

## **The City of Knoxville: Public Arts Committee**

### **Public Arts Committee Meeting: December 1, 2015**

Meeting was called to order at 4:04 PM at the Knoxville Museum of Art.

#### **Attendees Present:**

Bart Watkins – Committee Member  
Chuck Morris – Committee Member  
Jeff Lockett – Committee Member  
Judith Foltz – City of Knoxville, Special Events Director  
Liza Zenni – Staff Liaison  
Mike Fowler – Committee Member  
Rachel Perkins – Committee Administrator  
Rick Emmett – City of Knoxville, Downtown Coordinator  
Sara Pinnell – Committee Member

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

**Approval of November Minutes:** Chuck moved to approve the minutes. Jeff seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

#### **Update on Status of RFPs**

Liza has been working closely with Janice McClelland, City of Knoxville Purchasing Department, to finalize the RFPs for the steps and mural projects. Liza informed the committee that the recommendations made at the November meeting were applied to the RFPs: the insurance requirements were lowered, the section regarding intellectual property rights was clarified, and additional submission requirements were added. Liza expects Janice to distribute the RFPs the week of December 7.

Rick and Judith approached Kim Bumpas at Visit Knoxville to learn more about Visit Knoxville's collaboration with Bobbie Crews for the mural at the Visit Knoxville building. Kim will share the artist contract and other information with the Committee.

Rick worked with several city officials to determine the safety of the South Knoxville steps on the Kerbela property. Rick stated that the Committee could safely issue an RFP for those steps without any liability concerns. Liza stated that the Committee voted at the November meeting to move forward with the current RFPs, but the Committee will re-visit the Kerbela Steps project

again next year. Liza stated her understanding from Rick was that the project's success is dependent on the city's ability to secure a long-term lease of the embankment where the steps are located.

### **Burns Memorial Update**

Rick updated the Committee about Wanda Sobieski's planned Harry Burns Memorial sculpture. Wanda is working with Mayor Rogero's office to identify a location for the sculpture. Rick expects the sculpture to be located outside the East Tennessee History Center on Market Street, near Krutch Park. Once a location is confirmed, Wanda will present the design of the sculpture to the Committee for approval. Liza stated that the Committee's concerns regarding the piece were primarily based on its initial proposed location in Market Square, and she does anticipate the Committee will approve the sculpture. Rick stated that after the design is approved, Wanda will begin fundraising efforts, as the project is expected to cost \$400,000. Wanda hopes to have the sculpture installed in 2020. The sculpture will not be a gift to the city; Wanda will lease the land from the city for 30 years (with an option for an additional 30 years), and she will retain ownership of the piece. As the owner of the sculpture, Wanda will also be responsible for any maintenance of the sculpture.

### **Public Art Review Process Flow Chart**

Bart asked for clarification about how the Burns Memorial piece will be approved. Liza asked Rick to share the proposed review process that he has created to address some of concerns of the various city departments. Proposals will come before the Committee for a pre-review process. If the initial design is acceptable, the Committee will direct applicants to City Redevelopment, who will handle all safety, traffic, and other related issues. If the design is approved at that stage, it will be presented to the Land Acquisition Committee for approval. After approval, the proposal will come back to the Public Arts Committee in its final form to be approved. The Committee will submit its recommendation (approval or denial) to the City Mayor, who will have final approval before the proposal is submitted to City Council. If City Council approves, the project will begin.

Liza stated that this process will apply to the Vol Landing project the Committee approved at the November meeting. That proposal is currently being reviewed by various city departments, and will eventually come back to the Committee for approval in its final form.

### **Other Project Updates**

Liza informed the Committee that the Chilhowee Park mural project is moving forward, with help from the Purchasing Department. An RFP will be issued for a mural to be painted over the tunnel entrance, which is a smaller project than the original proposal. That project will eventually come before the Committee for approval.

Liza also shared that the Arts & Culture Alliance has received \$5,000 from Visit Knoxville to partially fund a mural in the underground section of the Emporium Center and the Alliance has approached CBID for funding of the other \$5,000. Rick stated that he is on the CBID board and he informed Liza that the board has some concerns about the mural's location because it is not in a public place. Liza thanked Rick for sharing CBID's concerns, and stated that the Alliance will seek funding from other sources if CBID is not a good match. Liza added that once funding is secured, the proposed design will come before the Committee for approval since it is City-owned property.

Sara shared that she is working on an art project that will use large gasoline drums that were removed from her property. Sara hopes to develop a competition for art or design students at UT to create a work of art using the drums. She stated that while her original idea was for the completed piece to be housed on her property, she would also be interested in gifting a piece to the city if an appropriate location is identified. The Committee thanked Sara for her proposal and asked her to keep the Committee updated about the project as it develops.

### **Public Art Master Plan**

Rachel created a map on the Public Arts Committee website which identifies the various public art locations and ideas that Committee members have proposed in their assigned districts. The site is currently hidden to the public, but it can be seen by visiting [knoxvillepublicart.com/map-test/](http://knoxvillepublicart.com/map-test/).

### **New Committee Members**

Liza shared that Faris Eid, Melinda Meador, and Marcus Hall will be completing their terms on the Committee at the end of the year. Liza has submitted names of potential candidates to Mayor Rogero for consideration.

**Future Meetings:**

- A. The next regular meeting is Tuesday, January 5, 2015 at 4:00 PM
  - a. The meeting will be held at the Knoxville Museum of Art boardroom.
- B. Future meetings:
  - a. February 2, 2016 at 4:00 PM
  - b. March 1, 2016 at 4:00 PM

**Meeting adjourned at 4:42 PM.**

**Absent Members:**

Erin Donovan  
Duane Grieve  
Elizabeth Wright  
Faris Eid  
John Powers  
Marcus Hall  
Mark Heinz  
Melinda Meador  
Susana Esrequis