



**Art in Public Places Panel**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, June 4, 2012**

The Art in Public Places Panel convened in a regular meeting on *Monday, May 7, 2012* at City Hall, Room 2016, 301 W. Second Street in Austin, Texas.

Vice Chair Castillo called the Panel Meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

**Panel Members in Attendance:** Jaime Castillo (Vice Chair), Scott Daigle (Arts Commission Liaison), Ilse Frank and Hollis Hammonds.

**Panel Members Absent:** Jennifer Chenoweth, Murray Legge, Ryan Thompson (Chair)

**Staff in Attendance:** Meghan Turner, AIPP; Carrie Brown, AIPP; Susan Lambe, AIPP; Jean Graham, AIPP; Nick Naccarato, EGRSO; Rey Hernandez, PARD; Robert Egan, PWD; Mark Schruben, PWD.

**Project Advisors in Attendance:** Susan Benz (YMCA); Earl Broussard (Auditorium Shores Trailhead)

**1. CITIZENS COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**

None.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. The minutes for the regular meeting of 5/7/12 were approved, pending revisions to the minutes incorporating comments by Arts Commission Liaison Daigle and Vice Chair Castillo, on the motion of Daigle. Panel Member Hammond seconded the motion. Motion passed (4-0-0).

**3. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Introduction of new panel member Ilse Frank. Meghan Turner explained the interview process then Panel Member Frank shared her professional background; afterward the other AIPP Panelists shared their background with Frank.

**4. ARTS COMMISSION LIAISON REPORT**

Scott Daigle: We approved Cooper's final design for Bartholomew Municipal Pool AIPP project (gate).

**5. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Overview of Auditorium Shores Trailhead Project**

-- Rey Hernandez, PARD project manager, Robert Egan, PW project manager & Earl Broussard, Consultant with TBG

Rey introduced the project, stating that on June 9, 2011 City council directed PARD continue with the master plan process for the next phase of Town Lake Park - Auditorium Shores/Butler Park. Earl Broussard described the complex public process the master plan has been through to date. In December of 2011 master plan progress has stopped to focus on plans for Riverside Drive.

The trailhead is jointly funded by \$1 million from Texas Parks and Wildlife and \$1 million from City of Austin. The trailhead includes improved vehicular circulation, a bathhouse, additional parking,

bioretention ponds to improve water quality, separation of site users (runners/dogs), better accessibility for the gazebo.

Construction documentation should be finished by mid-2014. Public comments regarding public art were gathered at meetings for this project by TBG. People were interested in:

- Art associated with the bathhouses
- Creative shade
- Significant environmental piece
- Landscape as an art form
- Whimsical art

Panel Member Daigle asked where the art opportunities are in this project, which included a discussion of possible user groups (runners, dog walkers, festival goers) and planned amenities (water fountain). Mr. Broussard responded a list of possible intervention opportunities: railings, gateway, interpretive signage, vendor space, bathhouse. Robert Egan, Public Works commented that the fountain could be refurbished, or art could be added to the vendor space or to the bath house.

Panel Member Frank asked if the gazebo is in good repair. Rey responded that it is in the process of being refurbished. PM Frank asked if an art application at the gazebo could be considered. Robert responded that the gazebo is not available due to stakeholder group interest in preserving the gazebo as originally planned. Panel Member Hammond asked how and when do we decide on the art opportunity? Meghan Turner replied that this is the appropriate time but that the budget is limited; PM Hammond followed up asking if an artist could work with the design team on the possible art opportunity. Rey added that the panel may want to consider waiting for the future phases of this project & the additional budget associated with each of these phases. PARD prefers that the art be a more significant single piece rather than smaller pieces. Meghan will provide the panel with access to the Town Lake Park - Auditorium Shores/Butler Park master plan. Discussion on this item will continue at a future meeting.

**b. Approval of Final Design for EMS #33/Northwest Greenway AIPP Project**  
-- Hunter Cross, Artist

AIPP Coordinator Carrie Brown provided a project update then artist Hunter Cross presented his final design for *Geode*. He first referenced three works from his portfolio, *Stairway*, *Transparency Now* and *Water Towers* to explain his construction method. The project was downscaled from the mid-design presentation, from an overall height of 12' to 9'. The glass panels will be produced by an old French technique called *Pâte de verre*, using a CNC computer mold from which to cast the glass. East by Southeast Studio is the fabricator for the glass, which will take 2 months to produce. Barton Solid Prototypes is providing the 3d prototype for the mold; using one of three such machines in the world. Hunter discussed site location, site installation details including trenching for the electric conduit lined with safety fencing (he worked with PARD to locate the fencing). Silicon (used as a boat adhesive) will affix the glass panels to the steel frame. *Geode* shell will be made of Gunite mixed with fiberglass, over an interior mesh metal structure. Final color will be Grecian White. It will be sealed against graffiti damage. Hunter demonstrated the LED lighting and timer which will be inside the structure, allowing the light to throb, which he feels is one of the most important features of the piece. Wiring and LED should last for 40 years. A light will be hung inside *Geode's* interior space to prevent mold.

Panel Member Frank asked about the use of Gunite. Hunter stated he chose it because it is a standard material with a good aesthetic, simple to install and maintain. Rey Hernandez followed up asking if the exterior finish will be smooth, and if so, would a rougher surface be a greater deterrence to graffiti? Hunter said he will defer to the Conservator's Report for the type of finish to specify on the Gunite. Panel Member Hammond stated she appreciated the smooth surface contrasting with the proposed design of the glass panels. Panel Member Daigle asked if an anti-graffiti coating would change the color. Reply was no. Panel Member Daigle asked about the throbbing green light being a distraction for traffic? Hunter pointed to the low volume of traffic here and Carrie mentioned that with future construction, *Geode* may not be visible from the road. Vice Chair Castillo shared his concern that the proposed amount of light may be too bright. Hunter stated he can manipulate the lighting panel at installation, to reduce or increase the amount of light to an appropriate level.

