



**UrbanArt Commission
Public Art Oversight Committee
Wednesday, November 13, 2024 – 1 pm**

Attendance: Takeyshia Johnson, Yvonne Jones, Kate Roberts, Jen Prudhome-Booker, and Mario Walker; UAC staff: Lakeisha Edwards, Richard Echols, Travis Washington, Kelly Seagraves, and Kayla J. Smith-Hardy

APPROVALS

I. October 2024 Meeting Minutes

Smith-Hardy welcomes everyone to the meeting. Smith-Hardy asks for a motion to approve the October 2024 meeting minutes. Jones motions, Robert seconds, and the motion passes.

II. Project Approvals

a. Greenlaw Park- Artist Selection

Smith-Hardy shares that the Greenlaw Park selection committee received three great proposals. The committee selected Eli Gold's design. The neighborhood partners for this project is Black Seeds, who focus on food justice and make sure their community has access to healthy food. Gold's design includes Tennessee coneflowers, which excited the committee due to the medicinal benefits and symbolism of these flowers. Smith-Hardy adds that Gold plans to make the coneflowers different heights and the petals into different sizes. Additionally, there are plans to add some poetry from local artists as well underneath the petals. Working with local artists is an opportunity for community engagement, which is important to the selection committee. Smith-Hardy shows images of the digital mockup and a metal marquette created by Gold. The sculpture location will be at the corner of Greenlaw and 4th St near Greenlaw Park. Smith-Hardy asks if there are any questions and notes that this is the preliminary design proposal. More details to come. Smith asks if there is a motion to approve. Johnson motions, Walker seconds, and the motion passes.

b. Orange Mound Library- Final Design

Smith-Hardy shares the next approval is for final design for the Orange Mound Library sculpture by Daniel Moore. Smith-Hardy states the committee is looking forward to this piece, and the committee recently met to plan for Moore's visit to Memphis. Moore is coming in February to present his design to more committee members at the library. Smith-Hardy notes there is only a slight change from the schematic design last approved. Moore's design pays homage to the new library and genealogy center. The restored building is the original Melrose High School building. The sculpture includes silhouettes of different generations, is shaped like a book, and DNA helix pattern. Smith-Hardy adds that the sculpture design initially had 39 on the front and back to represent the first plot number purchased in Orange Mound by Ms. Alice Seagins. The committee suggested that 1830 be added to the sculpture, which is the year Orange Mound

was established. Now the design reflects that, with 1830 being on the sculpture side that will face guests as they enter the front of the library. 39 will be placed on the opposite side of the sculpture. Smith-Hardy states the quotes from Larry Finch will still be included on the sides of the sculpture. The materials will include corten steel with beach pebbles that will be engraved at the bottom to be weather conscious. This piece will also be powder coated. Smith-Hardy says that she shared what PAOC member, Walker, noted on the shady area of the sculpture location. Artist Moore plans to install the lighting from inside the sculpture. Smith-Hardy shares images of the sculpture location, and the circular base has already been cemented. Moore's proposal notes that bolts are needed for the concrete base. Burgundy and gold elements will be included to honor Melrose school colors. The lighting will be constructed with cast aluminum housing and should last for up to five years or roughly 2,000 cycles. The proposal includes a description on how to replace the lighting when needed and how to do maintenance care on the sculpture. Smith-Hardy adds that Moore plans to create a plaque to give more details on the sculpture and possibly include a QR code. A QR code would be an opportunity for people to learn more about the inspiration behind the sculpture. Smith-Hardy checks to see if there are any questions or comments before taking a vote. Smith-Hardy asks if there is a motion to approve final design/start of fabrication for the Orange Mound Library sculpture. Jones motions, Prudhome-Booker seconds, and the motion passes.

c. Jesse Turner Park- 100% fabrication

Smith-Hardy seeks approval for 100% fabrication of the Jesse Turner Park sculpture. Smith-Hardy states that artist Maxwell Emcays has everything squared away with the stamped engineering drawings and the pieces fabricated. The Jesse Turner Park arch looks to be thicker now to reflect the committee's preference of ensuring the park's name could be read from afar. Images are shown of the pieces fabricated for the five pillar columns. The column represents key community values such as leadership, culture, faith, place, and sports.

