

The City of Knoxville: Public Arts Committee

Public Arts Committee Meeting: December 6, 2016

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

Attendees Present:

Chuck Morris – Committee Member
Duane Grieve – Committee Member
James Taylor – Committee Member
Jeffrey Lockett – Committee Member
Judith Foltz – Committee Member
Liza Zenni – Staff Liaison
Mark Heinz – Committee Member
Rachel Perkins Haverkamp – Committee Administrator
Rick Emmett – City of Knoxville, Downtown Coordinator
Susana Esrequis – Committee Member
Tanisha Baker – Committee Member
Terry Mosley – Committee Member
Tommie Rush – Committee Member

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

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

Review of Cumberland Ave / 11th Street Stairs Submissions & Selection of Finalists

After a careful review of all submissions, the committee identified candidates #2, #4, and #13 as finalists for the Cumberland Ave / 11th Street stairs project. All candidates will be notified of their status and finalists must submit their proposed designs to the committee by Tuesday, January 17. The committee will review their proposals and recommend a winning candidate at the February 2017 meeting.

Proposed Public Art Project: Broadway/I-40 Underpass

Liza shared a proposed location for public art near downtown that may fit with the committee's proposed lighting projects. The location is on North Broadway between Depot Street and Magnolia Avenue, under the I-40 underpass. The area is currently used by many in the homeless community for shelter during the day and the city would like to see improvements in that area. Rachel suggested that the project might be a good match for the NEA's Challenge America grant, which offers \$10,000 in funding support for public art projects that a) extend the reach of the arts to underserved populations; b) are developed through community engagement. Evidence of community involvement in the planning, design, or fabrication of the work must be apparent. Challenge America grants are a stepping stone to

the larger Our Town grant, which grants up to \$200,000 for public art projects that improve public spaces. The committee voted to move forward with the Challenge America grant application.

Maintenance of Cancer Artwork: Vote

Susana shared images of the National Cancer Survivor Day tile mosaic that was installed in World's Fair Park in 1996. The installation is in need of repair or maintenance and Susana asked the committee if this project might fit with the committee's goals. After some discussion, the committee tabled the motion, in favor of finding out who originally installed the artwork and if they might be interested in maintaining and/or restoring the installation.

Other Business

The chalkboard mural "Before I die . . ." in Market Square has been installed by the students at Knoxville Catholic High School and is being used regularly by visitors to downtown Knoxville.

Chuck shared a project that is being developed by Convergence Knoxville and RB Morris in partnership with the Big Ears Festival. The project will produce five narratives about the downtown area. All elements will be original to the project, including field recordings, music and text. RB Morris, Knoxville's poet laureate, will compose the text and provide voiceover for each narrative. Chuck asked the committee if it would be a good match for the committee to support the project with public art funds. After some discussion, the committee felt that the project was outside the current funding priorities of the committee.

Future Meetings:

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:08 PM

Absent Members:

Bart Watkins
Erin Donovan
John Powers
Mike Fowler
Sara Pinnell