Nick Naccarato, EGRSO, stated that Hunter has been to many Mueller New Construction Council meetings for design review, as well as to neighborhood meetings, and that all concerns have been satisfied except for the concern regarding graffiti. Carrie mentioned that the New Construction Council approved the project. Hunter stated that he will provide a very clear maintenance manual for dealing with graffiti, as well as the layers of materials and components which make up *Geode*. Nick mentioned that the sculpture will be owned by PARD and maintained by the property owners association.

Panel Member Daigle made a motion to approve the final design as presented. Panel Member Hammond seconded. Approved 4-0-0.

#### **Agenda Revision.**

Panel Member Daigle made a motion to amend the agenda to swap Item C. for Item D. Panel Member Hammond seconded. Approved 4-0-0.

#### **c. Presentation of community outreach plan for the COA/YMCA North Austin Recreation Center AIPP Project**

-- Lucy Begg and Robert Gay, Artists

Carrie Brown introduced the artists, and project advisors Susan Benz, consultant, and Mark Schruben, PW, giving some project background. Lucy then described their *Community Outreach Plan*, including a review of the project partners; project goals, divided into Essential, Beneficial and Perks; she then explained the assumptions made in creating the goals. She described the strategy by which they will engage the community and then reviewed the schedule for getting the community involved. Types of outreach will include gathering more information on who their possible project partners are, reaching out through a print campaign, tapping into existing newsletters, connecting to the strong neighborhood group, vibrant seniors group, and to Lanier High School, as well as using the YMCA's resources. Susan Benz mentioned that the neighborhood group has a big outreach email list. Lucy also mentioned that Flow Nonfiction is doing a documentary film for the YMCA, documenting the process of creating this garden.

A discussion about funding ensued; Lucy and Robert will gather additional funding. Lucy noted that the typical start-up costs for a community garden (\$120K) cited by the Sustainable Food Center will be defrayed by YMCA staff and volunteers who are already committed to supporting the project through programming, watering and maintenance. Vice Chair Castillo asked why the artists are involving the University of Texas as a partner. Lucy replied that COA supports educating people about community gardening on a simple level and also as a larger community planning effort. Panel Member Daigle asked about soliciting donations. Carrie Brown replied that while COA cannot solicit donations, the YMCA or the neighborhood can. The adjacent HEB is already a partner on this project. Susan Benz mentioned that contractor JE Dunn has committed to donate cash and labor toward realizing the garden. Meghan Turner stated that the artists need to be educated in how they may discuss donations with the public, to keep the lines of funding clean.

#### **d. Possible Action on Selection Process for the obelisco at E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Northwestern as part of the E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street Improvement AIPP Project**

-- Jean Graham, AIPP Coordinator

Jean Graham introduced the history of the project, explaining that AIPP needs to select another artist to produce the artwork panels for the obelisco at E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Northwestern Avenue due to non-performance by the selected artist. The E.7<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor Improvement Project was completed and dedicated in August 2011. Since the project call specified the commissioning of a diverse group of artists to represent the populations of the surrounding neighborhoods, AIPP suggests bringing together the original selection panel and doing targeted community outreach to get recommendations of artists to be invited to submit to an invitational RFQ.

Panel Member Daigle and Panel Member Hammond asked about the original alternate artist. Meghan Turner replied that there is a need to satisfy the specific requirements of the call with an artist who will

represent the neighborhood; targeted outreach for diversity will be a charge of the selection panel. Jean then reviewed the schedule and discussed potential materials. Panel Member Daigle asked if people who have already done an obelisco would be eligible to submit. Meghan Turner stated this will not be a public RFQ.

Panel Member Hammond made a motion to approve the selection process as presented. Panel Member Daigle seconded. Approved 4-0-0.

## **7. STAFF BRIEFINGS**

- a. Report on the presentation made by Jean Graham and Carrie Brown to the Texas Art Educators Conference.
- b. Staff will be attending the PAN Preconference of the Americans for the Arts 2012 Convention in San Antonio. In addition, Carrie Brown organized a meet-up for Texas Public Arts Administrators attending the Preconference.
- c. Jean reported on the Margarita Cabrera workshops taking place at a local park and at the MACC from June 21 to July 21; to be followed by an installation on July 28 and a dedication of the art on October 13, 2012.
- d. Sue mentioned the Art Bollard Request for Proposals is closing on June 14, 2012.
- e. Sue mentioned the Sustainable Design Assessment Team (SDAT), a community assistance team of multidisciplinary professionals who will be in town to review and make recommendations for sustainably planning the South Shore Central neighborhood. Austin was one of seven cities in the US to be selected for this program by American Institute of Architects.
- f. Jean shared details of Ned Kahn's visit in May; he collaborated with the Seaholm Redevelopment team on strategies for inclusion of his art at the project site.
- g. Meghan shared that Jill Bedgood has completed her project at the Northwest Activity Center at Northland and Mopac. It is a highly visible art intervention; Jill calls it building jewelry.
- h. Carrie, Meghan and Jean reported on the weekend of WEST, stating 6 artists presented at the People's Gallery WEST kick-off on Friday night; and approximately 20 people went on the Public Art bike tour on Saturday morning.

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

- a. Jaime asked about a possible AIPP Panel retreat, now that we have our new panel member, Ilse Frank, on board. Meghan stated she will be in touch with Jaime to plan the retreat.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

Vice Chair Castillo adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m. without objection.