



AUSTIN ARTS COMMISSION MINUTES
Regular Meeting – Monday, January 28, 2008
George Washington Carver Museum & Cultural Center

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER – 5:30 P.M.

Commissioners present: Barnes, Canann, Cunningham, Graze, Harman, Pennington, Willenzik

Staff present: Beekley, Crigger, Kitch

1. Approve minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 19, 2007
Minutes approved.
2. Approve minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 17, 2007
Minutes approved.

B. CITIZEN'S COMMUNICATIONS

None.

C. CHAIR'S REPORT

1. Update on Arts Activities
None.

D. COMMITTEE AND BOARD LIAISON REPORTS

Nominations Committee Chair, Commissioner Canann reported that the committee is recommending the current officers continue their roles until August 2008. The Arts Commission will take action on their recommendation later in the agenda.

Downtown Commission Representative, Commissioner Willenzik reported that the Downtown Commission approved an updated version of the incentives recommended by the Arts Commission for future development projects.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion and Action Items
 - a. Approve Auxiliary Program application recommendations

08 SO 10, Pollyanna Theatre Company

08 SO 11SP, Center for Women & Their Work / Elsewhere Dance Theatre

08 CI 4 SP, HBMG Foundation / Cambiare Productions

08 CC 1, Austin Music Foundation / SIMS Foundation

Motion: To Approve Auxiliary Program application recommendations.

Made by: Willenzik

Seconded by: Cunningham

Vote called: Passed 6-0

b. Approve Final Design for Trail of Tejano Legends Art in Public Places Project

COA staff Crigger explained this project stems from a 2006 Council resolution which called for the re-naming of six Eastside locations in honor of iconic Tejano musicians from Austin, with artwork to be sited at three of the locations. On December 3, 2007, artist Connie Arismendi presented final designs for the Trail of Tejano Legends public art project, which was unanimously approved by the AIPP Panel. Arismendi was competitively selected through an RFQ process in January 2007, and was approved by the AIPP Panel and Arts Commission on February 5 and 12, 2007, respectively. The artist was asked to work with PARD staff to bring continuity to all of Trail of Tejano sites and to create three unique works of art for the Perez/Ramos, Hernandez, and Montelongo legends. The trail will be unified through sculptural and plant material, a motif of a stylized treble clef, and way-finding signs. The artist also worked closely with family members to ensure an accurate and honorable representation of the musicians. 3D-models of the artwork were presented during the meeting for review.

Commissioner Barnes asked what other information at the site would be provided about the musicians, other than their names. Crigger responded it may be possible to add biographical information to Arismendi's scope of work. ALMA is also a stakeholder in the project; they may explore cell phone use to hear music. COA staff Kitch reported there are other yet to be disclosed electronic efforts.

Motion: To approve final design for Trail of Tejano Legends Art in Public Places Project.

Made by: Harman

Seconded by: Willenzik

Vote called: Passed 6-0

c. Approve Artist Selection Process for Brazos Streetscape Art in Public Places Project

COA staff Crigger explained this is a new CIP project, funded by 2000 Bond. Its scope is similar to the streetscape project occurring on 2nd Street in that its construction will bring the Brazos St. corridor (from 3rd to 11th) in alignment with the Great Streets Program. The timeline is tight; it is important to get an artist on board as quickly as possible so that they will have time to become familiar with the project scope, community input, and city expectations. The budget for artwork is approximately \$78,000. The artist selection outline calls for a Statement of Intent with Qualifications and is open to all professional visual artists working in any medium, 18 years of age or over, living in Texas.

Motion: To approve artist selection process for Brazos Streetscape Art in Public Places Project.

Made by: Barnes

Seconded by: Harman

Vote called: Passed 6-0

d. Approve Artists and Alternate for Cesar Chavez Memorial Art in Public Places Project

COA staff Crigger explained that on November 16, 2007, a selection panel and advisors met to review 36 artist submissions (with conceptual proposals) for the Cesar Chavez Memorial public art project. Both the selection panel and the AIPP Panel unanimously recommend the artist team of Laura Garanzuay and Connie Arismendi for the project, with Cindy Debold as alternate. Story boards of the artwork were presented.

Commissioner Harman inquired about the budget. Crigger said \$75,000, which is not derived from the 2% for art budget, but a City Council resolution.

Chair Pennington asked if the Commission received a response from City Council regarding the letter sent to them requesting the full 2% for art. COA staff Kitch answered no. Chair Pennington suggested the Commission follow-up.

Motion: To approve artists and alternate for Cesar Chavez Memorial Art in Public Places Project.

