



**UrbanArt Commission
Public Art Oversight Committee
Wednesday, May 8, 2024 – 1 pm**

In attendance: Takeyshia Johnson, C. Rose Smith, Mario Walker; Jen Prudhome Booker, Debra Higgins, Eso Tolson

UAC staff: Richard Echols, Lakeisha Edwards, Mallory Key, Kayla J. Smith-Hardy, Travis Washington, Sisa Wang

Smith-Hardy welcomes everyone to the May 2024 PAOC meeting and introduces UAC's new communications manager, Sisa Wang.

APPROVALS

- I. April 2024 Meeting Minutes
 - a. Smith-Hardy asks if there are any comments or questions regarding last month's meeting minutes. There are none. Prudhome Booker motions, Johnson seconds, and the motion passes.

- II. Project Approvals
 - a. Mayor's Office mural commission
Edwards shares the Mayoral office's hopes for a mural in the conference room pictured on the slideshow. There are a lot of community leaders visiting that space. Additionally, there are very dated Movable Collection pieces that do reflect the vibrancy of the current administration. The current plan is to replace all of the older Movable pieces using items from the 2020 collection. The request is to approve an internal selection process for the mural commission. UAC will gather feedback from the Mayor's office and curate an invitational list of 6-7 artists based on their feedback. UAC will present the invitational list for approval. Once approved, UAC will send the list to the Mayor's team for selection. Selected finalists will also have to be PAOC approved. The invitational call option for muralists will make the selection process more streamlined for working with the Mayor's office.

Prudhome Booker asks how we would facilitate our internal selection process. What would be our rubric (diversity, Memphian, community represented, gender, current partnerships).

Echols responds that UAC will review feedback from the Mayor's office and create a list of artists primarily working with murals and would be ideal for this

opportunity. For approving the invitational list, UAC will provide PAOC with snapshots of the artists' work and their name to review.

Edwards adds that the list of artists will include those on UAC's roster and some we have not worked with just yet. Artists will be Memphian or a transplant, long as they currently work, play, and exist locally. Supporting local artists is a push for Mayor Young, as well as wrapping arms around all of the neighborhoods,

Johnson asks will this be a permanent amendment to the selection process procedures? Or is this a one time instance?

Edwards responds that standard procedures will remain in place. Echols adds that invitational calls already occur for neighborhood art initiative projects at times.

Key shares through the City of Memphis Public Art Plan guidelines there would not be a need for an amendment. An invitational call is within guidelines as long as it fits the call and is PAOC approved.

Johnson motions, Smith seconds, and the motion passes.

b. Hickory Hill- 50%

Echols provides some background to the the Neighborhood Art Initiative project in Hickory Hill. It is a bus shelter enhancement project that commissioned the artist Brandon Marshall. The neighborhood partners are Gestalt Schools and Power Center Academy. This approval is for 50% completion for Brandon Marshall. Marshall's enhancement to the bus shelters will be these metal cutouts highlighting the jookin culture. Two women and two men dancers are featured in the design. Echols shows the painted portions from the cutout metal and the process from CNC cut to drawings then spray painted. CNC cutouts will be bolted on each side with a two inch gap. Each shelter has mesh sides for ventilation. A meeting with community partners is scheduled soon to plan a dedication in June.

Johnson commented that the design being painted is impressive.

Prudhome Booker echos the design is nice, and this will be great for the area to have the personal bus shelters. Prudhome Booker asks if there will be plexi covering or will there be an opening that is hollow with layers.

Echols answers that Marshall did not say there would be any plexi but before anything is painted it has a finishing around the edges to ensure it is not harmful. Everything is sanded and buffered from that perspective. The pieces will also be graffiti coated to help with weathering and maintenance but no confirmation there would be any filling. The entire figure will be flushed within the barriers of that side wall.

Prudhome Booker shares curiosity about it being hollow because people tend to explore sticking heads and arms through spaces. This is something to keep in mind.

Echols states this is good feedback to take back to the artist. There can be an updated version addressing these safety concerns. It is currently known that the pieces will be flushed and Marshall recently had a site visit to get those measurements. Echols shares that some of the project delays were due to finding the ideal site locations for enhanced shelters. The new shelters were installed based on community feedback. Once those details were confirmed, Marshall was able to size those CNC cutouts to those side panels.

Prudhome Booker asks since this project is so unique and personal will there be a digital copy to view.

Echols responded that documentation of the process has been happening. Marshall will ensure the pieces are photographed well for UAC's website and his own portfolio purposes. Additionally, a QR code will live on the actual pieces and will link to a video. Marshall is collaborating with local jokers to shoot a video in the neighborhood and showcase the process.

