

**Chapel Hill Public Arts Commission
Meeting Summary – February 10, 2010**

Present: Jerry Bolas, Chair; Debbie Hepp, Vice-Chair; Enid Handler; Carter Hubbard; Maria Lopez-Ibanez; Amanda Miller; Pam Pease; Steve Wright, Public Arts Coordinator; Jeff York, Public Arts Administrator. Guests: Monica Leap, UNC's City and Regional Planning Graduate Studies program; Penny Rich, Chapel Hill Town Council; George Small, CHPAC Applicant; Nick Yarborough, Carolina News Network

Absent: Megan Johnson; Scott Radway; Banu Valladares

I. Call to Order

Bolas called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm. Guests and Commissioners introduced themselves.

II. Approval of Minutes of January 13, 2010

The minutes of January 13, 2010 were unanimously approved.

III. Town Plans Reading Assignment Reports

Bolas introduced these reports by saying that in preparation for developing a cultural and public arts plan, Commissioners have been studying recent Town plans to understand their formats and find areas that intersect with the arts.

Hepp reported on the 2006 Greenways Plan, noting that it clearly and frequently highlights its mission statement. Areas addressing public art include the plan's detailed descriptions of trail amenities and the statement, "greenways increase property values by creating aesthetically-pleasing communities." Lopez-Ibanez suggested involving artists in the design of future greenways, and Small suggested that artists could "adopt-a-greenway" in the same way as other groups do.

Pease reported that the 2004 Bike and Pedestrian Plan was organized by purpose, mandate, objectives, strategies and measures. The plan references public art in relation to the design of amenities and public education and encouragement. Pease said the Arts Commission's public art plan should address other plans and strive to reach the goals of those plans while pursuing public art goals. Liaisons to and from other boards should be established. Rich and Commissioners suggested adding public art components to the recent Visitor's Bureau proposal for a sightseeing and events bus.

Miller reported on the 2000 Downtown Small Area Plan and the 2001 Historic District Design Guidelines. The Historic District document focuses on maintaining and protecting historic features with specific and often repetitive recommendations. Public art could enhance these features in non-disruptive ways, and be a part of required new construction (to meet accessibility requirements, etc.). Miller wondered if the Small Area Plan and its use of 1996 data were outdated, but noted the plan's vision of downtown as the center of community life remains relevant.

Lopez-Ibanez reported on Mikyoung Kim's 2008 Downtown Streetscapes Master Plan, which identifies constituent areas including West and East Franklin, West and East Rosemary, University Square and the Downtown Business District. The plan makes recommendations for the design of sidewalks, setbacks, plantings, street amenities, lighting and public spaces. The plan's goal is to maintain a connected visual dialog throughout downtown that encourages street life and safety through design. The plan has a section devoted to public art that identifies areas and strategies for its implementation. Kim is expected to return to Chapel Hill this spring to respond to comments on the plan already received by the Town.

IV. Public Art Administrator's Report

- Superstreet Gateway Project – After voicing support for the project in preliminary discussions and at the first meeting of the project's Oversight Committee, the NC Department of Transportation withdrew its support for the project location. The Town's Engineering and Public Arts staff are working to continue the project.
- Natural Selections Photo Competition and Exhibition – In partnership with University Mall, which is offering \$2,000 in prizes, a photography contest is being organized to debut at Earth Action Day in Southern Community Park on April 10. The exhibit will then be on display at University Mall to the end of May.
- UNC / Town Wayfinding Project Update – Current designs for downtown wayfinding signs were shown and discussed.
- Parking Sign Art Opportunity – Designs for parking signs were shown. The sign poles will have removable finial caps that could be replaced by mountable art works. Such works could be supported by Streetscape Percent For Art funds.
- NC Freedom Monument Project Exhibition – Designs for the Freedom Monument – designed by Chapel Hill artists and planned for the city of Raleigh – are currently on display in Chapel Hill Town Hall for Black History Month.

V. Sculpture Visions Publication

Wright distributed recently produced brochures for the 2009-2010 Sculpture Visions exhibition. Commissioners recommended placing them at local libraries, coffee shops and the Visitor's Center.

VI. Commissioner Work Session Update

The Work Session facilitated by Georgann Eubanks will be held Wednesday, April 14 from 5:30 – 9 p.m. at a location to be determined. Commissioners suggested the new Botanical Gardens facility as the location.

VII. Percent For Art Project Updates

- Wright described the dedication ceremony for the Sculptural Climbing Wall held on Thursday, January 28th at the Chapel Hill Community Center and showed photographs. Mayor Kleinschmidt, Parks & Recreation Director Butch Kisiah, York and artist David Finn spoke.
- Hepp said Greenways artist Al Frega presented his designs to the Bicycles and Pedestrian Advisory Board on January 26 as requested by Council; the designs were well-received and no recommendations were made. Frega is currently finishing Construction Documents and prototype locations, and will soon present these to the project's Oversight Committee.
- York reported that paperwork was in circulation to authorize the resumption of work for the 140 West public art projects. Dialog and planning between the project artists, Ram Real Estate Company and the Public Arts Office will then resume.

VIII. Committees and Project Reports

"Into The Streets" Community Art Project – Carter said artist Park McArthur is one of two artists awarded a project for her proposal of community-based performances featuring people with mobility challenges and subsequent documentary exhibits. Miller said The Marion Cheek Jackson Center was also awarded a project that is proposed to document Northside residents and involve local youth with spoken-word group The Sacrificial Poets. Miller also described the Artist Selection Committee and its process for choosing the project artists.

IX. Other Announcements / Public Comment

Nick Yarborough asked why the Commission currently has six empty seats. York replied that the Public Arts Commission and Office have been undergoing a two-year change in status and mission, and that these

outcomes would inform the seating of new Commissioners. Bolas noted that the Commission welcomes and needs more applications to the Commission.

X. Potential Commissioner Application Review & Recommendations

Guests were excused and thanked for attending. Current applications were reviewed by the Commission. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously endorsed to recommend that Town Council appoint George Small to the Chapel Hill Public Arts Commission. A second motion was made, seconded and unanimously endorsed to recommend that Town Council appoint Traci Davenport to the Chapel Hill Public Arts Commission.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.