Made by: Cunningham

Seconded by: Graze

Vote called: Passed 6-0

- e. Approve Artists for Second Street District Streetscape Improvement Art in Public Places Project

COA staff Crigger explained that real estate developer Stratus Properties of Block 21 has contributed funding for three additional sidewalk enhancements along 2nd Street at the intersections of San Antonio, Guadalupe and Lavaca Streets. This artwork opportunity is an extension of the original call for “Medallions” per the Second Street Master Plan, authored by lead artist, Barbara Grygutis. Staff has deferred to the original panel process in 2004, which recommended Jill Bedgood, Ryah Christensen and Joan Zalenski with the option for those artists to invite other artists to participate. Due to the change in Zalenski’s geographic location, she was deemed ineligible for commission. Bedgood and Christensen presented the qualifications of a slate of artists to the AIPP Panel, from which Sun McColgin and Mark Schatz were chosen. Since Schatz has moved away and we are looking at local participation, by default, McColgin was selected. A color-coded diagram of 2nd Street streetscape was presented.

Commissioner Graze asked if the artists would receive additional money as an incentive, since they did more work than initially intended. Crigger responded they were getting the same amount of funding with a budget of \$20,000 per sidewalk enhancement, but they would also get reimbursed for previous work. Each artist was asked which intersection they were most interested in.

Commissioner Barnes inquired about oversight on the project. Crigger replied that they would probably retain historian Sherry Wagner.

Motion: To approve artists for Second Street District Streetscape Improvement Art in Public Places Project.

Made by: Barnes

Seconded by: Harman

Vote called: Passed 6-0

Chair Pennington requested a spreadsheet of all AIPP projects with timelines to keep better track of the projects. Crigger agreed as they usually provide a listing annually to the AIPP Panel.

f. Approve Final Design for Second Street District Streetscape Corridor Project Art in Public Places Project

Crigger explained that on December 19, 2005 the Arts Commission by recommendation of the AIPP Panel did not recommend the design for public art by Barbara Grygutis to be located on Congress Avenue and Second Street. As per the guidelines, the AIPP Panel recommended a new process of artist selection which was approved by the Arts Commission. In April 2006, selection panelists and advisors reviewed submissions for this project. Advisors to the project included the Neighborhood, Planning & Zoning Department representative and a landscape architect who is a consultant to the Second Street District Streetscape Improvement Project. The AIPP Panel and Arts Commission approved the selection of artist Lars Stanley on April 3 and April 24, 2006, respectively. On November 27, 2006, The Historic Landmarks Commission reviewed and approved the artwork based on mid-designs. Stanley has proposed a field of vertical steel elements of abstracted cypress trees forged from stainless steel surrounded by slabs of weathered and pockmarked limestone. ADA drinking fountain basins at different heights will stem from the lower “canopy” of the trees. Limestone seating is also proposed in the artist’s initial concept. Pictures of the design were presented.

Commissioner Barnes asked about the permanency of the design in regards to the construction of the new Marriott Hotel. Crigger explained it would be permanent and well protected during the building of the hotel.

Commissioner Harman wondered if the sidewalks would be widened. Crigger said they would be widened to 22 feet including restaurant space.

Chair Pennington asked if AIPP preserved artwork submissions. Crigger replied yes.

Motion: To approve final design for Second Street District Streetscape Corridor Project Art in Public Places Project.

Made by: Cunningham

Seconded by: Willenzik

Vote called: Passed 6-0

g. Approve Selection Process for BMX/Skate Park Art in Public Places Project

COA staff Crigger explained this is a recent project under PARD, which is managing the construction of a new BMX/Skate Park to be located near the Austin Recreation Center (12th and Shoal Creek, near Lamar Blvd.). The consultants/designers have been selected (New Line Skate Parks, Vancouver, Canada), and will be presenting a preliminary design of the park in February/March 2008. It will be crucial to have an artist on board as soon as possible so they can start working with the consultants to identify artwork opportunities within the design. Some initial public meetings have been held, and

there is a strong group of advisors and stakeholders involved in the process. The budget for the artwork is \$60,000.

Chair Pennington asked about the exact site location, if it was at the current skate park. Crigger said it is another city owned area that COA will formalize as a park. There will be an artist information session in March.

Commissioner Barnes commented that this selection process is different than the Brazos Streetscape AIPP Project, in which artists submit a 1-page letter. He believed it to be a good idea and asked why they aren't all similar to it. Crigger responded the "statement of intent" is a new element and direction for AIPP.

Motion: To approve selection process for BMX/Skate Park Art in Public Places Project.

Made by: Barnes

Seconded by: Graze

Vote called: Passed 6-0

Chair Pennington thanked Commissioner Graze on her work to serve as the Arts Commission representative on the AIPP Panel.

h. Appoint Ryan Thompson to the Art in Public Places Panel

Commissioner Graze explained in spring 2007, AIPP Panel interviewed many well qualified applicants, including Ryan Thompson. The Panel is in agreement on their recommendation and believe he would make a great addition.

Motion: To appoint Ryan Thompson to the Art in Public Places Panel.

Made by: Graze

Seconded by: Barnes

Vote called: Passed 6-0

i. Adopt Arts Commission By-Laws

COA staff Kitch explained the Arts Commission By-Laws document was taken from City code adopted by City Council in 2007. Information regarding the Arts Commission was filled in, on a limited basis.

