



CHATTANOOGA PUBLIC ART COMMISSION AUGUST 2022 | MINUTES

Thursday, August 25, 2022 / 1 PM - 3 PM

JB Collins Conference Room

PRESENT: Charlotte Caldwell (Interim Vice Chair), Ian-Alijah Bey, John Brown, Aaron Cole, Jonathan Dean, Tim Goldsmith, Justin McBath, Virginia Anne Sharberm Lindsey Willke

ABSENT: Rachel Waldrop (Chair), Tsega Tessema, Anthony Wiley, Jr.,

STAFF: Kat Wright, Public Art Director

CITY ADVISORY: Harolda Bryson (Legal)

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Approval of June 2022 Meeting Minutes

II. UPDATES

- A. Artist Work Grant: 2CREATE “Give Way to the Wind” installation
 - 1. Staff shared photo documentation of the silk and paper mobile installation “Give Way to the Wind” created by the Artist team of 2CREATE (Anna Carll & Claire Vassort). The project is the last public art project through the Artist Work Grant program with an all inclusive budget of \$20,000.
 - 2. Staff attended the dedication earlier in the week at the Chattanooga Convention Center where the Center sponsored refreshments and a Q&A session from the artist team. Approximately 50 people were in attendance.
 - 3. The work is sited in the grand hallway of the Center near the information desk and a bronze plaque will be installed near the art. Staff consulted on proper attribution and the plaque is donated by the Convention Center.
 - 4. Staff explained that there is an online feedback form to collect response data over time, which was a unique mechanism suggested by 2CREATE.
- B. East Lake Public Art Projects
 - 1. Staff reshared “East Lake Tulip Gradation” by Kelly Spell-the final design for the artistic elements on the indoor basketball court at the East Lake Community Center. Project was budgeted for \$15K and will be installed at just over \$13K.

2. Staff mentioned that the installation is delayed as the basketball court contractor needs to install a vapor barrier. Installation will likely be complete by the end of the year with a soft opening of the Center the first of 2023.
 3. Staff shared the project timeline for the East Lake Park Interactive Seating project and conveyed that the Artist team of WOWHAUS (Scott Constable & Ene Osteraas-Constable) came to town in late July to conduct a site visit with city personnel and community engagement with the project's Creative Strategist, ELLA Library.
 4. Staff shared an engagement overview and how it may impact design development of the seating.
 5. Staff mentioned that placement of the seating in the park will be limited to areas that do not see flooding.
- C. Lynnbrook Park Public Art Project: Interactive Markers & Sculpture
1. Staff shared that while park construction was projected to begin 9/1/22, the bid will not go out until later this Fall, which means that construction will not begin until after the new year.
 2. Staff mentioned that design development of the artwork will not be able to align with construction of the park, as the water quality component does not allow for the Artist's site visit to commence until the last two months of park construction.
 3. The site visit is the first deliverable in the Artist contract as it begins the design development phase.
 4. Staff anticipates artwork installation Spring 2024.
- D. "Moonrise" at Wheland Foundry Trailhead
1. Staff shared that Mark Fornes of THEVERYMANY had secured a fabricator and they were prototyping the laser cutting to ensure all was to specifications. Staff displayed photos of the laser cutting.
 2. Staff mentioned that they were recently informed that 13 acres of the trailhead were going to be developed for housing, which prompted Staff to hold project work until Staff could meet with Developers to understand if the project would still be moving forward.
 3. While the Middle Street facility (where staging of the artwork is to occur) is going to be demolished, the Developers remain committed to "Moonrise" at the trailhead so long as the project can be realized in the near future.
 4. Staff adjusted the timeline to where install will be complete by January 20th, 2023. Staff will work to procure the additional concrete, and seating before the end of year.
- E. Chattanooga Skatepark
1. Staff relayed that the new skate park will be at the site of the existing skatepark behind the First Horizon Pavilion.
 2. The next two major steps in the process include procurement of a consultant through Parks & Outdoors department, which is anticipated to be considered for approval by City Council in late September 2022, followed by skatepark design.
 3. Parks & Outdoors intends to complete the design and request construction funding for fiscal year 2024 sometime towards the end of the

current fiscal year (June 2023). If funding is approved, this approach would allow skatepark construction to begin shortly after the design phase.

III. ITEMS FOR VOTE

A. “Los Trompos” Temporary Art Exhibition

1. Capitalizing on the success of the “Impulse” temporary art exhibition produced by CREOS last Spring, River City Company (RCC) would like to bring “Los Trompos” to the Chattanooga Green in Spring 2023.
2. Staff presented metrics of the “Rock the Riverfront” programming campaign RCC conducted during the “Creos” exhibition, which included numerous collaborations with local arts and culture organizations and spurred economic activity for area merchants during March/April 2022.
3. Staff presented biographies of the Artist team (Héctor Esrawe and Ignacio Cadena) who designed the installation to encourage participants in rotating the tops by climbing inside for a spin. In Spanish, Los Trompos translates to “The Spinning Tops,” and the colorful surfaces of each top are woven in the traditional style of Mexican artisans.
4. RCC received approval from the Chattanooga Redevelopment Corporation, who owns the Green, to proceed.
5. Staff reviewed the timeline and construction techniques of the installation which will have checks by the Downtown Chattanooga Alliance and security while in operation.
6. Staff also shared that the project will be funded by RCC as the exhibitor.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS TO APPROVE the placement and artwork design as presented and proceed into a temporary exhibition contract with Glass House Collective.

