



Art in Public Places Panel

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES MONDAY, February 6, 2012

The Art in Public Places Panel convened in a regular meeting on *Monday, February 6, 2012* at City Hall, Room 2016, 301 W. Second Street in Austin, Texas.

Chair Ryan Thompson called the Panel Meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

Panel Members in Attendance: Ryan Thompson (Chair), Jaime Castillo (Vice Chair), Scott Daigle (Arts Commission Liaison), Jennifer Chenoweth.

Panel Members Absent: Hollis Hammonds, Murray Legge, Lynn Osgood

Staff in Attendance: Meghan Turner, Jean Graham, Carrie Brown, Sue Lambe. Cindy Jordan (Public Works) by phone. Matt Coldwell and Janice White, Aviation Department.

1. CITIZENS COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. The minutes for the regular meeting of 1/9/12 were approved on the motion of Panel Member Daigle. Panel Member Chenoweth seconded the motion. Motion passed (4-0-0).

3. CHAIR'S REPORT

None.

4. ARTS COMMISSION LIAISON REPORT

Arts Commission Liaison Daigle reported that all AIPP items were approved at the January 16, 2012 Arts Commission meeting.

1. OLD BUSINESS

A motion was made by Panel Member Daigle to move Item C. to Item E. Seconded by Chenoweth. Passed 4-0-0

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. ABIA Projects Overview

-- Matt Coldwell and Janice White, Aviation Department

Janice White, Public Works project manager, and Matt Coldwell, presented upcoming projects which qualify for AIPP program at Austin Bergstrom International Airport. There are three projects which are generating AIPP project funding:

Project #1: CONRAC (Consolidated Rental Car Facility) to house the car rental agencies at the airport. Available AIPP budget is 1.8 million. Design for this project will be funded first (\$360K). Since the building is likely to be very Spartan, consideration for the AIPP project is being focused on getting travelers from the airport terminal via an artist-design pedestrian way (400') and entrance sequence to the new rental car facility, to support wayfinding and to generate a welcoming feeling for travelers to Austin. Chenoweth suggested that we video the artist information meeting, much like the Central Library call, calling it a signature project.

Project #2 is funded through combining 2% from several projects: the new GTSA Ground Transportation Staging Area (\$85K); the Terminal Improvement Project (\$23K); and several smaller terminal improvement projects (\$53K), for a combined available budget of approximately \$161K. The art is

suggested to be located near the dry water feature, allowing it to be viewed by the largest possible audience yet still be located near where ground transportation pick-ups happen.

Project #3 is associated with a new Cell Phone Lane, which is being built to keep people from circling the airport when waiting to pick up passengers. Due to the overall project schedule, this will be the last project to be produced.

Panel member Daigle asked about the location of parking related to the cell phone lane, and the possible way art could be incorporated there. Janice White explained the nuances of how the CONRAC building will work; it will be parking garage over Lot A is located right now. People will walk across the top of the existing parking garage to get to CONRAC. There will be an open plaza and then an open lobby to get into the facility. Thompson asked about funding for the existing money in the construction budget for walkways. White said that yes, there is funding for walkways; artist will likely need to collaborate with the design build team which is already working on the CONRAC facility.

Coldwell invited the AIPP Panel to come to the airport for a site visit, to get a better idea of what the sites look like. Chenoweth asked if the artist would be working only as a design team collaborator or if they would be designing a work of art for the project (the artist would be charged with designing a work of art.). Turner replied it would not be as a team member. Chenoweth discussed several options for organizing the CONRAC call and ways the project could be broken up into multiple locations. Chenoweth suggested that the call spell out the many opportunities for art. Daigle suggested we state in the call that we encourage multiple locations to be engaged by the artist(s).

Issuing a RFP or RFQ was discussed. Schedule was mentioned – a year of design and two years of construction, with CONRAC opening in May of 2015.

Chenoweth suggested that the call to artists include a finalist phase, where three artist or artist teams compete for the commission. While that will slow down the selection process, Turner said that an artist could be chosen by the end of 2012 this way.