Commissioner Willenzik noted that Article 2. Purpose and Duties was different and perhaps raised conflicts with *Robert's Rules of Order*. He suggested the Commission may need to suspend By-Laws by consensus to prevent any citizen challenging the issue.

Commissioner Barnes asked about the origination of the duties and meaning of the Arts Commission role. He also noted there was some ambiguity about the term, "comprehensive plan."

Chair Pennington expressed concern regarding the apparent change of the Commission role as well. She also questioned the absence policy.

Kitch responded the changes arose from City code. The biggest change to the By-Laws occurred in 2003-2004, which the Arts Commission discussed at a previous

retreat. The role of the Commission is to serve as a voice between the public and City Council. He would inform them when and to whom, they could submit recommended changes. Other City Boards and Commissions are having similar discussions. Kitch recommended Commission adopt the By-Laws.

Chair Pennington inquired if City Council eliminated any Commissions. Kitch was not aware of any, however, some Commissions will undergo an annual review to determine if they will continue to function.

Commissioner Willenzik suggested addressing the new By-Laws document at the next Arts Commission retreat this spring. Kitch will send Commissioners a listing of potential dates and times for the retreat.

Motion: To adopt Arts Commission By-Laws.

Made by: Barnes

Seconded by: Canann

Vote called: Passed 6-0

j. Elect Commission Officers

COA staff Kitch reported the Nominating Committee put forth interim positions with current officers continuing until July 31, 2008, which they have agreed to.

Commissioners requested Kitch provide information about their expiration and reappointment dates by Council. It would also assist with scheduling the election of new officers.

Motion: To accept Nominating Committee's recommendation that current Officers continue in the interim until July 31, 2008.

Made by: Cannann

Vote called: Passed 6-0

Chair Pennington thanked Commissioner Willenzik and Cunningham for agreeing to continue in their current role.

F. STAFF REPORTS

1. Cultural Arts Division Update – Vincent Kitch

Kitch provided an update on *CreateAustin*, the community cultural plan. Staff is currently waiting for consultant Bill Bulick to complete the final report and will then begin briefing management and Council. It is hoped that in the next 3 weeks, the plan will be sent to the Arts Commission for review with the goal of adopting it in February. Next month the Commission will meet on Monday, February 25th at Mexican American Cultural Center auditorium at 5:30pm due to President's Day.

Rosy Jalifi, former Director of SBDP has been appointed as the new Assistant Director of EGRSO and will supervise the work of the Cultural Arts Division. It is her intention to attend an upcoming Arts Commission meeting.

Kathleen Brady, AIPP Coordinator resigned from her position to become the Head of Public Relations and Marketing at the Blanton. Beatrice Thomas has been temporarily

hired to assist with the People's Gallery. Staff will post the AIPP Coordinator position as soon as possible and undergo a national search.

City Hall art exhibit panel made their selections last week for the People's Gallery. Staff will begin removing the current artwork and start the installation process next month. The winning artist will be announced at opening event on February 22, 2008 from 5:30-7:30pm. COA staff Beekley applied for sponsorship by Whole Foods Market and they will provide refreshments at the reception. We hope to have Mayor Wynn and new City Manager Ott in attendance.

G. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Commissioner Willenzik thanked Chair Pennington for providing history displays on Austin Parks at the Armadillo Christmas Bazaar as well as COA staff Crigger for the artwork.

Commissioner Harman congratulated Commissioner Willenzik on another successful event and thanked COA staff Kitch for helping to make it happen. She recently attended the Austin Symphony Pops Series, a small contemporary dance performance, and saw the exhibit "From Revolution to Renaissance" at the Mexic-Arte Museum.

Commissioner Graze spoke about the new exhibit at the Arthouse at the Jones Center, *Fritz Haeg: Attack on the Front Lawn*, about edible estates. A new project has been selected at a low income housing site on St. Elmo and South Congress, which is intended to be a more public project. Workshops are held every Saturday and there will be a talk on February 9th. Whole Foods Market has been a generous sponsor.

Commissioner Barnes saw *Porgy and Bess* at the Austin Music Hall, which was an excellent production, but had poor sound system. He is looking forward to seeing *Conspirare* perform this weekend.

Commissioner Canann attended an unusual art opening at the Metrohouse Art and Architecture Exhibit on 40th Street. She also attended part of the holiday celebrations with MLK Keynote with Harry Belafonte, "Sweet Honey and the Rock" at Riverbend Centre.

Chair Pennington saw an exhibit at Wally Workman Gallery and traveled to Elgin with the Austin Friends of Folk Art to visit a female craftsman, who carves wooden utensils out of tree branches. Elgin has a lovely little gallery downtown and a miniature donkey farm.

Chair Pennington introduced Laura Esparza, Office of Cultural Affairs Division Manager. She offices at the Zach Scott, which currently has a wonderful clay sculpture exhibit.

H. ADJOURN – 6:50pm