



## CHATTANOOGA PUBLIC ART COMMISSION AUGUST 2021 | MINUTES

Wednesday, August 18, 2021, 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM  
Veranda Room / City Hall

**PRESENT:** Rachel Reese (Chair), Miriam Manda (Vice Chair), John Brown, Tim Goldsmith, Justin McBath, John Petrey and Lindsey Willke

**ABSENT:** Charlotte Caldwell, Megan Ledbetter, Ric Morris, and Virginia Anne Sharber

**STAFF:** Kat Wright, Public Art Director

**CITY ADVISORY:** Harolda Bryson (Legal) and Morgan McCormick (Parks)

### I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Welcome
- B. Approval of June 2021 Meeting Minutes

### II. ITEM FOR VOTE

#### 1. "Impulse" Temporary Exhibit/ River City Company

a) Staff introduced Emily Mack, President & CEO and Dawn Hjelseth, VP of Marketing & Communications for River City Company (RCC). Staff explained that RCC would like to bring the "Impulse" exhibit by Creos to Chattanooga as a temporary public art exhibition. The exhibition is interactive as it is a publicly activated light and sound experience driven by 15 seesaw units with protective mats placed around each seesaw. Each seesaw will be between 24 ft. and 16 ft. in size. They will be placed in a linear fashion closest to Riverfront Parkway to allow for the Chattanooga Green to have space for other entities to program there during the exhibit.

#### a) Technical specifications:

- 1) Each seesaw is not anchored, but has a very heavy base to remain stable.
- 2) RCC understands a forklift is not allowed on the Chattanooga Green due to its weight and they intend to rent a lift from Chattanooga Tent with a lower impact on the grass.
- 3) The light the exhibition emits is low; however, RCC intends to inform business tenants of its exhibition in advance-the exhibition

will be conducted daily from 8am-10pm.

- 4) The noise level is below the noise ordinance, so there's no need for a noise permit. Each seesaw emits sound differently.
  - 5) The Green is owned by the Chattanooga Redevelopment Corporation who must also give approval for the exhibition.
  - 6) RCC is working with Councilwoman Dotley to have the Parks daily reservation fees waived for the Green waived during the exhibition.
  - 7) The temporary exhibition contract will be modified to include usual PAC terms and conditions as well as necessary stipulations from Parks.
  - 8) There is no cost to the City. RCC is responsible for securing manpower to set up and tear down; as well as security.
  - 9) Event will be from March 4, 2022-April 3, 2022. April 4 is load out.
- b) The Commission asked how many cities have shown the exhibit; in which RCC responded that it has been shown in multiple cities throughout the world.
  - c) The Commission requested that RCC publicize that they are bringing this exhibition to the City, so that people don't question the spending of City tax dollars on such an exhibition given the impact of COVID-19 on the City budget.
  - d) RCC confirmed they are designing specific exhibition signage to address risk.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS VOTE TO APPROVE "Impulse" Temporary Exhibit/River City Company**

## 2. Ratify Executive Committee Membership

- a) Staff displayed the names and positions of Executive Committee members on the screen and asked for a vote.
  - 1) Staff made an amendment to include Tim Goldsmith as a member of the Executive Committee.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS VOTE TO APPROVE the Ratification of Executive Committee Membership**

## III. REVIEW AND DISCUSS

- 1) EPB ArtSpark Goes to School 2021/2022 Utility Cabinet Locations
  - a) Staff presented information this round of ArtSpark Goes to School.
  - b) Staff explained that this item is not for vote as the cabinets are owned by EPB, but EPB would like CPAC's input on locations.
  - c) Staff indicated that the program begins this Fall and schools will indicate if they want to participate.
  - d) Staff displayed the timeline for the project and explained the following:
    - (1) There are 10 boxes available.
    - (2) The program is expanding outside of RCC's territory.

- (3) Potential themes for this round:
  - (a) Recharge, Relaunch: Getting back to normal post COVID-19
  - (b) Reconnect & Recharge: Connecting with people, reconnecting socially

e) Locations include:

- (1) Hixson- Commission voted on Option 5 (near Buddy's BBQ)
- (2) Brainerd- Commission voted on Option 3 (by Applebees)
- (3) East Brainerd- Commission voted on Option 1 (by SmartBank)
- (4) Chattanooga Airport area- Commission voted on Option 2 (by airport entrance)
- (5) Warner Park Zoo- Commission voted to approve both options 1 & 2.
- (6) Downtown- Commission voted to approve ALL options except Option 2, the North Chattanooga Location (River Street near Tremont Street) and the Montague Park Location.

f) Staff advised the Commission that some locations have several options to choose from and they should aim to distribute locations throughout the City; g) The Commission should also think about the visibility of the boxes in relation to the structures and environment around it.

