



METRO ARTS

NASHVILLE OFFICE OF ARTS + CULTURE

AGENDA

Public Art Committee

June 7, 2021 1:00PM-2:30PM

Metro Office Building

Nashville Room

800 2nd Ave S

Nashville, TN 37210

If you have any questions, please e-mail arts@nashville.gov.

Committee Members Present: Jane Alvis (Chair), Campbell West (Commissioner), Omari Booker, Sara Lee Burd, Shaun Giles

Committee Members Absent: Donna Gilliam

Staff: Van Maravalli, Atilio Murga, Anne-Leslie Owens, Grace Wright, Marysa LaRowe, Janine Christiano

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 pm.

B. Approval of Minutes: April 23, 2021

A motion to approve the minutes from April 23, 2021 was offered by Commissioner West, Omari Booker seconded, the motion passed.

C. Welcome – Van Maravalli, Public Art Manager

Van Maravalli welcomed the committee and introduced Janine Christiano and Marysa LaRowe from the Metro Arts Strategic Funding and Initiatives Teams.

D. Project and Program Updates

1. Mill Ridge Park Update

Van gave the Committee a review of the project to date and an overview of the initial redesign submitted by Daily Tous Les Jours for Mill Ridge Park. The formal design will be forthcoming for review at the August Public Art Committee meeting. Project installation is expected for Spring of 2022.

E. Action Items:

1. Temporary Art on Metro Property Guideline Improvements

Anne-Leslie gave the Committee an overview of the proposed guidelines. The aim of the guidelines would be to ensure:

- Verify professional artist and fair compensation
- Ensure community engagement and support
- Incorporate maintenance plan with funds and plan for removal
- Streamline the process and interdepartmental partnerships

Chair Alvis asked if there was any questions or discussion.

The Committee ask for clarification about Metro Arts' role in public art on Metro Property. Staff confirmed that Metro Arts approves all art on Metro Property. When other departments are involved, other Boards generally approve the project after it has passed the approval of Public Art Committee/Arts Commission.

The Committee asked a followup question regarding art on private property. In those cases, Metro Arts provides guidance, but art on private property does not fall under the purview of the agency. The proposed guidelines are only for artwork on Metro property.

The Committee asked about how the guidelines application/documentation process would work. Staff explained that currently the application would run through Metro Arts' website and Submittable. Eventually, there is hope for a website base that incorporates all forms and information needed for this process.

A motion to approve support to formalize the Temporary Public Art on Metro Property Guidelines, to be brought to PAC for final approval August 2021. was offered by Commissioner West, Sara Lee Burd seconded, the motion passed.

Staff invited members of the Committee to submit their specific feedback or suggestions for the guidelines.

2. FY22 Thrive Guidelines – Updated Public Art Processes

Janine Christiano gave the Committee a review of the Thrive program and the proposed two-cycle process for the FY22 Thrive program.

Marysa LaRowe gave the Committee an overview of the guidelines' public art specific review process and the changes to the public art sections of the guidelines including

- Extra steps in the approval process to confirm feasibility
- Adding a defined lifespan for artworks

Chair Alvis asked if there was any questions or discussion.

The Committee asked for clarification if these projects would be considered “temporary public art.” Staff confirmed.

The Committee asked for clarification about the funding caps for each cycle. Staff clarified that in Cycle 1 applicants could ask for up to \$9,500, and in Cycle 2 while applicants could only request up to \$5,000, they would also be receiving workshops, a mentor, and a public exhibit.

The Committee asked about the partnership with the Parthenon and how that came about. Staff clarified that it was a relationship between Metro Arts and Metro Parks. The partnership would hopefully allow newer artists the chance to exhibit their works. The Parthenon is also interested investing in the local community.

They asked for clarification regarding the project in community and then the presentation at Parthenon. Staff confirmed that like past Thrive projects, there would be a community-based project, and then the artist would bring something to exhibit at the showcase.

The Committee committed that this model removed gatekeeping in some ways by activating the community as well as taking that community representation to a central location.

The Committee brought up discussion regarding budget size and how many large-scale projects required larger funding models. For certain projects these sums would not be covered by the Thrive funding caps. Staff explained that some of the larger funding was restricted in certain ways due to funding sources, however, there have been discussions about increasing Thrive funding. Thrive is also considered a building block program to help give artists experience to pursue larger projects. Staff hopes to create equity between different experience levels of artists.

The Committee expressed concern about staff capacity to oversee the projects. Staff clarified that Cycle 2 would be limited to 6-8 projects and that staff is using funds to also bring in mentors and other training supports. Staff also confirmed that not all Cycle 2 applicants would be creating public art projects.

The Committee opened up discussion on the percent of the Arts Commission budget spent on community-focused projects as part of the larger budget, and how additional funds could be allocated to community-focused projects.

The Committee also expressed concern about artists being paid enough through these project funds. It was proposed that the guidelines include a designated artist fee with project funds in addition to that. Staff shared that this was a conversation being had across several programs in the interest of creating a livable wage for artist. While it is not policy, artists are often encouraged to pay themselves a fair wage as part of their budget coaching. This will be particularly true for Thrive Cycle

2 awardees. This topic is perhaps something that can be covered in the upcoming Strategic Planning year.

Staff offered to return to the Public Art Committee with the Cycle 2 workshop and training schedule and the Equity Lens language for input in August.

A motion to approve the updated public art processes of the FY22 Thrive Guidelines with an update being brought to the Public Art Committee in August was offered by Omari Booker, Commissioner West seconded, the motion passed.

3. Kossie Gardner Sr. Park Community Canvas Design Approval

Van Maravalli presented the Committee with Elisheba Mrozik's design proposal for the Kossie Gardner Sr. Park. She noted that while the design was final, the artist and staff were still working out components of the interaction pieces. Additionally, Elisheba Mrozik added a design on the back of the wall to face the interstate to maximize the space and message.

Chair Alvis asked if there was any discussion. There was none.

A motion to approve the Kossie Gardner Sr. was offered by Commissioner Alvis, Omari Booker seconded, the motion passed.

F. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m. .