Jones asks for the location of the park. Smith-Hardy responds that the location is at the corner of Bellevue and South Parkway.

Smith-Hardy shows more images of the arch up close and the column pieces. Roberts asks if there is still texture in the pieces and if these pieces have been buffed. Smith-Hardy acknowledges the swirls that are visible on the column pieces. Smith-Hardy adds she is certain Emcays still have to finish the pieces and will make it all have a clean finish. She notes she will check in with Emcays to be sure. Roberts asks if the pieces have been attached yet. Smith-Hardy responds that this is the current phrase Emcays is working on. There is one more approval, which is 100% design completion/final acceptance. Final acceptance can come once the sculpture has been installed at the park. Smith-Hardy asks if there are any more questions or comments and then asks for a motion to approve. Walker motions, Jones seconds, and the motion passes.

d. Hollywood and Vollintine mural- 50% fabrication

Washington shares he is asking for approval for the Hollywood Vollintine mural project by Reanna Ruddick and Kendrick Pendleton. Washington reminds the committee of recent hurdles. One community member unsuccessfully filed a citizen complaint, claiming that the wall was permitted for their project. Additionally, Washington adds that UAC has been able to work with the Memphis Police Department to get extra eyes out there for the artists to ensure they are safe while working on this beautiful mural. Also, an artist's vehicle and all stolen materials were found, and the artists have been able to keep working on finishing the mural. Washington shows the original design and the fabricated mural that is nearly finished. Washington notes that the wall has been repaired and the artists have made much progress since. Washington adds that

Ruddick and Pendleton have received a lot of positive feedback from residents and people passing by. The artists are being approached now for more mural projects from interested nearby business owners. Washington notes that the mural is really 75% completed now, and the artists have a few more weeks of painting to do. Washington asks if there are any comments or questions to take back to the artists before a motion is made. Johnson motions, Roberts second, and the motion passes.

UPDATES

III. Other Project Updates

a. Movable Collection Spotlight Series

Echols shared that UAC has been doing some program activation with Movable Collection artists featured at the Whitehaven Library. There are opportunities for people to find out more about the local artists and for the artists to talk about their practice. To add, programming will also drive more people to view the pieces throughout the library. Artists Lisa Williamson and Madam Frankie have already had workshops, and Whitney Rose did an artist talk. Next is a collage workshop led by Cheeto Ryan on December 4th from 2pm-4pm. During this time, young people come to the library afterschool. Echols adds that then there will be artist talk from Sophia Mason. A zoom link will be available for the artist talk and the recording will also live on Youtube.

b. Tiny Gallery - Ramona Sonin

Washington introduces UAC's next tiny gallery installation. The tiny gallery is used as a space for artists to showcase their works. UAC does not ask for any commission or any fees, so any profit generated from showcasing their work will go all to the artist. The current exhibition includes Ramona Sonin, who is a University of Memphis instructor and a fashion designer. Sonin currently has shows happening abroad, as well as a fashion show being displayed at the Brooks Museum. This piece currently at UAC is an installation that led to her larger work she is producing by herself. Washington adds that this installation will stay up until January, then another artist will showcase in the tiny gallery. Washington notes that PAOC member Roberts once displayed work at UAC. Additionally, the tiny gallery is an opportunity for artists to get creative beyond a 2D medium. Washington shares that the next two spots for the tiny gallery are already set; however, he welcomes PAOC members to send in artist suggestions for future slots. Washington also encourages PAOC members to stop by UAC's office to see Ramona's installation.

Smith-Hardy sees if there are any more comments before closing. Committee members wish everyone a good holiday at the end of November. Smith-Hardy adjourns the meeting.

IV. Maintenance Updates

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

December 11, 2024