

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

### **Public Arts Committee Meeting: December 4, 2014**

Meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM at the Knoxville Museum of Art boardroom.

#### **Attendees Present:**

Liza Zenni – Staff Liaison  
Bart Watkins – Committee Member  
Duane Grieve – Committee Member (City Council Representative)  
Erin Donovan – Committee Member  
Jeff Lockett – Committee Member  
John Powers – Committee Member  
Marcus Hall – Committee Member  
Sara Pinnell – Committee Member  
Susana Esrequis – Committee Member  
Rick Emmett – City Representative  
Maggie Davidson – North Broadway Corridor Task Force  
Rachel Perkins – Committee Administrator

**Approval of Agenda:** Duane moved to approve the agenda; Erin seconded the motion, which passed.

Liza asked members of the committee to introduce themselves. This was the first meeting for many of the newly-appointed committee members. Liza informed the committee about past projects that have been presented to the committee and reminded everyone about the ongoing park project at Summit Hill. Liza introduced Maggie Davidson, a member of the North Broadway Corridor Task Force.

#### **A. North Broadway Corridor Task Force: Artist-designed bus stop**

The task force was formed in response to a desire to beautify Broadway, Old North Knoxville, and the Fourth & Gill neighborhoods. One issue facing residents is a lack of bus shelters on the North Broadway Corridor. Maggie shared a Tucson, Arizona project that was very successful at incorporating public art and bus stops. The task force met with KAT (Knoxville Area Transit) to discuss potential locations for bus shelters and a possible public art component. KAT was supportive and offered to fund six new shelters at a cost of \$3,000 each. The task force would like the Public Arts Committee to work with KAT to gather community input, create an RFP, and select six artists to create the public art component. Maggie asked the committee for feedback about the concept and asked if there would be any funding available to support the art

component of the project. Rick asked if the task force had spoken with City Engineering to address concerns about sidewalk width and other engineering concerns. Maggie said they had not, but the project is still in the early stages. Liza said the committee would love to support a project, but currently it is unclear what funding is available. Liza asked the committee if anyone would like to work with Maggie and the task force to develop an RFP. Sara stated that she would like to work with the task force and that she was enthusiastic about the project. Rachel will e-mail the committee a slideshow of images from the Tucson project.

## **B. Dogwood Art in Public Places**

### **a. State Street Garage Sculpture**

Rick shared the history of the State Street Garage sculpture that was installed by Dogwood for the 2014 Art in Public Places exhibit. The sculpture site was the former elevator core that was demolished for garage construction. Rick thought it would be an ideal place for public art and contacted Lisa Duncan to see if Art in Public Places was interested in including State Street as a new exhibit location. Lisa found a sculpture that she thought would be appropriate and offered to include it in the exhibition if the city could pay for the crane to install the sculpture. The City of Knoxville paid \$3,200 to have the sculpture installed at the site as a temporary piece until March 2015. If the city wants to purchase the piece, it will cost \$36,000. Sara asked how the piece was selected. Bart, a Dogwood Arts board member, stated that the artist had participated in a previous Arts in Public Places exhibition. Rick stated that if the committee decides to approve the piece, it would be good publicity for the committee and would bring attention to public art in Knoxville. Rick also stated that there was some money left over from the State Street Garage Construction and that he could purchase the sculpture without using Public Arts Committee funds. Sara stated that the committee should not just select the piece because money is available, and expressed concern about the precedent it would set. Liza asked if everyone on the committee had seen the piece in person. Only a few members have seen the sculpture. Duane moved to have everyone on the committee visit the site and re-visit the issue at the next meeting. Bart seconded the motion, which passed.

### **b. Future Art in Public Places selections**

Liza expressed concern that the committee does not currently work with Dogwood to pre-screen entries for Art in Public Places before they are presented to the juror. Bart shared that Ken

Thompson will be the juror. Duane told the committee that when Dogwood first started, they approached the committee for approval of the sites. The committee gave their approval. Bart suggested the committee should see the work before the juror, so the show will continue to be a legitimate juried exhibition. Liza asked the committee if one or two members could work with Dogwood to pre-select appropriate pieces, for safety and aesthetic purposes, and share those recommendations with the rest of the committee. Duane offered to participate in the selection process. Bart will speak with Lisa Duncan about working with the Public Arts Committee to pre-select the pieces for the 2015 show.

