

## **Public Art Committee Meeting**

September 27, 2018

Cultural Services conference room

Present: Debbie Williamson-Smith, Robin Seloover, Justin Lamphear, Cultural Service staff-- Colette Ramirez, Isaac Marquez, Margaret Merisante, Lena Freeman. Absent: Courtney Stubbert, Emily Proudfoot, Jennifer Knapp

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the April 26, 2018 meeting were approved with corrections.

### **I. Urban Canvas Update—Lena Freeman**

**Lena** gave a brief presentation on Urban Canvas—the city's local artist mural project. Lena and Jessica Watson created this project from scratch. No requirement for public art experience is required for artists. To date, there are 50 artist submissions and an increasing wall owner listing.

#### Three murals are finished:

- #1) Erica Greminger painted a large mural at Rainbow Valley Design and Construction's building. Erica's mural features the teal line of the Willamette River with stylized flora and fauna.
- #2) Santiago Uceda's mural is located on Grand View and Willamette Street—a private residence with a public facing wall. Uceda's art features the Willamette River, birds, trees, salmon, bears, etc. in a graphic style.
- #3) Bayne Gardner mural is at Liberty Housing (affordable housing for veterans) at 5<sup>th</sup> and Monroe Streets. The mural displays a hawk grabbing a rainbow trout.

#### Other projects in the works:

A). Pillars off of Willamette by the Saturday Market office and the Atrium. Isaac gave historical background: the pillars are relics left over from when Eugene had covered alleyways. The goal is to refashion them into public art. Lena said that three sets of pillars will be part of a wayfinding project wherein the pillars look like a natural progression. The idea is to paint the columns now and do something with the roofing later and can be an ongoing temporary art project: i.e., redone various times. Colette commented that there was an original pillar proposal submitted as part of the Downtown program fund—a revitalization fund—and The Downtown Operations team would like to look at the tops of downtown structures as a potential location for possible partnership with UO architecture students also.

B). Four traffic control boxes out on Barger—an underserved community within a large tagging area. Urban Canvas wants to find neighborhood artists for West Eugene and other under-served areas. Lena and Jessica Watson are passing off the selection process to the neighborhoods and the PAC. Debbie remarked that the 404 artist group in the Barger area are local artists who are working on other areas that have been tagged. There was consensus that 404 will be part of the process; a future PAC meeting with members of that group and Charley Swing of ArtCity will be set up. Additionally, these traffic boxes will not be graffiti coated.

Justin asked if there is an Urban Canvas list of artists and walls. Lena replied that currently their artist “book” is on Google Drive—and that can be shared. Wall owner's information is not online; they will check to see if that information has been cleared to share. She and Jessica are working to facilitate other partnerships led by community members. And finally, equitable pay, supplies and equipment considerations, and a matching program fund are being considered.

**II. Visual Arts Festival:** The first Visual Arts Festival included three galleries (the Mayor's art show, Karin Clarke, and New Zone); the contemporary BRIDGE art exhibition that incorporated 5 local artists paired with 5 arts organizations for 5 projects; the 20 x 21 murals; and featured the works of 185 artists with 85 partners.

- 20x21 review—Debbie Williamson-Smith: Showed *Mural Math* (a powerpoint highlighting all the recent murals) to committee. Murals have been proliferating. There will be 20 by 2019, with possibly 30 by 202. *Mural Math* will be placed on social media later in October. Highlights:
  - The first 11 murals were created in 2016/2017 with bonus mini murals from Blek the Rat and Dan Witz.
  - #12 started the 2018 murals with Matt Small—portrait of Jesse Owens winning 4 gold medals; Justin Bauer put his grandfather's WW2 medal into the mural and scraps from Hayward Field were included.
  - WK Interact painted the MLK mural at First Christian Church plus some bonus murals in the parkcade;
  - Alexis Diaz created the mammoth piece on Grizzlies, using Sumi ink and brushes—a masterclass in mark making.
  - Bayne Gardner's mural at 3<sup>th</sup> and Willamette had many changes as it went through the painting process. Bayne also did a bonus mural with a salmon, pink donut and chicken;
  - Aiko, the queen of stencil art, created a mural on the Parkcade. She hand-cuts all her stencils—15 for this wall.
  - Mural artist H11235 from our sister city, Katmandu Nepal was hosted by local Nepalese families. He painted two murals one at 7558 Charnelton and the other at the LCC downtown campus. LCC hosted an artist talk with Kiran. Opportunities for deeper conversations with artists;
  - Shamsia Hassani (Afghanistan) painted her mural at 2451 Willamette St. and bonus art came from Martha Cooper—renowned street art photographer—who showed past and present photographs of her work.
- **Bridge Exhibition:** Colette Ramirez presented a quick overview of Bridge art installations.
- **Mayor's Art Show:** Robin Selover and Isaac spoke about the redesigned and renovated the former Jacobs Gallery where the Mayor's Art Show was held. Mayor's art show was brought back to great success and acclaim. Robin was a juror; Chanin Santiago lead the show. The show had a lot of submissions, 210, and the jurors chose 48. Hanging the show and grouping the art was Chanin's great accomplishment. The goal was to create great diversity in artist voices and perspectives. A smaller showing from the Mayor's Art Show is now installed at the airport.

**III. Monroe Park Paul Pappas "Walking Man" sculpture deaccession:** Isaac gave the overview of this process over the past few years within the PAC. The deaccession was a little complicated because the sculpture is technically Parks property. Isaac reviewed that the PAC has followed the deaccession procedures, voted in January 2017 to deaccession this sculpture, then requested and received feedback from the community on two separate occasions, and searched for Paul Pappas to no avail. From 2017, the PAC has survey, comments, condition, and certified reparation estimation documentation. Additionally, City deaccession forms are complete.

The next step is to for the PAC to submit the deaccession packet to the City Manager requesting permission to remove the sculpture and offering the City Manager recommendations for the means of disposal.

Questions and discussion followed, (summary below).

- Isaac emphasized that there is no thorough way to review what would happen after the piece was decommissioned. City policy doesn't facilitate replacement at this time. He does think there is a high likelihood that some people in the neighborhood would want to purchase the sculpture for personal ownership.
- Justin wanted the sculpture to have a life somewhere as well as a replacement piece for Monroe Park. He also wanted to wait until next meeting to decide on recommendations when both Courtney Stubbart and Emily Proudfoot would be in attendance.
- John Rose, a community guest and working artist, said safety concerns have always been a problem. He personally wants the sculpture to go up for sale, feels that the sculpture could be repaired, but wants funding to come from somewhere to repair it.
- Isaac informed the committee that cities all over the country are facing these situations with aging or hazardous works. Are cultural relics an option? He suggested that future public art considerations start with determining the probable lifespan of art. Ballooning costs of maintenance or repair cuts into obtaining any new public art.
- Robin wanted to know more about transportation of the sculpture. Answer--Cap Brunner in Seattle – is a resource best practices in transporting artwork. She favors the third option for the recommendations and would like to see monies from a sale go back into the public art fund. She also asked if Parks' has a timeline to remove the sculpture.

Recommendations were tabled.

**Riverfront Park update:** Tabled for a future meeting

**Next meeting:** November 15<sup>th</sup>. Future agenda meeting –GATA at airport; recruiting new committee members

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.