2) Artworks for Deaccession / Internal Audit follow up

- a) Staff gave updates about discussions with OCA, Purchasing and Claims regarding the best way to proceed with deaccession at this time while a more formal policy is in development
- b) Internal Audit confirmed the removal of 9 indoor artworks from the City's inventory at an estimated value of \$23,200.00 which were at the Chattanooga Hotel. These pieces are automatically deaccessioned.
- c) All other Chattanooga Hotel artworks will be transferred to the Downtown Library.
- d) Staff reminded the Commission of outdoor pieces that are up for deaccession. Staff stated that she doesn't need to get Council approval to remove these works from the collection; however, OCA, Finance, and Purchasing think it's best to conduct a presentation to City Council, because more artworks may be up for deaccession in the future.
- e) Staff will proceed with an Artist's first right of refusal at their own expense, before the City will proceed with surplus.
- f) Staff addressed *Chattanooga Music Man* deaccession in particular due to the sculpture's location on private property.
- g) Staff explained that it is not in the best interest of CPAC to site something there because it is not public property and poses challenges for maintenance. Staff intends to reach out to other local organizations that may be interested in getting an easement to program artwork there. Essentially, suggesting a swap out of art at the location with the remaining sculpture pad and landscaping there on Frazier Ave.

## IV. UPDATES

## 1. Artist Work Grant Round 3 / Project Updates

a) Staff updated the Commission on the completion of “Vibes Resonance” mural at the Martin Amphitheater, a Round 1 grant recipient.

i) SoundCorps incurred an additional \$2,000-\$3,000 on the project due to unforeseen site prep in which the wall had to be sandblasted to remove peeling paint before mural installation.

b) Staff stated that there were nine (9) public art projects funded through the program totaling just under \$150K. All projects must be completed within one year of award.

i) Staff gave an update of all nine (9) projects.

1) Memorial Healthcare has not completed the community engagement for the mural and labyrinth screen’s design. which should have been completed by mid-year. They did confirm with their facilities what can be accomplished, necessitating design modifications from what was initially proposed. This is the only project that has not received its second funding installment from Round 1 and Round 2.

2) La Paz’s status report revealed that they are behind in the design of the mural project. The project was supposed to be installed at the end of October, but will probably be stretched to the end of the year.

3) Mural at Sluggos should be done in October.

4) Reflection Riding should be done in December.

5) Amanda Brazier’s mural at the Gaining Ground Grocery store in St. Andrews Center will be a temporary project, but is progressing well.

6) Claire Vassort & Anna Carl are working on the installation “Give way to the Wind.” There is an issue with the architect and timing for the project as funds which may impact the location at the Chattanooga Airport.

## 2. “Women in Sculpture” exhibition

a. The exhibition was approved two years ago as a temporary exhibition. Janet Austin’s piece will be deinstalled on August 25, 2021. All other pieces will be deinstalled on the 18th and 19th of September.

## 3. “Radiance”

a. Installation is complete. Staff is working on lighting punch at the base of the sculpture.

## 4. Ed Johnson Memorial

a. Dedication will be on September 19, 2021.

b. Story wall text recently approved by the Mayor’s Office.

c. The Commission raised several concerns about the content and quality of the text on the story walls as there were no citations and the copy is in passive voice, i. Staff responded by stating that the Ed Johnson Committee asked the Artist to rewrite the text, in which he refused, which prompted the

Committee to take the story walls out of the Artist's scope and have it written by Dr. Steven Lewis, a curator at the National Museum of African American Music.

- ii. Staff stated that the text was sent to County historian Linda Moss Mines who forwarded the text to the Tennessee Historic Commission for approval which was received.
- iii. Legal informed the Commission that the government cannot regulate content, but they can regulate the content of its own speech which is what the Memorial would be seen as once donated to the City.

5. Bessie Smith & Blue Goose Hollow Artistic Marker

- a. Staff gave an update on the design process.
  - i. Piece will be installed in the Spring. The text for the marker will be reviewed and approved by the selection panel before CPAC approves the final design.