

The City of Knoxville: Public Arts Committee

Public Arts Committee Meeting: November 1, 2016

Meeting was called to order at 4:05 PM at the Knoxville Museum of Art.

Attendees Present:

Duane Grieve – Committee Member
James Taylor – Committee Member
Jeffrey Lockett – Committee Member
Liza Zenni – Staff Liaison
Rachel Perkins – Committee Administrator
Rick Emmett – City of Knoxville, Downtown Coordinator
Sara Pinnell – Committee Member
Tanisha Baker – Committee Member
Terry Mosley – Committee Member

Approval of the Agenda: Duane moved to approve the agenda. James seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Approval of September Minutes: Duane moved to approve the minutes. James seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Keep Knoxville Beautiful Mural – Vote

Liza shared that Keep Knoxville Beautiful is currently raising funds for a restoration of the Knoxville Historic Train mural, located on the 100 block of North Central Street and created by Walt Fieldsa in 2001. They are hoping to raise \$4,500 to refresh the mural, which will be done by the original artist. They have raised approximately half the funds needed, and Liza asked the committee if they would like to support the campaign by contributing up to 50% of the needed funds. The committee expressed some concern about supporting projects on private property and also expressed a desire to develop an application process for groups to request funding from the committee. Sara asked what criteria was used for selecting proposals for the façade project, and suggested that criteria might be a good template for the committee to use. After some discussion, the committee identified the following potential criteria for artwork on private property: 1) location; 2) visibility; 3) need/impact of the location; 4) age of the building (if applicable); 5) commitment by owner to keep the artwork for a minimum time period (TBD); 6) and an explicit description of the project plans. Duane will share the criteria and application process used in the façade project with the committee and the committee will develop a process for future applications. The committee voted to table the vote on the train mural until the December meeting.

RFQ for Steps Announced

Liza shared that the RFQ for the steps at Cumberland Avenue and 11th Street has been announced to the public. The RFQ was promoted on the Americans for the Arts Public Art Listserv, the Public Arts Committee website, on social media, and in a press release issued by the City of Knoxville. The deadline for applications to be received is Monday, November 21. Applications will be shared with the committee the week of November 28 and the committee will select finalists to submit proposals at the December meeting.

Light Projects Budget: \$350,000

At the October retreat, the committee voted to allocate up to \$350,000 for lighting installations in high visibility, high impact locations in downtown Knoxville. The committee reviewed light installations commissioned by other cities that were submitted to the Americans for the Arts Public Art Network. The budgets for many of the projects were higher than the committee had estimated at the October retreat. The committee discussed temporary installations to test the impact of locations in the city. The committee will continue to evaluate which locations in the city will benefit the most from this proposed project and will also consult with local lighting experts.

State Street Garage Project Budget: \$60,000

At the October retreat, the committee voted to allocate up to \$60,000 to fund a significant, site-specific work of art at the State Street Garage. Liza shared that the RFQ for the project is being drafted and will be sent out later this month. The committee expects to review applications at the January meeting.

Suttree Landing Park Project Budget: \$150,000

At the October retreat, the committee voted to allocate up to \$150,000 to fund multiple works of site-specific art of up to \$75,000 each within Suttree Landing Park in South Knoxville. The park is expected to open to the public in mid-November and the committee expects to issue an RFQ in early 2017. The committee reviewed public art projects in parks with varying budgets and types of installations.

Other Committee Notes

Liza informed the committee that Women's Basketball Hall of Fame (WBHOF) and the Riverhill Gateway Association will be issuing an RFQ for a mural to be located at WBHOF. The project budget is \$5,000. When the search committee selects an artist and design proposal, the design will be presented to the Public Arts Committee for approval.

Liza also informed the committee that Greg Mackay, Director of Chilhowee Park, hopes to beautify the tunnel at the park, and is seeking assistance from the committee to help start the process. The committee encouraged Greg to move forward with the idea, and especially liked his idea of community involvement. The committee suggested that Greg work with community members to develop a working plan and timeline for the project. Liza will update the committee as the project progresses.

The committee voted to allocate \$10,000 to fund a mural at the 500 Block of Gay Street, near the Regal Cinema and Nama Sushi.

Future Meetings:

- A. The next regular meeting is Tuesday, December 6, 2016 at 4:00 PM
 - a. The meeting will be held at the Knoxville Museum of Art.
- B. Future meetings:
 - a. January 3, 2017
 - b. February 7, 2017
 - c. March 7, 2017

Meeting adjourned at 4:58 PM

Absent Members:

Bart Watkins
Chuck Morris
Erin Donovan
John Powers
Mark Heinz
Mike Fowler
Susana Esrequis
Tommie Rush