



**UrbanArt Commission
Public Art Oversight Committee
Wednesday, February 8, 2023 – 1 pm**

In attendance: Davida Cruthird, Yvonne Jones, Nefertiti Orrin, Eso Tolson; UAC staff: Lauren Kennedy, Richard Echols, Mallory Key

APPROVALS

I. Email Approvals

Kennedy welcomes everyone to the February PAOC meeting and thanks the committee for approving Tony Hawkins's progress on the Neighborhood Art Initiative Westwood mural via email. She notes that he has been paid for 100% completion of that portion of the project and is beginning phase two.

II. January 2023 Minutes

Kennedy confirms that everyone received the minutes over email before asking for questions or concerns and then a motion to approve. Tolson moves, Orrin seconds, and the January 2023 PAOC minutes are approved.

III. Accelerate Memphis - Khara Woods - Crosswalk Designs

Kennedy reminds the committee that they have already approved working with Khara Woods, through the Accelerate Memphis program out of the Office of Planning & Development, on pre-approved artistic crosswalk designs the City can use for various projects. Khara had submitted her first round of designs, received feedback from City Traffic Engineering and the Planning division, and incorporated edits into her final design. Kennedy details the edits, which included simplifying the design and adding in white boundaries at the top and bottom of the images. She reports that the revised 7 designs were approved with excitement by City Engineering and Planning and adds that the designs can be tailored to include neighborhood names or important text as typography has already been standardized in the design. Parks and the Planning division have already expressed interest in these, and the designs will also be shared in neighborhood revitalization services. Kennedy asks for questions, and Orrin clarifies that PAOC is approving the designs rather than a particular installation and inquires if PAOC will continue to be involved in any specific use. Kennedy answers that the designs may be incorporated as a part of future PAOC projects but that another approval will not be required for any use of these crosswalk designs. Kennedy asks for a motion to approve these final design images and payment to Khara Woods. Cruthird moves, Jones seconds, and the motion is unanimously approved.

IV. NAI - Douglass - Jamond Bullock & Eric Okdeh - Final Design

Echols presents Jamond Bullock and Eric Okdeh's final design for the Neighborhood Art Initiative murals at the Douglass Community Center. He notes that the artists received the committee's feedback and moved up the birds that were obstructing Frederick Douglass's face in the schematic design and also added images of girls playing basketball as the committee had expressed a desire to see more diversity of children, specifically representation of girls, in the images. Echols explains that Jamond Bullock will be painting the murals on the pool house and the side of the community center while Eric Okdeh will primarily work in his studio on the mosaic elements until traveling to Memphis for installation. Echols reports that the selection committee has approved these final designs and asks for questions. Jones shares that one of the images in the mural is her beloved brother, Omar Robinson, who died an untimely death in 1975. She goes on to share that a street in Douglass is named after him and also represented in the river scene on Mud Island. Jones explains that Douglass was one of the first black neighborhoods visited by Eleanor Roosevelt in the 1930s and perhaps home to the first black golf course in Memphis. She says she is pleased to see the neighborhood's history visually represented in this mural. Both Echols and Kennedy thank Jones for sharing the rich history attached to this neighborhood, and Cruthird remarks on the beauty of the design. Kennedy then asks for a motion to approve this final design and to release appropriate payments. Tolson moves, Orrin seconds, and the motion is approved.

V. Ed Rice Community Center - Danielle Sierra - Schematic Design

Echols presents Danielle Sierra's schematic design for the murals at Ed Rice Community Center and reminds PAOC that the images will be painted, scanned, and installed as vinyl on the glass walls of the community center. He explains that her next step will be to hand paint the images in this design. Orrin asks for clarification about schematic designs in general, and Kennedy compares them to second drafts. Orrin asks what the next step will be after the schematic design is approved, and Echols answers that a final design will follow in which Sierra will hand paint these collaged images. LSI will then scan those images to print on vinyl. He clarifies that this schematic design is a layout for scale of the mural and that the final design will include a more detailed, artistic depiction of the images presented. Orrin also asks if this design will go back to the selection committee during the process, and Echols confirms. Jones asks if the flowers represented in the design are native to Tennessee. Echols answers that they are photographs of natural growing flowers that the artist captured from the Frayser area. Jones asks if the text in the background has significance. Echols clarifies that the text will not appear in the design as it is only leftover text from an architect's rendering of the space. Jones shares a piece of Memphis history about Ed Rice as the fireman who was removed from the station that was in close proximity to where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated. Kennedy asks for a motion to approve. Orrin moves, Jones seconds, and the motion is approved.

VI. Liberty Park & Jesse Turner Park- Selection Committees

Kennedy details the proposed rosters of selection committees for both Liberty Park and Jesse Turner Park. She describes the location of the new Liberty Park sports complex as the large building along East Parkway at Young Avenue near the Liberty Bowl stadium

and reports that the facility is open and actively being used. Kennedy explains that the city representative for this project will come from the Housing and Community Development office as this was their big project and that there will be a representative from Parks as they have been tasked with the maintenance of the area around the building. Kennedy goes on to list a representative from the private company which manages the park, a coach or team leader who regularly convenes their youth at the complex, and Nelson Gutierrez as the artist representative. Kennedy adds that she has communicated the desire to engage kids and families using the facility in the design process. Orrin asks if Liberty Park is a City-owned park, and Kennedy confirms that it is City-owned but run by a property management group. Kennedy then reviews that Jesse Turner Park was the project that was canceled as the contract never came to fruition with John Golightly but has now been allocated new funding to provide the neighborhood with their long awaited project. She lists Marlon Foster as the community representative from Knowledge Quest and Dr. Earnestine Jenkins as the art representative from the University of Memphis, both of whom were involved in the original selection committee and expressed interest to continue working on this sculpture for the neighborhood. Kennedy explains that Le Moyne-Owen College is in close proximity to the park and has used the park facility in the past, so either Mr. William Anderson, director of sports, or Mr. Johnny Rudd, a coach who has been a part of the neighborhood for a long time, will serve as a community representative from Le Moyne-Owen College. Toonky, a local artist, and Chloe Lane from Archimania will serve as the artist and architect representatives. Kennedy suggests that UAC will move forward by submitting completed selection committee rosters for email approval and asks for thoughts or questions. Orrin asks about community representatives for Jesse Turner Park, noting two institutional representatives listed and wondering about a potential opportunity for a community association representative to be involved in the process. Kennedy makes a note to ask Marlon Foster which neighborhood association is most closely tied to the park and thanks Orrin for the suggestion.

Echols and Kennedy close the meeting by thanking everyone for their participation and approvals and by calling out the next meeting as March 8th.

UPDATES

VII. Other Project Updates

- NAI - Westwood - painting in progress (phase 2)
- NAI - Mallory Heights - final design
- NAI - Hickory Hill - schematic design
- Whitehaven Art Club - mural site authorization
- Whitehaven YMCA - fabricating
- JFK Park- fabricating
- Cordova Library - fabricating
- Movable Collection
 - Installation - Cossitt, Raleigh Randolph, East Shelby, Crenshaw
 - Hospitality Hub- executing artist contracts
- Frayser Library- fabricating
- Frayser Signage - Determining locations (Rodney Baber Park, Frayser Library, North Frayser CDC, and two more TBD)
- LE Brown Park - fabricating
- Orange Mound Park - fabricating

VIII. Maintenance update

Upcoming (Zoom) Meeting Dates:

March 8, 2023 @1:00 PM

April 12, 2023 @1:00 PM