B. “The Porch” Hardscape Temporary Art Exhibition Extension

1. Staff reminded the Commission of the exhibition, which is a pilot project design for public space surrounding Patten Towers at Georgia Avenue and Market Street by Chattanooga Design Studio. The design includes a variety of seating options, landscape planters, sculptural swings and hardscape painting (sidewalks, crosswalks and roadway).
2. The project location was identified as part of a larger urban design study - the Public Realm Action Plan (Fall 2018 - Spring 2019) that measured this location as one of the Innovation District’s most actively used public spaces.
3. The exhibition was meant to last for two years (2020-22) and did have a set aside for maintenance, which was used once.
4. The exhibition received national attention and was well received locally.
5. CDS would like to extend the exhibition another 2 years with an option to renew for one year. They will monitor the condition of the hardscape painting every six months and perform touch ups if need be with their maintenance set aside.
6. Staff conveyed that they will touch up portions of the hardscape in

October 2022 if the exhibition's extension is approved.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS TO APPROVE the placement and artwork design as presented and proceed into a temporary exhibition contract with Glass House Collective.

C. FY20 Art in Capital Reallocations

1. Staff shared that FY20 was the first budget year that Art In Capital (AIC) allocations were designated. At that time, previous leadership and the City's capital planning thought it best to include the AIC allocations within the project's construction budget.
2. Unfortunately, two capital improvement projects (CIP)-Washington Hills Community Center and the Early Learning Center- have not moved forward and the money remains earmarked to those projects.
3. Staff conveyed that property acquisitions, escalating costs of construction, and a variety of other factors delay progress on the CIP.
4. Staff explained that previous leadership allocated low dollar amounts to both projects that in this era of inflation and supply chain shortages would not be sufficient to move forward with on a public art project. Total is \$114K.
5. Staff further explained that the program has since learned to make allocations to a project once the project's construction budget is funded, as that is the most significant funding phase for the project to receive the 2% allocation from.
6. It also further suggests that the project is headed to construction and PAC can begin engaging the community accordingly without a long pause in between. Most constituents don't realize the many phases a CIP has, and it is difficult to retain the community's trust and enthusiasm for the public art project if PAC engages too early with community engagement.
7. Staff mentioned that AIC allocations have been designated to a general AIC fund for this budget year and last, which provides more flexibility for the Staff to financially address the needs of the program as they occur.
8. Staff shared that this current budget year is the lowest AIC budget that they have had since 2020 to address projects in developments and ongoing maintenance/conservation of the existing collection.
9. As such, Staff proposes working with Capital Planning to release the FY20 allocations to Washington Hills and the Early Learning facility to the general AIC fund. Staff assured the Commission that once each project requested CIP construction funds that the projects could once again be considered for an AIC allocation.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS TO APPROVE the placement and artwork design as presented and proceed into a temporary exhibition contract with Glass House Collective.

IV. REVIEW & DISCUSS

A. "Luminous Light Masts" (Mast B) Conservation

1. Staff shared that Mast B (second from the street) was damaged earlier in

the Summer by recent storms. The mast was bent and determined to be a risk to public safety.

2. Staff worked with Public Works and Transportation to remove the entire mast from the Chattanooga Pier.
3. It is not determined whether the mast was hit by lightning or bent due to repeated winds coming off the Tennessee River and the mast's approximate siting in relation to the River.
4. Staff did learn that the exact same mast was damaged in the April 2011 tornado, and entirely replaced. That mast was transported to the Summit facility, where this mast B was also relocated.
5. It is possible that there is a design flaw that should now be addressed in the engineered drawings before fabrication.
6. Staff mentioned they are working with Public Works Engineering to conduct a drone survey of all the masts to determine if there is torsion in them as well, to what degree and if they should be replaced through insurance.
7. Staff said that this will require PAC to outlay a \$5K deductible for the piece, but insurance should cover the rest.

B. "The Scramble" Water Chambers Conservation

1. Staff shared that they have continued to work with Public Works engineering and a third party Public Art conservator to confirm what repairs will be needed from Michael Singer Studio before Staff can accept the work into the collection.
2. Staff maintained that the repairs needed are much more than preventative maintenance necessitates and have to be addressed before the City can proceed.
3. Staff reviewed repairs needed and also stated that Public Works noticed that the water chamber tops were fabricated incorrectly on two different occasions, which Michael Singer Studio confirmed and said they will address.
4. Staff compiled all email correspondence and recommendations into one final conservation assessment, which will need to be audited before the City can proceed with executing the donation agreement.

C. "City Thread" Conservation

1. Staff shared photos of Cooper's Alley where the installation is located. The alley has a number of gas heaters in it, which will need to be removed as a directive from the Fire Marshall.
2. Staff shared photos of rusting and damage to the work from skateboarders, which requires a repaint of the installation in its current paint system, which is a medium to low quality paint system.
3. Staff said that the installation would benefit from skateboard deterrents on it to mitigate that activity; but to her understanding, it was not a consideration that was required during the design phase.
4. Unfortunately, deterrents cannot be installed retroactively as it would permit water entering the sculpture, which would contribute to rusting internally.

5. Staff plans to contract to sand and repaint the work in mid-October. They will also use the opportunity to work with Transportation to install truncated dome pavers strategically around the work to help in mitigating skateboarding.
6. Lucinda Linderman, a third-party Public Art conservator, recommended repainting the work every 3-5 years in its current paint system. While she does recommend PAC upgrading to a tnemec paint system, which would only require repainting every 10-15 years, the investment is quite significant at approximately \$30K for paint alone.
7. As such, she recommends seeing if the truncated paver domes offset skating activity successfully before considering making that investment.