaven Community Center as an extension of the Memphis 3.0 banner and bus shelter graphic design call. Williams states that Hawkins rocked this project as it is all hand painted and overlooks the brand new splash pad in the park that will open for the first time the Saturday before Memorial Day. Kennedy reminds that this was funded through the city, but it is not Percent-for-Art so just an update, no approvals needed. Kennedy also reminds PAOC that Hawkins is the artist UAC is working with on the Westwood mural.

### **V. Hospitality Hub**

Kennedy reminds PAOC that they approved the committee for the Movable Collection's Hospitality Hub pieces based on adding a member to the selection committee that is a person of color and has potentially used the services the Hospitality Hub provides. Kennedy that Carol Berry has been identified by the Hospitality Hub to fill this role because of her connection to the work in this space. Kennedy shares that this committee is convening for the first time next week and calls for questions to follow up.

### **VI. Budget**

Kennedy shares that the city budget process is underway with a \$400,000 request with a break down to support a new sculpture at Jesse Turner Park, a new project for Liberty Park, additional funding for Neighborhood Art Initiative, more support for the Maintenance/Overhaul budget and replenishing our contingency funds after two large withdrawals for JFK Park and Orange Mound Park.

### **VII. Staff Updates**

Kennedy notes that UAC is working to bring new staff (Echols and Washington) up to speed as well as celebrate Hanover's time at UAC with the plan for her to make one more PAOC meeting before maternity leave begins. She asks Law if she is able to continue to serve on the committee until there is an appointed replacement and Law says that she is available to continue as long as needed. Kennedy asks for Law to remain through June and likely July until she can confirm a

new architectural appointment from the City's liaison. Law states that she can stay as long as October, if needed.

Kennedy shares a couple of upcoming UAC events and the meeting is adjourned.

**Upcoming (Zoom) Meeting Dates:**

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