The City of Knoxville: Public Arts Committee

Public Arts Committee Meeting: August 2, 2016
Meeting was called to order at 4:05 PM at the Knoxville Museum of Art.

Attendees Present:
Chuck Morris – Committee Member
Jeffrey Lockett – Committee Member
John Powers – Committee Member
Liberty Phillips – Guest, Knoxville Catholic High School
Liza Zenni – Staff Liaison
Mark Heinz – Committee Member
Mike Fowler – Committee Member
Rachel Perkins – Committee Administrator
Sara Pinnell – Committee Member
Susana Esrequis – Committee Member

Approval of the Agenda: Chuck moved to approve the agenda. Sara seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Approval of July Minutes: Mike moved to approve the minutes. Chuck seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

New RFQ Process
Liza shared that she has been discussing the committee’s recent experience with the RFQ process with Rick Emmett and Kim Scarborough. Liza had previously expressed the committee’s desire for a faster and more efficient process to the Mayor and Bill Lyons. Liza is working with city officials to develop a process that would allow the committee to issue RFQs and RFPs through the Arts & Culture Alliance, rather than through the Purchasing Department.

Chalkboard wall on Market Square Garage
Liberty Phillips, yearbook coordinator at Knoxville Catholic High School, presented information to the committee about a proposed public art project developed by two Knoxville Catholic High School students. The students plan to paint a section of blank wall on the Market Square Garage with chalkboard paint, and would print the text “Before I die, I want to ______”. After some discussion, it was determined that the wall is privately owned, and Mark Heinz will work with Liberty to contact the building owner to request permission.
Vol Landing mural update

The Purchasing Department is working with the artist to finalize the insurance requirements and other permits. Once all the details are finalized, the artist will travel to Knoxville to install the mural. The committee will be updated on his progress at the September meeting.

Chilhowee Park mural update

East Tennessee Quality Growth has been working on a mural for Chilhowee Park. They have raised $11,000 from the Tennessee Arts Commission and the East Tennessee Foundation combined. At the July meeting, the committee did not approve the proposed sketch, and offered feedback to the artist about how the design could be improved. After the July meeting, Liza worked closely with the artist and the head of East Tennessee Quality Design to create a design worthy of the city’s permanent public art collection. The committee voted via e-mail to approve the design, and work will begin on the mural, with a goal of unveiling the mural at the Tennessee Valley Fair. The committee also voted via e-mail to approve an allocation of $5,000 to complete this project. Once completed, the mural will be owned by the City of Knoxville and will become a part of the permanent public art collection.

Hill Avenue and Hall of Fame Drive sculpture update

Last winter, the committee voted to approve a sculpture design by Derek White, commissioned by the RiverHill Gateway community, for the southeast side of the intersection at the corner of Hill Avenue and Hall of Fame Drive. The community has raised $14,800 toward the total project costs, which includes signage and painting of the KUB box. They are still short $3,600 and have asked the Public Arts Committee for support to complete the project. The committee voted via e-mail to approve $3,600 to fund the sculpture. Once in place, the sculpture will be owned by the City of Knoxville and become a permanent part of the public art collection.

Jeff expressed concern about the ongoing maintenance needs required for murals and sculptures in the public art collection, and he asked the committee to consider establishing a maintenance fund. The committee discussed the proposal at length, and suggested that for every allocation received from the city, a percentage would be set aside for maintenance, with the goal of developing a true maintenance fund that could support the needs of the various pieces in the collection.
Future Meetings:

A. The next regular meeting is Tuesday, September 6, 2016 at 4:00 PM
   a. The meeting will be held at The Emporium Center.

B. Future meetings:
   a. October 4, 2016
   b. November 1, 2016
   c. December 6, 2016

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 PM

Absent Members:
Bart Watkins
Duane Grieve
Elizabeth Wright
Erin Donovan