

**Chapel Hill Public Arts Commission  
Meeting Summary – May 11, 2011**

Present: Jerry Bolas, Chair; Nancy Kitterman; Scott Radway; Jennifer Wales; Steve Wright, Public Art Coordinator; Jeff York, Public and Cultural Arts Administrator; Leslie McBride, intern; Jennifer Phillips, Community Participation Coordinator, TOCH; C. William Snyder, guest

Absent: Enid Handler, Vice Chair; Andrew Gerschutz; Amanda Miller; Alexander McSpadden

**I. Call to Order**

Bolas called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

**II. Report on Town Commissions and Boards**

Jennifer Phillips, Community Participation Coordinator for the Communication and Public Affairs Office described her projects involving Town Commissions and Boards, and the citizens of Chapel Hill. Phillips answered Commissioner questions and told the Commission that the Brenner application that just arrived could not be considered by the Commission tonight as it has not been examined by her nor has Council nominated the applicant.

**III. Update / Report on Council Action Regarding 523 East Franklin Street.**

Bolas reported on his presentation of two proposals (Cultural Arts Program and 523 East Franklin Street Arts Incubator) to Town Council on April 25 and noted three conditions that influence the current discussion over which the CHPAC has no control: (1.) Council's desire for a set of options for the use of 523 beyond the arts; (2.) the hurt and anger felt by some regarding the departure of the Chapel Hill Museum; and (3.) elin Slavik's and Jim Hirschfield's presentation of the UNC Art Department's "CHART Museum" proposal. Bolas said that even those Council members who wish to sell 523 said that the programs that have been offered there this year have been successful.

York added a fourth factor affecting these discussions: the difficult budget situation faced by the Town. At the April 25 meeting Council directed senior management to develop non-art options and budget scenarios for 523, and these were considered at the May 11 Budget Workshop and will be considered at future budget discussions in the upcoming weeks. York, the Facilities Management Superintendent, and the Parks & Recreation Director developed a document of operating budget scenarios that will be submitted to Council. This document provides budgets for three scenarios: (1.) full building and programming responsibility provided by Cultural and Public Arts Division, (2.) partnership with UNC Art Department where UNC provides significant programming and staffing, and (3.) no activity in the building of any kind save facility maintenance as needed.

After discussion, the CHPAC unanimously adopted a motion authorizing Bolas to submit a letter to Council that recommends budget scenario #2 (above) and clarifies the issues that have surfaced in the discussion of 523's future near-term use.

**IV. 2011-12 Cultural Arts Division Priorities & Budget**

York reviewed the current set of priorities – (1.) development of 523 East Franklin Street programming, (2.) evaluation and revision of current Public Arts Programming, (3.) development of a Cultural Arts Plan and Program – and noted that if Council decides that the Division and CHPAC are no longer involved with 523, there is still much to do for priorities #2 and #3. York distributed the requested Division budget for fiscal year 2011-2012 and noted that it now contains what was formerly the Events Division of Parks & Recreation. The CHPAC reviewed the professional services line item as that constitutes the bulk of the Public Art programming.

**V. Discuss Revised 523 Project Evaluation Criteria**

This item was tabled.

**VI. 2011-12 CHPAC Nominating Committee**

Bolas reported that Handler will chair and Gerschutz is appointed to serve on the Nominating Committee for the June election of CHPAC Chair and Vice-Chair. All nominations should be submitted to Enid so that the CHPAC may elect officers at its June 8 meeting. Bolas will email a nominations reminder to the CHPAC on May 28.

## **VII. Public Art Staff Quick Reports**

- Aquatics Center Floor – Artist Ray King will inspect the floor June 8, and he believes the dichroic glass may be reacting with the terrazzo and needs to be replaced with glass of a different composition.
- Parks & Rec. Master Plan Workshop – will be held from 6 – 8 p.m. on May 24 at 523 East Franklin Street. Commissioners are encouraged to attend and advocate for the inclusion of public and cultural art in the plan.
- Superstreet Project – Artist Thomas Sayre’s preliminary design was reviewed by the project’s Public Art Review Committee on May 5; the committee approved of the general concept and will provide feedback so that the artist may adjust his design accordingly. Later public meetings and Council review of the design will occur. The design is based on typical schoolhouse, chapel and rural structures in North Carolina and is meant to be an iconic gateway to Chapel Hill.
- Tibetan Sand Mandala – Many events are scheduled at 523 and throughout the community from May 22 – 30. 25 volunteers have been trained to staff 523 during the events. The public has been signing up for workshops; press releases have and will continue to be issued; and radio interviews will be broadcast regarding the events. An opening film screening about a Tibetan monastery will be held May 15 at 2 p.m.
- Veterans Memorial – An RFQ has been sent to 34 architectural and landscape architectural firms and their replies are due May 30.
- Oakwood Park Tile Project – The workshops for neighborhood children and parents to design tiles for the park entry gate will likely be held the last weekend in July due to changes in the overall construction schedule for the park.
- Community Clay Studio Raku Kiln – The kiln has been approved, purchased, and assembled. The first firing was successfully held on April 30. The next firing will be held May 28.

## **VIII. Committee Reports**

- Artist-in-Residence – York shared the text of the textile poem. The textile will debut at Flyleaf Books on May 21, then it will show from June 13 – July 16 at FRANK gallery, and then it will be shown at 523 or Town Hall or Flyleaf.
- Community Art Project – McBride described the events of the Burmese Water Festival, which was attended by many Latino and African Americans as well. Peak attendance was approximately 150 people.
- Wright summarized the written summary submitted to the CHPAC of the April 29 meeting of the Deaccessioning Committee. Four items not in the Permanent Collection were reviewed and recommendations made. The Committee also recommends updating the Deaccessioning Policy.
- Sculpture Visions & Juried Exhibitions Series – Radway reviewed the draft call to artists for the 2011-2012 Sculpture Visions Exhibition. This call will be issued in the upcoming week.

## **IX. Approve April Minutes**

The CHPAC unanimously approved the summary of the April 13, 2011 CHPAC meeting.

## **X. Calendar of Work**

Wales announced that she will attend the first Festifall planning meeting next Wednesday, May 18 at 6 p.m. at 523.

## **XI. Other Announcements / Public Comments**

Wales announced that she now works for Playmakers and looks forward to possible collaborations with the CHPAC.

C. William Snyder introduced himself as a candidate for the Commission, and described his interest and background in the arts.

## **XII. Executive Session – Commissioner Reappointment and New Appointment Recommendations**

Guests were excused as the Commission went into Executive Session to consider applicants to the CHPAC. Commissioners reviewed and discussed the applications and heard updates on candidates who have withdrawn their applications. The CHPAC unanimously approved a motion to recommend to Council that Zachary Kohn and C. William Snyder be appointed to the CHPAC. The CHPAC unanimously approved a motion that the following currently-serving Commissioners be reappointed for full first terms: Andrew Gerschutz, Alexander McSpadden. Wales excused herself and the CHPAC unanimously approved a motion that Jennifer Wales be reappointed for a full first term.

## **XIII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.