



**UrbanArt Commission
Public Art Oversight Committee
Wednesday, March 13, 2024 – 1 pm**

In attendance: Jen Prudhome Booker, Debra Higgins, Yvonne Jones, Kate Roberts, Eso Tolson; UAC staff: Richard Echols, Lakeisha Edwards, Mallory Key, Kayla J. Smith-Hardy, Travis Washington

Kayla J. Smith-Hardy welcomes everyone to the March PAOC meeting and thanks them for their attendance. She acknowledges Patty Daigle for her time and commitment serving on the Public Art Oversight Committee over the last few years and tells everyone that Patty will be rolling off and a replacement will be identified. Smith-Hardy then recaps the following items approved via email in February:

- January PAOC meeting minutes
- Orange Mound Library- selection committee
- NAI: Alcy Ball- selection committee
- NAI: The Heights Line- selection committee
- NAI: Black Seeds Urban Farm (Greenlaw)- selection committee
- NAI: WIND CDC (Boxtown, Mt. Pisgah, Walker Homes, & West Junction)- selection committee
- NAI: Hickory Hill- contingency request for student workshop

She asks for any questions about these approvals before moving on to the following new approvals:

APPROVALS

I. Approvals

a. FY25 Public Art Plan

Lakeisha Edwards presents the FY25 Public Art Plan with a CIP budget of \$400,000. She begins with a \$168,000 allocation to continue the Neighborhood Art Initiative program. She expresses her excitement for neighborhoods to have the opportunity to apply for public art in their spaces and adds that this allocation will also allow room to ensure that new public art is going into each City Council district. Next, she outlines potential plans for artistic enhancements to New Chicago Park with a budget of \$50,000, explaining that development is already happening around the park and trees are being planted to address flooding in this historically disinvested area. She suggests that improvements to the basketball court and creative placemaking solutions to the flooding are opportunities for public art. Then, she reviews locations for welcome signage at various entry points to Raleigh with a budget of \$50,000 and a mural for the Bert Ferguson Community Center with a budget of \$30,000. Finally, Edwards includes a \$20,000 allocation for Movable Collection direct purchases to continue the City's consistent support of local artists through the purchase of their studio work and a \$10,000 contingency allocation.

Smith-Hardy opens the floor for questions and comments. Jones asks if there has been a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Douglass mural. Echols answers that the neighborhood is hoping to have the dedication as a part of their Juneteenth celebration, and he will provide more information as details are finalized. Roberts asks if these allocations are for the entire project or phases of a project. Edwards answers that the budgets are all inclusive with no additional funding unless there are contingency requests. Roberts comments that the numbers feel low, and Edwards agrees that the budget from the City is tight. Roberts asks about project management fees, and Edwards explains that UAC contracts with the City of Memphis at 18% for project management. Roberts thanks her for the clarification.

Smith-Hardy asks for a motion to approve the FY25 Public Art Plan. Tolson moves, Roberts seconds, and the motion passes.

b. 50% Completion - Frayser Library- Amanda Nalley

Echols presents images of Amanda Nalley's three-dimensional models in her studio that will be adhered to the exterior wall of Frayser Library as a relief sculpture. He reports that all models have been fabricated, but the library is currently under construction so installation will likely happen in August or September. Echols asks for questions or comments, and Tolson comments that he loves how this project has developed and enjoys seeing the molds of each glyph with all the details. Edwards asks Echols to expand on the 50% completion benchmark for newer members, and he responds that the artist will receive a portion of their contractual agreement upon approval by PAOC. Edwards expands that while this project has taken longer with construction delays, the artist has only received payments for completed benchmarks and the remaining project funds have been held and not released until benchmarks are met. Echols thanks Edwards for highlighting that and adds that the new library facility is amazing, and he looks forward to installation and a dedication there. With no additional questions, Echols asks for a motion to approve the 50% completion benchmark for Frayser Library. Jones moves, Tolson seconds, and the motion passes.

c. 100% Completion - Hospitality Hub Staircase- Lisa Williamson

Echols reviews that the Hospitality Hub, a barrier free women's shelter, will have three site-specific art installations. The dining room and family room projects have been completed, and the staircase is approaching installation. He shares images of Lisa Williamson's sculptural piece in her studio, which is composed of numerous leaf-like pieces that will be hung and soldered together in the stairwell. He explains that this 100% benchmark reflects her fabrication work, and the final acceptance benchmark will come after the sculpture is completely installed in the space. He asks for questions or comments, and Roberts comments that it is beautiful. Edwards asks if there is a skylight in the photo of the space, and Echols answers that it's a fluorescent light. They agree that natural light would have been wonderful but that the piece will be well lit. Echols asks for a motion to approve the 100% completion benchmark for the Hospitality Hub stairwell sculpture. Roberts motions, Jones seconds, and the motion is approved.

d. Selection Committee Update- Hospitality Hub Phase 2

Echols reviews that a second phase of artwork will be going into the Hospitality Hub with a design that will be printed for 18 bedrooms. He explains that some members of the original Hospitality Hub selection committee have rolled off, and we want to ensure proper representation for this project. He proposes adding Sharletha Rayford as a Hospitality Hub representative and a community vote as well once three finalists have

created proposals. (The collective community vote would count as one vote on the selection committee). Jones comments that she likes the inclusion of a community vote, and Richard agrees that giving the women of the shelter a voice about what's going into their space is fitting. Echols asks for a motion to approve the Hospitality Hub selection committee members. Jones motions, Roberts seconds, and the motion is approved.

