



# METRO ARTS

NASHVILLE OFFICE OF ARTS + CULTURE

## **Metro Arts Commission Minutes of the Public Art Committee**

**March 11, 2020**

1417 Murfreesboro Pike, Nashville, TN 37217  
Bellevue Room

**Attending Members:** Alejandro Acierto, Omari Booker, Donna Gilliam

\*Campbell West attended the meeting via speakerphone in a non-voting capacity.

**Absent Members:** Niki Coffman (chair), Paul Collins, David Jon Walker

**Staff:** Van Maravalli, Anne-Leslie Owens, Lauren Fitzgerald, Atilio Murga, Tré Hardin, Emily Waltenbaugh, Grace Wright

**Guests:** Laura Womack (Executive Director) and Satrice Allen (Finance and Administrative Manager) from the Fairgrounds Nashville and Michelle Hernandez-Lane (Chief Procurement and Purchasing Officer for Metro)

### **A. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 9:13 a.m.

### **B. WELCOME**

Van Maravalli reintroduced herself to the committee and explained her role as Manager of the Public Art Team to the new members. She also introduced Dorothy “Doe” Maravalli!

Van welcomed the attending members and guests Michelle Hernandez-Lane, Chief Procurement and Purchasing Officer and Laura Womack (Executive Director) and Satrice Allen (Finance and Administrative Manager) from the Fairgrounds Nashville.

### **C. APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES: January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

***A motion to approve the January meeting notes was offered by Alejandro Acierto, Omari Booker seconded, and the motion passed.***

### **D. INTRODUCTION OF NEW PAC MEMBER: ALEJANDRO ACIERTO**

Van Maravalli introduced Alejandro Acierto as a new PAC member.

## **E. INTRODUCTION OF NEW OFFICE COORDINATOR: GRACE WRIGHT**

Van Maravalli introduced Grace Wright as Metro Art's new Office Coordinator.

## **F. ACTION ITEMS:**

### **1. Nashville Fairgrounds Public Art Project – Final Artist Selection/Procurement Update**

Public Art Project Coordinator Atilio Murga gave committee a brief review of the history of the Fairgrounds Public Art Project:

- **\$650,000 budget - Percent for Arts Funds**
- The RFQ for a large iconic artwork closed in late August and received a total of 126 submissions.
- The citizen selection panel conducted a thorough evaluation of all the applicants between August 2019 – February 2020.
  - The artists did not submit a proposal but rather interviews with community given the emphasis on community input into the project. The commissioned artist will propose a design for the site after conducting community engagement and meeting with stakeholders. Staff will present the artwork concept for PAC approval before moving forward with any fabrication.
- The citizen's selection panel consisted of artist, community leaders and business owners from the Wedgewood-Houston area.

The panel selected Blessing Hancock (Tucson, AZ) as the finalist for the Fairgrounds Public Art Project.

***A motion to accept the citizen selection panel's recommendation for Blessing Hancock to be the finalist for the Nashville Fairgrounds Public Art Project was offered by Alejandro Acierto, seconded by Donna Gilliam, and the motion passed.***

### **2. Mill Ridge Public Art Project Discussion**

Public Art Project Coordinator Tré Hardin reviewed the history of the project as well as the findings from the draft ADA & Safety Review from Collier Engineering as part of the further investigation the committee voted to take in January. Final draft of the ADA from Collier should be coming soon.

Public Art Manager Van Maravalli continued the discussion with staff concerns regarding this project. Including issues around access, community expectations, budget challenges and a strained working relationship with site sponsors.

Committee discussed the new information regarding the Mill Ridge Public Art Project and recommended the staff discuss the concerns with the artist and pursue a complete redesign if DTLJ is willing. Staff will report back to PAC after the discussion with the artist.

***A motion for Metro Arts staff to revisit the project proposal with Daily Tous Les Jours and ask what would be required for them to redesign the project was offered by Donna Gilliam, Alejandro Acierto seconded, and the motion passed.***

## **G. UPDATES:**

### **1. Crochet Mural Temporary Art Project**

Public Art Project Manager Anne-Leslie Owens updated committee on the need to part ways with the previously approved artist Olek (Love Across the USA) because the artist's shifting parameters for the project became unfeasible and had to be cancelled.

Metro Arts is currently seeking a new artist for a similar large-scale project promoting suffrage and is keeping in mind the idea of elevating untold stories. As this search progresses, Metro Arts will hopefully present a new project to the committee in May.

### **2. I Voted Sticker Contest**

Public Art Project Manager Anne-Leslie Owens updated committee about the contest, which has a new deadline of April 6<sup>th</sup>. As school and public safety concerns develop, so will this contest. There will be a panel for the contest to narrow the selection to no more than 5 followed by online public voting to decide the winner. The stickers will be available for August and November elections.

### **3. Public Art Maintenance**

Public Art Project Manager Anne-Leslie Owens updated committee on several maintenance projects in progress:

- ***Ghost Ballet*** received a structural inspection by Collier/Logan Patri; however, work has been delayed until the park reopens.
- ***Light Meander*** will be receiving LED replacements, an access door, and an all-weather conduit. Southeast Electric has ordered LEDs and the replacements are expected to be completed by late May.
- A bid for a new lighting plan has been requested for ***Stix*** from several lighting designers with a deadline of March 27<sup>th</sup> and work expected in June.

### **4. Art WORKS Relocation Requests**

Public Art Project Manager Anne-Leslie Owens updated committee on a few art relocation requests. Metro Arts will be removing the pieces and holding them in our storage until they can be placed elsewhere. Metro Arts is looking in to placing the pieces in new Metro buildings.

**H. ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:06 a.m.