



**UrbanArt Commission
Public Art Oversight Committee
Wednesday, June 14, 2023**

In attendance: Davida Cruthird, Patty Daigle, Nefertiti Orrin, Kate Roberts, Eso Tolso, Mario Walker; UAC Staff: Richard Echols, Mallory Key, Kayla J. Smith, Travis Washington

Smith welcomes everyone to the June PAOC meeting and begins by sharing the agenda which includes the following approvals:

APPROVALS

I. May 2023 Minutes

Smith asks for a motion to approve the May 2023 minutes. Orrin moves, Roberts seconds, and the minutes are approved with no changes.

II. Movable Collection - Selection Committee

Echols lists the following selection committee nominees for the upcoming Movable Collection call: Jess Tinsley (artist representative), Paula Kovarik (artist representative), Efe Igor Coleman (Brooks Museum/city division representative), Susan Berry (library services/city division representative), Jessica Clark (library services/city division representative), Jessica Chaney (library services/city division representative), and Therrious Davis (alternate artist representative). He asks for a motion to approve this selection committee. Daigle motions, Roberts seconds, and the motion is approved.

III. JFK Park - Redesign & Contingency Request

Washington presents site images of the current installation progress at JFK Park along with revised design plans that scale back some elements from the original design. He explains that concrete for the majority of the meandering seat wall has been poured in addition to underground foundations to support some surrounding structures. Daigle asks if the removal of these features is due to budget constraints. Washington confirms that Kennedy required the artist, Bruce Myers, to make some cost-saving design concessions after he presented this contingency request to her. Daigle asks if PAOC has already approved a contingency request for storage for this project. Orrin confirms that this is the second contingency request. She recaps PAOC's concerns voiced at the last meeting surrounding the value of this project in terms of its future use versus its total cost. She mentions that having a testimonial from Wolf River Conservancy about its intended use would be helpful in making a decision about the contingency request.

Washington confirms that Kennedy has been in communication with the Wolf River Conservancy about programming around this project and will follow up with PAOC by email. He adds that construction in general at JFK Park is still ongoing for some seating areas, a pavilion, a baseball field, and some soccer fields. Daigle asks if there will be any seating in close proximity to the sculpture since some of the seating elements have been removed in the redesign, and Washington confirms. Tolson asks if the meandering structure is seating itself, and Washington replies that it is a seat wall that mimics the flow of the Wolf River. He then presents an itemized budget for the funds requested totaling \$29,034 with \$13,787 left in the allocated project budget and \$15,247 requested from contingency. He shows the available contingency balance of \$62,035.33. Orrin asks for more clarification around what additional elements will be installed around the meandering seat wall. Washington responds that circular forms inspired by raindrops featuring natural elements will flow out from the main structure. Daigle asks if the sculpture is a path to engage the area and inquires about the different surfaces yet to be installed. Then Roberts asks for clarity around what the extra \$15,000 would cover. Washington goes back to the itemized budget and recaps that the request is to cover materials and labor necessary to complete the project. Several concerns are raised about expenses including apartment, fuel, and labor, and the committee agrees that a timeline and a more detailed budget are needed for PAOC to make an informed decision. Smith collects all of the questions from PAOC for Kennedy to respond to via email.

IV. Finalists: Jesse Turner Park, Art & Environment - Hollywood Vollintine, & Liberty Park

Smith reports that the Jesse Turner Park sculpture call only received 6 submissions, so UAC and the selection committee would like to reissue the call nationally. She stresses the importance of bringing quality, experienced candidates to the neighborhood as this has been a long anticipated project. She asks for questions or comments, and Orrin asks if any of the fellows from the New Public Artists program applied. Smith confirms that Brandon Scott applied, and while some applicants had great ideas, the committee wants to ensure that the selected artist has fabrication experience or can collaborate with another artist or fabricator. Smith asks for a motion to approve moving to a national call. Orrin moves, Tolson seconds, and the motion is unanimously approved.

Washington presents the following three finalists for the Art & Environment- Hollywood Vollintine mural: Larry Walker, Siphne Sylve, and Krendo (a collaboration between Reanna Ruddick and NPA fellow Kendrick Pendleton). He asks for a motion to approve the finalists. Daigle moves, Cruthird seconds, and the three finalists are approved.

Smith then shares the following three finalists for the Memphis Sports and Event Center mural at Liberty Park: Banana Plastik (Paige Ellens and Ivy-Jade Edwards), a collaboration between Anthony Lee and Allie Mounce, and Carl Moore. She asks for a motion to approve. Tolson motions, Orrin seconds, and these three finalists are approved.

V. Movable Collection - Hospitality Hub - Lisa Williamson Final Design

Echols presents Lisa Williamson's final design for the Hospitality Hub Movable Collection, which features an organic leaf-like sculpture to be installed in the main staircase. He shares that the artist engaged with partners at the Hub for input on the color palette, selecting hues of blue, green, and purple. He details the materials which include leaves constructed from aluminum and muslin hand painted with acrylics and

branches sculpted from copper wire. Echols explains that the structure is lightweight, and some elements will hang from the ceiling while others will be adhered to the wall. He adds that Lisa Williamson plans to host workshops to include partners at the Hub in the fabrication of the leaves and petals. Echols asks for questions or feedback. Tolson comments that he is pleased with how this design has developed and that the women of the Hub are involved with the process and expresses excitement about how the project will come together. Daigle echoes Tolson saying that the design has developed beautifully and fits the space and the purpose. She adds that she enjoys the scattered, lively components but is curious about the durability of the muslin and the inspiration behind the subject matter. Echols replies that the pieces are abstract ginkgo leaves and petals and compares the muslin material to a thick tracing paper. He says the inspiration is in response to the call for trauma informed design and bringing natural elements into the space. Roberts asks if the muslin is translucent, and Echols confirms; she comments that light passing through the petals and leaves will look nice. Echols asks for any additional comments or concerns before a motion to approve the final design. Tolson moves, Orrin seconds, and the motion is unanimously approved.