- e. Final Design- Liberty Park: Memphis Sports and Event Center- Anthony Lee & Allie Mounce

Smith-Hardy presents final design images and preliminary budget items for the mural and vinyl window applications for the Memphis Sports and Event Center. She informs that the artists, Anthony Lee and Allie Mounce, will be working with a vendor who frequently does work at the facility and knows the team on-site and will make sure that the balance of window and design visibility is just right. She includes that the production timeline of the window vinyl will likely be within a two-month period. She reviews that the design features MSEC branding colors and activities that have taken place at Liberty Park throughout the years. She asks for questions or comments, and Tolson comments that he enjoys the overall design, the triangular motifs, and how the artists represented all the things happening in the space. Smith-Hardy echoes his excitement, sharing that the selection committee has been very pleased with this design proposal. She asks for a motion to approve the final design for Memphis Sports and Event Center in Liberty Park. Tolson motions, Jones seconds, and the motion passes.

UPDATES

II. Other Project Updates

- a. Orange Mound Neighborhood Signage

Smith-Hardy shares that an easement is being finalized for the Accelerate Memphis Orange Mound neighborhood signage by the Metal Museum. She explains that a portion of privately-owned land at that corner is being donated to the city, and the family would like a small plaque honoring their name. Smith-Hardy says that once the easement is finalized, the Metal Museum will be able to move forward with seeking final design approval and start of fabrication for the project. She also answers the previously asked question of who will maintain the flower beds at the base of the sculpture, saying that neighborhood leaders have agreed to take on the maintenance. She asks for questions or comments about this project, and Jones mentions that the owners of the land and the dentist office there, the Pinkstons, are distant relatives of hers. Smith-Hardy expresses her gratitude for their donation and says she will share an image of the plaque size with the next approval as it will be small to not detract from the overall design. Edwards comments on how excited she is for the scale of this signage, and Smith-Hardy agrees that the large budget provided for the large size and is happy for this passionate community who have always wanted something like this there.

- b. Orange Mound Park Sculptures

Next, Smith-Hardy provides the update that Desmond Lewis is working to have three sculptures installed by summertime. She recaps that there have been several setbacks for this project, but the City will be pouring a concrete pad for the sculpture as they work on a splash pad and other updates at the park. She adds that a contingency request will be coming as the price of materials have increased significantly since the start of this project.

c. Carpenter Art Garden

Washington shares that artists Suzy Hendrix and Kelsey Harrison have been working with the youth at Carpenter Art Garden on sculptures that will be installed in the new sculpture garden on the block. He updates that they are finalizing designs and getting engineering drawings together while in the meantime working on some mosaic tiles that will cover the wall. He talks about the theme of growth and how the artists are using a census from the 1900s of people in the area and the children who live there now as representatives of the new census. The census tiles will come down from the tree forms as roots on the wall. Washington also presents images of the site for the sculpture garden that was donated from the city to Carpenter Art Garden so that anyone from the public can gather in the sculpture garden. Washington says that Montgomery Martin construction has been working with Carpenter Art Garden on the circular plazas for sculptures, and everyone has been very thoughtful throughout the process. Washington encourages everyone to check out all that's happening at Carpenter Art Garden and the fresh produce they're growing in the neighborhood. Edwards agrees that Carpenter Art Garden is a special organization that is truly neighborhood-centered, and Jones says that the artwork is beautiful on that street.

d. Hickory Hill bus shelter enchantments

Echols presents images of Brandon Marshall's CNC cutouts featuring Memphis jookin dancers. He explains that there had been some delays with his fabricator but now that the CNC elements are complete, we are hoping to bring 50% to PAOC next month for approval.

III. Maintenance Update

Washington updates that vendors are currently working on the following maintenance projects: *Respect* | Tootise Bell | Legends Park, *Quiltsurround* | Greely Myatt | City Hall, and *A Center in the Universe* | Mark Nowell | Katie Sexton Community Center. He adds that he is also sending an assessment to the city for repairs on Black Bayou by John Golightly.

Smith-Hardy asks for any questions or comments before closing. She thanks everyone for their time and the opportunity to talk through updates and images with a quorum present.

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

April 10, 2024