



**UrbanArt Commission
Public Art Oversight Committee
Wednesday, July 12, 2023 – 1 pm**

In attendance: Davida Cruthird, Patty Daigle, Nefertiti Orrin, Eso Tolson; UAC Staff: Richard Echols, Lauren Kennedy, Mallory Key, Kayla J. Smith

Smith welcomes everyone to the July 2023 PAOC meeting and shares the agenda for the following approvals:

APPROVALS

I. June 2023 Minutes

Smith asks for questions or comments regarding the June 2023 meeting minutes shared via email before seeking a motion to approve. Daigle moves, Orrin seconds, and the minutes are approved without changes.

II. NAI - Douglass - Final Acceptance

Echols presents several images of the completed mural with sculptural elements by Jamond Bullock and Eric Okdeh on the exterior walls of the Douglass Community Center and pool house. PAOC reacts positively, and Tolson comments that he enjoys the Frederick Douglass portion and how the artists used negative space in his portrait. Smith asks for any additional questions or comments before seeking a motion to approve final acceptance for this project. Tolson motions, Cruthird seconds, and the motion is approved.

III. JFK Park- Contingency Request

Kennedy begins by briefly recapping the email sent to PAOC with detailed information regarding Bruce Myer's contingency request for funds for the sculpture project at JFK Park, including the letter from Wolf River Conservancy about how they intend to use the space as an outdoor classroom. Kennedy says she is heartened by their participation in the process and their enthusiasm for having this installation as a resource for educational programming. She also speaks to the artist's schedule that was shared, noting it will be a two-month installation and lodging is included as Bruce Myers is based in Washington state. Kennedy ends by saying that she hopes this schedule gives a better sense of all the work that still needs to happen on-site and adds that a decision today will be necessary so that Bruce can confirm his accommodations for his stay in

early September. She opens the floor for any questions or concerns that have not been addressed.

Daigle asks about the labor cost line (\$9,000) and how many people Myers is employing. Kennedy responds that Myers is doing the majority of the work himself but will have some support from Chris Hill construction for concrete. Daigle inquires about total fees paid to the artist for this project. Kennedy answers that in his original contract, Myers was to receive \$15,100 for his design, inclusive of stamped engineering drawings which can be quite expensive, and \$55,900 for fabrication. She adds that UAC does not require artists to break down their spending once they have met a milestone and received approval and payment. Kennedy goes on to explain that some artists pay fabricators or subcontractors while others pay themselves as they are the ones doing the work. She says it is not atypical for an artist who is not contracting work out to include labor costs in a budget. She also mentions that Myers has shared he just hopes to break even on the project at this point. Daigle wonders if having labor support would help speed up the process. Kennedy explains that Myers has a meticulous way of working and finding skilled artisans for collaboration has been a challenge in the past and would likely be more costly. Daigle then clarifies that the total ask for this project has not changed since last month but that PAOC is considering more details provided around the budget and the timeline at this meeting. Kennedy confirms.

Sensing a hesitant atmosphere, Kennedy asks if PAOC would be more comfortable approving the contingency request if lodging costs were removed, noting the hard costs on equipment, materials, and labor seem less flexible. Tolson shares his reservations stating that he doesn't doubt the legitimacy of the items but wants to ensure the contingency money is being used in a way that is most beneficial. He says the approval of the Wolf River Conservancy has been helpful. Orrin shares she is still wondering why there is a second contingency request for this project. She asks if it is our responsibility or Myers' that he hasn't completed this project within the budget and timeline originally allocated or if circumstances have been beyond control. Kennedy responds that it has been both as issues with the site, such as the sinkhole and pea gravel discovery underneath the old playground location, couldn't have been anticipated but other setbacks may have been handled differently by the artist. Kennedy then suggests that PAOC approves \$10,000 of the request and UAC asks Wolf River Conservancy or Parks to support the remaining \$5,000. She asks if this could be a middle ground in terms of comfort level for PAOC approving the contingency. Cruthird shares that she was on the fence and wonders if there is a standard in place regarding contingency requests. Kennedy answers that, generally speaking, whenever there is a significant issue, UAC brings what the artist asks to the table after doing some initial due diligence to bring costs down. She goes on to say that in this instance she required Myers to pare his design back as she would not take a second request to PAOC without him making concessions. Orrin asks for the available contingency balance and questions how it is renewed or refilled each year. Kennedy answers that the current available balance is approximately \$62,000, and UAC allocates funds annually through the City of Memphis public art plan with the goal of maintaining a significant cushion for needs that arise throughout the year. She shares that most requests are between \$1,500-\$5,000 and that requests over \$10,000 have not been typical in her experience. Orrin responds that she would be more comfortable in the \$10,000 range given that figure is more on trend. Kennedy invites more feedback for the \$10,000 vs. \$15,000 proposal. Tolson and Cruthird both agree the lesser amount would be easier to approve. Daigle states she would be comfortable with either and understands the need to finish the project but is

curious moving forward how this may inform calls or set precedent for out of town artists. Kennedy answers that most of the issues should not happen again as they were unforeseeable but offers that being more intentional with reference checks for artists with no previous working relationships with UAC should be a priority.

Smith suggests two votes and begins by asking for a motion to approve the full contingency amount (\$15,247). After some silence, Daigle says she would motion but doesn't think there would be a second. Smith then asks for a motion to approve a \$10,000 contingency request. Orrin moves, Cruthird seconds, and the motion passes.

UPDATES

IV. Cordova Library- Final Acceptance

Echols presents a photo of the completed sculpture by Youngblood Studios installed at Cordova Library alongside a final design image for reference. Smith invites feedback, and Daigle asks for more information about the lighting component that was discussed in previous presentations. Echols acknowledges that there is lighting and images are forthcoming. Kennedy suggests sharing in an email update more images of the completed project with light casting onto the building. Tolson adds that he would like to see a night shot, and Daigle expresses her overall excitement around this project. UAC plans to seek email approval for final acceptance pending more images of the completed sculpture.

V. Other Project Updates

Echols announces that the Movable Collection call was just released and asks PAOC to please spread the word to local artists. He adds that more information is available on the UAC website and instagram.

Smith shares that the Jesse Turner Park call has been reissued to a national call that will close August 14th.

Kennedy adds that the UAC executive director position has been posted if PAOC knows anyone who may be interested. Cruthird says it has been an honor and a privilege to work with Kennedy and thanks her for all of her work for the organization. PAOC echoes the sentiment, and Tolson adds that Smith and Echols are doing a great job leading the meetings.

- L.E. Brown Park - redesign & contingency request
- Art & Environment - Carpenter Art Garden - sculpture park plans underway
- Ed Rice Community Center - in fabrication
- NAI - Westwood - painting in progress (phase 2)
- NAI - Hickory Hill - in fabrication
- Whitehaven Art Club - mural site authorization
- Whitehaven YMCA - in fabrication
- Movable Collection
 - Installation - Cossitt, Raleigh Randolph, East Shelby, Crenshaw, Poplar White Station
 - Hospitality Hub- in fabrication
- Frayser Library- in fabrication

- Frayser Signage - Determining locations (Rodney Baber Park, Frayser Library, North Frayser CDC, and two more TBD)
- Orange Mound Park - installing summer 2023
- JFK Park- anticipated installation Fall 2023

VI. Maintenance Update

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

August 9, 2023
September 13, 2023
October 11, 2023
November 8, 2023
December 13, 2023