



**UrbanArt Commission
Public Art Oversight Committee
Wednesday, October 9, 2024 – 1 pm**

Attendance: Kate Roberts, Takeyshia Johnson, Eso Tolson, and C. Rose Smith
UAC staff: Kayla J. Smith-Hardy, Travis Washington, Richard Echols, Lakeisha Edwards, and Kelly Seagraves

APPROVALS

I. September 2024 Meeting Minutes
Smith-Hardy asks for a motion to approve last month’s meeting minutes. Roberts approves, Johnson seconds, and the motion passes.

II. Project Approvals
a. Soulsville-Final Acceptance
Washington shares the Metal Museum recently installed this Soulsville sculpture project working with different community partners, business owners, and stakeholders. This project was a direct commission. Washington says there was a lot of due diligence as far as reviewing different drawings and receiving input from residents at every step. A dedication to honor the sculpture is coming soon. Washington shows images of the sign toppers that were proposed, which Metal Museum provided a lot of options for the selection committee. The committee chose their top two favorite designs, and now there is a wait on approval from MLGW. Washington shows more images of the fabricated pieces that have all been powder coated now. Washington adds that the neighborhood picked out the colors they wanted the pieces powder coated in. The sculpture lives at the Black Arts Alliance on South Bellevue, which is led by Laurenette Williams. Washington says so far the neighborhood residents and leaders have been very pleased with the process and with the Metal Museum. Washington shares that Laurenette, Rebecca Hutchinson, the Knowledge Quest team, Brea Tolbert and the rest of her team are working to plan a gathering soon, and he will keep PAOC posted about the date. Washington adds this is an approval for final acceptance and reiterates there is just wait on MLGW to approve the locations for the sign toppers based on community’s feedback. Washington asks if there is motion to approve/ Tolson motions, Roberts seconds, and the motion passes.

UPDATES

III. Other Project Updates
a. Wind Memphis CDC citizen complaint update: Alonzo Weaver Park sculpture
Smith-Hardy shares the citizen’s complaint from neighborhood partner, WIND Memphis CDC, has been resolved. It is up to the neighborhood partner if they want to continue participating in

this public art project or not. Smith-Hardy adds that UAC did not make any false promises nor fail to honor the commitment shared for the scope of neighborhood art initiative projects. Smith-Hardy asks if Edwards had anything to add or if she missed anything.

Edwards shares that the citizen's complaint issued by Pamela Moses was unfounded, and UAC has not had any issues lately. Edwards adds that the police have been going out with the artists for this Hollywood and Vollintine project, since the artists were robbed by gunpoint when they first started the mural. So, UAC got the Police Director involved, and now the artists have some security.

b. Chelsea FloodWall Town Hall + upcoming FY'25 projects

Edwards shares that UAC had an initial town hall meeting for the Chelsea Floodwall that went amazing. During the meeting, there were some testimonials sharing how happy residents are to have someone listening. Additionally, the attendees were glad to have someone asking them what they wanted to see this time versus just putting up art with no regard to the community's desires. Edwards says it will be beautiful to see the community be engaged with the process. Councilwoman Michalyn Easter-Thomas also was present for the selection committee town hall, and she shared the excitement to see this project move forward.

Edwards adds that there is some art and environment funding UAC is moving forward with. UAC will do some crosswalks in the Midtown area. There is a mural coming to the Burt Ferguson Community Center. Edwards says UAC got a public art project forming with the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) as well. More information will be shared to PAOC as UAC gathers more details for these upcoming projects.

Edwards shares the City has been holding many of the invoices PAOC approved over the last several months, specifically the Black Bayou maintenance invoices. The Engineering Division is asking for a lot of information regarding those invoices. Edwards ensures PAOC has done their due diligence to approve. Edwards says she understands why they are doing a second round of interviews internally, because so many things have happened within their own financial realms. However, Edwards says this delay creates a burden on UAC, but UAC is not passing that burden along to artists. Everyone has been paid for approved project milestones, regardless if the City has paid UAC or not. Smith-Hardy thanks Edwards for the share out.

Johnson asks if a timeline has been provided from Engineering to complete the review of the information that has been submitted.

