



## Art in Public Places Panel

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES MONDAY, April 2, 2012

The Art in Public Places Panel convened in a regular meeting on *Monday, April 2, 2012* at City Hall, Room 2016, 301 W. Second Street in Austin, Texas.

Chair Ryan Thompson called the Panel Meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

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

Panel Members Absent: Hollis Hammonds

Staff in Attendance: Meghan Turner, AIPP; Jean Graham, AIPP; Christine Freundl, PDRD; Matt Coldwell and Janice White, Aviation Department; Laura Lee Franks, Austin Energy

### 1. CITIZENS COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Laura Aldrich, a University of Texas Art History student, introduced herself and said she was present to observe.

### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. The minutes for the regular meeting of 3/5/12 were approved on the motion of Daigle. Panel Member Chenoweth seconded the motion. Legge abstained. Motion passed (2-1-0).

### 3. CHAIR'S REPORT

None.

### 4. ARTS COMMISSION LIAISON REPORT

Arts Commission Liaison Daigle reported that all AIPP items were approved at the March 5, 2012 Arts Commission meeting.

### 5. OLD BUSINESS

None.

### 6. NEW BUSINESS

#### a. Project Overview of Downtown Wayfinding System

##### -- Christine Freundl, Planning, Development and Review Department

Christine Freundl presented the schematic design for the Downtown Austin Wayfinding Master Plan by the firm Merj Design who worked in collaboration with Austin consultants McCann Adams Studio, Estillo Communications, I.T. Gonzalez Engineers and Gannet Fleming. The goals of the project include emphasizing the downtown as a destination, highlighting key attractions, enhancing the user's experience, improving mobility, reinforcing links and integration of a range of navigation tools. They have held more than 20 stakeholder meetings and analyzed the existing condition in order to develop their schematic design. The design focuses on signage, technology, place-making, and the experience of being in the downtown. They have identified ten Gateways to be developed which could have exciting opportunities to incorporate artwork and lighting and welcome input from the AIPP Panel on this.

She presented three versions of designs – one emphasizing Green Austin and the out of doors; the second emphasizing Austin as authentic and handmade – using local materials and patterns; and the third emphasizing technology.

Panel Member Legge asked whether they had worked with the Trail Foundation and suggested researching other significant cities that have successfully incorporated well-designed way-finding systems – like the project “Legible London” done recently in London. Panel Member Chenoweth gave ideas for ways to have the artists paid to design works that could be fabricated as part of the project. Chair Thompson suggested that the colors could be improved and Panel Member Daigle was concerned that the brick pieces could look dated over time.

Since the current AIPP portion for this project is relatively small (\$3,000), it has been decided to wait for the implementation phase when the construction budget (and full AIPP allocation) will be known, and determine the nature of AIPP participation and artist selection/involvement at that time.

No action was taken.

**b. Approval of Artist Selection Process for CONRAC Project at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport**

**-- Matt Coldwell and Janice White, Aviation Department**

Janice White presented a brief recap of the CONRAC project with possible artwork opportunities, including the walkway from the terminal to the new facility, and said that the project is at the schematic design phase. Meghan Turner presented the project outline with the intent to commission a Design Team Artist and asked that the AIPP Panel review the goals, eligibility and selection panel.

Panel Member Legge requested that the language be clarified to spell out the scope of work for the artist and design team, and expressed concern that some artists might be resistant to collaborating at a conceptual level with a project architect. He also suggested including drawings that make the artwork opportunities more clear. He agreed to review the Call to Artists that Meghan Turner will prepare.

After discussion it was determined that the selection panel would consist of five members to be chosen from a prioritized list of arts professionals: Juan Miro, Architect; Regine Basha (Curator) with Bill Arning as alternate; Constance White (Public Art Administrator); Philippe Klinefelter (Artist/Architect) and Christian Moeller (Artist/Architect); Kendal Buster (Artist) and Judy Pfaff (Artist). It was decided that Wesley Wong, the project architect will be an advisor to the project instead of a selection panelist. Panel Member Legge will be the AIPP Panel liaison for the project.

Panel Member Daigle made a motion to approve the selection process. Panel Member Chenoweth seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

**c. Approval of final design for the System Control Center AIPP Project by Ned Kahn**

**-- Jean Graham, AIPP Coordinator and Laura Lee Franks, Austin Energy Project Manager**

Jean Graham presented the updated design for the “Magnetic Column” by Ned Kahn for the newly remodeled System Control Center on Montopolis Drive. The interactive piece, using magnets and magnetite sand, is inspired by high voltage generators used for power; and the artist’s goal is to make visible the beauty and strangeness of magnetic fields and their intrinsic connection to electricity. Updates to the design were based on the conservation review and include sealing the steel, using tempered glass, nylon bushings instead of metal, and eliminating the sand particles that are less than 3.5 microns. Laura Lee Franks reported on the construction project and said that the Austin Energy department review for maintenance had not yet been signed by management.

The site is not open to the general public and the 250 users will be the audience for this piece. The design for the satellite portion of this AIPP project to be located at a very public location will be brought back to the AIPP Panel at a later date.

Panel Member Legge made a motion to approve the final design on the condition that there are no design concerns noted in the Department maintenance review and engineering review which are pending. Panel Member Chenoweth seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

## **7. STAFF BRIEFINGS**

- a. Meghan Turner announced the "Getting Connected" small business resource fair that includes a panel presentation about making creative projects profitable. Panel Member Chenoweth will present at that panel.
- b. The dedication event for Colin McIntyre's artwork at the Austin Nature & Science Center is rescheduled for April 20.
- c. The Asian American Cultural Center groundbreaking was held on March 29 and included a display by the commissioned artists.
- d. There is a special meeting scheduled for April 16 to discuss the Seaholm Wall AIPP project.
- e. Meghan Turner announced the vacancy in the AIPP Panel and asked for recommendations to fill that position.

## **8. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS / FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Thompson adjourned the meeting at 8:04 p.m. without objection.