



METRO ARTS
NASHVILLE OFFICE OF ARTS + CULTURE

MINUTES

Public Art Committee

July 6, 2023, 10:00AM-12:00PM

Metro Office Building

Nashville Room

800 President Ronald Reagan Way/800 2nd Ave S

Nashville, TN 37210

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

Commission and Committee Members Present: Campbell West (PAC Committee Chair), Paul Polycarpou (Commissioner), Ellen Angelico (CARE Committee Chair), Sara Lee Burd, Shaun Giles, Donna Gilliam, Stacey Irvin, Daniel Singh (Executive Director, *ex-officio*)

Metro Art Staff Present: Anne-Leslie Owens, Atilio Murga, Jesse Ross, Nyamal Tuor, Vivian Foxx

A. Welcome and Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chair Campbell West at 10:08 am. Chair West welcomed everyone and shared several transitions. Donna Gilliam will be resigning from PAC at the end of August. Chair West thanked her for her years of service and for taking on the role of Arthur Avenue Selection Panel chair. We will be looking to fill the vacancy left by Donna Gilliam as well as Lakesha M. Calvin who resigned earlier this month. Additionally, Public Art Project Coordinator Nyamal Tuor will be leaving later this month to pursue her Ph.D.

B. Public Comment

Chair Campbell West explained that our agendas will now provide time for public comment. This is a requirement for all committees and commissions under Tennessee Open Meetings Act, and the Arts Commission Bylaws will be amended to reflect this. There was no one present to provide public comment.

C. Approval of Minutes: May 11, 2023

A motion to approve the May 11, 2023 meeting minutes was made by Donna Gilliam and seconded by Sara Lee Burd. Approval was unanimous and the motion passed.

D. Action Items

1. Bordeaux Gateway (Budget, Recruitment)

Public Art Collections Manager Anne-Leslie provided a brief recap of the Bordeaux Gateway site, a triangular piece of land with a “Welcome to Bordeaux” sign at a busy intersection, generating significant community interest and coordination required with both Nashville Department of Transportation and Tennessee Department of Transportation for any proposed public art installations. This project came out of the 2022 Participatory Budget process.

Community involvement is critical to the success of the project. Staff launched a paid opportunity to serve on a community selection panel. Of those who apply, up to eight community members will be selected and each will receive a stipend of \$700 for 14-15 hours of work. Required dates for selection panel meetings are set. Staff will provide a selection panel slate to the Commission for approval on July 20.

Owens sought input from the committee on various community engagement options and welcomed further thoughts and suggestions. Three community engagement options were discussed for gathering feedback on the project: virtual meetings, in-person surveys, and online engagements. There was interest in using multiple ways to reach Bordeaux residents, reaching them at places where people are waiting like laundromats and hair salons. No action required at this time. Project recommendations will be taken to Arts Commission meeting on August 20 as more research is completed with stakeholders.

2. Looby Mural (Budget, Recruitment)

Public Art Collections Manager Anne-Leslie gave a recap of the Looby Mural project, the second Participatory Budget Project we are managing. This one will result in a mural on an exterior wall of the Looby Community Center, Theater, and Library. Staff conducted research with the help of Art Up Nashville, Park maintenance, and Don Hardin Group to assess the wall's condition and explore mural possibilities. The wall, measuring 28x96 feet, has a concrete masonry core with attached panels and an uneven pebble surface, requiring careful consideration. Parks has asked to start 8' from the ground to discourage vandalism. Staff are proposing using PolyTab as the recommended installation technique for its longer lifespan and high-resolution printing capabilities.

The committee discussed artist eligibility, considering the options of high-resolution designs from professional artists or having artists create and paint separate panels to be installed by Art Up. Staff emphasized the importance of expanding opportunities to more artists, and the committee agreed that a minimum requirement of locality in terms of residence or work should be in place for the project. As the lifespan of the PolyTab mural is dependent on a quality installation and Metro Arts will be responsible for maintenance, staff recommends a Metro Arts-hired art handler purchase PolyTab, prep wall, and complete the installation. Cost estimate for materials, wall prep, and installation of cloth panels for Metro Arts is \$32,000-\$35,000. Selection panel stipends will be about \$3,500.

After a lengthy consideration of options, the committee decided on a \$23,000 artist budget based on a design painted on mural cloth for Art Up to install.

Eligibility will be open to artists in Davidson and surrounding counties with demonstrated connection to North Nashville, Bordeaux, and/or Z. Alexander Looby. If budget adjustments are needed as additional research is completed, they can be taken to Arts Commission meeting at their August 20 meeting.

A motion to approve an artist budget of \$23,000 for a design painted on mural cloth (excluding wall prep and installation) with eligibility open to artists in Davidson and surrounding counties with demonstrated connection to North Nashville, Bordeaux, and/or Z. Alexander Looby was made by Chair Campbell West and seconded by Donna Gilliam. Approval was unanimous and the motion passed.

3. Permanent Supportive Housing (Location, Budget, Recruitment)

Public Art Collections Manager Anne-Leslie Owens provided an overview of the new Permanent Supportive Housing, currently under construction in downtown Nashville north of the courthouse. Metro General Services is managing the construction and invited Metro Arts to be a part of the project. Conversations with the design team, staff is recommending an exterior art installation on a prominent retaining wall and possibly extend to planters around the building entrance. Owens shared examples of mosaic, ceramic, graphic concrete, applied sculpture on retaining walls. Jesse Ross suggested that an artist might integrate quotes, words, or poetry into the design. Staff recommends approval of proposed retaining wall and planters location for public art at Permanent Supportive Housing with \$200,000 artist budget open to Tennessee artists.