Prudhome Booker stated that resonates with her question, because other neighborhoods may want to do something comparable.

Smith-Hardy read out C. Rose Smith's Zoom chat question asking if this fabrication exists solely at bus shelters in Hickory Hill.

Echols responds that this round of neighborhood art initiative including bus shelters enhancements will exist in Hickory Hill and Mallory Heights. Both areas were chosen as recipients. There are two separate calls with different scopes of work.

Rose Smith asks will there be a history of jookin included in some documentation as well.

Echols responds that UAC has an in-progress section on the website that includes project background information relevant to the project. For Hickory Hill, there will be some coverage on the background of jookin and information about the artist. Echols thanks everyone for their questions, comments, and feedback and asks if there is a motion. Prudhome Booker motions, Rose Smith seconds, and the motion passes.

c. Jesse Turner Park- Final Design

Smith-Hardy seeks final design and start of fabrication approval for Jesse Turner Park for selected artist Maxwell Emcays. Smith-Hardy notes Emcays made the marker design more dynamic to increase visibility. The name will only be seen from one side. Smith-Hardy shows examples of LED lights Emcays plan to use and previous large scale projects of his comparable to Jesse Turner Park using

aluminum material. This piece is called Five Pillars and Emcays is Chicago based. Emcays traveled to Memphis recently for some neighborhood input. Emcays has been very intentional with researching and ensuring community members review and approve of the design. Five pillars highlight sports, music, faith, leadership, and place. Sports include activities like baseball and more that occur in the park. The music pillar received a revision to take out the Stax image for copyright purposes and was replaced with an old school microphone. Faith panel pays homage to the nearby landmark church and choirs. Leadership includes an image of Jesse Turner Park Sr. the namesake of the park. Leadership also highlights the Invaders, a youth centered anti poverty organization created in Lemoyne Owen College decades ago. Landmark pillar shows Zion Cemetery and other key markers. Smith-Hardy also shares the engineering drawings Emcays provided and that he was essentially complete fabrication during the summer.

Walker asks if there are other arches or just the one arch between those two columns.

Smith-Hardy confirms there is one arch.

Walker asks if Emcays is responsible for a pathway and accessibility and if there is any concrete pad being poured..

Smith-Hardy states that an ADA consultant accessed the site and shared since the sculpture is on grass anyone could access it. There is no requirement for a separate pathway leading directly to the sculpture and currently no plan for concrete pad.

Smith-Hardy asks if there are further questions and comments before a motion. Prudhome booker motions, Walker seconds, and motion passes.

Smith-Hardy provides more context that this call was originally local but was reissued nationally to get stronger applications. Community members in South Memphis have been waiting on this sculpture for a while, so they are very excited for this.

- d. Contingency- Travel expenses for Orange Mound Library finalists up to \$500 per artist.

Smith-Hardy provides updates on the finalists for the Orange Mound Library and Genealogy Center national call to artists. Terry Lynn grew up in Memphis but is now California based. Daniel Moore is an artist based in Arizona. The last finalist is Joshua Weiner based in Colorado. The approval request is to approve travel expenses for each artist from the contingency pool of funds. The amount is \$500 per finalist, totaling \$1500. Smith-Hardy shares this was also the process for Jesse Turner Park's national call. Additionally, the call received 11 applications. The selection committee's priority was connection to Memphis and Orange Mound and artists' capacity to build a sustainable large scale sculpture. Smith-Hardy asks if there are any comments or questions.

Prudhome Booker asks how much is typically allocated for travel expenses.

Smith-Hardy responds that since her tenure with UAC, there has been a maximum \$500 allotted for out of town artists to travel for a proposal. Smith-Hardy asks Key to confirm.

Key states this sounds correct.

Smith-Hardy asks if there are any further questions or comments before moving to motion. Walker motions, Johnson seconds, and the motion passes.

Smith-Hardy reads Edwards' Zoom chat aloud that includes the name of the Orange Mound Library selection committee. Committee includes representatives from the Housing and Community Development city's division, current library staff, and other key neighborhood leaders.

- e. Contingency- Orange Mound Park for materials
Smith-Hardy provides some context to seek approval for contingency funds for the Orange Mound Park project with selected artist Desmond Lewis. Project started in 2018 and Smith-Hardy shares that various factors have delayed this project. Additionally, cost of materials have increased significantly. Lewis recently received quotes from his fabricators he works with in Kansas City. Lewis will need approximately \$29,000 to complete this project. The project currently has \$13,000 and the contingency request is for \$15,850. These funds are to fabricate three columns originally for Dunbar Elementary. The bench for Dunbar is already installed. The three columns will live at Orange Mound Park. The silhouettes represent the past, present, and future of the neighborhood. Smith-Hardy shows the breakdown of prices for the columns, equipment rental, shipping, hiring labor, and materials. If approved, Lewis plans to complete this project by the end of summer. Smith-Hardy emphasizes this committee has been waiting on this project for awhile and very eager to see an installation.