Edwards responds that unfortunately no timeline has been provided. UAC has been meeting weekly for the past few months and waiting for the final meeting regarding reviews. Some Engineering Division members have been out of town, further delaying reviews and UAC still has to wait on the Engineering Division to send information to Legal. Edwards adds that the Engineering Division states they are unsure if they pay UAC once a project is complete or as milestones are reached. Edwards says funding is of course needed as milestones are reached and invoices are submitted. Edwards adds she understands their concern to pay 50% completion for a project but that project does not reach that milestone. However, UAC has not had this issue ever previously with the Engineering Division. Edwards hopes that Legal can ease any hesitation and Engineering will follow the payment schedule listed in the contract. The contract helps UAC not be in a situation like UAC is in currently, paying out money while waiting for reimbursement that UAC cannot afford. Edwards says thankfully UAC's financial state is not dire, but this is surely not a situation UAC wants to repeat in the future.

Edwards notes that Deborah Higgins wanted pictures of Black Bayou, because Higgins rode by the worksite and did not see a completed installation even though the 100% benchmark had been met. Edwards states that once PAOC agrees that a project has reached 100% fabrication, it means the project has been completely fabricated and not necessarily 100% installed. Edwards shares that there may be definitions that need to be revisited, but PAOC has already seen pictures. Additionally, UAC has already paid contractors and provided proof for that. Edwards says hopefully this is enough, but Higgins is seeking more advice from Legal to ensure UAC should be paid as requested.

Johnson thanks Edwards for the response and offers her time to meet following the PAOC meeting.

c. Jesse Turner Park-updated engineering drawings

Smith-Hardy shares an update for the Jesse Turner Park sculpture. Smith-Hardy reminds PAOC they last approved 50% approval. However after further review, Mike Lemm with the City's Engineering Division noticed a discrepancy in the engineering drawings. The drawings did not match what was fabricated by Maxwell Emcays. So, Emcays has provided updated stamped drawings that compliments what has been fabricated. Now the rings and structural foundation meets the requirements and still matches the pieces that have already been fabricated. Smith-Hardy displays more images from the presentation that shows the updated drawings.

d. L.E. Brown- Contingency Timeline Update

Washington thanks PAOC for approving contingency for L.E. Brown and wants to provide an update. Washington shares that UAC recently met with Arnold Thompson, the artist, explaining what is expected of him including providing a timeline. Thompson has met with vendors numerous times since. Washington adds he has been meeting to finalize ADA accessibility plans for the sculpture. Once finalized, UAC will be able to release the first portion of the budget. Washington says the hope is for the foundation to be poured before the temperature gets too cold. Once winter months are reached, Washington shares then Thompson and vendors will work independently to finish out the rest of the parts. The hope is that installation can start at the beginning of 2025. Washington adds a lot of feedback has been given by residents, community members, and stakeholders, so UAC wants to get a finished product to them as soon as possible with a timeline. Washington shares that he connected Thompson to SCORE CDC in the South City area. A couple of events are coming up where community engagement will happen during the fall months. Washington shares this will be an opportunity for Thompson to re-engage people about the project and share updates. Washington says he will be sure to provide updated photos to PAOC as progress happens, including installation.

e. NPA Panel Discussion + Film

Echols shares that soon UAC will have the New Public Artist Fellowship panel discussion/screening. This event is an opportunity for the public to learn more about these artists and their journey becoming public artists through this fellowship. Echols adds these artists have temporary sculptures that currently live on the University of Memphis campus. There will also be screening of the entire process including interviews and behind the scenes work from the fellowship. The event will take place October 17th at the UC Theater on University of Memphis campus.

f. Movable Artist Talks

Echols shares that UAC will have an artist spotlight series for artists in the Movable Collection. At the Whitehaven Library, artists Lisa Williamson, Whitney Rhodes, Madam Fraankie, Sophie Mason, and Cheeto Ryan will have artist talks and workshops. The first event will be October 23rd with Lisa Williamson following a talk with Whitney Rhodes on October 24th. Workshops will be led by Madam Fraankie and Cheeto Ryan, and this series will finish with a talk from Sophia Mason. Echols says this type of programming is new for UAC, since the last round of Movable programming took place in 2020 virtually. Echols invites PAOC members to attend these events to support and learn more about these great artists.

Smith-Hardy adjourns the meeting.

IV. Maintenance Updates

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

November 13, 2024