



METRO ARTS

NASHVILLE OFFICE OF ARTS + CULTURE

Minutes

Public Art Committee

November 9, 2023, 11:00AM-1:00PM

Lindsley Hall, Peabody Room

730 President Ronald Reagan Way/730 2nd Ave S

Nashville, TN 37210

METRO ARTS MISSION:

Drive an Equitable and Vibrant Community through the Arts

Committee Members Present: Paul Polycarpou (Commissioner), Shaun Giles, Sara Lee Burd, Stacey Irvin (via WebEx), Cara Robinson.

Committee Members Absent: Campbell West (Chair), Daniel Singh (*ex-officio*)

Metro Arts Staff Present: Anne-Leslie Owens, Jessica Ingram, Atilio Murga, Jesse Ross, Chuck Beard, Daryn Jackson.

Guests: Justin Cole (NDOT)

A. Welcome and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:05am. by Commissioner Paul Polycarpou, chairing the meeting in Campbell West's absence. He welcomed new Public Art Manager Jessica Ingram. Anne-Leslie introduced Daryn Jackson to the committee, and then mentioned the other new staff hired not present.

B. Public Comments

No Public Comments today.

C. Approval of Minutes: October 12, 2023

A motion to approve the October 12, 2023 meeting minutes was made by Shaun Giles and seconded by Cara Robinson. Approval was unanimous and the motion passed.

D. Action Items

1. Looby Community Center Mural Public Art, Finalist Recommendation

Public Art Collections Manager Anne-Leslie Owens gave a recap of general operating updates, including the official Public Comment ruling from previous Commission meeting. Then she went into an update of the Looby Community Center Mural project. One of the projects that emerged from the 2022 Mayor's Participatory Budget project, it has a \$200,000 budget for a mural, community garden, and seating. \$105,000 is designated for the mural project. Of that, \$60,000 will be the artist budget. The remaining \$45,000 will be used by Metro Arts to purchase the polytab mural cloth, install the completed mural, and pay stipends to community selection panelists. All of this will help the artist focus on the community meetings and the artwork itself. The community selection panel met to evaluate and score the artist applications. The top scoring artist application that the panel recommended as the finalist is Creative Girls Rock. Public Art Collections Manager Anne-Leslie explained the polytab material and function for the Committee. The alternate finalist chosen, is Omari Booker. Stacey Irvin asked about the timeline, and Anne-Leslie explained the tentative plan for the Spring of 2024.

A motion to approve Creative Girls Rock as artist finalist and Omari Booker as alternate for the Looby Community Center mural public art project was made by Sara Lee Burd and seconded by Stacey Irvin. Approval was unanimous and the motion passed.

1. Permanent Supportive Housing, Finalist Recommendation

Public Art Coordinator Jesse Ross provided a recap of this project which will bring public art to the new Permanent Supportive Housing facility (a 5-story structure with 90 units) located at 110 J Johnston Avenue, between 1st and 2nd Avenue. The artwork will be on a retaining wall and possibly extend to the front and side facades at the planters. With a budget of \$200,000, a TN-wide call was made, and 19 eligible applicants answered the call. The selection panel recommends Omari Booker, the top-scoring artist, as finalist. Queen Bee Ink was voted as the alternate finalist. Commissioner Polycarpou asked about

the timeline of this project, and Jesse explained it would be happening in Spring of 2024, with clarifications from Anne-Leslie.

A motion to approve Omari Booker as artist finalist and Queen Bee Ink for the Permanent Supportive Housing public art project was made by Shawn Giles and seconded by Cara Robinson. Approval was unanimous and the motion passed.

2. Donelson Library-Interior Artwork-Sitework Budget Recommendation

Public Art Coordinator Jesse Ross provided a recap of this project which will bring public art to the renovated, mixed-use space within Donelson Plaza. The library is a free-standing 2-story building with a parking garage below. The building completion is expected for Spring 2024. The artist is Amber Lelli, and the budget is \$150,000 for the artwork that is a hanging piece. Jesse explained an expanded sitework budget need for this job for more reinforcement of the structure. Anne-Leslie explained how this artwork will be maintained, repaired, and taken care of after final installation. Stacey asked about specifics about materials being used, and Jesse gave a brief overview of those particulars.

A motion to approve additional sitework budget up to \$25,000 for Donelson Library art project was made by Sara Lee Burd and seconded by Paul Polycarpou. Approval was unanimous and the motion passed.

3. Lending Library, Revised Locations and Schedule Recommendation

Public Art Collections Manager Anne-Leslie Owens provided a recap of the Phase 2 of the proposal for the 2023-2024 Metro Arts Lending Library project. Metro Arts plans on purchasing 60-80 artworks to be installed at various branch locations. The project budget is not to exceed \$200,000, including installation costs. These purchases will be made directly with the artists and open to artists with residence or studio in Davidson County. The max purchase price per artist is \$2,000. The Nashville Public Library will help Metro Art get the Call to Artist out before a January Call for Panelists to be voted on during the February 2024 PAC and Commission meetings.