Rose Smith asked how the figures exactly represent the past, present, and future of Orange Mound.

Smith-Hardy admitted her uncertainty about the particular details since the project proceeds her time on staff and limited past information is documented in this project folder.

Echols adds that the UAC team can do more research to properly answer Rose Smith's question.

Prudhome Booker asks about what milestones has already been completed.

Smith-Hardy responds the project got up 50%, so 100% and final acceptance is left. On UAC's website, the concept stems from the need to recognize the rich culture of Orange Mound and the children of Dunbar. Lewis had an extensive period of community engagement in 2018 with residents, organizations, and students. Smith-Hardy shares she also reached out to the committee for this project updating them on current progress.

Prudhome Booker states she would like more context before comfortably approving this contingency request, especially since this request exceeds \$10,000. Prudhome Booker echoes Rose Smith's point of understanding there is a sense of urgency of getting this project completed soon.

Smith-Hardy responds that she could gather more information from Lewis to send to PAOC for an email approval later.

Prudhome Booker gives kudos to the team for picking this project back up from 2018 and acknowledges the urgency while also comfortably approving something for such a historical neighborhood.

Johnson adds a request for a clearer image of the design in addition to more background information. There is uncertainty on how the design will look currently and asks if it was already installed.

Smith-Hardy responds the three columns are partially fabricated and have been in storage for some years now. Smith-Hardy proposes a Zoom meeting with PAOC and Lewis if scheduling permits.

Johnson agrees and states curiosity around if there is any recent community feedback since neighborhoods are changing over time.

Rose Smith adds to underscore previous observation of how exactly does the community of Orange Mound see themselves represented in the past, present, and future through a sculpture.

Smith-Hardy states if there is a greater concern from the committee on the overall design that it would be costly to start over. Also adds agreeance on ensuring the neighborhood is aware and loves the sculpture coming to their area. Smith-Hardy thanks the committee for their input and asks if there are more comments or questions to share with Lewis. Smith-Hardy acknowledges that the approval for this vote is postponed until there is more clarity.

Prudhome Booker adds she appreciates how much detail is given from the UAC team on each project. Since this Orange Mound project predates everyone on the call it would be great to receive a slideshow or documentation or the previous milestones leading up to 50%.

Smith-Hardy responds that the UAC team will work on finding that information to make available for the committee.

Group consensus is to get more detailed information regarding the project's background before feeling comfortable approving that contingency amount.

- f. Hospitality Hub - Final Acceptance
Echols discusses the Movable Collection sponsored Hospitality Hub Commission. There are three commissioned artists. Echols seeks approval for final acceptance for Lisa Williamson. Echols shows the staircase in the Hub. Echols provide background information on the Hospitality Hub. It is a barrier-free women's shelter. All artists were asked to create artwork that fit within the trauma-informed guidelines. Echols shows the pieces from Williamson installed in the staircase and adds how Williamson's work enhances the space with limited lighting. Echols shows more images of the covered two-story staircase with Williamson's work installed. Echols states the excitement having all three pieces installed now at the Hospitality Hub. Next steps will be to get some high res photos for UAC's website and update this project page. Echols ask if there are any comments or questions before seeking approval.

Prudhome Booker shares how nice the installation looks and that it suspends from the ceiling and is adhered from the wall.

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

Edwards adds that she included an Instagram link in the Zoom chat for everyone to view Williamson's post about her installation process.

Smith-Hardy states there will be a follow up with more details to approve the Orange Mound Park contingency request as well as plans for how to spend some remaining art and environment funds. UAC thanks everyone for their time and feedback. Meeting is adjourned.

UPDATES

- III. Other Project Updates
 - a. Art and Environment selection committees- email approval will be needed
 - b. Whitehaven YMCA Sculpture Install
 - c. Hickory Hill Bus Shelter Enhancement
 - d. ED Rice CC Vinyl Installations
 - e. Movable Collection Installations
 - f. Orange Mound Neighborhood Marker

- IV. Maintenance Updates
 - *Roof Like a Fluid Flung Over the Plaza*- Vito Acconci- Cannon Center
 - *Respect*- Tootsie Bell- Legends Park
 - *Quiltsurround*- Greely Myatt- City Hall
 - *Center of the Universe*- Mark Nowell- Sexton Community Center

[Upcoming \(Zoom\) Meeting Dates @ 1:00 PM:](#)

June 12, 2024