



**UrbanArt Commission
Public Art Oversight Committee
Wednesday, August 14, 2024 – 1 pm**

In Attendance: Jen Prudhome-Booker, Takeyshia Johnson, Eso Tolson, C. Rose Smith, Kate Robinson, Mario Walker, and Yvonne Jones

UAC staff: Richard Echols, Kayla J. Smith-Hardy, Kelly Seagraves, Travis Washington

APPROVALS

- I. July 2024 Meeting Minutes
Smith approves, Jones seconds, and the motion passes.

- II. Project Approvals
 - a. Heights Line- Selected Artist

Smith-Hardy shares that the Heights Line selection committee selected Brandon Scott as the sculpture finalist. Smith-Hardy shows Scott's design proposal, where he is proposing a communal resting space. Smith-Hardy explains the sculpture location, Heights Line, is a linear path almost two miles long, making it one of a kind in Memphis that is led by neighborhood organizing. Smith-Hardy shares that the selection committee appreciated the thoughtfulness to have a space to gather. There will also be some lighting incorporated. Smith-Hardy adds Scott pitched to have a fountain as a part of this piece as well. This excited the committee to be able to get access to the nearby water line. Smith-Hardy shares that Scott also plans to have different historical facts about the area on the seats. The Heights neighborhood used to have a trolley line where the path now is being constructed. The trolley line used to be a physical marker that racially segregated residents. Smith-Hardy adds that the committee shares their appreciation to have a space that is family friendly and invites all types of people together. Smith-Hardy also states that this is Brandon Scott's first large scale project opportunity, so it is great to see the benefits of those who participate in the New Public Art fellowship like Scott did. The fellowship is an opportunity for people to learn and train for an opportunity to get some of these larger scaled projects. Smith-Hardy asks if there are any questions or comments before taking a vote for approval.

Walker asks for more details about the proposed design.

Smith-Hardy responds she will share Brandon Scott's proposal. Smith-Hardy adds that Scott has already been getting input from the City's engineering division. Mike Lemm from the City is

on the Heights Line committee, and the Heights CDC has already connected Scott to Malasari Engineering.

Roberts asks about the displayed image that includes a blue area. Roberts asks for clarity and more details about the materials and what the bench is made out of.

Prudhome-Booker adds a question about the lights and what color they would be.

Smith-Hardy shares she is going to pull up the proposal from Brandon Scott that includes more details. Smith-Hardy reads descriptions featured in Scott's proposal. The interior of the seating will display laser-cut art representing the railroad history of the 1900s and the agricultural history of the space from the 1800s. Each of the acrylic panels will have historical facts about residents and the history of the neighborhood. Smith-Hardy adds that for the evenings, the sculptures will have solar lights with the interior panels illuminating the Heights on the exterior. Smith-Hardy shares this is the blue section PAOC members saw earlier. Smith-Hardy adds the antique style street lamp with three birds sculpted on the top represents the growth and development to come. There will be walnut wood, acrylic blocks, and acrylic panels. The three Heights neighborhoods are written in mosaic in the ceramic towel.

Smith-Hardy states the solar lighting and water fountain is depending on access and budgeting. The initial plans were for a water fountain for people and one for pets, but the budget likely will not allow for both. The seating will be coated with a UV protection clear coat for protection from the sun. Little maintenance is required and will need occasional washing with soap and water to clean any dust. Smith-Hardy adds documentation will be provided later for the color, sealing, and materials for repair needs.

Smith-Hardy adds another significant component to this project is community engagement. Smith-Hardy states that Brandon Scott is an educator and has a good history with student engagement. Scott plans to work with Treadwell students and more, as recommended by the selection committee. Students could potentially receive stipends for installing some of the wood paneling and acrylic plaques. Scott also intends to do a workshop with students working on mosaic fabrication. Smith-Hardy states the budget breakdown is preliminary and will change subject to engineering costs and more. Smith-Hardy asks if there are more comments and questions, then for a motion to approve. Tolson approves, Prudhome-Booker seconds, and the motion passes.

b. Orange Mound Sculpture- Final Design/Start of Fabrication

Smith-Hardy states the Orange Mound- Accelerate sculpture is in partnership with the City's Housing and Community Development. The approval is for the final design/start of fabrication. Smith-Hardy reminds the committee that the last update shared was that the Metal Museum invited their selection committee members and UAC staff to their workspace. The Metal Museum used this time to present a draft proposal for the final design approval. Based on the committee's feedback, the Metal Museum added some color to the lettering from white to orange.

