



**UrbanArt Commission
Public Art Oversight Committee
Wednesday, January 10, 2024 – 1 pm**

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

Kayla J. Smith-Hardy opens the January PAOC meeting, and everyone exchanges New Year greetings. Smith-Hardy introduces Debra Higgins from the City of Memphis Engineering Department who will be sitting in on PAOC meetings to learn more about UAC and the City's public art projects. Higgins thanks everyone for including her and says she looks forward to being a part of the process. Then, PAOC members introduce themselves and share about their connection to the arts. Patty Daigle is the Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at the Brooks Museum of Art. Yvonne Jones is a member of the Brooks Museum League. Eso Tolson is an artist and consultant. Jen Prudhome Booker is an art enthusiast and supporter and serves on the UAC board. Smith-Hardy thanks everyone for their time, commitment, and passion for public art and goes over the meeting agenda

APPROVALS

Smith-Hardy reminds everyone that there wasn't a quorum at the December meeting, so there will not be minutes to approve. She reviews the following items that were approved over email in December:

- I. Email Approvals
 - a. Liberty Park- Schematic Design

Smith-Hardy presents schematic design images from Anthony Lee and Allie Mounce for the exterior murals and window vinyl designs for the Memphis Sports and Event Center in Liberty Park. She reviews the themes, color schemes, and dimensions.

- b. Gooch Park- 50%

Washington recaps Jamond Bullock's mural progress at Gooch Park reviewing that Bullock had previously completed a mural on the pool facility and was directly commissioned by the neighborhood association, HUG Park Friends, and Memphis Parks to paint over an older mural that had been deaccessioned due to deterioration (the original artist was not interested in repairing it). Washington emphasizes how quickly Bullock has been working and how pleased the neighborhood is with the design. He shares that it will likely be a tourist attraction and photo

opportunity. He explains that 50% fabrication was approved via email in December, and Bullock is already at 100% fabrication now with just minor finishing touches to complete.

c. JFK Park- 100%

Washington updates that Bruce Myers has completed the sculpture at JFK Park. He shares that there will be a dedication event in the spring after the rest of the park has been developed and some groundwork is complete around the sculpture. He adds that Wolf River Conservancy will add landscaping to activate the space, which will be used as an outdoor nature classroom. Prudhome Booker comments that it looks fantastic, and she appreciates the angle of the photo that shows just how large the scale of the sculpture is relative to the people on site. Washington also explains that Myers will come back in the spring to do one more acid wash on the concrete, which will illuminate the different tones and inlaid surfaces. Daigle asks if it has been sealed, and Washington confirms that it has one coat but that the second coat will bring out more colors and variations. Daigle then asks if there were any designs or text in the flat pieces of the sculpture. Washington responds that there are natural elements inlaid but no text and that UAC will work with the Wolf River Conservancy on signage that will detail the design and fabrication process of the sculpture. Tolson asks if there will be any vegetation around it. Washington confirms, explaining that the backfield will have native vegetation planted up to the treeline as well as landscaping around the Meander sculpture itself. Tolson echoes that the top angle gives such much perspective and adds that he feels that the contingency request was worth it in the end.

d. Hollywood & Vollintine- Final Design

Washington then presents the Hollywood & Vollintine mural final design by artist team KRENDO, Kendrick Pendleton and Reanna Ruddick, that was approved over email. Prudhome Booker asks about the navigational emblem that was on the schematic design, and Washington replies that it was removed following the suggestions from PAOC and the selection committee. He adds that a potential edit may be the addition of some fruit on the potted plants near the three central figures to speak to the next generation bearing fruit.

II. Approvals

a. Gooch Park-100%

Smith-Hardy asks for a motion to approve 100% fabrication at Gooch Park.