### **C. NEA Our Town Grant: Summit Hill Park**

Liza and Rachel informed the committee about their progress for the NEA Our Town grant. The committee originally planned to apply for funding for a public art master plan. Rachel researched past recipients and contacted the Arts Council of Huntsville, AL to learn about their experience creating a public art master plan. The Huntsville Arts Council received the grant in 2012 and two years later they are just completing their first draft of the plan. While the council was happy with the process and it was strongly community-driven, they still do not have a plan in place to fund their vision. Based on the lengthy process and the lack of real results, Liza recommended that the committee apply for funding to support the design of the park at Summit Hill & Gay Street. Duane moved to apply for the Our Town grant for the park and Erin seconded the motion. The committee voted YES to complete the NEA application for the Summit Hill park project. Liza asked the committee to submit suggestions for a temporary name for the park. Sara suggested Crossroads Park. Erin agreed with the suggestion and shared that Knoxville is the crossroads where I-75 and I-40 intersect.

### **D. Bloomberg Grant – Big Ears: Hear in Knoxville!**

Liza and Rachel met with Ashley Capps, founder of AC Entertainment, to discuss the 2016 & 2017 Big Ears Festival. The committee is applying for the Bloomberg Public Art Challenge that will grant up to \$1 million over two years for temporary public art projects. After brainstorming with Ashley, Liza suggested the following six public art events to be presented at Big Ears in 2016 & 2017:

## **2016:**

### **1. Iron Pour at Volunteer Landing**

At 8:00 PM, Preston Farrabow would be docked on a metal barge just off the river bank at Vol Landing where he would pour fiery, molten iron into the five chime molds. At that point, the live music would start on Vol Landing and go for 45 minutes to an hour to give the metal time to cool. During a break in the music, the attention will turn back to Preston who quenches the chimes in the water of the Tennessee River and then brings them back on land where he hangs them from a prepared frame. The music then commences again, incorporating the sound of the played chimes. The chimes will stay there at Volunteer Landing as a piece of temporary public art until the opening of the 2017 Big Ears Festival.

### **2. Live Concert at Mead's Quarry**

During a musical performance at Mead's Quarry, a piece of public art would be created that would be comprised of old, antique or discarded quarry tools that would have been used at the site in the past. The sculpture would stay at Meads Quarry as a piece of public art. Preston could be the lead artist, or there could be a different artist featured.

### **3. Christopher Janney Sonic Forest**

Strong Alley and perhaps other alleys downtown could be used to mount Janney's Sonic Forests.

## **2017:**

### **1. Suttree Song Cycle and Sculpture**

There is a new park on the South Waterfront and the name will be Suttree Park. The South Knoxville Foundation is looking for a piece of public art to be installed there and the Public Arts Committee is working with them in the development of the idea. The park would be the perfect venue to debut the Suttree Song Cycle that Ashley proposed. The development of the piece of public art could be informed by the composers

developing the song cycle and vice versa. Liza suggested the piece should be marble to reflect the south waterfront's history.

(Visit: <http://insideofknoxville.com/2013/12/suttree-landing-park-the-first-step-in-south-waterfront-development/> to see plans for the park.)

## **2. Urban Wilderness Progressive Music and Art Experience**

A progressive acoustic trail could be set up along a designated Urban Wilderness Trail and each "performance" or act could take place at the site of a modest piece of public art (that can either remain permanently or be temporary) forming a music and art experience that participants can discover. This from the Legacy Parks Website: The vision for Knoxville's Urban Wilderness includes the addition of the Battlefield Loop in the western section which will provide an historic and recreational experience featuring three Civil War forts and a city park: the River Bluff; Fort Stanley; Fort Higley; Loghaven; and Fort Dickerson Park. The Legacy Parks' trail can be further developed alongside the artwork (and music) chosen to reflect the history and topography of the landscape. Liza spoke with Carol Evans, Executive Director of Legacy Parks, and Carol is enthusiastic about partnering with the Public Arts Committee and AC Entertainment for this project.

## **3. Knox Botanical Gardens Concert and Glass Blowing**

Liza has not spoken with Richard Jolley or Tommie Rush about this concept, but she proposes that Richard and/or Tommie would create a public art piece on site at the Botanical Gardens and in the presence of the audience prior or at the same time as a concert. This event would be the mirror image of the iron pour event in 2016. That piece could either be purchased as part of the city's public art collection or stationed in the North Garden of the Knoxville Museum of Art after it is created.

### **Future Meetings:**

- A. The next regular meeting is Thursday, January 8, 2015 at 4:00 PM
  - a. The meeting will be held at the Knoxville Museum of Art boardroom.

B. Select PAC representatives will meet Monday, December 8, 2014 at 2:00 PM to discuss Suttree Park with members of the South Knoxville Foundation and East Tennessee Community Design Center.

a. The meeting will be held at the Emporium Center.

**Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.**

**Members Absent:**

Chuck Morris

Elizabeth Wright

Faris Eid

LarJuanette Williams

Mark Heinz

Melinda Meador

Mike Fowler