VI. NAI - Westwood - 50% Phase 2

Washington reminds PAOC that this Neighborhood Art Initiative mural was divided into two phases as the walls are over 600 feet combined, and the first phase has been completed. He reports that the second wall has been repaired, primed, and treated for paint after some surface damage from pressure washing. Washington notes that the artist, Tony Hawkins, has started painting and aims to have this section of the mural completed by the end of August. He reviews a design mock up against a current photo from the site documenting progress. Washington then asks for a motion to approve. Cruthird moves to approve the 50% benchmark of phase two, Tolson seconds, and the motion is approved.

VII. NAI - Hickory Hill - Final Design

Echols presents final design images from Brandon Marshall for the Neighborhood Art Initiative Hickory Hill bus shelter enhancements which feature neighborhood jookin dancers. He begins by recapping PAOC's schematic design feedback for more activated, dynamic female poses but explains that after bringing this to the artist and the dancers, he learned that the depicted poses are true to this particular dance form. He also shares that the selection committee has requested bios of the dancers to be included somewhere in the installations as they have a special connection to the neighborhood as well as photo release forms for all involved in the videos that will be featured. Echols notes that MATA plans to drop the four bus shelters in July, after which the artist can begin the fabrication and installation process with an estimated completion date in June 2024. He then shares design details from the proposal; the pieces will be CNC cut from ¼ inch steel plating with sanded smooth edges and finished with an anti-graffiti coating, each figure will have a QR code to a video element, and installation details meet ADA requirements and have been approved by MATA. Echols shows examples of Brandon Marshall's designs against his completed murals to showcase his dynamic, realistic painting style before asking for questions or feedback. Daigle voices concern that one of the posed figures could present a tripping hazard as the dancer's foot is sticking out. Echols states that the design should remain flush with the barriers of the bus shelter walls but makes a note to bring that feedback to the artist. Daigle then

shares her enjoyment of the design and asks if information about the dancers will be included. Echols confirms stating that the selection committee had the same request; the artist will create a video linked to a QR code with this information, the dancers, and footage from the workshop he plans to host at the Gestalt schools. Echols then asks for a motion to approve the Hickory Hill final design. Daigle motions, Cruthird seconds, and the motion is approved.

VIII. Ed Rice Community Center - Final Design (Revised)

Washington recaps that since PAOC last approved this final design, the selection committee and members from Parks met at the facility to discuss design revisions after Parks raised concerns about the portion of the glass that would be covered by the mural. He presents revised images that are mostly similar to the original design but scaled back with a few figures removed to increase visibility. He adds that the artist, Danielle Sierra, will hand paint the design, and LSI will scan it to produce a translucent vinyl application for the glass at the community center. He shares that these revised designs have been approved by both Parks and the selection committee before he asks for a motion to approve. Orrin motions, Tolson seconds, and the revised final design is approved.

IX. Accelerate: Orange Mound- Selection Committee

Smith presents a proposed selection committee for a project happening in Orange Mound near Park and Airways. She explains that UAC was brought in to facilitate community engagement around the process after the Metal Museum was selected as the artist. She notes that the following list reflects an emphasis on neighborhood representation: Becka Matthews (artist representative), Felicia Wheeler (Assistant Director of Tone/neighborhood representative), Lili Jackson (Orange Mound Arts Council/ neighborhood representative), Angela Barksdale (Melrose Cultural Enrichment Center/neighborhood representative), Kendra Cobb (city representative), Faria Urny (city representative), and Trey Box (architect). Orrin asks if Becka Matthews has a connection to the neighborhood. Smith replies that Matthews is a visual artist who has worked with UAC in the past but does not have specific ties to Orange Mound and that UAC reaches out to various artists to serve on selection committees. With no further questions, Smith asks for a motion to approve this selection committee. Orrin motions, Daigle seconds, and the motion is approved.

UPDATES

Washington updates PAOC that artists Suzy Hendrix and Khara Woods in collaboration with the Division of Planning and Development are moving quickly towards final design on the South City sculptures and crosswalks. He goes on to share that they have decided on color palettes based on feedback from the neighborhood and selection committee and that Hendrix is currently incorporating feedback from John Jackson, landscape architect for the project, and working on obtaining structural engineering drawings. He says that the final design should be ready to present at the next PAOC meeting. Walker asks if he can view the engineering drawings before the meeting, and Washington makes a note to send them when they are received.

Echols thanks PAOC for their email approval for 50% at Douglass Community Center and shares that Jamond Bullock and Eric Okdeh are making great progress on the mural there.

Smith reports that Desmond Lewis should be installing his sculpture in Orange Mound Park this July. She recaps items to follow up on before the next meeting and asks for additional questions or feedback before adjourning the meeting.

X. Other Project Updates

- L.E. Brown Park - redesign & contingency request
- Cordova Library - final acceptance
- Art & Environment - Carpenter Art Garden - sculpture park plans underway
- Whitehaven Art Club - mural site authorization
- Whitehaven YMCA - installing
- JFK Park- anticipated installation Fall 2023
- Movable Collection
 - Installation - Cossitt, Raleigh Randolph, East Shelby, Crenshaw, Poplar White Station
 - Hospitality Hub- final design
- Frayser Library- fabricating
- Frayser Signage - Determining locations (Rodney Baber Park, Frayser Library, North Frayser CDC, and two more TBD)

XI. Maintenance update

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

July 12, 2023

August 9, 2023

September 13, 2023

October 11, 2023

November 8, 2023

December 13, 2023