Smith-Hardy adds that another component that is important to the selection committee is the safety of the sculpture. The City approved the use of bollard chains to give some physical barriers between the sculpture and any potential vehicles while still appearing welcoming to

pedestrians. Instead of having grass in the surrounding sculpture area, there will be gravel and desert spoon plants planted for little maintenance. The materials used will be powder coated steel, powder coated aluminum, and corten steel. Smith-Hardy states the corten steel will weather beautifully over time. There will also be a one brick planter. Smith-Hardy shares the dimensions listed from the Metal Museum and the easement the City got for the sculpture location from Airways and Park. This sculpture will be an entryway marker to welcome people to the Orange Mound neighborhood.

Smith-Hardy states the Metal Museum will take care of cleaning up the space. For site preparations, the Metal Museum will check for utilities like gas, electricity, and remove the asphalt for the sculpture, flower bed, gravel, and plants. Smith-Hardy shares a plaque that will be installed as well to thank the private landowners for giving a portion of their space for the sculpture. Concrete footers that would be four feet deep to support the sculpture. There will also be solar lighting within the canopy of the trees. Smith-Hardy adds the plants and flower bed will need to be watered and maintained and that some of the Orange Mound residents already agreed to take on responsibility for this. Maintenance will include periodic wash from soap and water and eventually replace solar lights after some years. The project budget is \$200,000 and they plan to install next year, which aligns great given it will be Orange Mound's 135th anniversary.

Tolson asks if there will be any seating arrangements for this sculpture. Smith-Hardy responds that no seating is a part of this sculpture's design.

Smith-Hardy asks for a motion to approve. Johnson motions to approve, Roberts seconds, and the motion passes.

c. Jesse Turner Park- 50%

Smith-Hardy shares Maxwell Emcays is seeking 50% approval for the Jesse Turner Park sculpture. The sculpture is titled Five Pillars, representing different key community values around leadership, faith, sports, and music. Smith-Hardy states this call had to be reissued to a national call, so Emcays from Chicago was able to apply. Smith-Hardy adds that Emcays has been doing great and moving along pretty quickly. Smith-Hardy shares images of fabricated panels from the leadership, music, and sports pillars. Smith-Hardy shows the homage to the park's namesake- Jesse Turner Park Sr. and sports that occur in the park such as baseball, baseball, and tennis. Smith-Hardy states how accurately the fabricated pieces match the design.

Smith-Hardy reads from Emcay's proposal that a crucial element to this sculpture is the square tubes that support. The materials have been sourced and the pieces are being measured and cut. The next steps are to get the lettering completed. Smith-Hardy states that Emcays have to get a stamped Tennessee licensed engineering approval. This is to ensure Emcays has everything they need for proper placement and installation. In the proposal, Emcays says the overall fabrication process is going smoothly. He shares that he is a first time father as of this summer, so he is still adjusting to the new pace. Emcays is excited to complete this sculpture and deliver it to South Memphis. Emcays did not provide an exact completion date in his narrative, but he plans to install it by the fall of this year.

Prudhome-Booker states that progress looks really good. Emcays has been able to capture the majority of the fabricated pieces and the outcome looks pretty spot on to what has been rendered on metal. Prudhome-Booker adds she is excited to see how the panels come together

for the pillars and the final product. Emcays seems to be well on his way, even as a new dad and that is pretty fantastic.

Smith-Hardy asks if there are any more questions or comments. Since there are none, Smith-Hardy asks for a motion to approve. Roberts motions to approve, Smith seconds, and the motion passes.

d. L.E. Brown Park- Contingency

Washington states the team wants to know the committee thoughts after having time to review the details for the L.E. Brown Park contingency request. Washington shares an image showing the mockup of the original design that was approved by the selection committee and residents in the area, which is near the South City area. The forms have all been completed outside of the few portions that the contingency request is for. Washington states the artist, Arnold Thompson, has all of the structural forms, but he needs the connecting rings that will attach the forms together. Additionally, the few shroud pieces will be powder coated and the foundation has to be poured, which there is a construction team on standby for this. Washington asks are there any questions.

Roberts asks if there was anything that Thompson felt like was essential or could be left off. Roberts wants to know if Thompson is aware of the concerns for that large of a contingency request.