A motion to approve change in Lending Library Phase 2 locations to now include Donelson, East, Green Hills, Hermitage, and Old Hickory branches was made by Paul Polycarpou and seconded by Shaun Giles. Approval was unanimous and the motion passed.

4. Temporary Art on Metro Property Guidelines Amendment Recommendation

Public Art Collections Manager Anne-Leslie Owens gave a recap for temporary art on Metro property and guidelines associated with it. She gave the history and then the formalizing of the policy in 2021 after review with Metro Legal.

Anne-Leslie then spoke about the NDOT Tactical Urbanism Guidelines that were sent to PAC before the current meeting. Justin Cole, a guest from NDOT, gave background for the Tactical Urbanism program. He gave context of what NDOT is trying to do to make our dangerous roads safer to be around and on. He said that Tactical Urbanism is community led and a great way for community engagement for finding solutions for this cause of safety moving forward. The current goal is to formalize the most practical process to make Tactical Urbanism and solid data collection a reality within the Metro system. NDOT hopes to pay local artists to make art in the process, on the roads and the curbs and surrounding walking areas too, as well as maintenance after the art is created. There has been some success already, but NDOT is trying to center equity within the Vision Zero plan and the overall work to be done moving forward.

Anne-Leslie spoke about the temporary guidelines that have been made in the past, with the launch of more funding and staffing towards Tactical Urbanism, and what needs to be changed for the future. She said that Metro Arts recommends NDOT involve and pays local artists, engages the community, provides maintenance plans and contact person(s), and creates a maintenance fund. Anne-Leslie suggested several proposed amendments to help the process between Metro Arts and NDOT to become more efficient, effective, and aligned. Justin Cole mentioned that everything is in conversation with Metro Arts and staff in both parties for the time being, and they will have processes in place to revisit with PAC and Metro Arts Commission periodically going forward.

Cara Robinson asked several questions about details surrounding the various NDOT processes and making sure the communities were represented and heard clearly, and Justin Cole mentioned NDOT is going to be doing their best to be responsive, transparent, and welcoming throughout the processes moving forward.

A motion to approve an update to IV. Review Process, B. Review Criteria and Considerations, 1. Metro Arts and Public Art Committee of the Temporary Art Guidelines creating item “k. Materials” and updating item letters following it to “l.” through “u.” was made by Sara Lee and seconded by Paul Polycarpou. Approval was unanimous and the motion passed.

A motion to approve an update to IV. Review Process, B. Review Criteria and Considerations, 2. Nashville Department of Transportation section of the Temporary Art Guidelines as follows “Nashville Department of Transportation. Temporary artwork projects in the Right-of-Way (ROW) are reviewed and approved by the Nashville Department of Transportation (NDOT). Please refer to the Tactical Urbanism: A Guide for Street Activations and Demonstration Projects [link] and NDOT’s application [link]. For ROW projects, Metro Arts’ Temporary Art on Metro Property application is not required. Right of Way refers to sidewalks, streetscapes, and areas not managed by another department of Metro such as Parks, Libraries, or General Services. Sidewalks,

bridges, and streetscapes connected to state routes may require Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) approval, which is not part of this application process and not under the purview of Metro.” and to delete of rest of section 2 was made by Paul Polycarpou and seconded by Shaun Giles. Approval was unanimous and the motion passed.

E. Project and Program Updates:

1. Tactical Urbanism Guidelines, Nashville Department of Transportation

(nothing said more about Tactical Urbanism after the motions were approved)

2. Mural Program Development RFP

Public Art Manager Jessica Ingram explained that Metro Arts staff are currently exploring options related to the development of a Mural Program RFP and that Metro Arts is going to look for a Mural Program Consultant to help us out moving forward. PAC will be updated, as things come together.

3. Arthur Avenue/ I-65 Bridge Underpass Public Art

Public Art Collections Manager Anne-Leslie Owens gave an update regarding the Arthur Avenue Underpass public art lighting project. This project has a grant deadline of June 30, 2024. It was an original \$400,000 budget, but the artists and the community expectations needed another \$100,000 for a total of \$500,000 overall, thanks to contributions from NDOT. Anne-Leslie read from a statement made by the finalist artist for the project, Alex Braden, and then confirmed that Metro Arts is working very closely with NDOT to make sure everyone in the city is on the same page to move this project where it needs to be in the upcoming months.

4. Bordeaux Gateway Public Art

5 semifinalist artists chosen for updates in January of 2024.

5. Old Hickory Community Center Public Art

Public Art Coordinator Atilio Murga is working with the featured artist with the overall concept, and staff should have the concept to look at and approve at PAC in January of 2024.

6. Fairgrounds Public Art

Public Art Coordinator Atilio Murga said staff will have more answers for a full installation and completion (dedication ceremony included) by end of January 2024.

7. Lending Library

The Lending Library Project will expand to new Nashville Public Library branches in 2024.

F. New Business/Old Business

No new or old business

G. Adjourn

Commissioner Polycarpou adjourned the meeting at 12:12pm

DRAFT