Prudhome Booker motions, Tolson seconds, and the motion passes.

b. Hospitality Hub Selection Committee Update

Echols brings an updated selection committee roster to PAOC for an upcoming design-only call to artists for artwork in the bedrooms of the Hospitality Hub. Echols reminds everyone that site specific projects have been completed at the Hub in the family room and dining room, and one more installation in the stairwell is currently being fabricated. He explains that Nikii Richey (a site representative from the Hub), Pam McDonnell (an artist representative), and Nubia Yasin (an artist representative) will continue to serve on the selection committee, while Debra Higgins (a city representative), Michelle Wallace (a site representative from the Hub), and Anita Adams (a site representative from the Hub) will join. Echols asks for any questions about the proposed committee. Daigle asks, in general, how a selection committee is formed for interior projects like this one where there may not be active buy-in from the neighborhood as with more public facing sites like community centers. Echols responds that he received recommendations from Nickii Richey, who works directly with the Hospitality Hub Hotel, of women who have been direct

partners with the Hub. Echols then asks for a motion to approve the Hospitality Hub selection committee. Daigle motions, Prudhome Booker seconds, and the motion is approved.

c. Jesse Turner Park- Schematic Design

Smith-Hardy presents *Five Pillars* by Maxwell Emcays for the entry of Jesse Turner Park. She explains that the imagery on the pillars reflect leadership, faith, culture, place, and sports in the South Memphis community. She updates that he has removed the image of Young Dolph as some committee members were worried about tagging. She adds that Emcays will be visiting in February to engage the community and receive input across generations to see what the neighborhood would like to be included in the final design. She shares his preliminary budget breakdown of \$98,925 and the proposed dimensions and materials, adding that the aluminum and led lighting should be long lasting with little to no maintenance. Daigle wonders about the thickness and strength of the aluminum and the possibility of denting. Jones echoes that concern. Smith-Hardy makes a note to discuss with the artist. Smith-Hardy adds that they are in the process of sourcing an electrician who can provide MLGW with details to inform the power source required to light the sculpture. She asks for additional questions or comments. Daigle asks if the black imagery is printed on the aluminum and what finish it will have. She also asks if the lighting comes from within and clarity around any other translucent materials. Edwards asks about instructions for replacing the lightbulbs. Smith-Hardy makes notes to inquire. Tolson asks if the lighting is a pink glow. Smith-Hardy responds that the original idea was for the lighting to change colors, but the selection committee had concerns. She adds that question to her notes. Edwards asks if the Jesse Turner Park signage is reflected on both sides of the top piece and how the lighting element is enclosed. Daigle inquires if the location is a natural entry point to the park since it's like a gateway. Smith-Hardy answers that there isn't an entry to the park, and the sculpture will be located in a greenspace in front of the baseball fields. Daigle suggests asking how the greenspace is currently utilized so that the pillars won't interfere. Smith-Hardy summarizes all of the questions to ask Maxwell Emcays before, and reminds everyone that there will be one more design phase before fabrication begins. She asks for a motion to approve the schematic design. Daigle motions, Tolson seconds, and the motion is approved. Smith-Hardy thanks everyone for their feedback that is integral to the process.

UPDATES

III. Other Project Updates

Echols presents images of Lorenzo Scruggs working on the fabrication of the mirrored steel for the Whitehaven YMCA sculpture. He explains that concrete base will be poured in March after the weather breaks.

Smith-Hardy shares updated budget breakdowns for the five Neighborhood Art Initiative projects that were previously approved by PAOC. The Heights will receive \$92,000 for functional art, Alcy Ball will receive \$47,000 for neighborhood signage, Black Seeds in Uptown will receive \$92,000 for a sculpture, Mustard Seeds Inc. in South City will receive \$43,500 for a mural, and Westwood- Indian Hills will receive \$66,495 for functional art. She explains that those budgets include finalists' honoraria and \$2,000 each for community engagement to get folks involved and excited about the public art coming to their neighborhoods. Patty asks how the neighborhoods were selected and where the funding comes from. Smith-Hardy responds that UAC put out an open call to neighborhoods last year and received 12 applications. A selection committee chose those 5 neighborhoods, and the funding comes from the City of Memphis's capital improvement project funds. She asks for any other additional questions or comments before closing.

Jones welcomes Lakeisha! Echols invites everyone to the Movable Collection exhibition this Friday at 6:00 pm on display in the UAC office. The UAC team thanks everyone for their time.

Upcoming (Zoom) Meeting Dates @ 1:00 PM:

February 14, 2024