Washington responds that they did have a conversation about the matter. Thompson was able to scale back and figure out how to reduce labor costs, which was the main reason for the large request. Thompson was planning to outsource a lot of the work needed. Thompson has met with other vendors and fabricators to learn more processes that he can do on his own now. Washington adds that most vendors charge premium rates as well; however, Thompson has been able to find some reasonable quotes now for the connecting ring mirror finish and the shrouds at the top and bottom. Washington notes that \$20,000 is still available within the original project budget and it is reflected in Thompson's budget.

Roberts asked if Thompson is still seeking an additional \$40,000 to the \$20,000 remaining, or is the initial \$20,000 contingency being considered and the request for contingency is \$20,000- totalling a remaining \$40,000 overall project budget now.

Washington responds that PAOC will be reallocating an additional \$20,000-\$25,000 that will put Thompson at the \$40,000 to \$45,000 range to finish everything.

Tolson confirms that the contingency request is for \$20,000 to \$25,000.

Washington confirms this is correct. Washington adds that once Thompson got to a certain point, UAC has to take more of a lead in thinking about ways to get this project completed, so no more funds have been released to him. Thompson has had about \$8,000 he has been working with that was released during the height of the pandemic time, when he was still making progress. Washington adds Thompson has been buying materials but the biggest setback has been the vendors. Fortunately, Archimania contacted UAC with some construction companies who gave a better estimate around \$15,000 vs \$28,000.

Roberts asks how much is left of the overall contingency funds for the fiscal year.

Washington and Smith-Hardy respond that they are not certain. Smith-Hardy adds that at the last PAOC meeting, it was expressed by UAC's Director Edwards that there is at least \$60,000 left in contingency but is unsure of the total amount.

Roberts adds that if an entirely new call to artists is needed, then the community will have to wait even longer for public art in their neighborhood. She states her initial reaction is to say yes and move forward, and she also took a look at Thompson's CV. Roberts shares that it appears that this L.E. Brown Park project is Thompson's first large-scale project, and he is primarily a 2D and digital artist. Roberts is curious what other committee members are thinking regarding approving this contingency request.

Washington responds this is correct and that this is Thompson's first large scale piece. Washington shares previous experience with Thompson and adds that Thompson has been a part of the Memphis art community for some time.

Smith says she looked at Thompson's CV as well and Thompson does seem very in touch with the community. Smith asks if the community is still excited about the potential of this project.

Washington responds that the community is still excited about this project. Recently neighborhood residents and SCORE CDC reached out to Washington asking for updates. Rebecca Hutchison from SCORE CDC has been in contact with Thompson recently and SCORE CDC wrote about Thompson's project in their newsletter. Washington adds Thompson has been attending neighborhood events and staying connecting to the community. L.E. Brown Park has some current activation going on, because the City is working on a soccer park and more coming to the space.

Smith states being open to move forward.

Tolson adds there were some initial reservations to the full \$40,000 contingency request. However, understanding the impact of inflation and uncertainty if anything will go back down price wise and knowing the community is still excited, Tolson is willing to move forward with an approval of the lower amount contingency around \$20,000.

Washington asks if there is a motion to approve. Smith approves, Johnson seconds, and the motion passes for \$20,000 in contingency to add to the remaining \$20,351.39 left in the L.E. Brown Park.

UPDATES

- III. Other Project Updates
 - a. Orange Mound Park

Smith-Hardy states the Orange Mound Park project has been in the making for a while, but the latest update received from the artist Desmond Lewis was that his vendors should be completing the remaining columns for the sculpture by the end of September. The process takes up to ten weeks for fabrication. Smith-Hardy shares that she will follow up with Lewis in September for an update to share out.

- b. Liberty Park- Memphis Sports and Event Center

Smith-Hardy shares that there will be an email approval needed for the Memphis Sports and Event Center- Liberty Park mural for 50%. Smith-Hardy states more images and a detailed narrative is needed first before presenting to the committee.

An email approval did occur following the monthly August meeting for 50% approval for the Memphis Sports and Event Center-Liberty Park project. The artist Anthony Lee shared images of two out of four completed murals. The remaining portions include cut-ins, fill-ins, and edging with color left for the last two murals. The 50% approval payment will facilitate the printing and installation of the transparent vinyl decals to the long front-side windows that will be subcontracted to Spark Printing Co. The goal is to have all components completed by September 30th. PAOC members pass the motion to approve 50% for Liberty Park.

IV. Maintenance Updates

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

September 11, 2024