A motion to approve proposed retaining wall and planters location for public art at Permanent Supportive Housing with \$200,000 artist budget open to Tennessee artists was made by Chair Campbell West and seconded by Commissioner Paul Polycarpou. Approval was unanimous and the motion passed.

E. Project and Program Updates

1. Arthur Avenue/ I-65 Bridge Underpass Public Art Project (ALO)

Public Art Collections Manager Anne-Leslie Owens gave an overview of the project, a collaboration with Nashville Department of Transportation and artist Simone Boyd will result in a public art lighting installation at Arthur Avenue Underpass at I65 in the Elizabeth Park Neighborhood of North Nashville. The project has also received \$75,000 in NEA Our Town grant. Four artists have been invited to participate: Alex Braden, Cliff Garten, Ekene Ijeoma, and Erwin Redl.

A site visit is scheduled for July 13-14, including a community meal and stakeholder meetings. The selection panel orientation took place on June 23, and artists' proposals are due by July 31. The selection panel will convene on August 4 for virtual artist presentations and will recommend a finalist. The final artist recommendations will be presented to the PAC on August 10 and to the Commission on August 17. The committee expressed gratitude to Donna Gilliam for chairing the selection panel.

2. Mill Ridge Park Public Art Project

Public Art Project Manager Atilio Murga presented on the Mill Ridge Park Public Art Project. Mill Ridge Park is being developed by Metro Parks in the Antioch area. The awarded artist for the project is Montreal-based Daily Tous Les Jours (DTLJ). DTLJ could not complete the artwork calibration during their previous visit due to Mill Ridge Park not having electrical power at that time.

The proposed solution is to amend the contract and add \$6,300 to cover additional travel and site work costs for DTLJ's return visit. This adjustment will allow the project to remain on schedule, and the artwork will be completed by the end of July, with the park opening anticipated for late August or early September. With these changes and the added funding, the project is expected to progress smoothly and be ready for park dedication.

3. Bloomberg Grant Finalist

Executive Director Daniel Singh announced that Nashville is a finalist for the Bloomberg Grant. The proposal currently under development is a temporary art project created by local artist Stephanie Pruitt-Gaines. The project aims to gather 10,000 fragments of poetry and weave them into nets, symbolizing a safety net connection. This concept aligns with Judge Sheila Calloway's idea of supporting youth and preventing their entry into the prison system.

The Bloomberg Public Art Challenge is for proposals of up to \$1 million; Metro Arts is committing over \$200,000 as a match. The committee discussed the possibility of using some temporary public art funds. Singh explained that, if Nashville was to secure the grant, it would receive funding over a three-year period. He plans to request additional money (around \$30,000 to \$50,000) from the full Commission to support the project teams, obtain support letters, and prepare for the project. The committee also discussed the support needed for the CARE committee when presenting to the Commission, ensuring the successful execution of the project if the grant is awarded.

4. Tactical Urbanism Guide

Executive Director Daniel Singh shared about the Tactical Urbanism Guide being developed by Nashville Department of Transportation (NDOT) and that Metro Arts was asked to review and comment. Much of the draft guide focuses on community-based projects for traffic calming and pedestrian safety. Community members have raised concerns to Metro Arts staff about the project's focus on bike lanes instead of addressing needs for an expanded bus system. And there was concern that volunteers might be utilized to design and paint the installations instead of paying professional working artists.

NDOT's project has a budget of \$4 million, and Director Singh promised to send the full report to the committee. Public Art Collections Manager Anne-Leslie Owens added that Metro Arts has its temporary artwork on Metro property policy,

and we hope that the Tactical Urbanism Guide can align with existing policies. NDOT staff will be coming to PAC to make presentation in August.

5. Public Art Hiring

Director Singh reported the public art position were sent to Metro Human Resources in June but they postponed posting until July. Chair West clarified that this is the Public Art Manager position and the Public Art Project Coordinator position, the vacancy created with Nyamal Tuor's departure. Anne-Leslie Owens is in her new Collection Manager position. Atilio Murga and Jesse Ross need to be reclassified, which has also been pushed to after July 1.

6. FY2024 Budget

In this last budget, Mayor did not give Metro Arts any increase in grant budget. Six major organizations lobbied Mayor directly for \$10m year. Mayor gave them \$2m. Our grants budget was \$2.6. Created a lot of confusion. We ultimately got \$2m for unrestricted but came down to wire. We have to be more proactive with Council and Mayoral candidates. Metro Arts does not have a designated lobbyist. \$2m short for grants.

7. August PAC and Joint Meeting of Commission and all Committees: August 17, 2023

All committees coming together for meeting with Arts Commission. Office Support Specialist Vivian Foxx announced that the meeting will be at the Southeast Regional Community Center in Antioch. She will send out a Doodle poll so PAC members can indicate whether they are able to attend. Meals will be provided.

8. Cultural Planning Process

Director Singh reported that cultural planning process is going well. There is a second Steering Committee next week. Huge time investment for Metro Arts. Timing issue with Imagine Nashville with own countywide-planning visioning process. Singh's hope is that we can do arts portion and it can be rolled into their plan. Privately funded with philanthropist backing. Cultural Planning Group, 4 partners, will be here next week to meet with steering committee / 10-20 arts and culture plan like what Parks has.

Disparity Study showed such disparity that they couldn't measure it. Had 4-5 BIPOC and needed 19 BIPOC/minority led grantee organizations. Plan to write legislation and give more grant scoring points to BIPOC-led organizations.

F. Old/New Business

Director Singh thanked staff. The next meeting will be held on August 10, 2023 at 11 am.

G. Adjourn

With no further business, Chair Campbell West adjourned the meeting at 11:53 am.