Regarding Project #2, Chenoweth suggested a vertical piece to make sure that the art is visible to the largest possible audience, particularly for people on the bridge looking down. Coldwell mentioned the glass elevators will provide a view. Thompson mentioned the vertical experience, addressing each of the levels, is a big opportunity.

AIPP and ABIA staff will work together to create bring a project outline for these projects. Meghan Turner will draft some language for the calls and present at an upcoming AIPP Panel meeting.

**b. Approval of Final Design – Asian American Resource Center
-- Sunyong Chung and Philippe Klinefelter, Artists**

Philippe and Sunyong laid out a real scale drawing of the mosaic in the lobby of City Hall, which the AIPP Panel visited. Upon returning to the meeting room, Sunyong presented their final design documents, including the fountain and mosaic work representing a lotus. Philippe discussed the vertical elements, granite 'petals', seven of which will stand around the mosaic. The 'petals' have been moved out further from the mosaic, locked into place 3 or 4 different ways so that the petals will be solid and stable. The artists are proposing lighting to wash up onto the granite 'petals'. Sunyong described the tiles she will use, and the process by which she will make them, noting that the color is not applied but integral to the tiles, so the color can not wear out. Judy Morris, feng shui master and project stakeholder, commented that she is very moved by the piece.

Chenoweth made a motion to approve the final design for the Asian American Resource Center AIPP project. Daigle seconded. Motion and it was passed 4-0-0.

**c. Approval of Final Design – Congress Avenue Bike Racks
-- Ben Harman, Artist**

Sue Lambe introduced the site location for *Gear Grove* by Artist Ben Harman, who then presented his final design package for his sculptural bike rack. Chenoweth asked about the potential sharpness of the recycled bike gear; Harman replied that since he is using recycled gears, they have been worn down and no longer have well defined edges. Thompson questioned the finish on the gears, Daigle mentioned coating the metal; Harman welcomes rusting of the gears. The base plate will be coated. Chenoweth asked about replacing the gears if they get broken. Harman said they can't be replaced. Castillo asked about the sharpness of the spires; Harman stated they are blunted not sharp.

Chenoweth made a motion to approve the final design for the Congress Avenue Bike Racks (*Gear Grove*) AIPP project. Vice Chair Castillo seconded. Motion and it was passed 4-0-0.

d. Approval of Final Design – Congress Avenue Bike Racks
-- Ann Armstrong, Artist

Sue Lambe introduced the site location for *Stem Rack* by Artist Ann Armstrong, who then presented her final design package for her sculptural bike rack. Ann brought fabricated mock-ups and metal pieces which showed how she plans to fabricate her piece. She has reduced her sculpture from three 'stems' to two 'stems'. Chenoweth asked about graffiti coating, is there a sprayed on finish? Armstrong said yes, there will be a natural metal looking patina which will have a clear graffiti resistant coating, and that will need to be reapplied. Chenoweth suggested using a rust colored patina, which will look fine if there should be rust later. Armstrong will do some experimentation on the finish. Armstrong mentioned her plan for installation; Chenoweth recommended using a wrecker service having the right size crane on the back for lifting sculptures into place. Daigle asked how big the opening is for accepting a U-lock. 1" at the narrowest. Daigle asked about how the edges will be finished on the metal; Armstrong pointed to her mock-ups which clarified that the edges will not be sharp.

Chenoweth made a motion to approve the final design for the Congress Avenue Bike Racks (*Stem Rack*) AIPP project. Daigle seconded. Motion and it was passed 4-0-0.

e. Approval of Artist Selection Process for Art Bollards, 2nd Street Bridge and Roadway Extension project
-- Sue Lambe, AIPP Coordinator

Sue Lambe presented the project outline and potential selection panelists for the 2nd Street Bridge Art Bollard Project. Reviewing the constraints for these bollards which will separate pedestrians from vehicles on the festival street, Lambe asked the Panel to weigh in on whether the bollard call should be for bollard 'sleeves' or for solid bollards which will respond to traffic constraints. There is approximately \$63K for this call. Discussion ensued about the types of bollards which will be needed in the area, including lighted bollards for pedestrians, and removable bollards for the gated areas at the Seaholm Wall.

Cindy Jordan, project manager, joined the discussion by phone. This call is suggested to be a RFP, since we have set parameters that the artist will be proposing to. Daigle suggested that the artist consider metal as the option for this work, but we wouldn't have to require that they use metal. Daigle can the artist propose to make a mold, so the bollard would be easily reproducible. Jordan responded that the bollards would need to respond to vehicle impact. This street is an S-curve, so someone could more easily lose their way and hit one. Lambe will speak to K. Sweat in PW to determine the crash speed the bollard sleeves need to withstand. Chenoweth suggested that this call be limited to a 50 mile radius of Austin. The call will be restricted to artists who are *not* currently under contract.

Selection panelists (in order of AIPP Panel preference): 1) Herman Dyal or Carla Fraser; 2) Jana Swec 3) Dana Younger 4) Wells Mason 5) Faith Schexnayder. Staff will work to create more diversity for the selection panel.

Turner suggested that we work to create a different experience for the artist information meeting, perhaps holding it someplace 'cool', and bringing a standard bollard so people can see what they would asked to cover.

Daigle made a motion to approve the selection process for the Art Bollard Sleeves, 2nd Street Bridge and Roadway Extension project. Castillo seconded. Motion and it was passed 4-0-0.

**f. Approval of recommended artist and alternate for the Morris Williams Golf Course Project
-- Carrie Brown, AIPP Coordinator**

Carrie Brown presented the selection panel's recommended artist Ansen Seale of San Antonio, TX and alternate Wendy and Sean Carnegie of Austin, TX.

Panel Member Chenoweth made a motion to approve the artist and alternate as presented. Vice Chair Castillo seconded. Motion and it was passed 4-0-0.

**g. Mid-Design presentation for System Control Center Art in Public Places project
-- Ned Kahn, Artist**

Jean Graham presented the background for the project and then introduced the artist, Ned Kahn, who joined the discussion via phone. Kahn presented drawings and inspirational images to define his inspiration (ceramic or glass 'insulators') and concept for artwork for the System Control Center. The work would be made up of glass circles stacked with magnets between them, allowing them to have magnetized sand sculptures on each glass circle, which would be free to be spun by the viewer. Daigle asked about maintenance (fingerprints? what if a glass breaks?) – Kahn responded that the maintenance plan will cover those issues. Castillo asked if this is custom fabricated glass. Kahn responded that it will be standard glass, such as used to top coffee tables. Daigle asked about the base of the sculpture – Kahn stated it will be a steel disc with felt underneath. Chenoweth asked if the Panel would see an engineering report to cover how the sculpture would be structured. Graham said yes, one is required. The final design for the System Control Center will be brought to the AIPP panel for approval in April.

Kahn then presented his concept drawings for the satellite portion of this project which will be at a more public location. At the Seaholm Power Plant stacks, he proposes to belt the stacks with band clamps which would support a vertical row of perforated metal 'flags' per stack, which would be constructed to freely wave with the air currents. Thompson asked if one line of 'flags' per stack would suffice – would more fins be preferable? Kahn is open to that. Daigle stated that the stacks are so far apart, perhaps this intervention would get lost. Thompson asked if the stacks could be completely wrapped. Graham noted that the stacks are part of the historic building and that it might be preferable if the artwork were not visible from Cesar Chavez. Castillo asked about varying the scale or length of the flags. Kahn will work with city staff and the site redeveloper to determine the feasibility of this concept and bring it back for a second mid-design review.

7. STAFF BRIEFINGS

- a. Jean Graham mentioned the upcoming People's Gallery Opening on February 24.
- b. Sue Lambe reported that Seaholm Wall will be presented on 2/9/12 for approval of Schematic Design and authorization to proceed to Design Development.
- c. Scott Daigle mentioned a guerilla mural on Lamar at TxDOT right-of-way. It is not part of the AIPP collection. This mural was not done legally.
- d. Meghan Turner invited the AIPP Panel to Christina Lanzl event on 2/20/12 at Open Room Austin.

8. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS / FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Thompson adjourned the meeting at 9:31 p.m. without objection. (Chenoweth left at 8:58 p.m.)